

12 Areas of Male Disadvantage

Area of Disadvantage

Key Facts — Worldwide

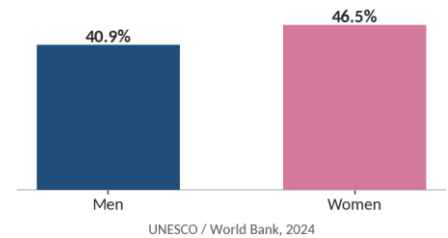
Charts



1. EDUCATION

Worldwide, only 88 men enroll in higher education for every 100 women.

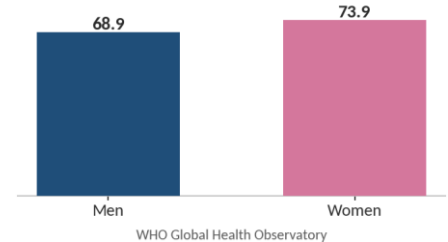
Tertiary enrollment, world



2. HEALTH

Men die five years sooner worldwide — 68.9 years to 73.9 — and die by suicide nearly three times as often.

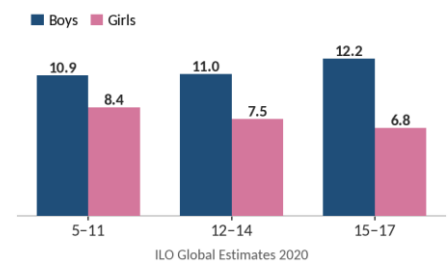
Life expectancy, world



3. BOY CRISIS

11.2% of boys ages 5 to 17 are in child labor, against 7.8% of girls; 90% of sextortion victims are male.

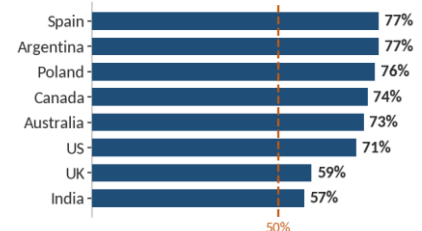
Child labor, % by age



4. FALSE ALLEGATIONS

Across eight countries surveyed, 69% of those falsely accused of abuse were male, and 57% of the accusers were female.

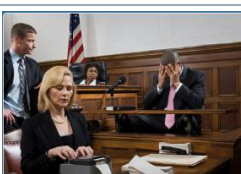
Falsely accused who were male



5. VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Men and boys are 81% of the world's 458,000 homicide victims.

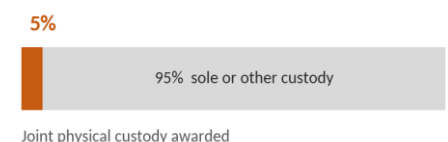
Male share of homicide victims

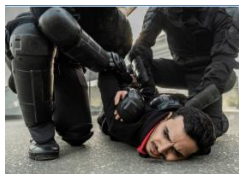


6. FATHERHOOD

Across 37 North American and European countries, joint physical custody is awarded in only 5% of cases.

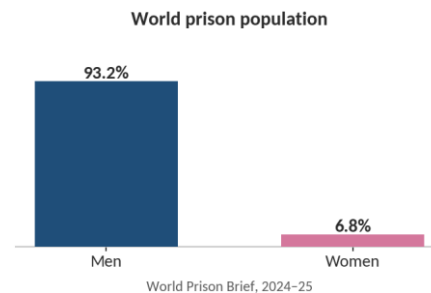
Custody in 37 countries





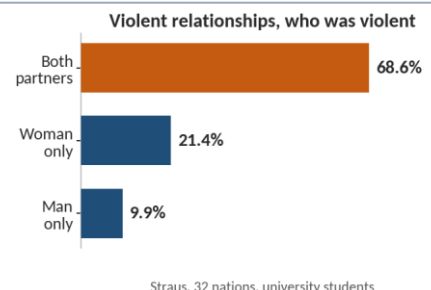
7. CRIMINAL SYSTEM

Men and boys are 93% of the world's prison population of nearly 11 million people.



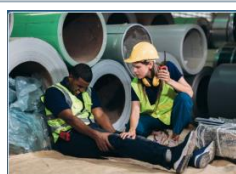
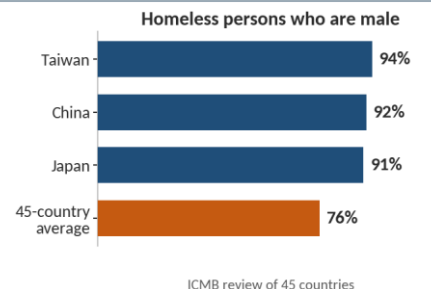
8. PARTNER ABUSE

In a 32-nation student study, women alone were violent in 21% of relationships and men alone in 10%.



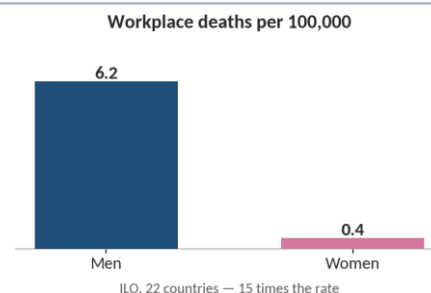
9. HOMELESSNESS

Across 45 countries reviewed, 76% of homeless persons are men.



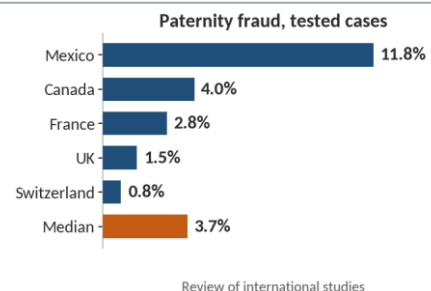
10. WORKPLACE INJURY

Men suffer 15 times the workplace deaths of women — 6.2 per 100,000 workers to 0.4.



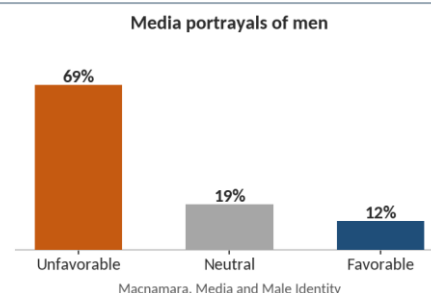
11. ADOPTION RIGHTS

Fathers are left out of adoption and reproductive decisions; paternity fraud affects a median 3.7% of tested cases.



12. MEDIA BIAS

69% of media portrayals of men are unfavorable; only 12% are favorable.



Support Men's Equality Month in November, and International Men's Day on November 19

Compiled by the International Council for Men and Boys · www.menandboys.net

Sources: WHO Global Health Observatory · UNESCO / World Bank, 2024 · UNODC Global Study on Homicide, 2023 · ILO · World Prison Brief, 2025 · YouGov 8-country survey, 2023 · ICMB