



Working With Male Victims of Sexual Abuse

Schools Plus
Professional Development Day
HRSB
May 6, 2016

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Who is Robert S. Wright?

A Sociologist and Social Worker

Private Practitioner, Direct Practice and Forensics

Clinical Member, ATSA

Former Long-time Child Welfare Professional

Former Correctional Mental Health Worker , WS Penn.

Former Exec. Dir., Child & Youth Strategy of Nova
Scotia

Facilitator of ManTalk



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What are your Questions About Boys?

- Why are you in this workshop?
- What motivates you to (want to) work with male victims?
- What is the most important thing you need to take away from this session?



Boys and Men are in Bad Shape

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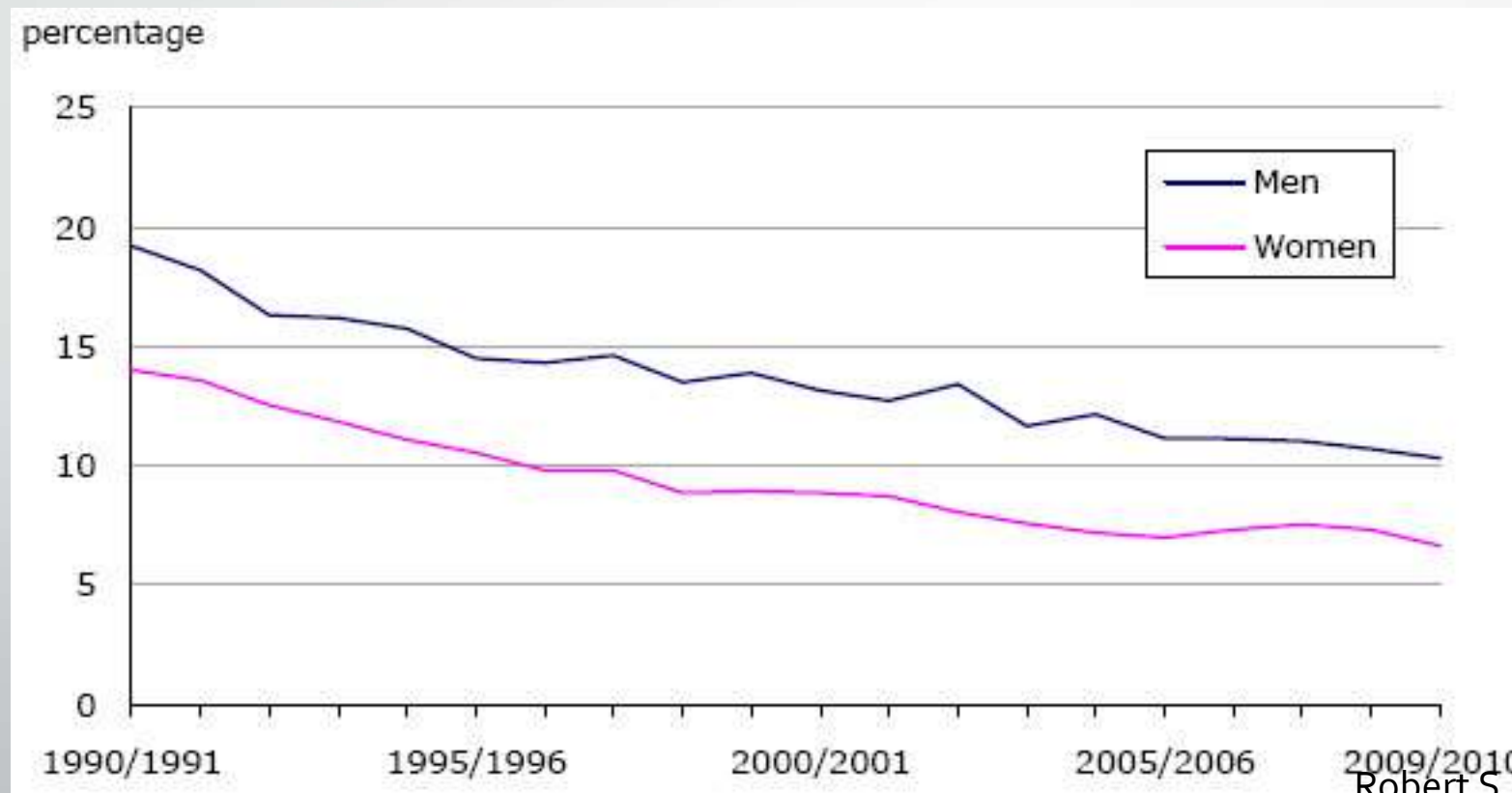
Men Die Younger Than Women

(life expectancy of 79 vs 83)

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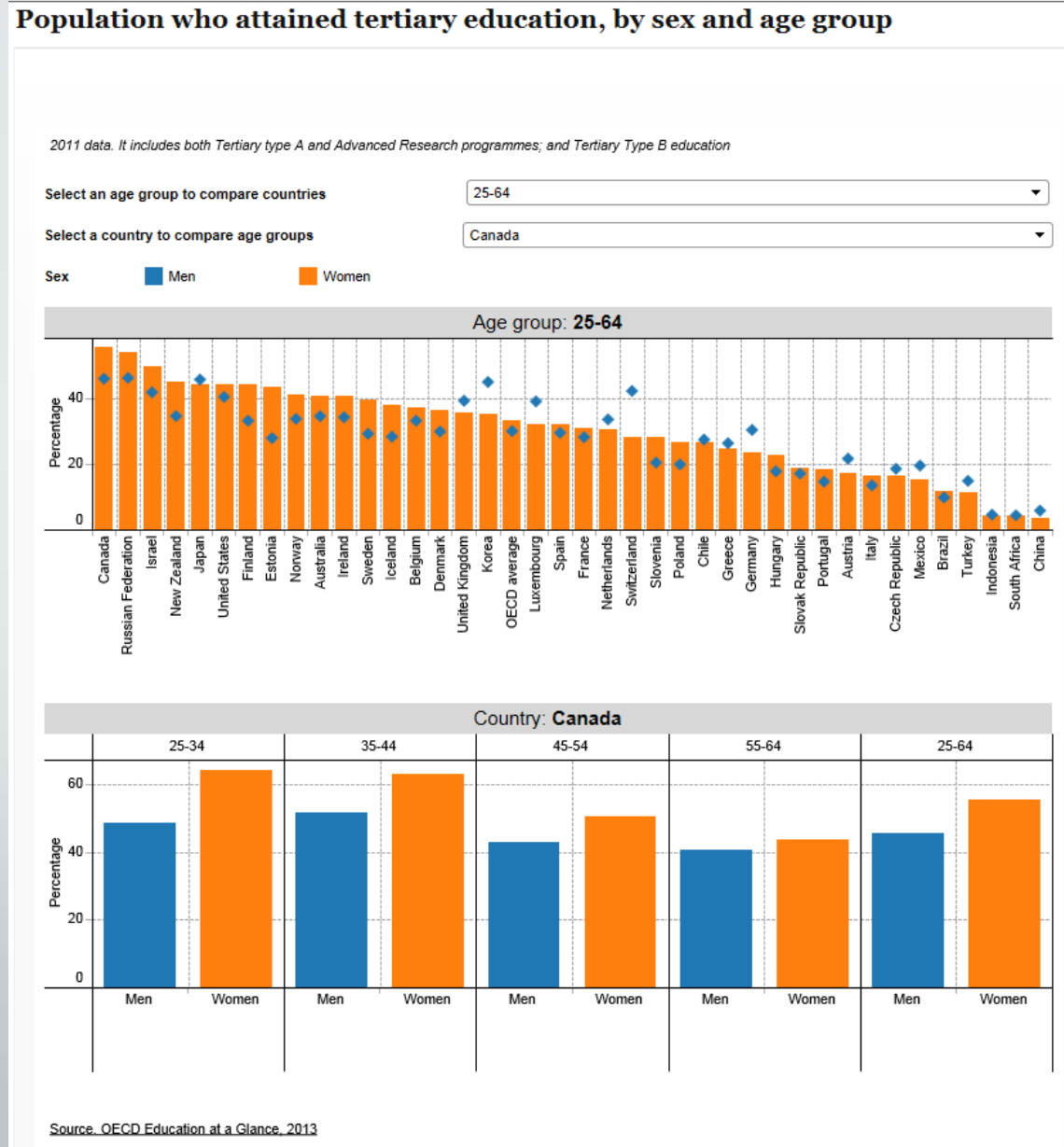
Men Have Higher Dropout Rates Than Women

(Dropout rate, population aged 20 to 24,
by sex, 1990/1991 to 2009/2010. StatsCan)



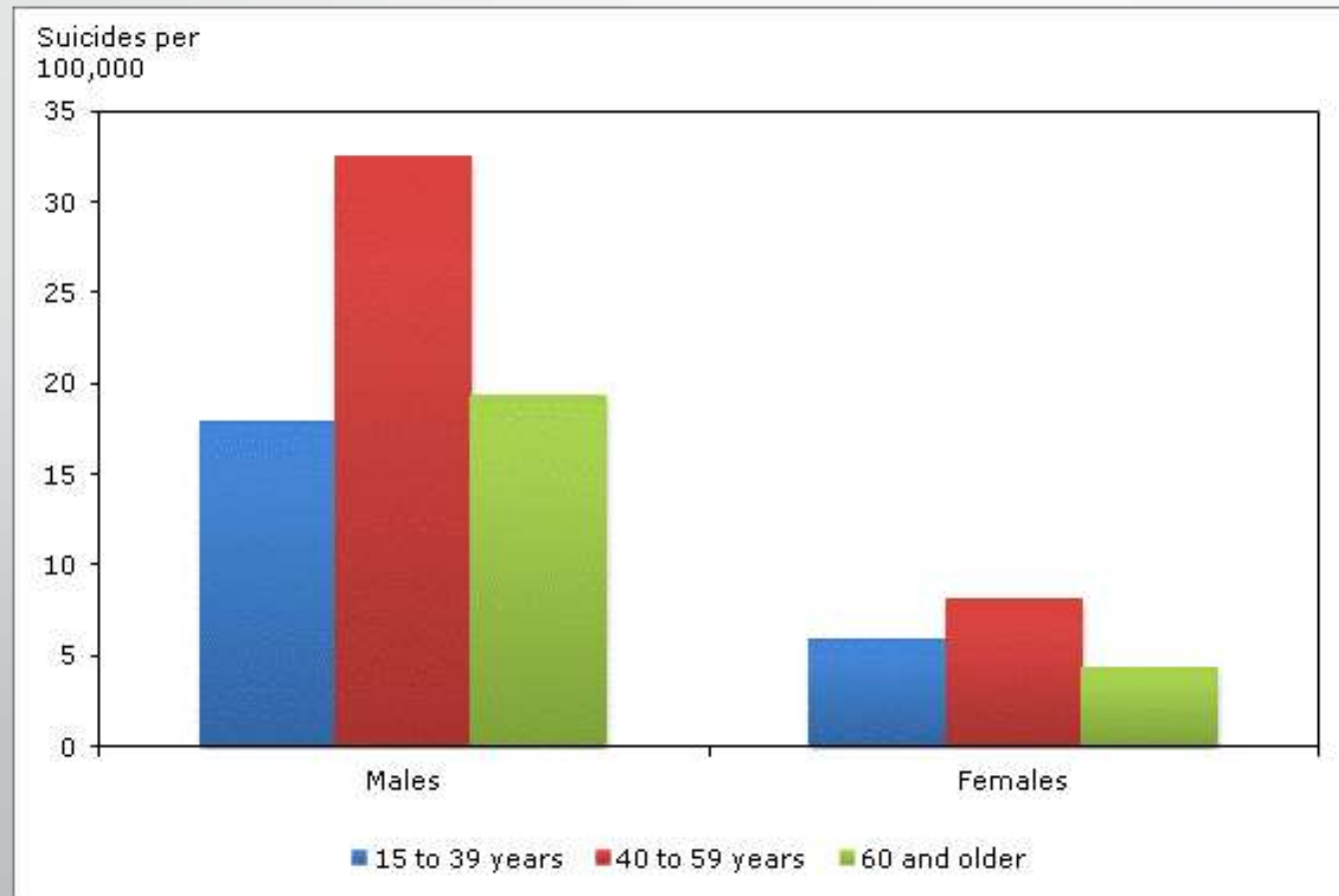
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Men Have Lower Rates of Attaining Tertiary Education



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Men die by suicide at a rate
3 times higher than women
(Suicides per 100,000, by age group and sex,
Canada, 2009. StatsCan)

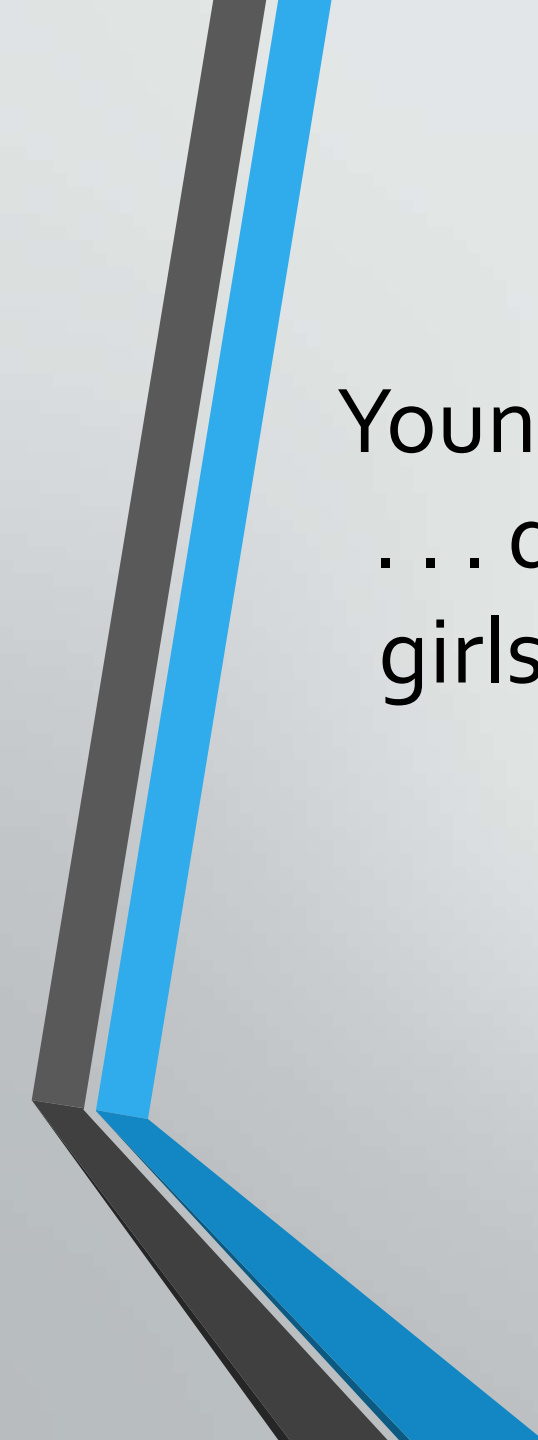


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Men make up 90% of total admittances to
custody in Canada

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Young men . . . [are] less engaged in school and they . . . dropout of high school . . . at a higher rate than girls. . . . girls are more likely than boys to go on to post-secondary education
- Stats Can



Boys and Men are in Bad Shape . . .

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. . . And we seem to have
no clue how to help them

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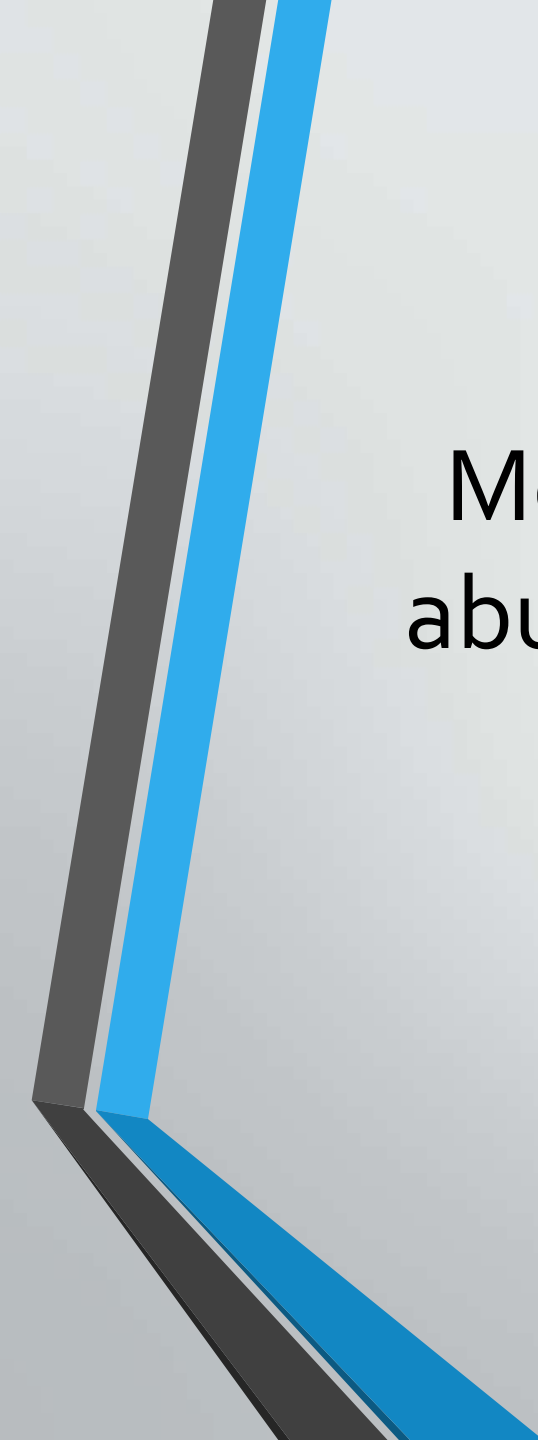
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The measure of victimization experience and
trauma symptomatology among protective custody inmates at
Washington State Penitentiary:
Implications for returning persons to general population
Robert S. Wright
(Last updated on 5/28/97)

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Johnny's Story

- 21 year old man on PC Range for SA, and host of other charges from 1 incident
- Attended treatment as a diversion until I “fired him” as a client
- After detailed sexual history was able to make connections between victimization and perpetration
- Revelation: “I don’t think I’ve ever truly had consensual sex”
- Transitioned speedily into offender treatment and transfer



Men are more frequently victims of sexual abuse than we once thought, yet report less frequently than women and receive little treatment



Police Reported SA rate female victimization
10x that of men

GSS Reported SA rate female victimization
5x that of men


Field Researchers suggest female rate of
victimization is 2x that of men

What is the actual rate?



So what?!

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Addressing men's problems is key to engaging
men as healthy, whole citizens as partners in
solving our shared problems

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Patterns of Male Victimization

- Inappropriate sexual play of children and siblings left unchecked
- Unhealthy masculine socialization perpetrates “sexuality abuse”
- Sexualized bullying among teen boys
- Clerical/Religious sexual abuse of boys
- Sexual exploitation of gay and questioning boys
- Hazing and “frat boy” sexualized violence
- Prison and institutionalized sexual violence
- Gendered sexual coercion in relationships

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2 men sought in N.S. after teen allegedly kept in chains, sexually assaulted (Sept. 2012)



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How do we Meet Boys' Needs

- Acknowledge male victimization when discussing SA
- Explore male victimization as an issue when addressing internalized and externalized behavioural problems in boys
- Explore history of victimization when dealing with male “perpetrators”
- Including the needs and experiences of men in the SA discourse

Matthews' Four Propositions

- Inclusivity must
 - Articulate diverse male-centred points of view
 - Support male victims as they search for balance in their struggle to heal
 - Honour and protect female victims' gains and women's leadership in breaking the silence about violence and abuse
 - Envision the empowerment of all stories into a coherent and inclusive perspective that we can collectively and respectfully own and use in the struggle to reduce and eliminate interpersonal violence.

Is Feminism Still Relevant?

- Like anti-oppression, africentricity, queer theory, non-violent civil disobedience, critical race theory and others, feminism is an emancipatory theory that seeks to right injustice and exclusion of a discriminated against segment of society. It is feminism, with its inclusive lens of intersectionality, that has been responsible for much of the progress made in the SA field.
- As male stories begin to be voiced more centrally in the SA discourse I believe we will see that male victimization is fueled in our society by the same forces that are at the root of the oppression of other peoples.
- Until a male-centric, emancipatory theory, with a powerful analysis, model of practice and critical mass of practitioners comes along, feminism seems still to be the most powerful tool in the project to advance the cause of male victims of SA.
- What we have seen from the Men's Rights movement is not a progressive emancipatory voice. The men's liberation movement (whether feminism informed or masculinism informed) has yet to show up as a legitimate foundation for this work.

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