

Forum on Male Victimization: Working with Special Populations

Community Response to Sexual Violence Network
Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, November 22, 2016

Cultural Competence: Definition

- Cultural competence refers to an ability to interact effectively with people who are diverse:
 - A. Understand our own cultural positions and how they differ from others
 - B. Understand the different social and cultural realities we work in**
 - C. Cultivate appropriate attitudes towards cultural difference
 - D. Generate and interpret a variety of verbal and non-verbal responses
 - E. Understand structural oppression and commit to social justice

A) Nichols' Model for Understanding Cultural Difference

Philosophical Perspective on Cultural Difference. Edwin Nichols (cf. work of Jung)

Different world cultures developed out of differing physical environments.

These world views have differing constructs:

- Axiology (values)
- Epistemology (way of knowing)
- Logic (principles of reason)
- Process (practice of reason)

THE PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS OF CULTURAL DIFFERENCE DEVELOPED BY EDWIN J. NICHOLS, PH.D.

ETHNIC GROUPS ETHNIC WORLDVIEW	AXIOLOGY	EPISTEMOLOGY			LOGIC	PROCESS
		APPLIED	PEDAGOGY	METHODOLOGY		
EUROPEAN EURO-AMERICAN	Member-Object The highest value lies in the object or the acquisition of the object	One knows through Counting and Measuring	Parts to Whole	Linear and Sequential <i>-Assembly line-</i>	Dichotomous <i>Either/Or</i> <i>-Newtonian theory-</i>	All sets are repeatable and reproducible <i>-Technology-</i>
AFRICAN AFRICAN AMERICAN LATINO/A ARAB	Member-Member The highest value lies in the relationships between persons	One knows through Symbolic Imagery and Rhythm (function) <i>-Gladwell <u>Blink</u>-</i>	Whole Holistic Thinking <i>-The BIG picture-</i>	Critical Path analysis <i>-Cut to the chase-</i>	Diunital <i>Union of opposites</i> Difrasismo <i>-Aztec thought-</i> The In Between <i>Ibn 'Arabi</i> <i>-Quantum theory-</i>	All sets are interrelated through human and spiritual networks <i>-Black church-</i>
ASIAN ASIAN AMERICAN POLYNESIAN	Member-Group The highest value lies in the cohesiveness of the group	One knows through Transcendental Striving <i>-Tree the forest-</i>	Whole and parts are seen simultaneously <i>-To read a Chinese word-</i>	Cyclical and Repetitive <i>-Stroke order in writing a Chinese word-</i>	Nyaya <i>-The objective world is conceived independent of thought and mind-</i> <i>-Chaos theory-</i>	All sets are independently interrelated in the harmony of the universe <i>-Keiretsu-</i>
NATIVE AMERICAN	Member-Great Spirit The highest value lies in oneness with the Great Spirit	One knows through Reflection and Spiritual Receptivity <i>-Purification rites-</i>	Whole is seen in cyclic movement <i>-Seasons-</i> <i>-Medicine Wheel-</i>	Environmentally experiential reflection <i>-Rites of Passage-</i>	Great Mystery <i>-A set of 4 and a set of 3 form the whole-</i> <i>-Super string theory-</i>	All sets are interrelated through the elements, plant, animal, and spiritual networks <i>-White Buffalo-</i>

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

- Nichol's Model is consistent with a growing understanding and articulation of Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Knowledge: a practice and belief which concerns itself with the interrelationship of all living things with and within their environment.

Africentricity

- The assertion of a worldview that places all people of African descent at its centre, asserts a common culture, philosophy, and history, and critiques, and perhaps even rewrites global history from this perspective

B) Social, Cultural and Historical Context

- North American Diversity is fraught with complicated and tragic history
- A local knowledge of how that history is a living legacy is necessary to competently engage special population

C) Appropriate Attitudes

- Cultural competence requires that practitioners VALUE diversity.
- In a nation that acknowledges multiple founding peoples, that was built up on the foundation of ethnic/immigrant labour, and whose future depends on immigration, any other attitude should reasonably be seen as unacceptable.

D) Communicating Across Diversity

- In sociology: the context of a person's world view is necessary for the proper understanding and interpretation of behaviour and rhetoric

Elmar Holenstein

- Before meaningless, unnatural, non-human or immature behaviour and corresponding values are attributed to people of another culture, it is better to begin by doubting the adequacy of one's own judgment and knowledge

Elmar Holenstein Paraphrased

Before you conclude that I
am crazy you should consider
the possibility that you are
stupid!

Communicating About Difference

- Cultural competence requires the ability to comfortably and competently ask clients about cultural issues that may be a consideration in the context of your work with them.

E) Social Justice Commitment

- We must
 - understand the nature of privilege
 - demonstrate an awareness of structural discrimination
 - demonstrate an active anti-racism/anti-discrimination programme
- What does this look like in your community as you tool to serve men?

B) Social, Cultural and Historical Context

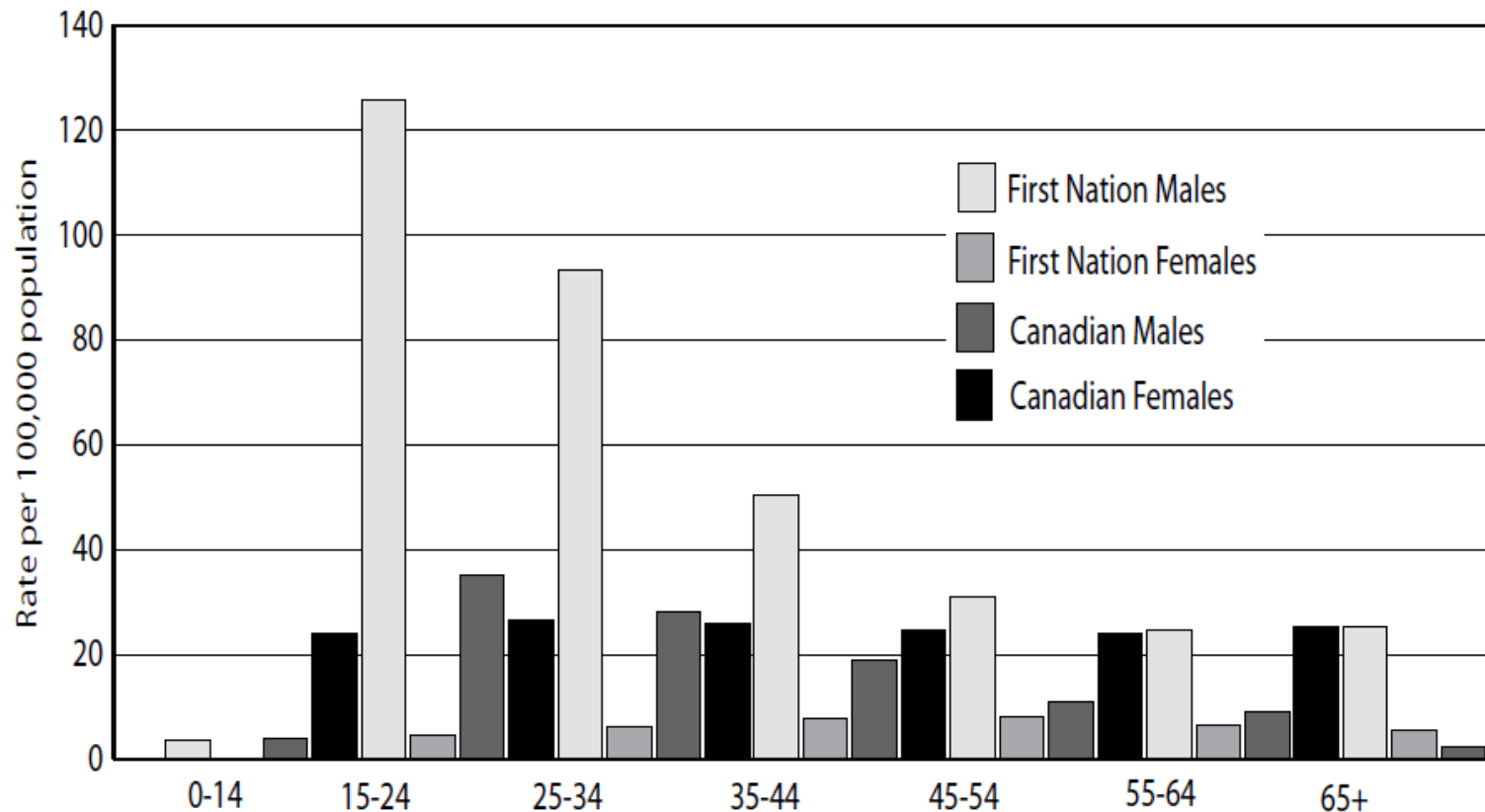
- North American Diversity is fraught with complicated and tragic history
- A local knowledge of how that history is a living legacy is necessary to competently engage special population
- What do we know about the challenges of men in this population?
- What do we know about the history of sexual victimization with this population?

African Nova Scotians

- Men of African descent in North America have had a long history of sexual victimization:
- Wright, R. S. (2015, October 2). [Black Men and Sexual Trauma](#). Presented at Trauma Informed Practice: A Lens on the African Canadian Community. ANSMHAI Conference. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Suicide Among First Nations Males

Figure 2-8) Comparison of Suicide Rates by Age Group, First Nations and Canadian Population, 1989–1993



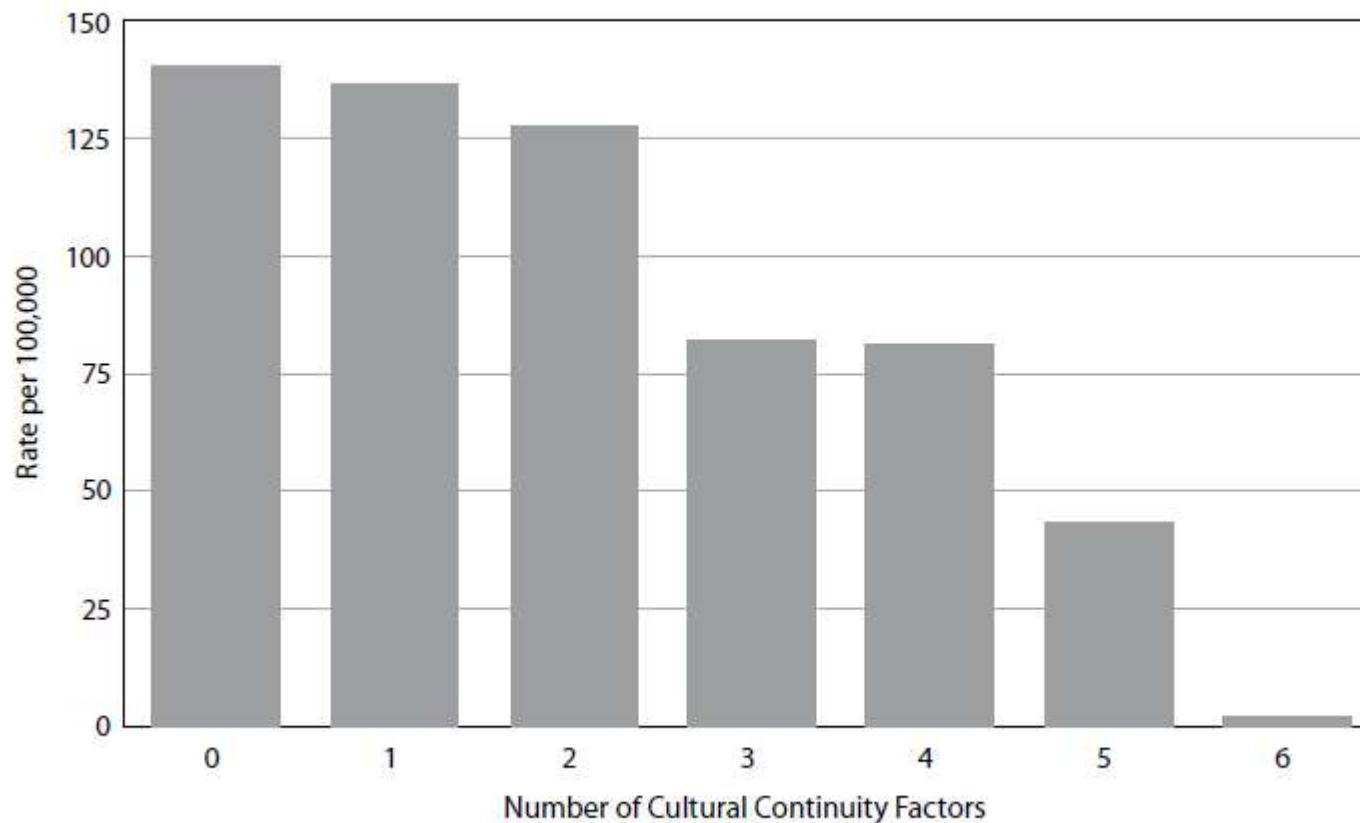
Source: Lemchuk-Favel, 1996.

Cultural Continuity

- Using available data on community characteristics, Chandler and Lalonde scored each community on six measures of what they termed “cultural continuity” factors: the majority of students attend a band-run school; presence of band-controlled police and fire services; cultural facilities; band-controlled health services; history of land claims; and some measure of self-government. The rate of suicide was strongly correlated with the level of these factors (see Figure 4-1). Communities with all of the cultural continuity factors had no suicides while those with none had extremely high rates.

Cultural Continuity

Figure 4-1) Youth Suicide Rates by Number of Cultural Continuity Factors in British Columbia First Nations, 1987–1992



Source: Chandler and Lalonde, 1998; reproduced with permission.

Forensic Populations

Conditions in prisons:

- Assaults 452 in 2003-04 to 724 in 2011-12 to 636 in 2012-13.
- Sexual assaults 3 in 2003-04 to 15 in 2010-11 to 8 in 2012-13.
- (Sapers noted that numbers for assault—especially sexual assault—are likely greater than statistics indicate. “Inmates tend to try to sort things out amongst themselves instead of involving the authorities in disputes,” he said.)
- Suicides 35 in 2003-04 to 113 in 2012-13.
- (OCI, 2014)

Victim Perpetrators

- Reject the “vampire theory”
- Perpetrators often have histories of victimization (correlation, not causation – high incidence among clinical population)
- Still unsafe to treat victim/perpetrators alongside those who identify as victims
- COSA project may open up possibilities

GBTQ

- Dramatically overrepresented among homeless youth
- At high risk of sexual exploitation
- Homophobia creates vulnerability to violence
- Yet, LGBTQ men more readily seek service, likely due to increased tolerance for stigma

Forum on Male Victimization: Working with Special Populations

Community Response to Sexual Violence Network
Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, November 22, 2016