



## **Men Too. Male Victimization is something to talk about.**

*“One area where this misperception has hit hard has been research on child sexual abuse. Despite an explosion of research on the issue over recent decades, most research reported in the literature is focused on girls. There is significantly less attention given to boys, and, in fact, prior to 1980 it is difficult to find any research involving males who have been sexually abused.” - Jan L. Frayne*

Contrary to popular belief, sexual assaults committed against males are not an uncommon occurrence. In fact, in the military, more victims of sexual violence are male. In civilian world, 1 in 6 boys and men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. **1 in 6 is a significant number.** And we need shift our movement to include and to address these complicated needs as male victimization can and does have a profound effect, not only on the victim but on their friends, their families and the people with whom they share love

This presentation will explore male gender socialization, masculine identity, and social expectations for men and boys. We will explore the role that “fear” plays because there are tangible consequences for being perceived “less than” manly. These fears frequently become barriers to reporting and in seeking help following these tragic identity-challenging experiences. All these variables together create an impossible atmosphere for a healthy expression of emotions and access to justice and healing.

Participants will be presented with hard-hitting video and audio examples to assist in understanding the overwhelming and frequent maladaptive reactions to male sexual assault. Compelling research on male victimization will also be presented as it relates to other gender identities (female, queer and trans).

Finally, we will explore how identifying as trans or having other complicated identities (ability, race, nation status issues, HIV, poverty...) can further impact marginalization thus we have to work through the lens of applied intersectionality. This presentation will be beneficial to all professionals responding to male victims. Law enforcement, mental health, medical and criminal justice professionals as well as researchers and victim advocates.

“Ending Violence Against Women” can be more effectively accomplished with a better understanding of the implications and outcomes of violence against all genders and other identities that play an important role. Adult male sexual assault victims rarely report and have no movement to support them.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- to identify the impact of sexual assaults against males
- to understand male gender socialization effecting the development of the male identity
- to differentiate between the themes and beliefs unique to male sexual assault victims
- to discuss the traumatization of males exposed to specific traumas and the impact of multilevel ecological factors
- to explore applied intersectionality and implicit bias
- to discuss implications for first responders and implications for intervention, investigation and victim advocacy
- to present ideas on including all identities in the movement to end crimes against persons