

# Taking a Chance On Boys and Men

## An Adaptation of a TEDx Talk

### Delivered March 9, 2014

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[www.robertswright.ca](http://www.robertswright.ca)



We have some serious problems going on . . .



Increasing income disparity




Economic and demographic pressures



# Poverty and homelessness



# Crime and violence in disturbing patterns



Sexual violence, cyber facilitated bullying



To make progress we need all hands on deck





Boys and Men are in Bad Shape

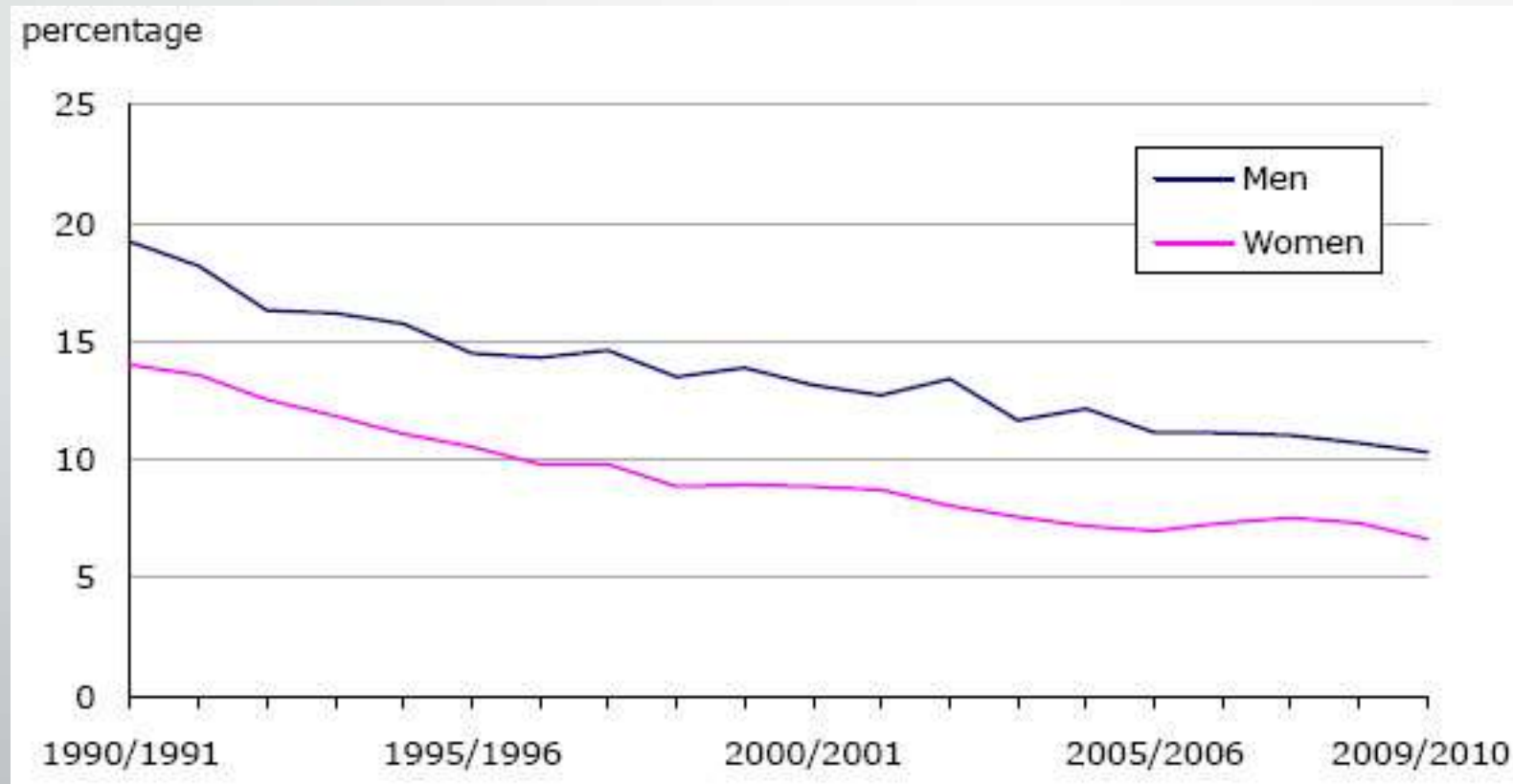


Men Die Younger Than Women

(life expectancy of 79 vs 83)

# Men Have Higher Dropout Rates Than Women

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



# Men Have Lower Rates of Attaining Tertiary Education

Population who attained tertiary education, by sex and age group

2011 data. It includes both Tertiary type A and Advanced Research programmes, and Tertiary Type B education.

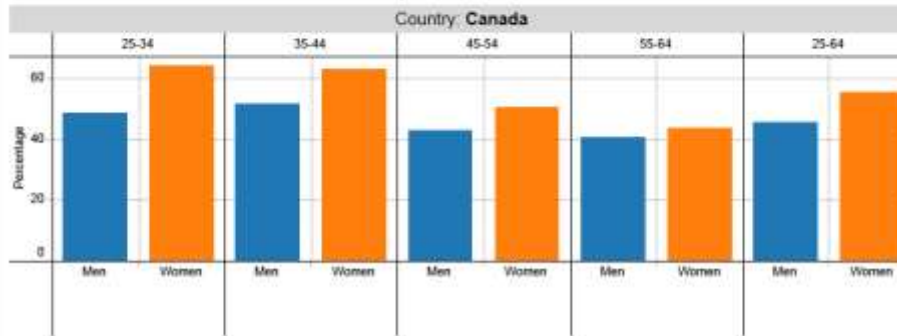
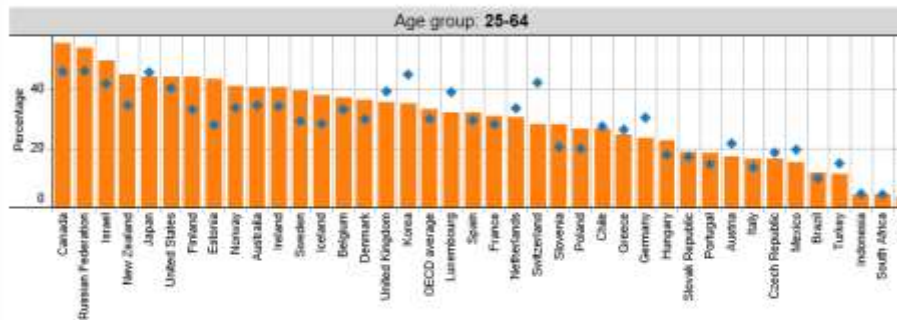
Select an age group to compare countries

25-64

Select a country to compare age groups

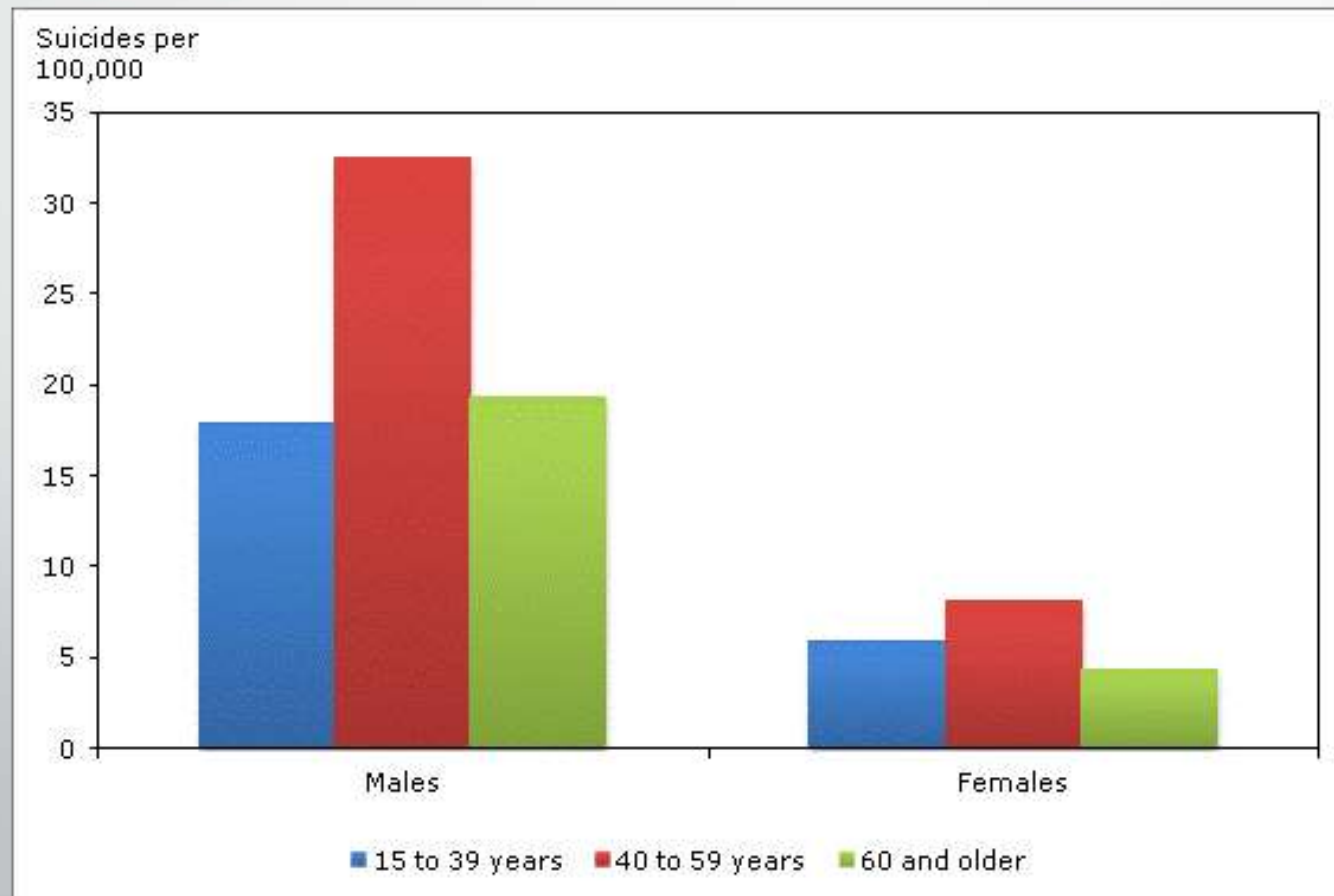
Canada

Sex ■ Men ■ Women



Source: OECD Education at a Glance, 2013

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






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




Boys and Men are in Bad Shape . . .



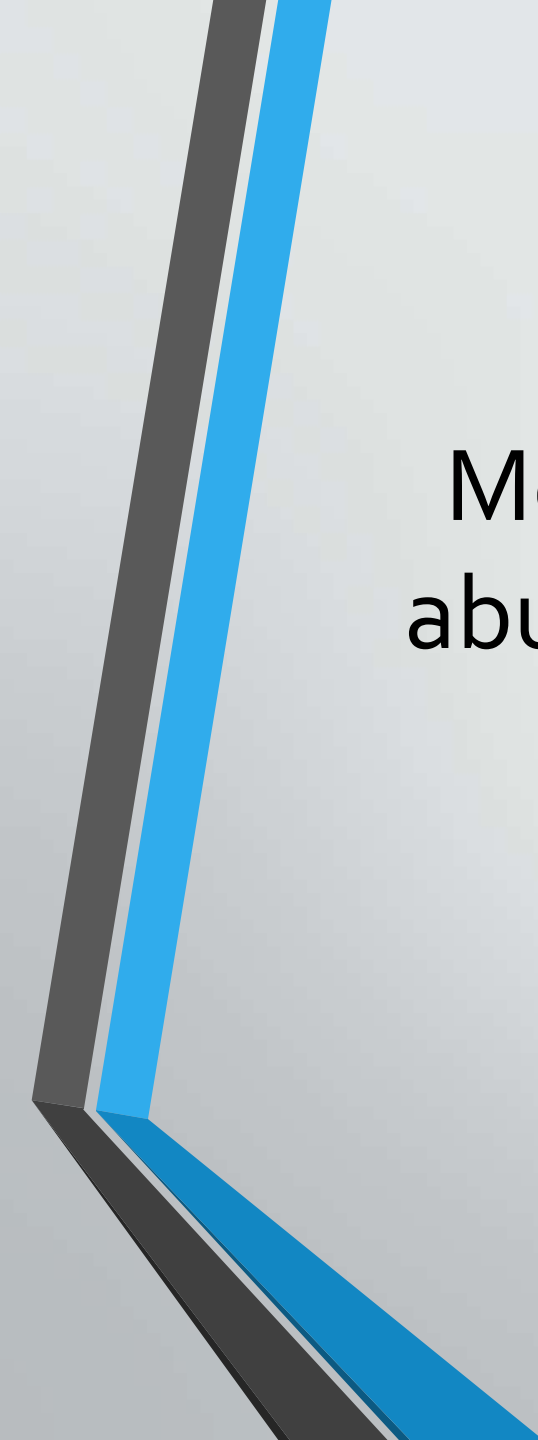
. . . And we seem to have  
no clue how to help them







“Almost equal proportions of men and women had been the victims of intimate partner physical and psychological abuse.” GSS 1999



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?!



To make progress we need all hands on deck



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



# What about Men as Parents?

Suggestions from:  
Supporting men as fathers,  
caregivers, and educators  
Honig, A. S. (2008).




# Factors to Consider When Working with Fathers

- Age (of father and child)
- Father child interaction when alone
- Father's experience as child
- Social class, race and orientation
- Gender unease
- Sexual anxieties and suspicions
- Father's gender role ideology
- Violence between parents

# Father/Male Absence

- Commonly seen behavioural consequences: violence in male children, worsening school behaviors, difficulties with peers, and poor life choices (substance abuse and delinquency)
- There is speculation that father absence after relationship breakdown may be related to power/gender struggles between parents that preceded relationship dissolution



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