

THE FIVE CRITICAL FACTS SERIES

BLACK MINDS
MATTER



Examining the Suspensions of Black Children and Youth in Sacramento County

Wood, H
THE CAPITAL OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

EXAMINING THE RACIAL EXCLUSION OF BLACK STUDENTS IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

J. Luke Wood

Frank Harris III

Mohamed Qas

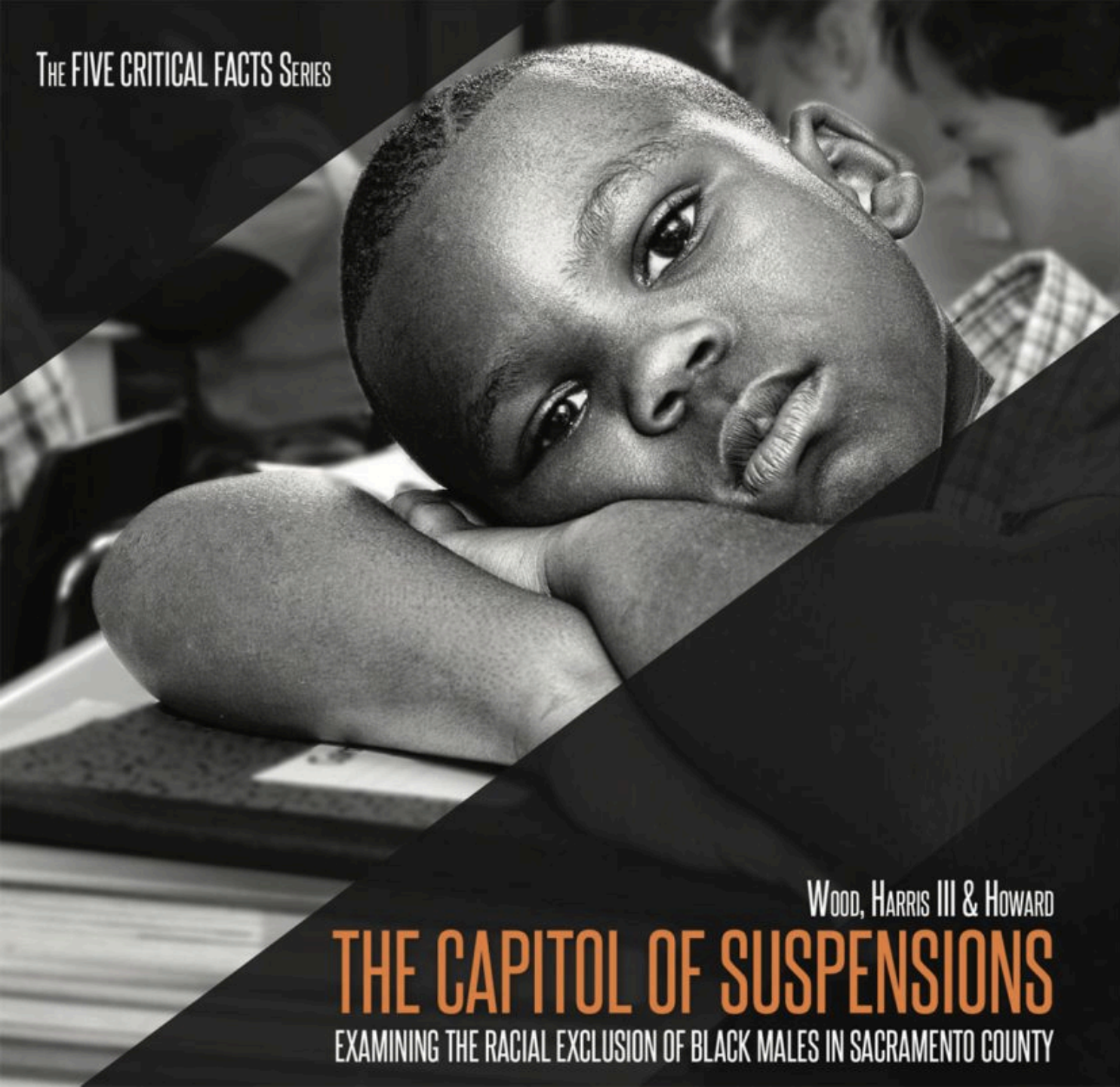


Get Out!

**BLACK MALE SUSPENSIONS
IN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WOOD • HARRIS III • HOWARD

THE FIVE CRITICAL FACTS SERIES



WOOD, HARRIS III & HOWARD

THE CAPITOL OF SUSPENSIONS

EXAMINING THE RACIAL EXCLUSION OF BLACK MALES IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

J. LUKE WOOD • FRANK HARRIS III • TYRONE C. HOWARD • MOHAMED ABDI

FIVE CRITICAL FACTS

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN:
SUSPENSION AS A FORM OF EXCLUSION IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY



BMI
JULIAN
BLACK MALE INSTITUTE

CEAL
CENTERS FOR EDUCATION AND EQUITY

When They Teach Us:

The Education of Black Children in San Diego




FROM BOARDING SCHOOLS TO SUSPENSION BOARDS:
SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS
OF NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Education as an Act of Love

“I have never encountered any children in any group who are not geniuses. There is no mystery on how to teach them. The first thing you do is treat them like human beings and the second thing you do is love them.”

– Asa Hilliard



*“What the heck is
wrong with these
kids? Why aren’t
they doing what it
takes for them to be
successful here?”*

*“Their parents
aren’t engaged!
Why don’t they
care? How come
they’re not more
invested?”*

“What are we doing (or not doing) as a district or school that results in our Black children not doing as well as they should?”

“Have we created certain conditions that ignore engagement or that bar parents from engagement?”



Challenges Experienced By Black Boys and Young Men in Schools

- Overrepresentation/misplacement in special education
- Inequitable discipline (suspensions and expulsions)
- Use of restraints and seclusion as forms of discipline
- Underrepresentation amongst educators (teachers, counselors, administrators)
- Underrepresentation in honors, advanced placement, college-prep courses, and college-prep programs
- Deficit perspectives
- No positive images and representation in the curriculum
- School-based trauma

Distrust

Assumptions of Criminality



The 3-D Effect

Disdain

Pathologizing Culture

Disregard

Ascription of Intelligence



Sacramento City Unified School District

BLACK MINDS
MATTER

Table 1

Suspension Rates for Black Students in SCUSD, 2018-2019

Gender	Cumulative Enrollment	Total suspensions	Unduplicated count of students suspended	Suspension rate	Percentage of single suspensions	Percentage of multiple suspensions
Boys	4,114	1,412	729	17.70%	59.80%	40.20%
Girls	4,042	600	375	9.30%	66.40%	33.60%
Overall	8,156	2,012	1,104	13.5%	62.0%	38.0%

Figure 1

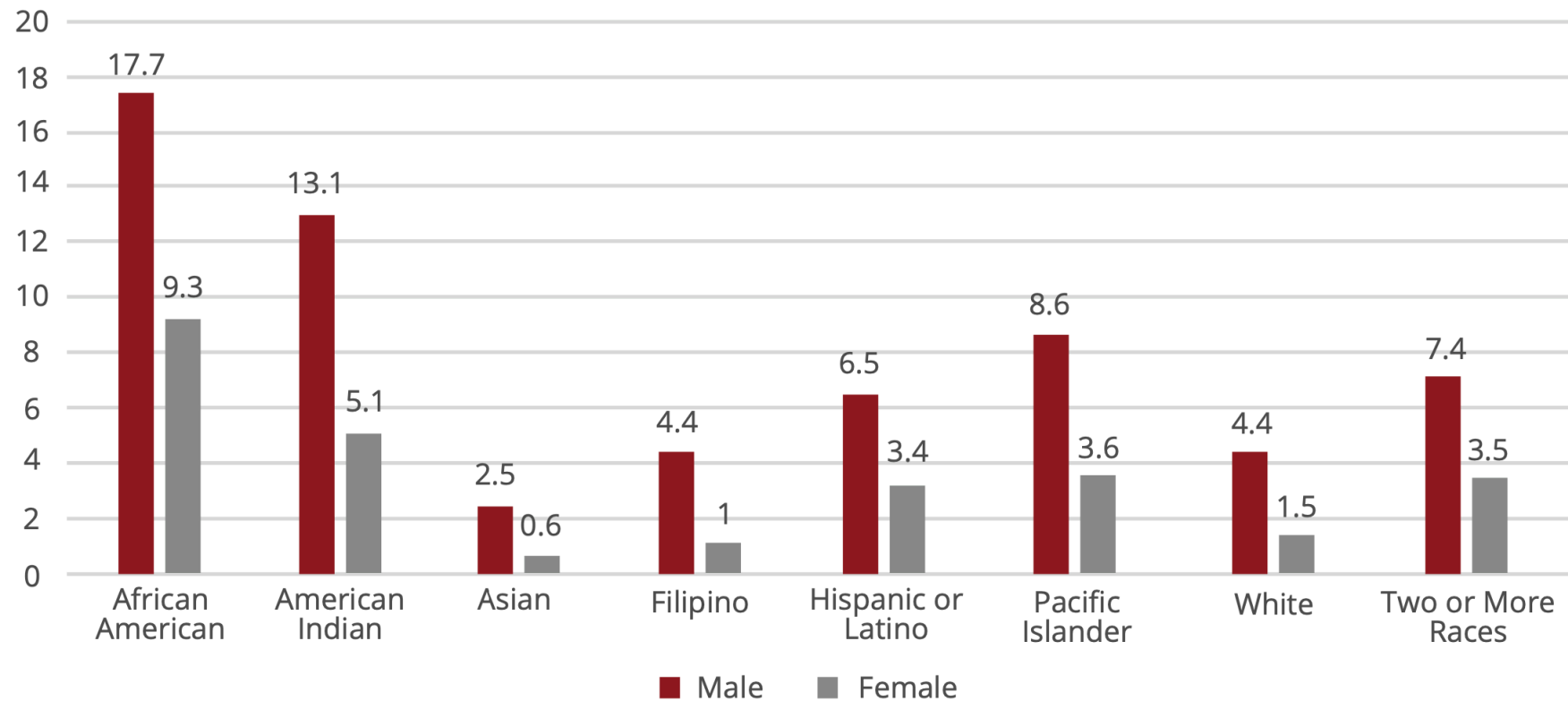
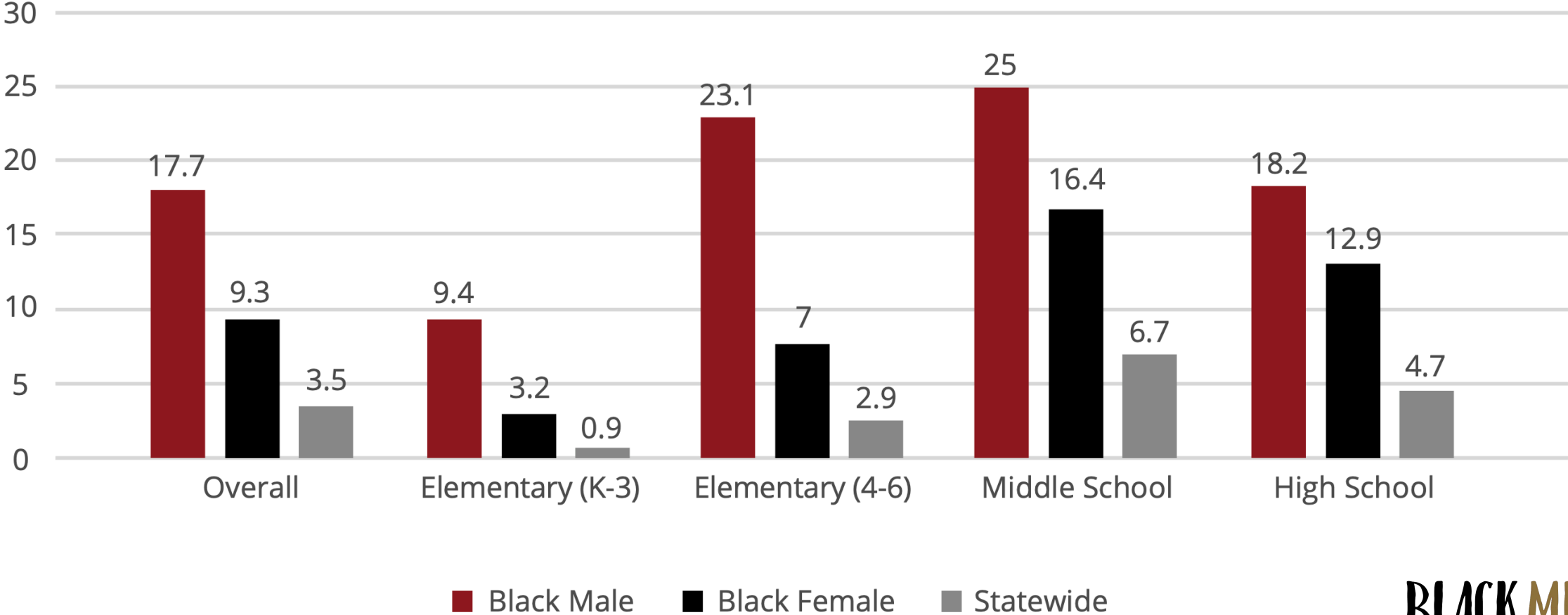
Suspension Rates for Students in SCUSD by Race/Ethnicity, 2018-2019

Table 2

Suspensions in SCUSD by Grade Level, 2018-2019



Suspensions of Black Children in Kindergarten through Third Grade in Sacramento County

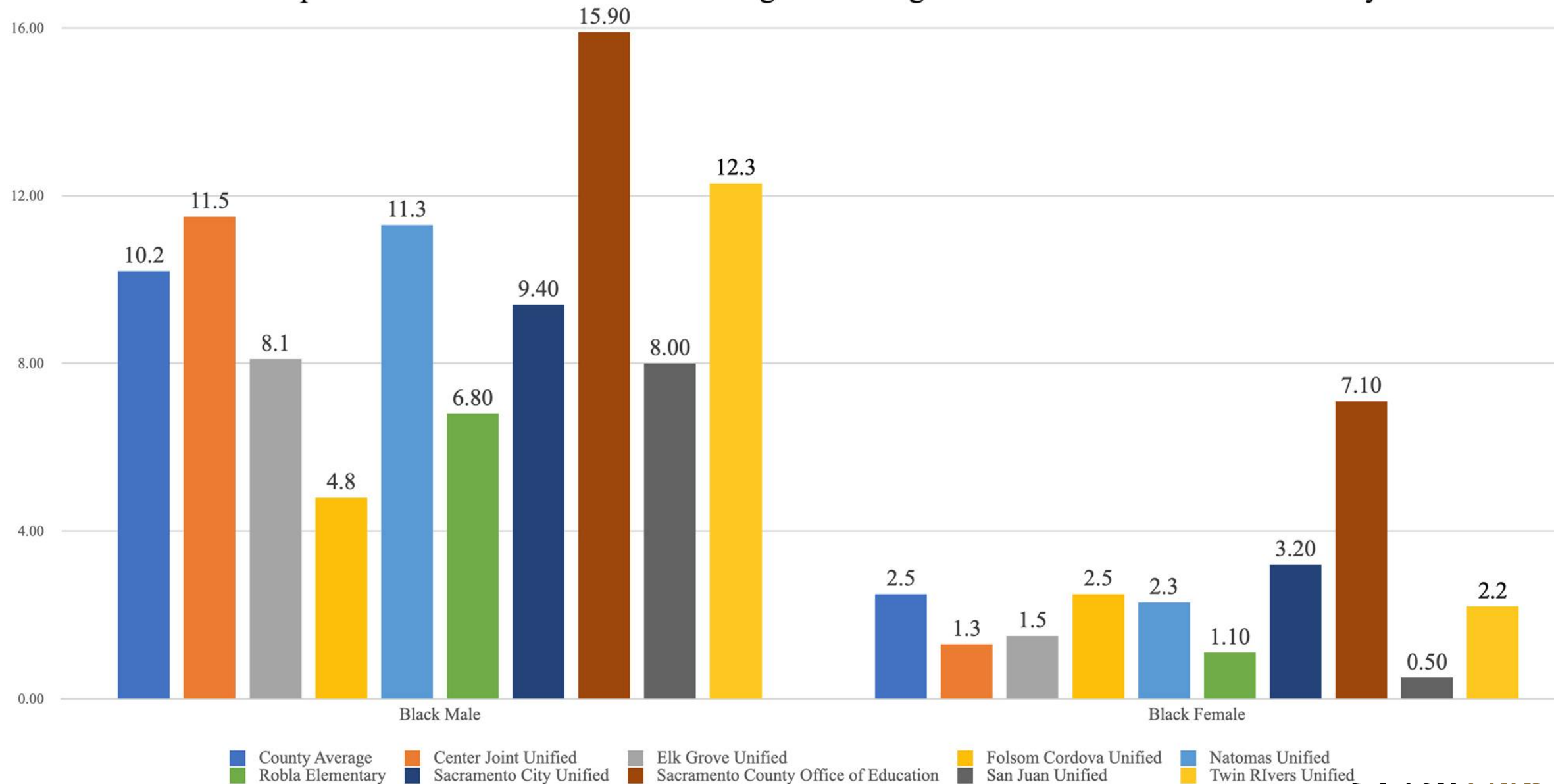
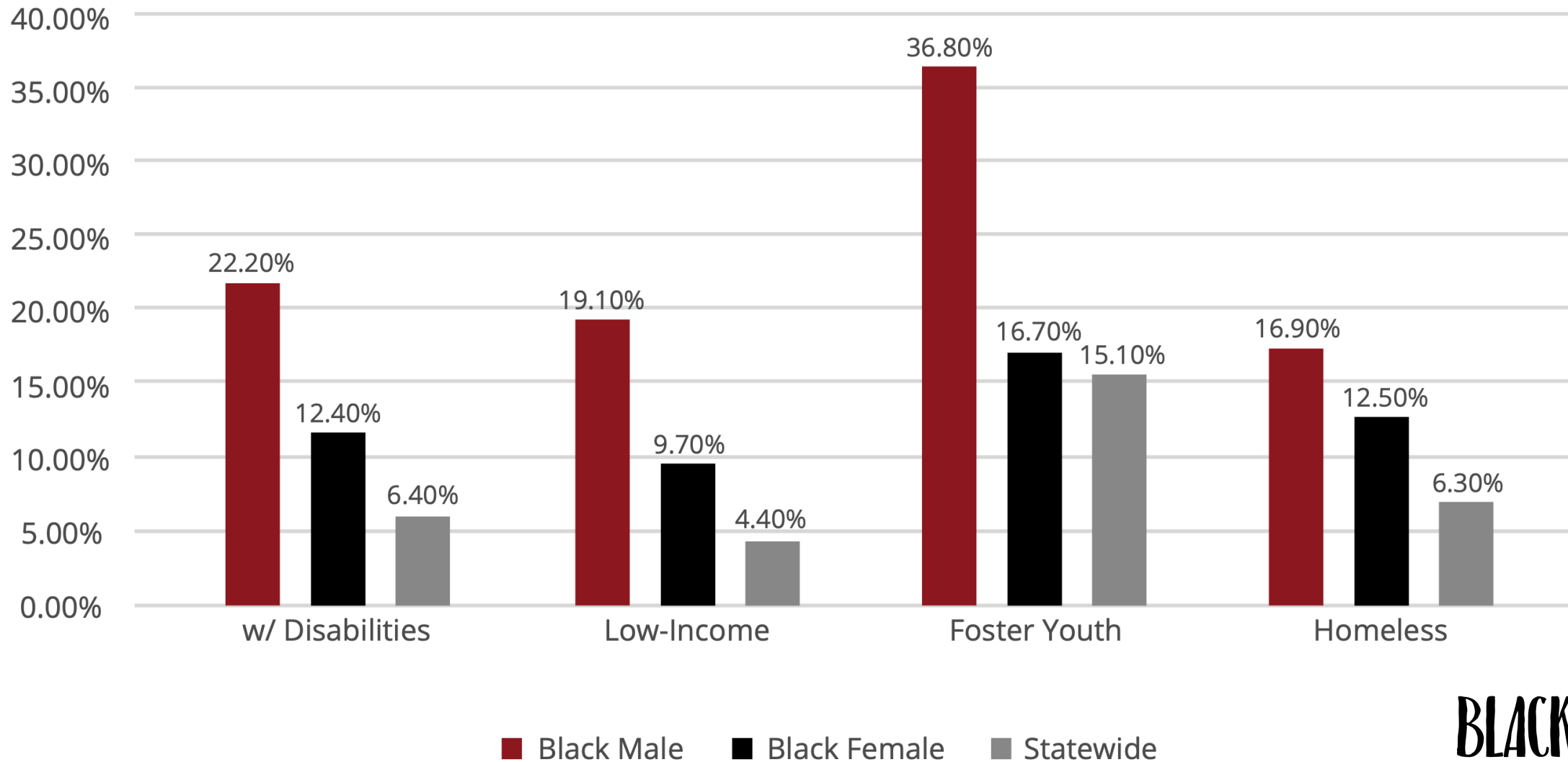


Table 3

Black Male Suspensions in SCUSD by Subgroup, 2018-2019



Suspension Rates of Black Foster Youth in Sacramento County, by Grade Level

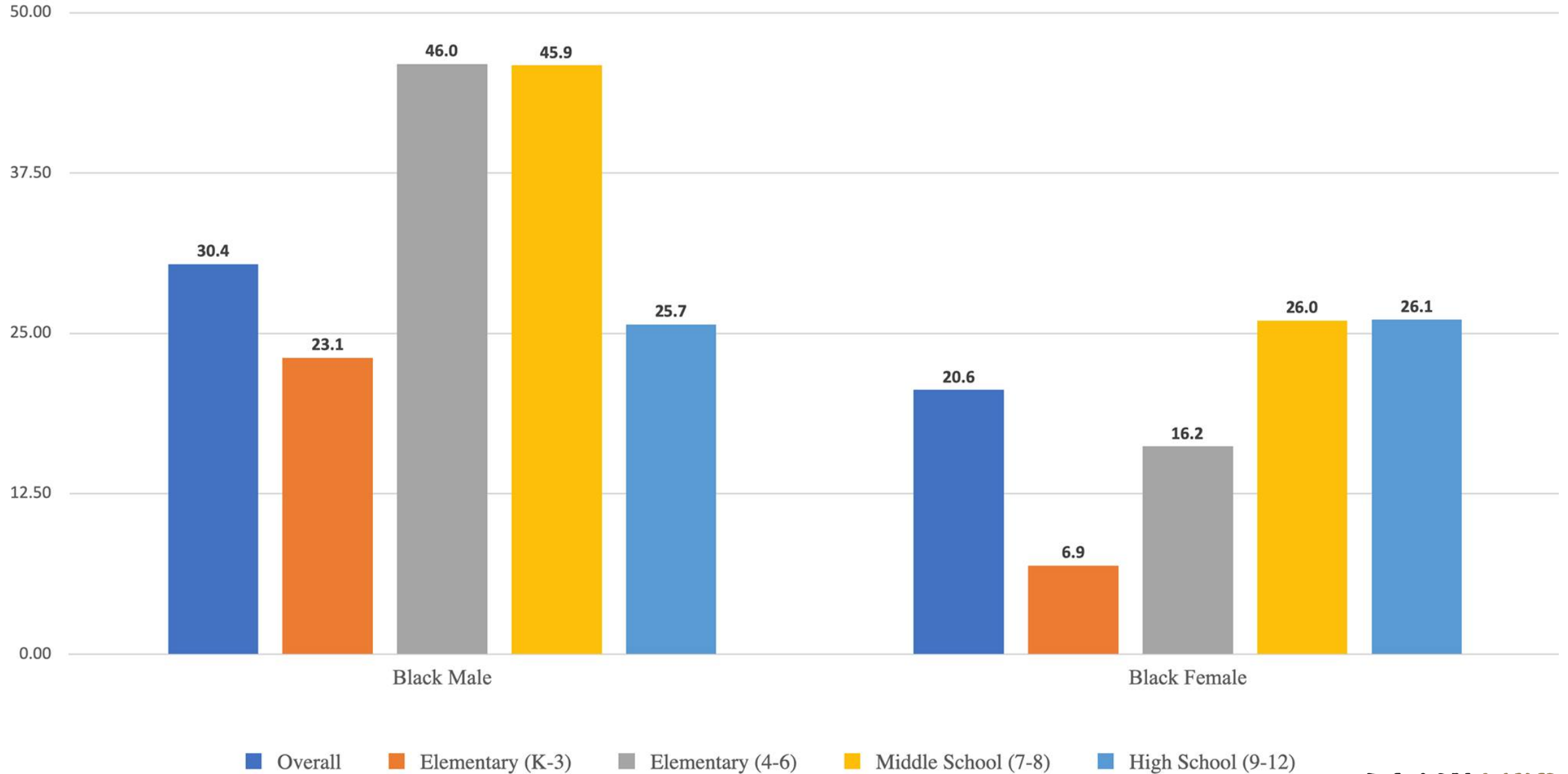


Table 4

SCUSD Suspensions – More than 20% of Their Black Male Students

School Name	Cumulative Enrollment	Total Suspensions	Unduplicated Suspensions	Suspension Rate	Percentage of Single Suspensions	Percentage of Multiple Suspensions
Cesar Chavez Intermediate	59	64	27	45.80%	51.90%	48.10%
Rosa Parks Elementary	116	94	45	38.80%	55.60%	44.40%
Oak Park Preparatory Academy	21	10	8	38.10%	87.50%	12.50%
Kit Carson International Academy	51	56	19	37.30%	31.60%	68.40%
Elder Creek Elementary	35	41	13	37.10%	38.50%	61.50%
Will C. Wood Middle	35	20	13	37.10%	69.20%	30.80%
Pacific Elementary	53	42	19	35.80%	52.60%	47.40%
Ethel Philips Elementary	23	22	8	34.80%	37.50%	62.50%
John H. Still	129	80	44	34.10%	54.50%	45.50%
Ethel I. Baker Elementary	49	38	16	32.70%	31.30%	68.80%
John Morse Therapeutic Center	22	16	7	31.80%	42.90%	57.10%
Rosemont High	133	62	42	31.60%	69.00%	31.00%
Hiram w. Johnson High	124	94	33	26.60%	45.50%	54.50%
Bret Harte Elementary	39	15	10	25.60%	60.00%	40.00%
John d. Sloat Elementary	46	18	11	23.90%	63.60%	36.40%
Isador Cohen Elementary	44	14	10	22.70%	80.00%	20.00%
Luther Burbank High	229	73	52	22.70%	75.00%	25.00%
Albert Einstein Middle	121	44	26	21.50%	73.10%	26.90%
John F. Kennedy High	219	68	45	20.50%	73.30%	26.70%

Note. This list does not include alternative and community schools. Success Academy had the highest suspension rate in SCUSD at 57.7%. American Legion High was also among the top suspension schools, with a rate of 20.3%.

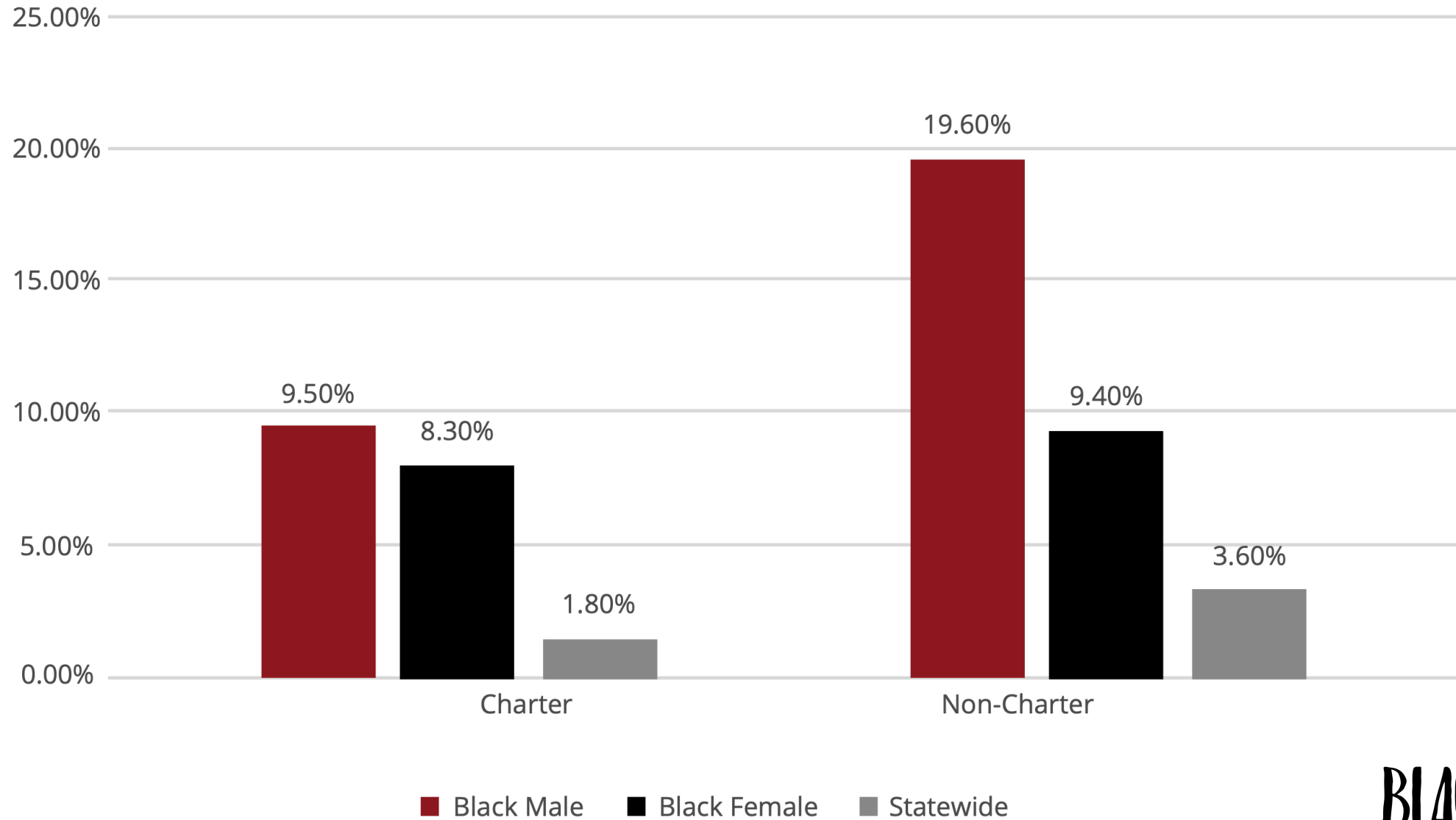
Table 5

SCUSD Suspensions – More Than 15% of Their Black Female Students

School Name	Cumulative Enrollment	Total Suspensions	Unduplicated Suspensions	Suspension Rate	Percentage of Single Suspensions	Percentage of Multiple Suspensions
John D. Sloat Elementary	41	29	11	26.80%	63.60%	36.40%
Will C. Wood Middle	49	23	13	26.50%	46.20%	53.80%
Hiram W. Johnson High	129	68	34	26.40%	44.10%	55.90%
Albert Einstein Middle	67	24	15	22.40%	73.30%	26.70%
Rosa Parks Elementary	102	39	22	21.60%	59.10%	40.90%
John H. Still	103	23	18	17.50%	77.80%	22.20%
Kit Carson International Academy	42	13	7	16.70%	57.10%	42.90%
Fern Bacon Middle	73	19	11	15.10%	81.80%	18.20%

Note. This list does not include alternative and community schools. American Legion High has a suspension rate of 18.2%.

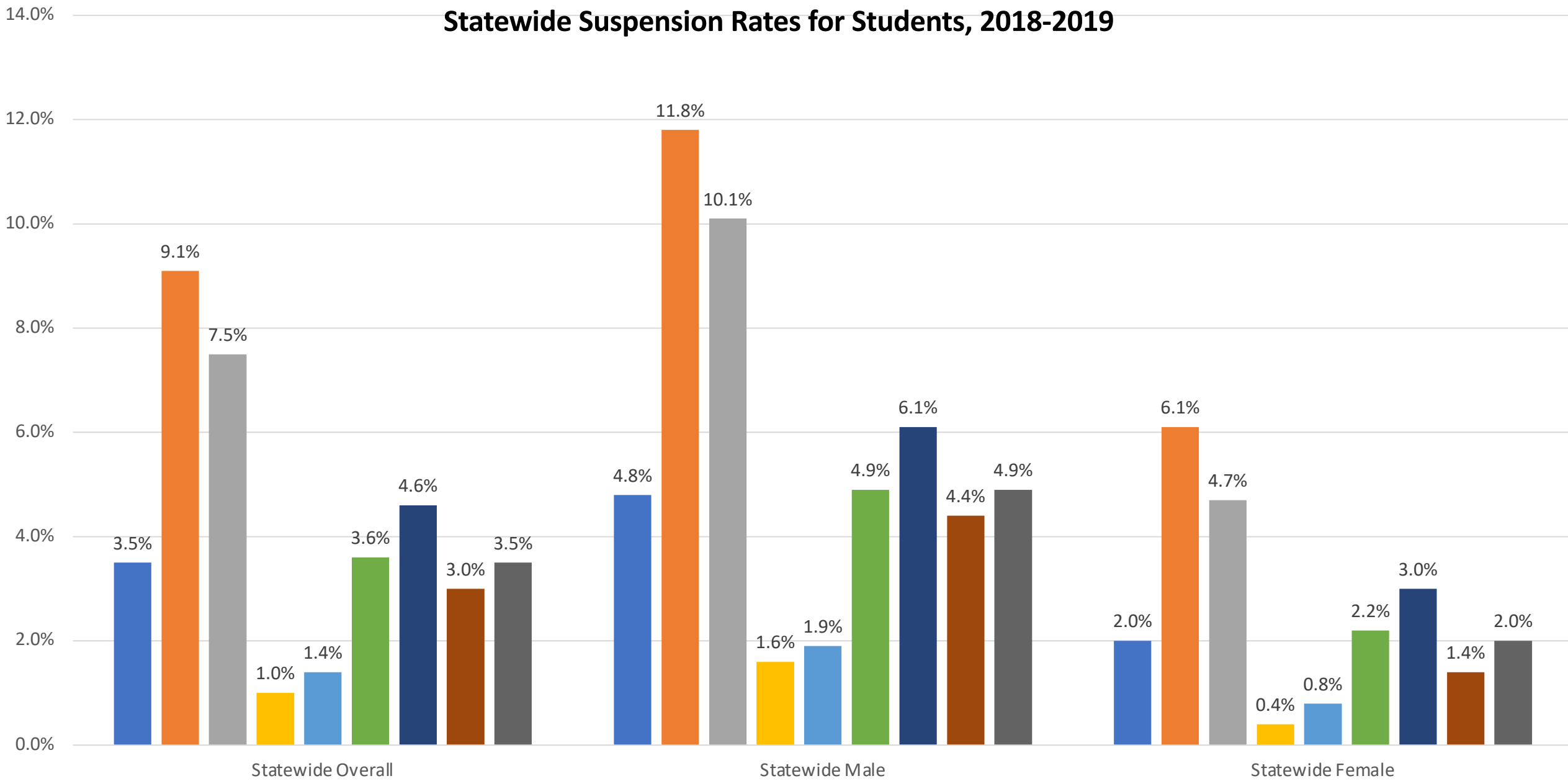
Figure 2
Suspension Rates for Black Students in SCUSD by School Type





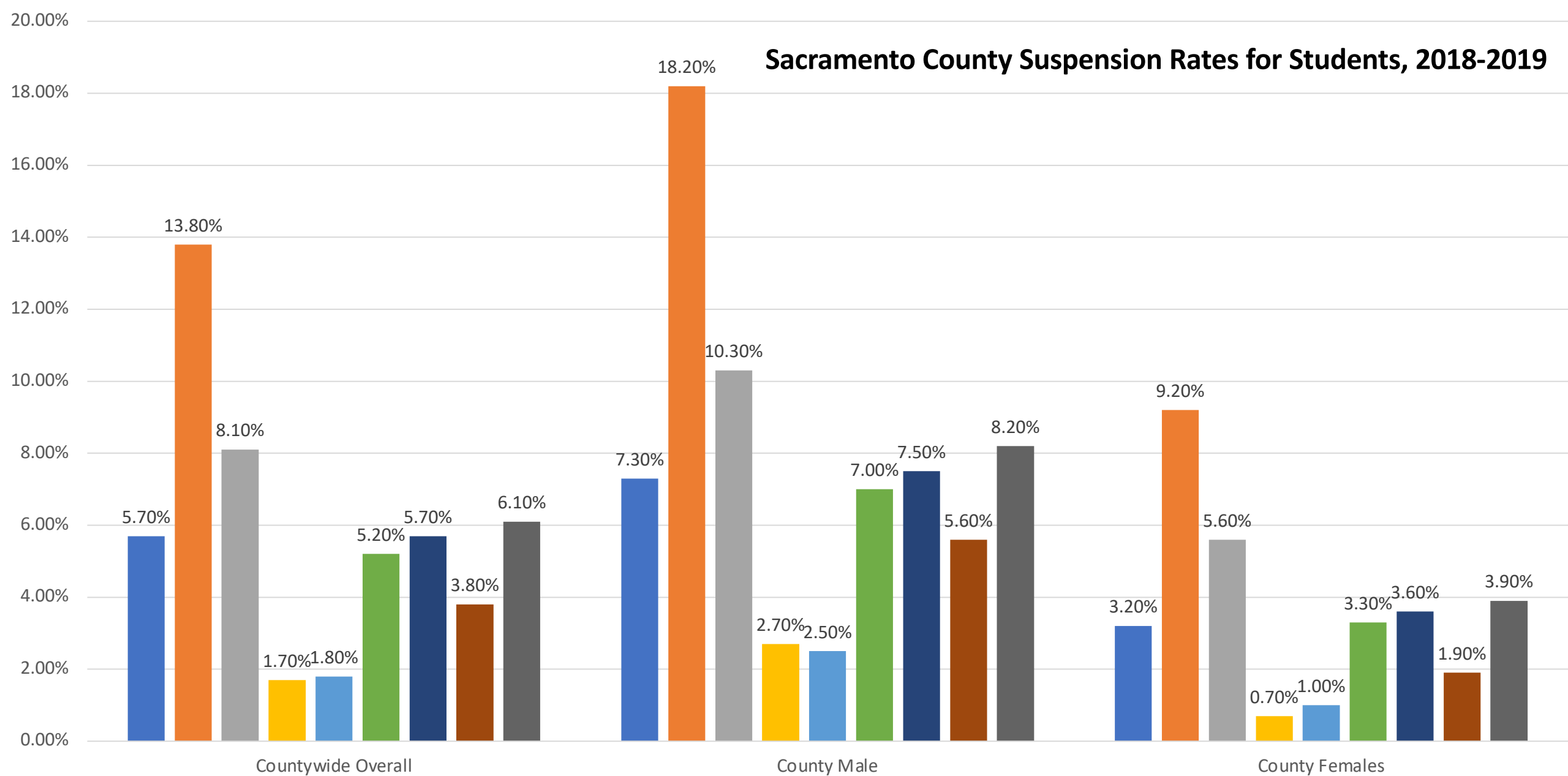
Sacramento County

Statewide Suspension Rates for Students, 2018-2019



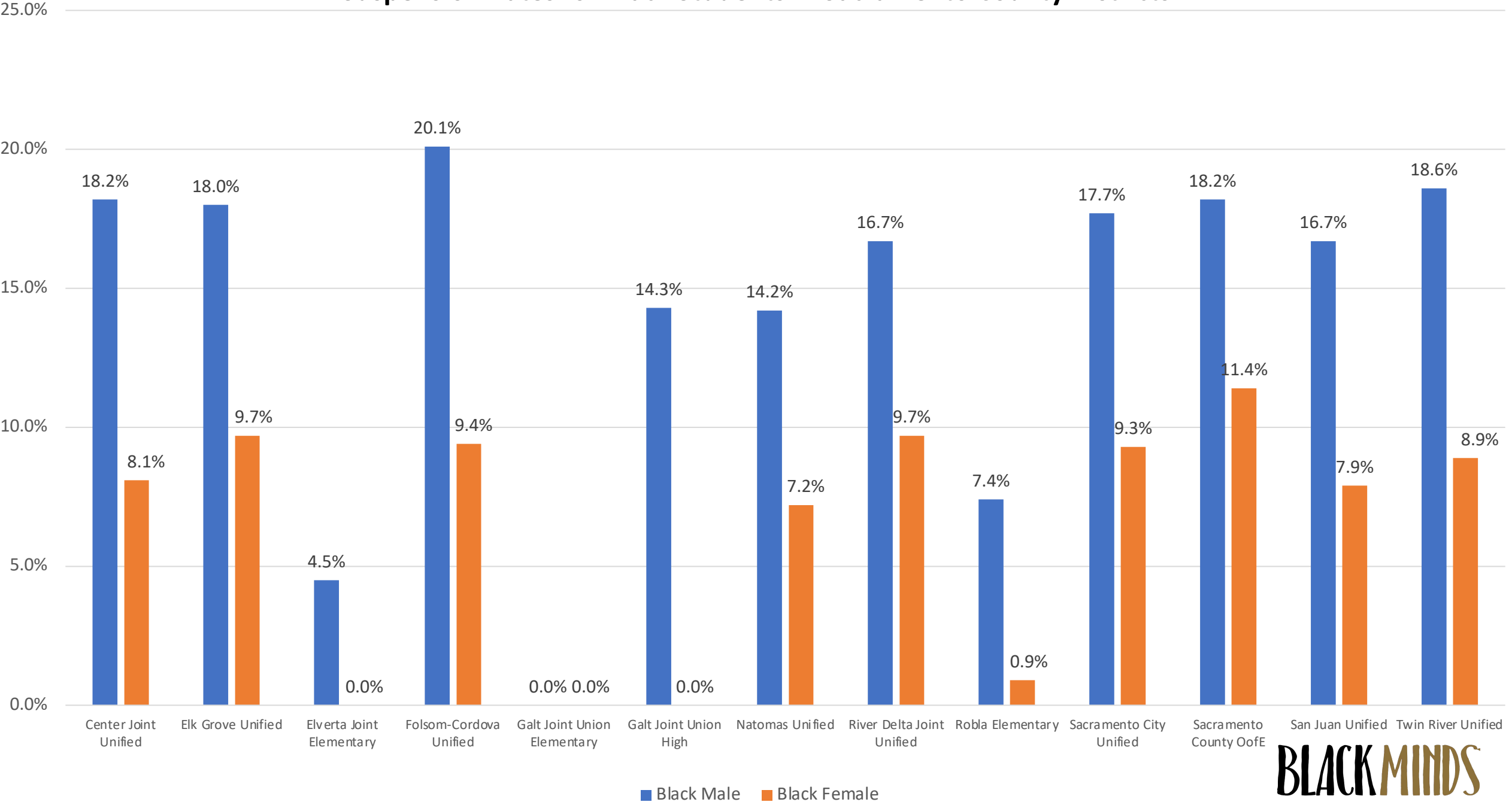
Overall African American Native American Asian Filipinx Latinx Pacific Islander White Multiethnic

Sacramento County Suspension Rates for Students, 2018-2019



Overall African American Native American Asian Filipinox Latinx Pacific Islander White Multiethnic

Suspension Rates for Black Students in Sacramento County Districts



Highest Suspension Districts for Black Students in California (Total)

County	District	Cumulative Enrollment	Total Suspensions	Unduplicated Suspensions	Unduplicated Suspensions (Defiance-Only)	Suspension Rate
Sacramento	Elk Grove Unified	8310	2386	1164	317	14
Fresno	Fresno Unified	6636	2294	1105	131	16.7
Sacramento	Sacramento City Unified	8156	2012	1104	195	13.5
Alameda	Oakland Unified	12669	2002	1138	101	9
Contra Costa	Antioch Unified	4710	1782	782	254	16.6
San Diego	San Diego Unified	11081	1592	850	198	7.7
Solano	Vallejo City Unified	4252	1582	756	189	17.8
Los Angeles	Los Angeles County Office of Education	2026	1568	482	190	23.8
San Bernardino	San Bernardino City Unified	7023	1512	758	96	10.8
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Unified	52122	1405	1081	44	2.1
San Joaquin	Stockton Unified	4873	1377	679	92	13.9
Los Angeles	Long Beach Unified	9973	1349	898	141	9
Sacramento	Twin Rivers Unified	4802	1336	664	164	13.8
Los Angeles	Antelope Valley Union High	4203	1307	732	101	17.4
Los Angeles	Palmdale Elementary	3872	1228	620	125	16
Contra Costa	West Contra Costa Unified	5143	1187	672	45	13.1
Los Angeles	Lancaster Elementary	5226	1136	569	73	10.9
Riverside	Moreno Valley Unified	5105	1128	591	67	11.6
Sacramento	San Juan Unified	4285	1121	526	198	12.3
Contra Costa	Pittsburg Unified	2131	952	373	158	17.5

Top Suspension Schools for Black Students in California, 2018-2019

Rank	County Name	DistrictName	School Name	Cumulative Enrollment	Total Suspensions	Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended (Total)	Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended (Defiance-Only)	Suspension Rate (Total)
4	Sacramento	Sacramento County Office of Education	Palmiter Special Education	40	108	31	10	77.5
6	Sacramento	Folsom-Cordova Unified	Prospect Community Day	32	63	23	7	71.9
9	Sacramento	San Juan Unified	La Vista Center	26	52	16	3	61.5
19	Sacramento	Sacramento City Unified	Success Academy	33	45	18	6	54.5
42	Sacramento	Twin Rivers Unified	Nova Opportunity	16	24	7	0	43.8
49	Sacramento	Elk Grove Unified	James Rutter Middle	146	150	61	12	41.8
65	Sacramento	Elk Grove Unified	T. R. Smedberg Middle	160	205	60	37	37.5
69	Sacramento	San Juan Unified	Encina Preparatory High	334	301	125	64	37.4
74	Sacramento	Elk Grove Unified	Samuel Jackman Middle	220	200	79	37	35.9
77	Sacramento	Twin Rivers Unified	Rio Linda Preparatory Academy	31	20	11	1	35.5
93	Sacramento	Folsom-Cordova Unified	Mills Middle	132	85	44	6	33.3

Advice for the Parents of Black Children

Never leave your child in an unhealthy environment, even for the sake of a “good” school. – *Andre Branch*

Never assume your child deserves the suspension, especially in early childhood education.

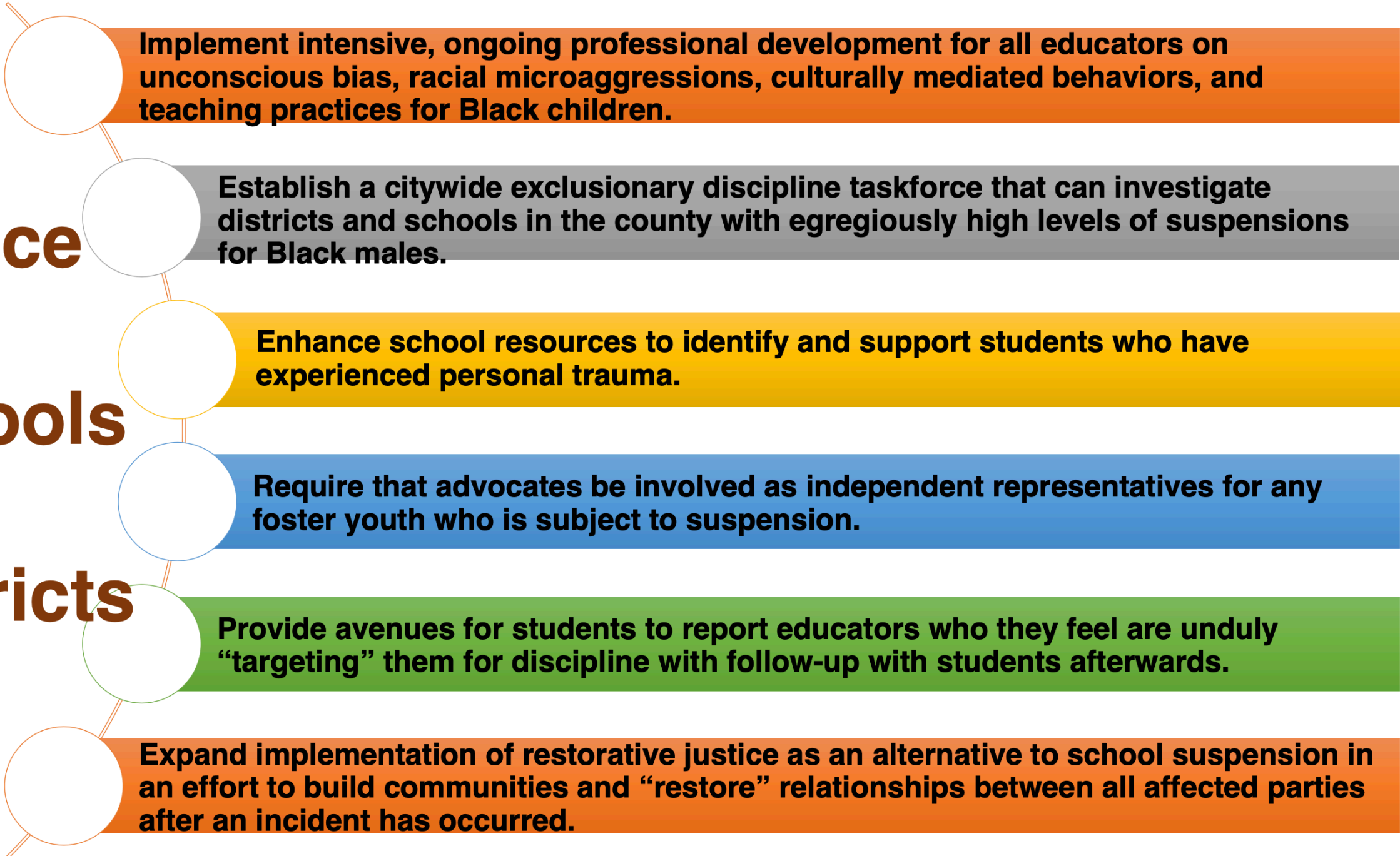
Never assume your school is aware of their success data with Black children – show them*.

Never allow a teacher or principal to refer to your child as a “problem” or “bad”.

Never allow the school to reprimand your child without questioning what occurred and whether there were other children who did the same thing.

Never assume the challenges your child faces are isolated – most likely, other parents of Black children are experiencing the same thing.

Advice for Schools and Districts



Implement intensive, ongoing professional development for all educators on unconscious bias, racial microaggressions, culturally mediated behaviors, and teaching practices for Black children.

Establish a citywide exclusionary discipline taskforce that can investigate districts and schools in the county with egregiously high levels of suspensions for Black males.

Enhance school resources to identify and support students who have experienced personal trauma.

Require that advocates be involved as independent representatives for any foster youth who is subject to suspension.

Provide avenues for students to report educators who they feel are unduly “targeting” them for discipline with follow-up with students afterwards.

Expand implementation of restorative justice as an alternative to school suspension in an effort to build communities and “restore” relationships between all affected parties after an incident has occurred.