



Researching Family Balance Sheets to Strengthen  
Families and the Economy | [stlouisfed.org/hfs](http://stlouisfed.org/hfs)

## Economic Disparity in St. Louis City and County

Ferguson 1000  
University of Missouri – St. Louis

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*\*These are my own views, and not necessarily the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Federal Reserve System, or the Board of Governors*

# Who is in the Labor Force?

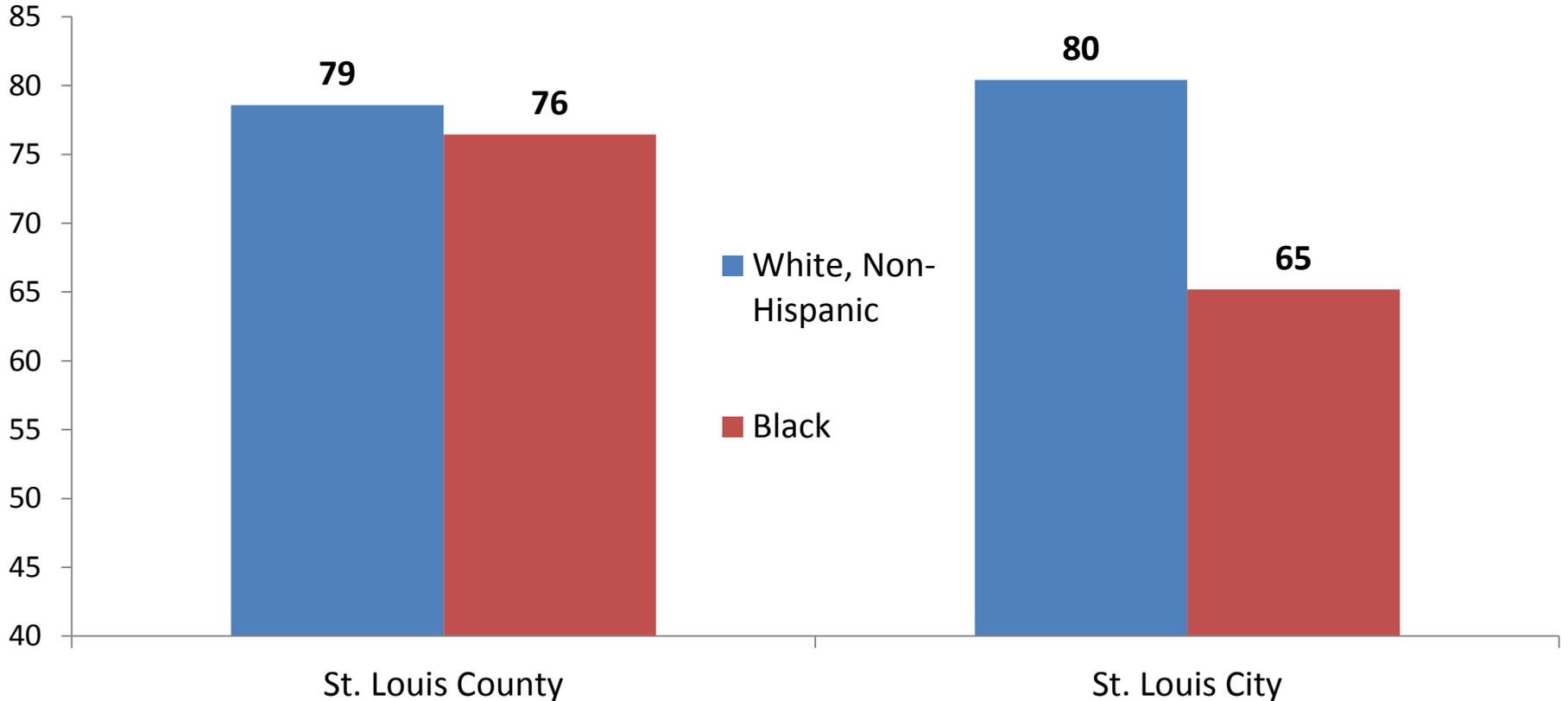
- Individuals who are employed OR unemployed are in the labor force.
- Individuals are considered unemployed if:
  - Neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work.”
  - Actively looking for work during last 4 weeks.
  - Were available to start a job.
- Individuals who have given up looking for a job will not be considered unemployed.



# Black Working Age Population Less Engaged in Labor Market

Labor Force Participation Rate, 16-64 Year Olds

Percent

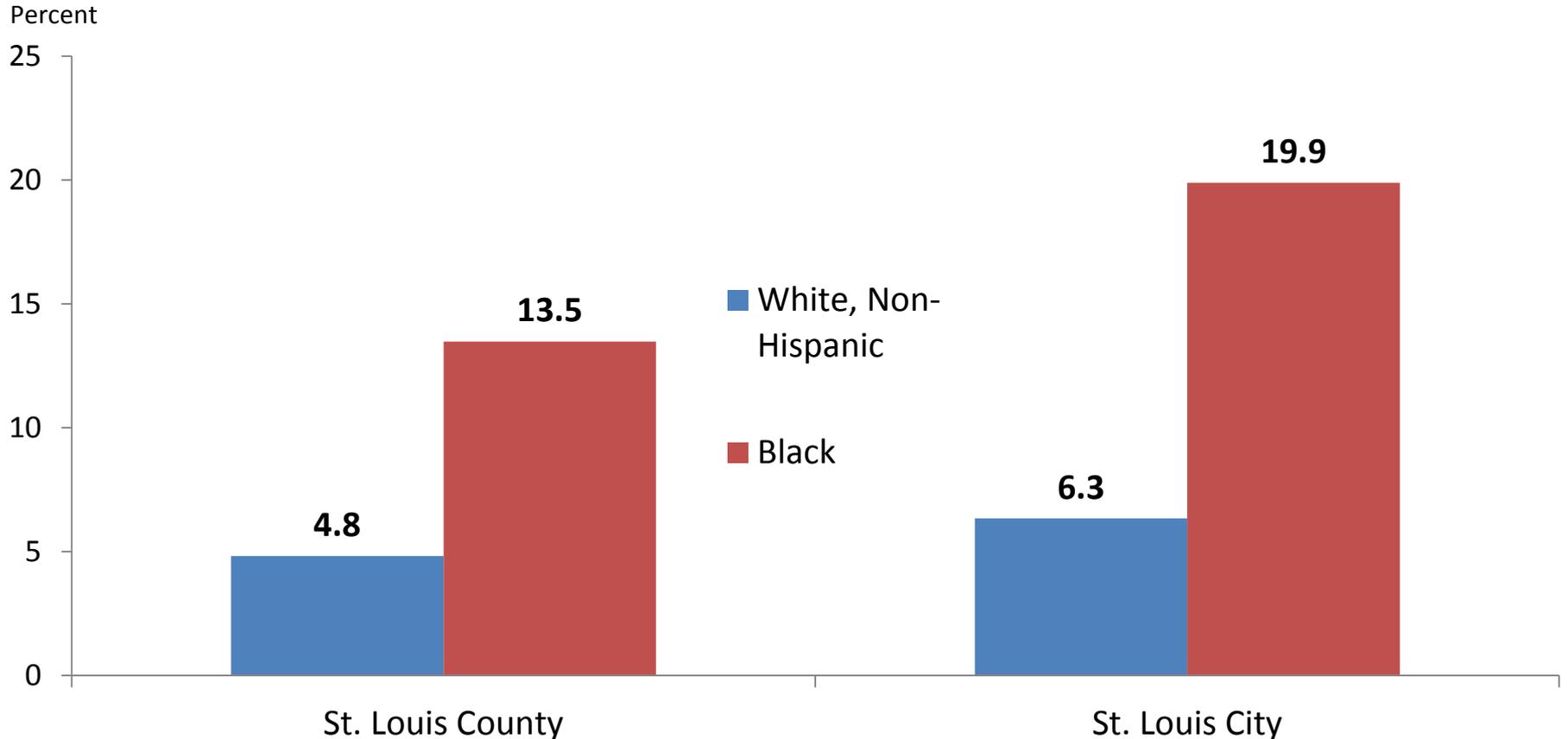


Source: Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates



# Severe Unemployment in both STL City & County

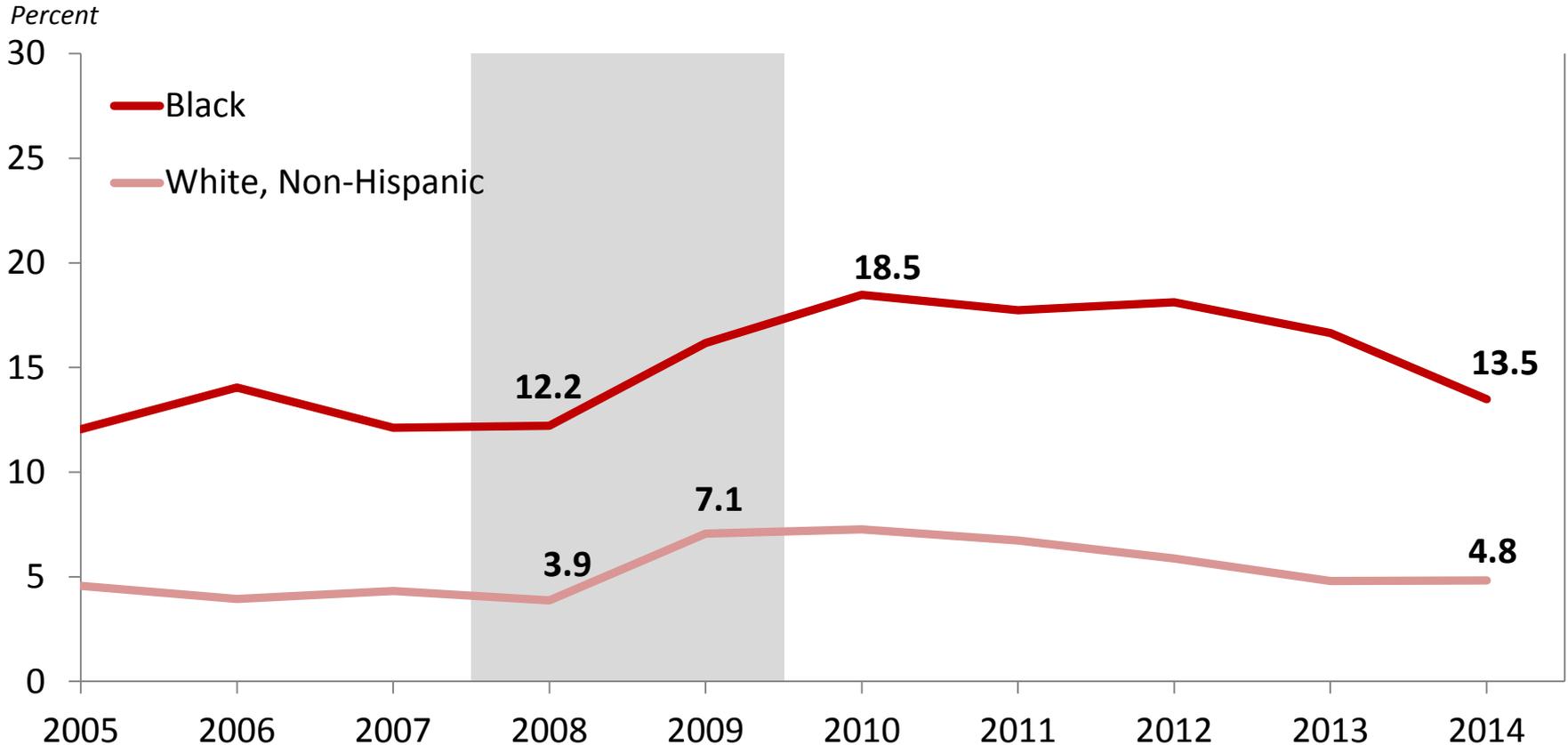
## Unemployment Rate, 16-64 Year Olds



Source: Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

# Recession Hit Black Men and Women Harder

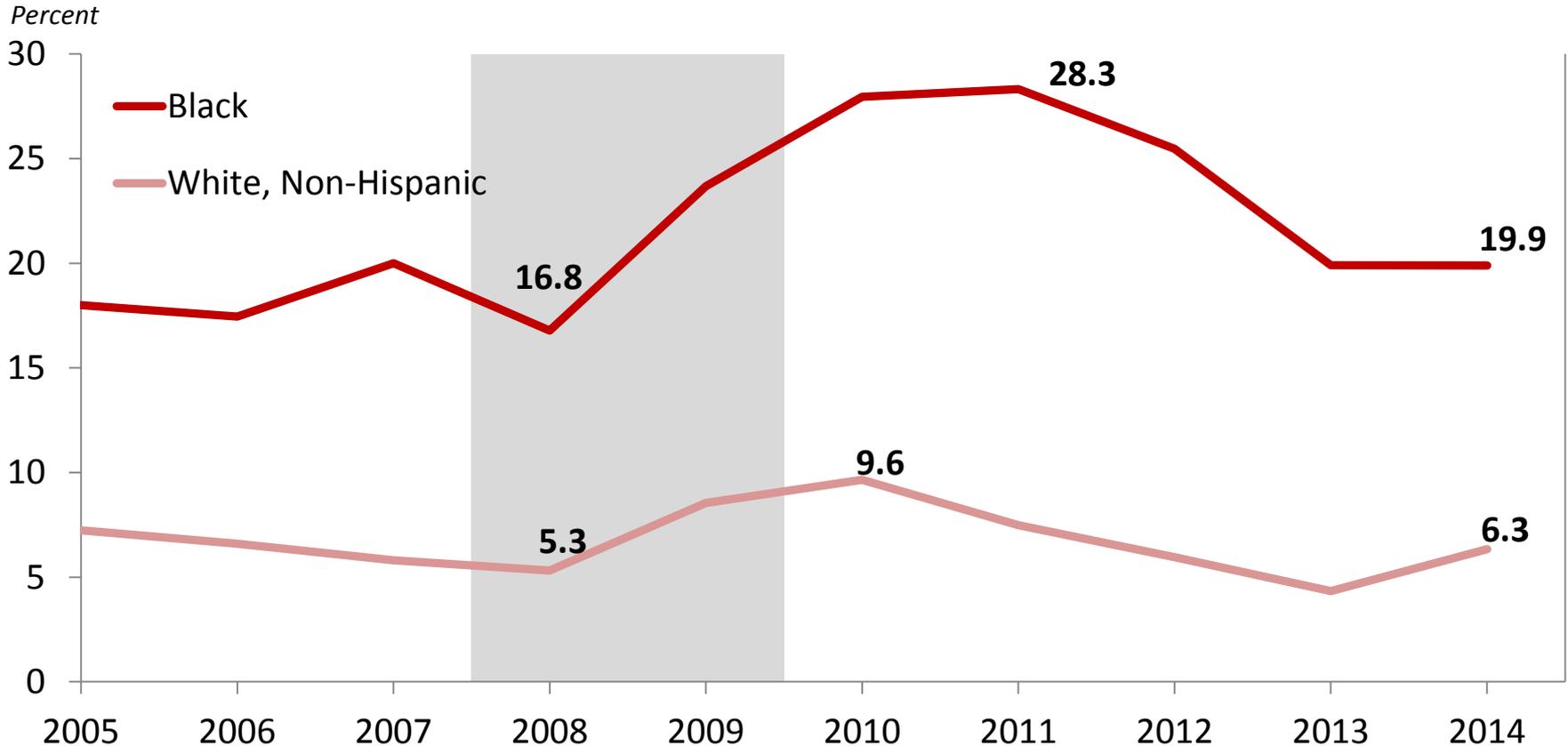
## Unemployment Rate, All 16-64 Year Olds, St. Louis County



Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Gray area indicates years in which recession occurred.

# Recession Hit Black Men and Women Harder

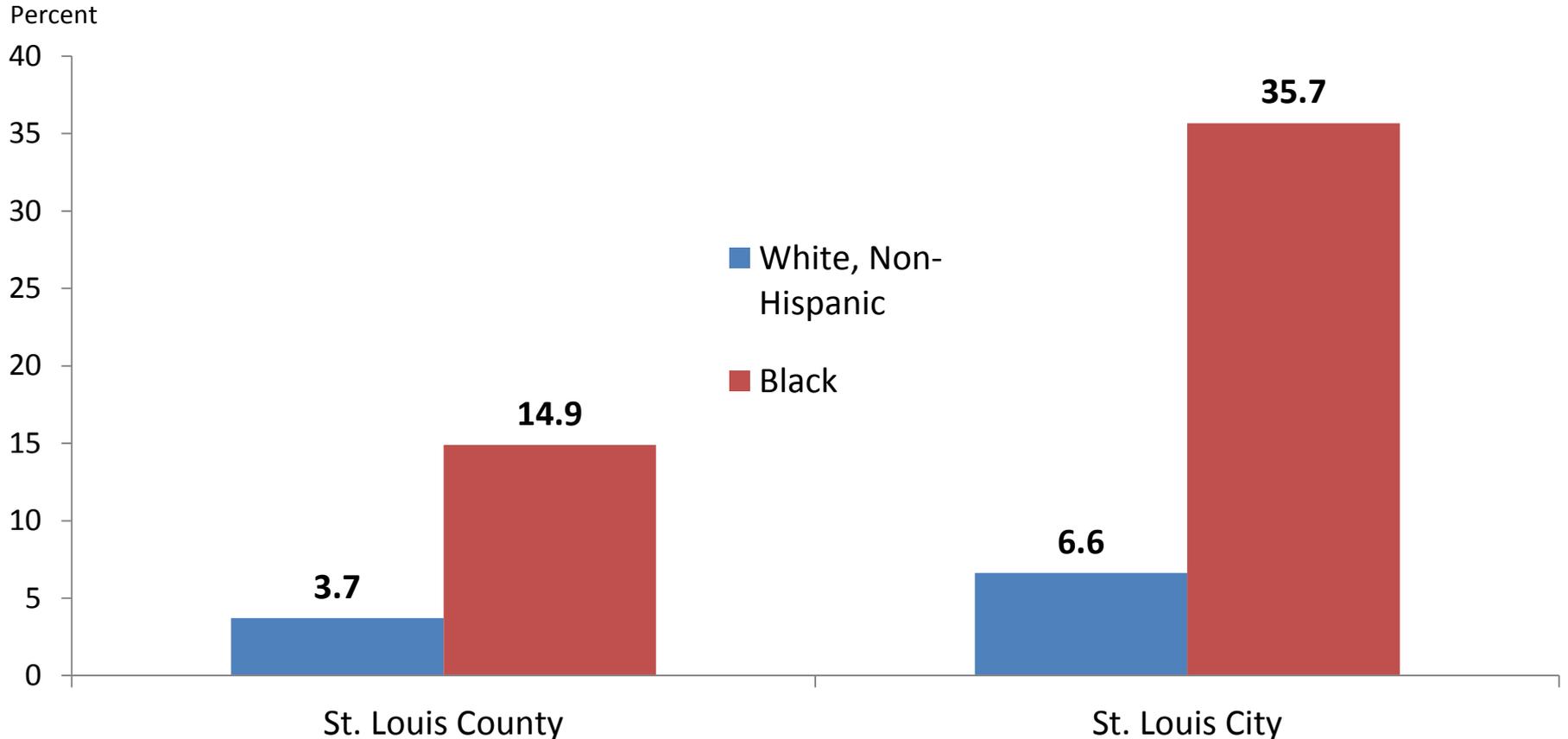
Unemployment Rate, All 16-64 Year Olds, St. Louis City



Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Gray area indicates years in which recession occurred.

# Labor Market Difficulties Yielding Severe Poverty

## Family Poverty Status in Past 12 Months

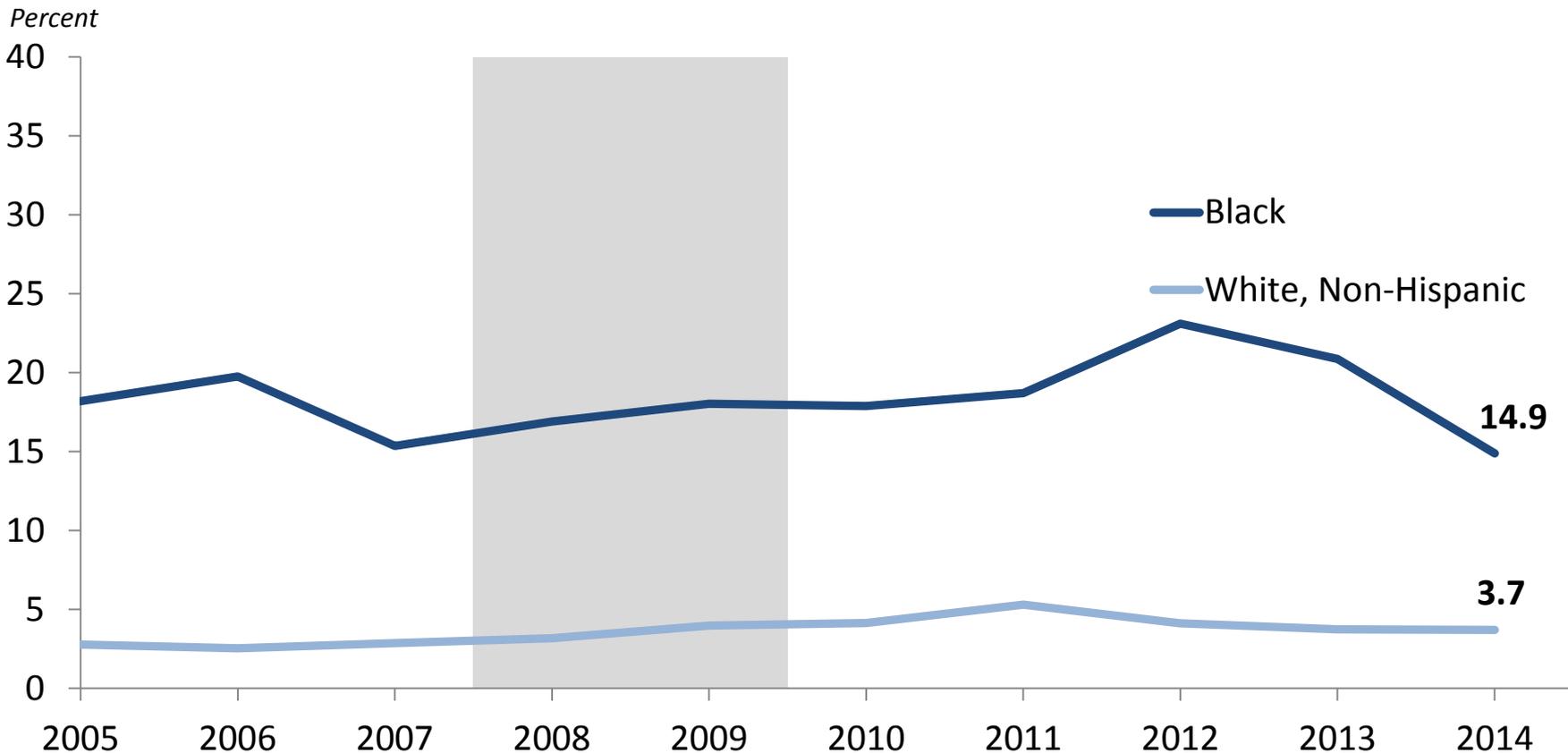


Source: Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates



# Poverty Rate Falling in County

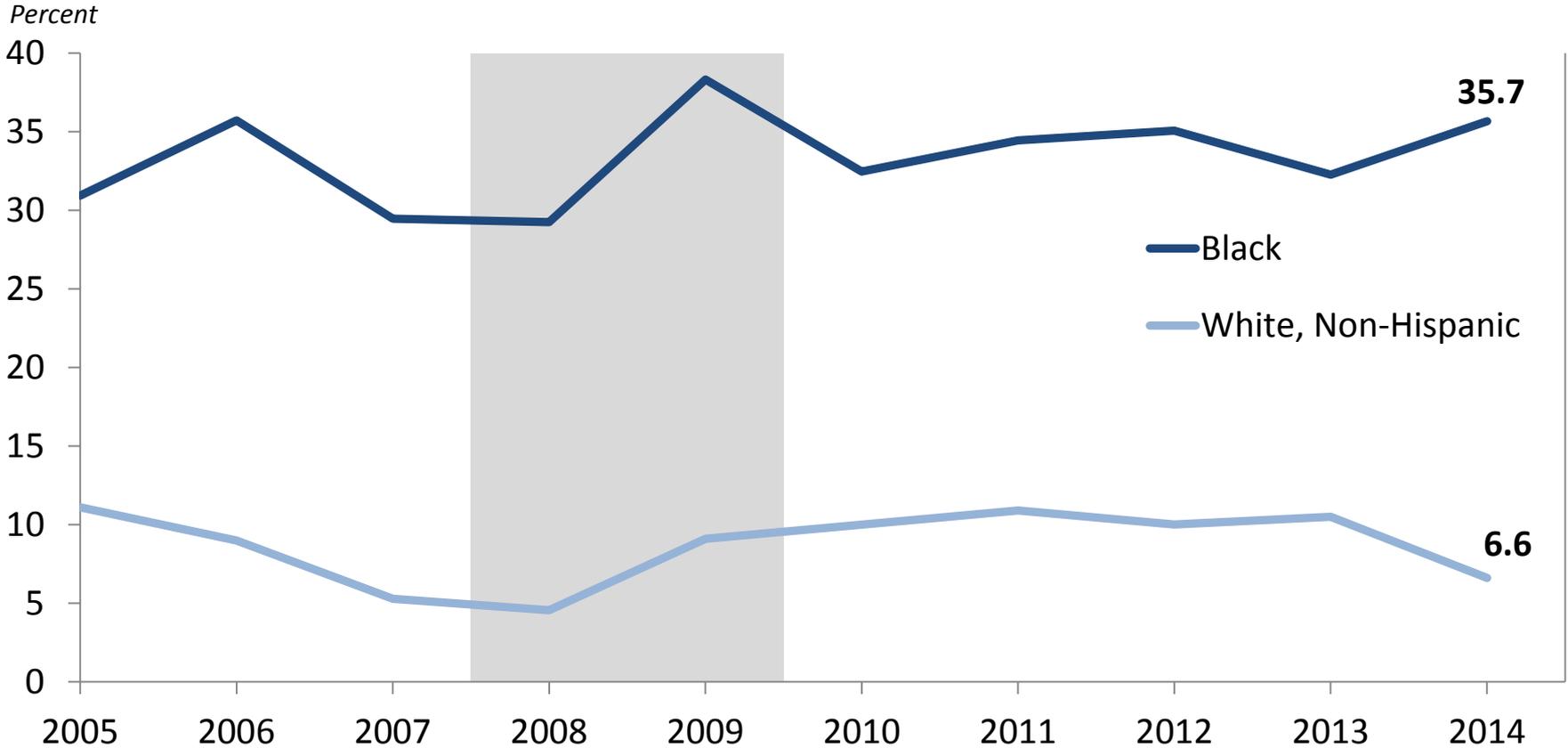
## Poverty Rate, All Families, St. Louis County



Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Gray area indicates years in which recession occurred.

# Poverty Rates Diverging, Divide Largely Unchanged

## Poverty Rate, All Families, St. Louis City



Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Gray area indicates years in which recession occurred.

# Summary

- Census data indicate sizeable divide in unemployment rate and poverty rate for black job seekers and families.
- Given lack of stable employment, black families are disproportionately below poverty line.
- Ferguson 1000 and its partnerships with local employers, job fairs, and other innovative programs are important drivers of job growth for our underserved communities.

# Job Seeker Resources

## **Personal Finance 101 Chats (Interview Tips & W-4 Guide)**

*<https://www.stlouisfed.org/education/personal-finance-101-chats>*

## **STL Youth Jobs**

*<http://stlyouthjobs.org/>*

## **Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.**

*<https://www.ulstl.com/about-us/>*

For More Information on Our Center...

**Center for Household Financial Stability**

*[stlouisfed.org/hfs](https://stlouisfed.org/hfs)*

***In the Balance* Research Essays**

*[stlouisfed.org/publications/in-the-balance](https://stlouisfed.org/publications/in-the-balance)*

**FRED Economic Data**

*[research.stlouisfed.org/fred2](https://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2)*