

**Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Institute of Gender and Health**

**Connecting Gender, Work and
Health**

John Oliffe

University of British Columbia

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Institut de la santé des femmes et des hommes

About the Institute of Gender and Health (IGH)

Our **mission** is to foster research excellence regarding the influence of gender and sex on the health of women and men throughout life and to apply these research findings to identify and address pressing health challenges.

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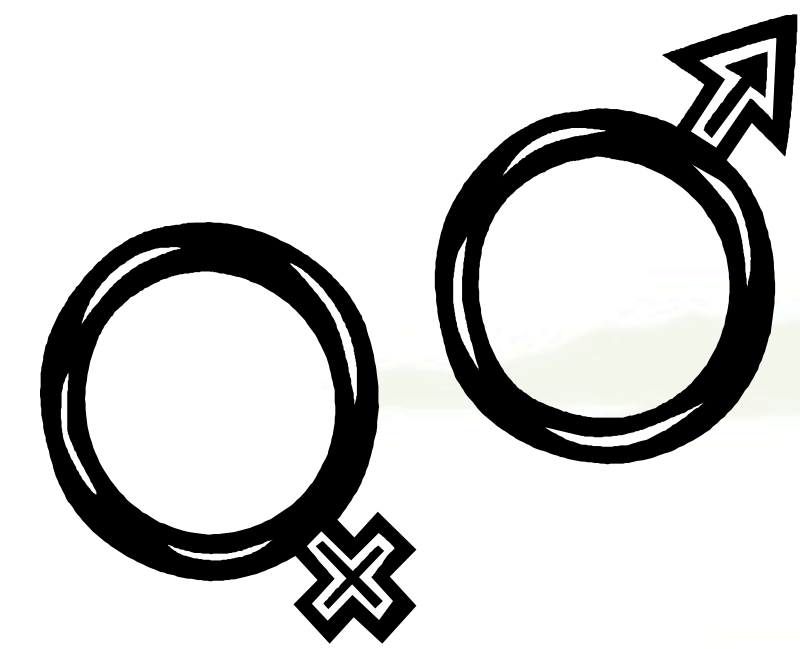
Every cell is sexed

Every person is gendered

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Gender



- A social construct
- Encompasses gender roles, gender identity, gender relations, institutionalized gender
- Linked to power and to economic and social status
- Culturally and temporally specific
- Shapes health care access, health behaviours

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ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH...

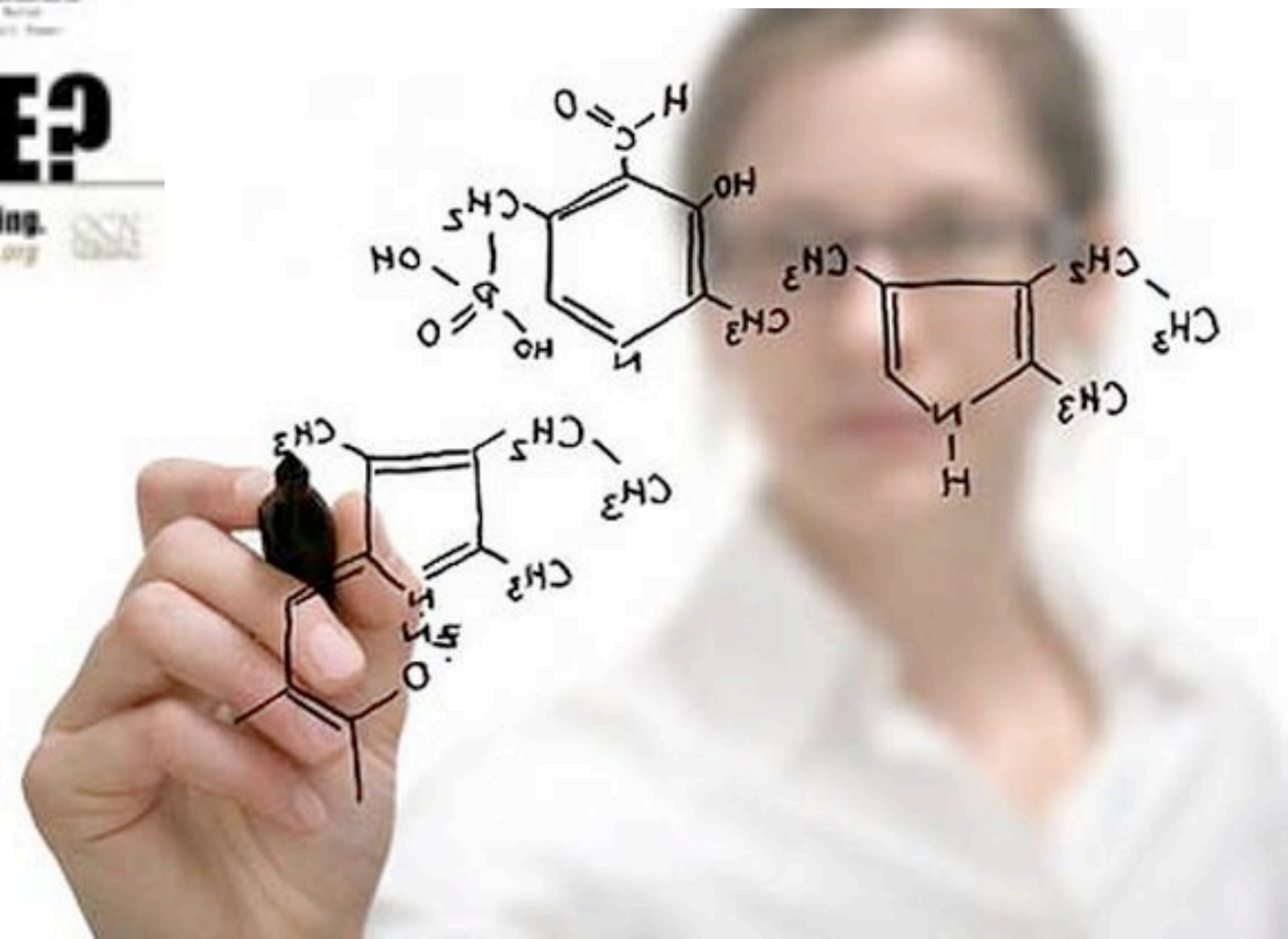


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...TO BE A NURSE?

If you want a career that demands intelligence, courage, and skill, and offers unlimited opportunity, consider nursing.

For information about careers in nursing and educational and financial resources in Oregon, go to www.oregoncenterfornursing.org

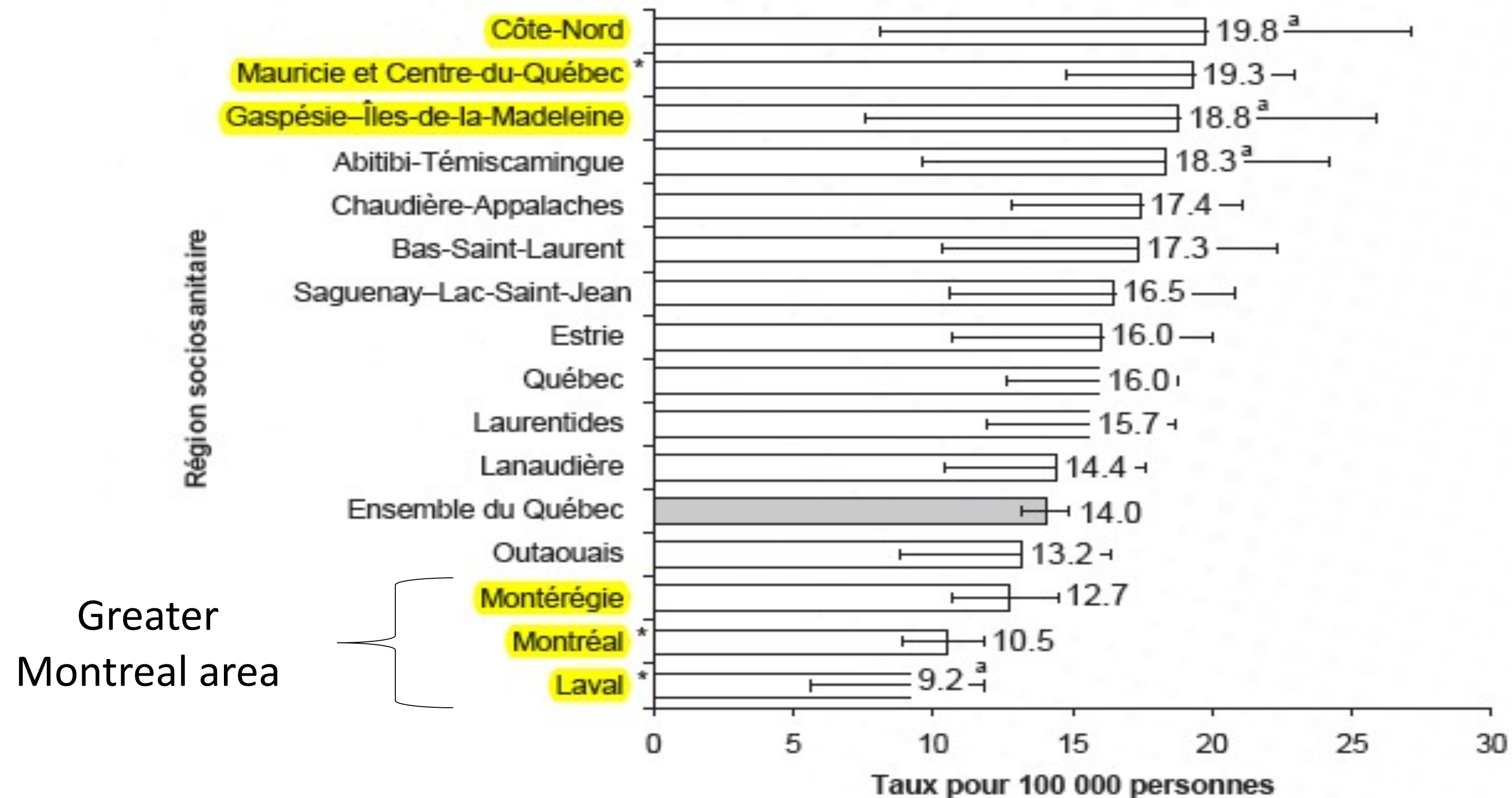


Male Farmer's and Suicide by Gender



Suicide rates in Québec by region, both sexes, 2007-2009

Taux ajusté¹ de mortalité par suicide selon la région sociosanitaire, sexes réunis, 2007-2009²



¹ Taux ajustés selon la structure par âge de la population du Québec en 2001.

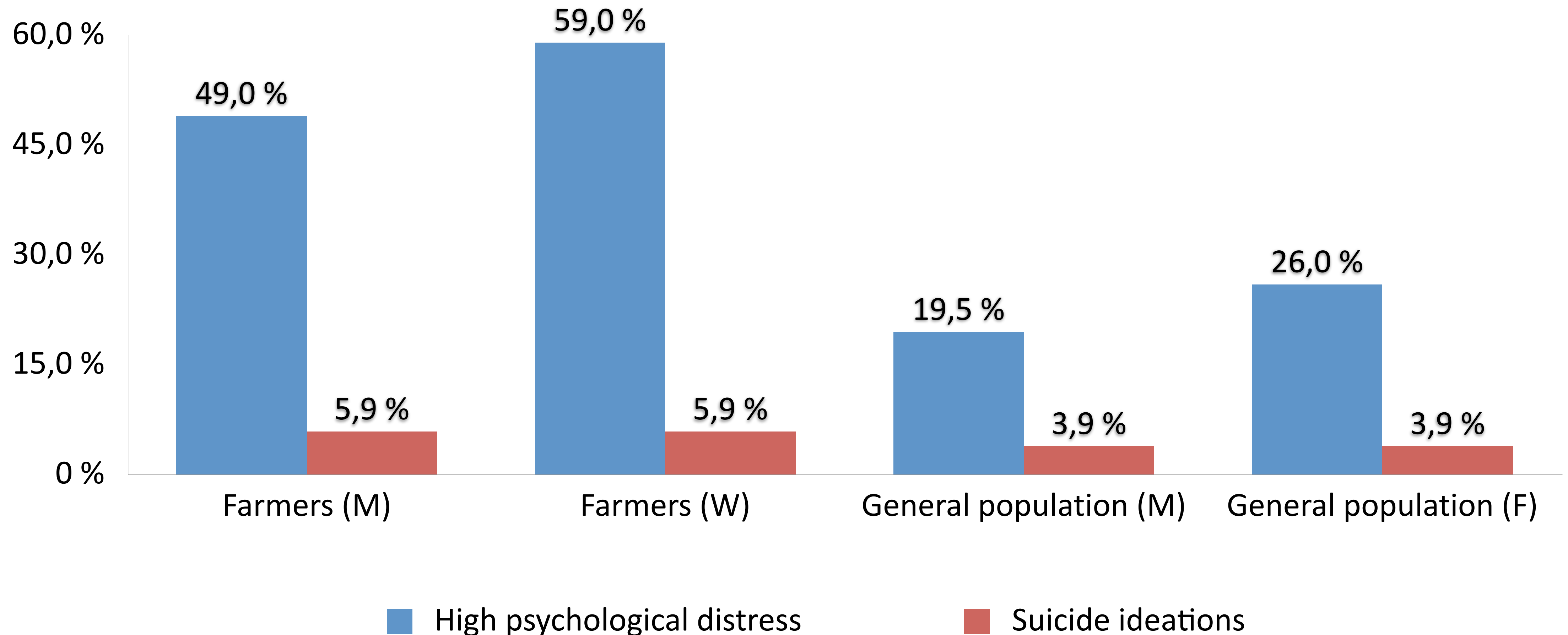
² Données provisoires pour les années 2008 et 2009 provenant de la banque de données des coroners. À interpréter avec réserve.

* Le taux de la région est significativement différent du taux provincial à un seuil α de 5 %.

^a Coefficient de variation supérieur à 16,6 % et inférieur à 33,3 %. La valeur doit être interprétée avec prudence.

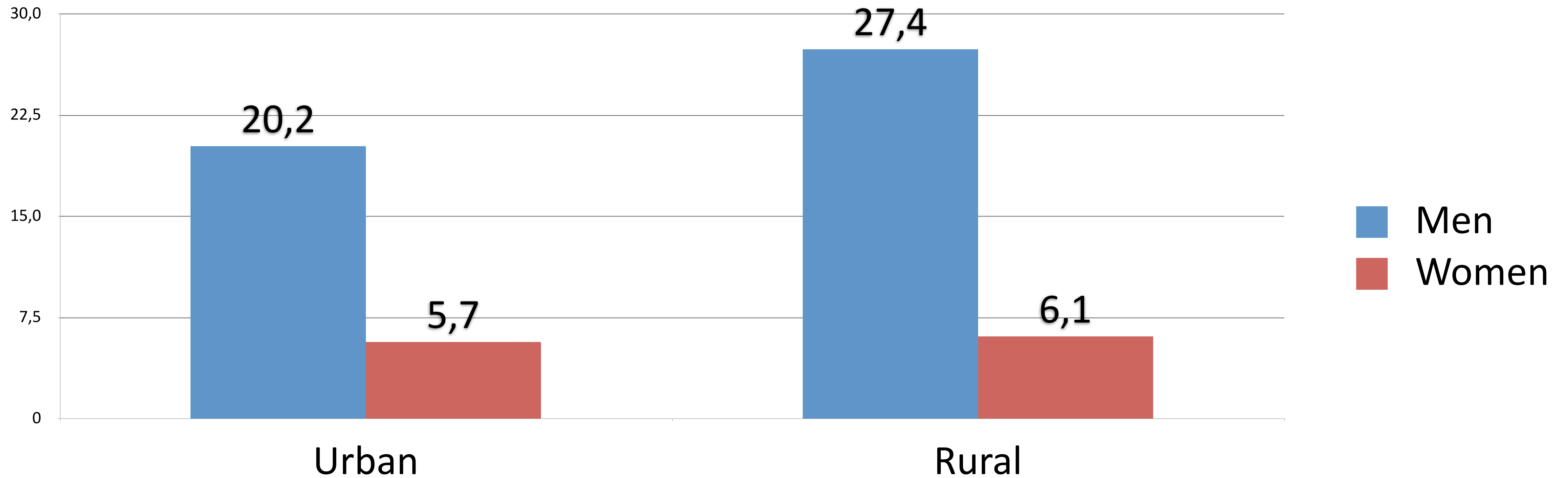
Sources : MSSS, Fichier des décès de 2007 et banque de données des coroners 2008 et 2009.
MSSS, Perspectives démographiques basées sur le recensement de 2006.

High levels of psychological distress and suicide ideations among farmers (Lafleur & Allard 2006)

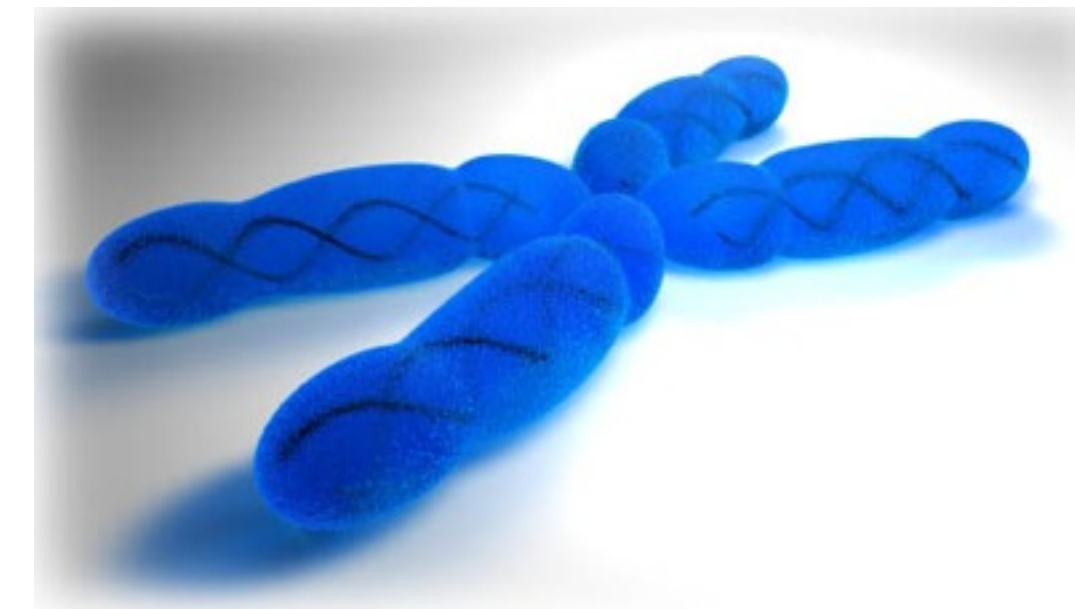


Québec's suicide rates

(Martinez & al., 2004)



Sex



- Biological construct
- Encompasses hormones, genes, anatomy, physiology, and so forth
- Affects propensity, trajectories, prevalence and treatment of health conditions and diseases
- Differences in drug absorption, body composition, metabolism, diseases and conditions vary by sex

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Suicide and Sex



Leo Sher, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY

Gender and Sex: so close...yet so far apart?

- Binary distinction
- Operational conflation
- Challenges of operationalizing and measuring gender
 - What dimension(s) of gender are you measuring? (gender role, gender identity, gender relations)
- Challenges of accounting for sex
 - Many models use male-only animals
 - Sex of cell lines is often unknown



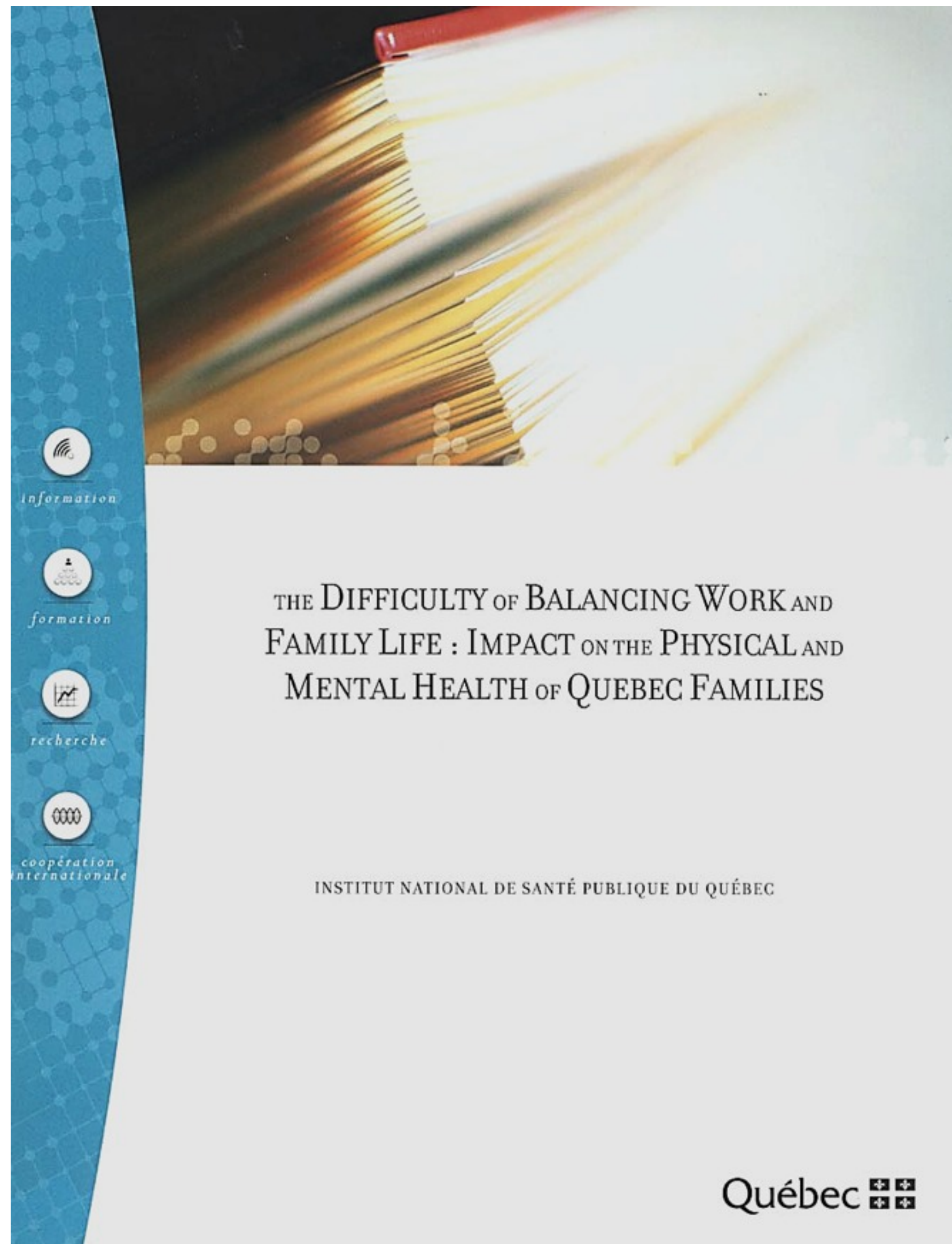
Understanding Sex and Gender Differences in Health Outcomes

- Neither biological (sex) nor gender explanations fully account for the differences in men's and women's health
- An understanding of how these factors combine to affect the health of men and women is not fully developed

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Sometimes it is not entirely about work



- ▲ women to the labour market
- ▲ service sector
- ▲ atypical jobs
- work-family conflict
- ▲ stress
- ▼ mental and physical health


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Women in Canada

Sixth edition

A gender-based
statistical report

2010-2011

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Statistics Canada

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Table 2

Percentage of the population aged 15 years and over who are employed, by province, 1976 to 2009

Provinces	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	1976		1986		1991		1996		2001		2006		2009	
	percentage													
Newfoundland and Labrador	27.7	57.5	35.8	52.5	40.8	51.3	38.5	46.1	44.6	51.0	48.3	52.7	47.8	52.5
Prince Edward Island	38.0	66.3	46.1	63.2	49.1	59.8	51.3	61.8	55.0	63.2	58.9	63.5	57.9	62.2
Nova Scotia	36.0	65.8	43.0	61.4	47.1	61.6	46.4	58.0	51.6	60.6	55.0	61.1	56.4	61.0
New Brunswick	34.0	62.2	41.2	58.1	44.8	58.1	46.7	57.0	51.1	59.2	55.1	61.3	56.1	62.0
Quebec	37.4	70.5	45.7	66.8	48.1	64.1	47.7	61.7	51.7	64.4	55.6	65.0	56.7	62.9
Ontario	45.8	75.3	54.4	73.9	55.6	68.7	53.6	66.1	57.6	68.6	59.0	68.1	58.2	64.4
Manitoba	44.5	73.8	52.8	70.8	54.6	68.1	54.7	68.7	58.1	70.9	60.7	71.2	60.3	71.4
Saskatchewan	41.1	75.1	52.1	71.4	54.6	69.6	54.2	68.1	55.7	68.2	60.6	71.3	61.8	71.8
Alberta	49.2	80.0	57.1	73.6	59.5	73.8	60.7	73.9	62.8	75.1	64.6	76.9	64.1	74.5
British Columbia	41.9	71.3	47.9	66.3	53.5	67.3	53.6	66.5	54.6	63.6	58.0	67.2	57.5	64.5
Canada	41.9	72.7	50.3	69.6	52.8	66.9	52.1	65.0	55.6	66.8	58.3	67.7	58.3	65.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.



Statistics Canada

www.statcan.gc.ca

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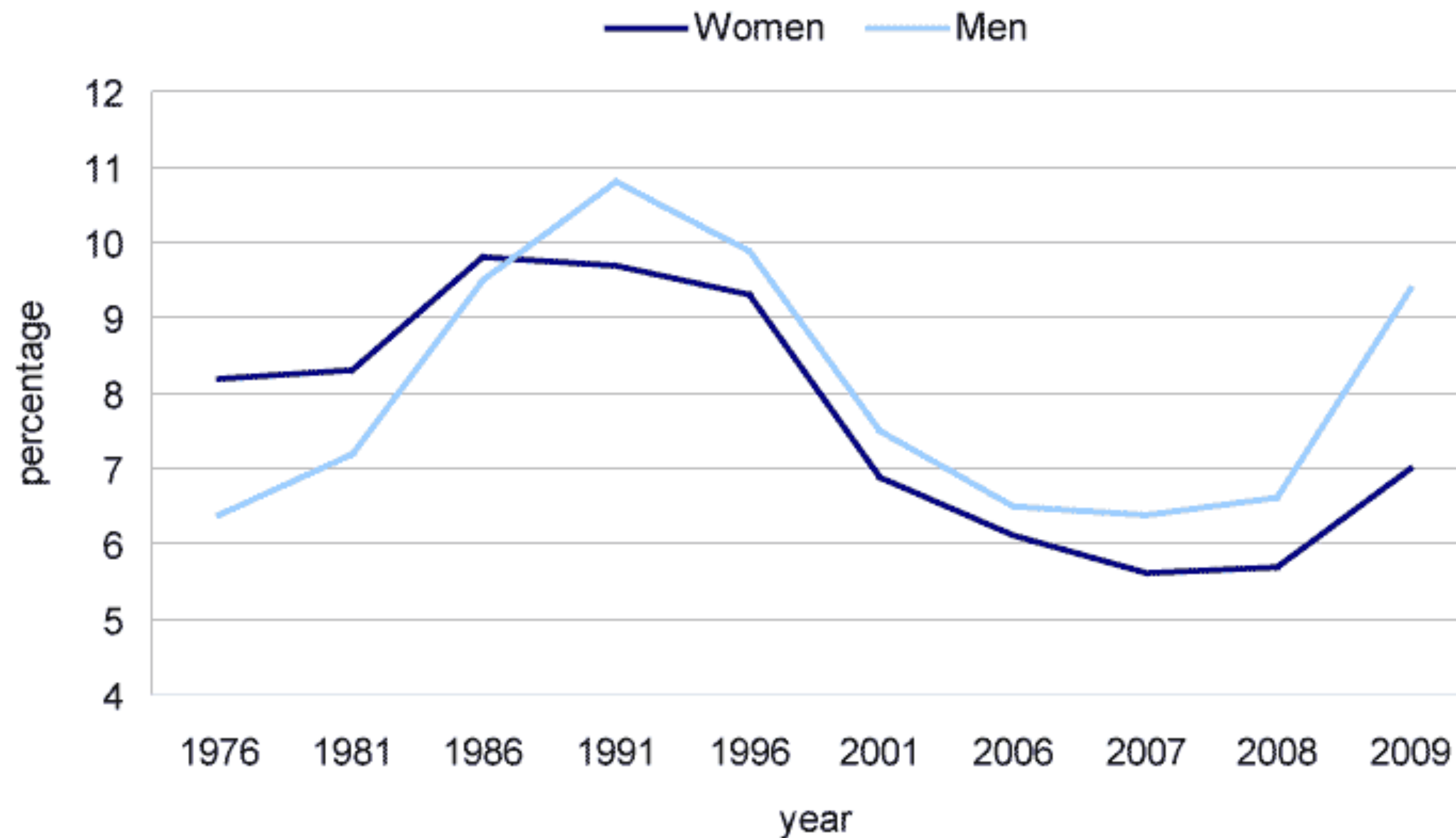
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Chart 8

Unemployment rate for women and men, 1976 to 2009



Significant Differences in Health Outcomes for Men and Women

- Men die younger than women: 78 years compared to 82.7 years in Canada.
- Women experience a heavier burden of chronic illness.
- Men's and women's use of the health system differs.
- They respond differently to therapies.

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THE
BLACK BARBERSHOP
HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

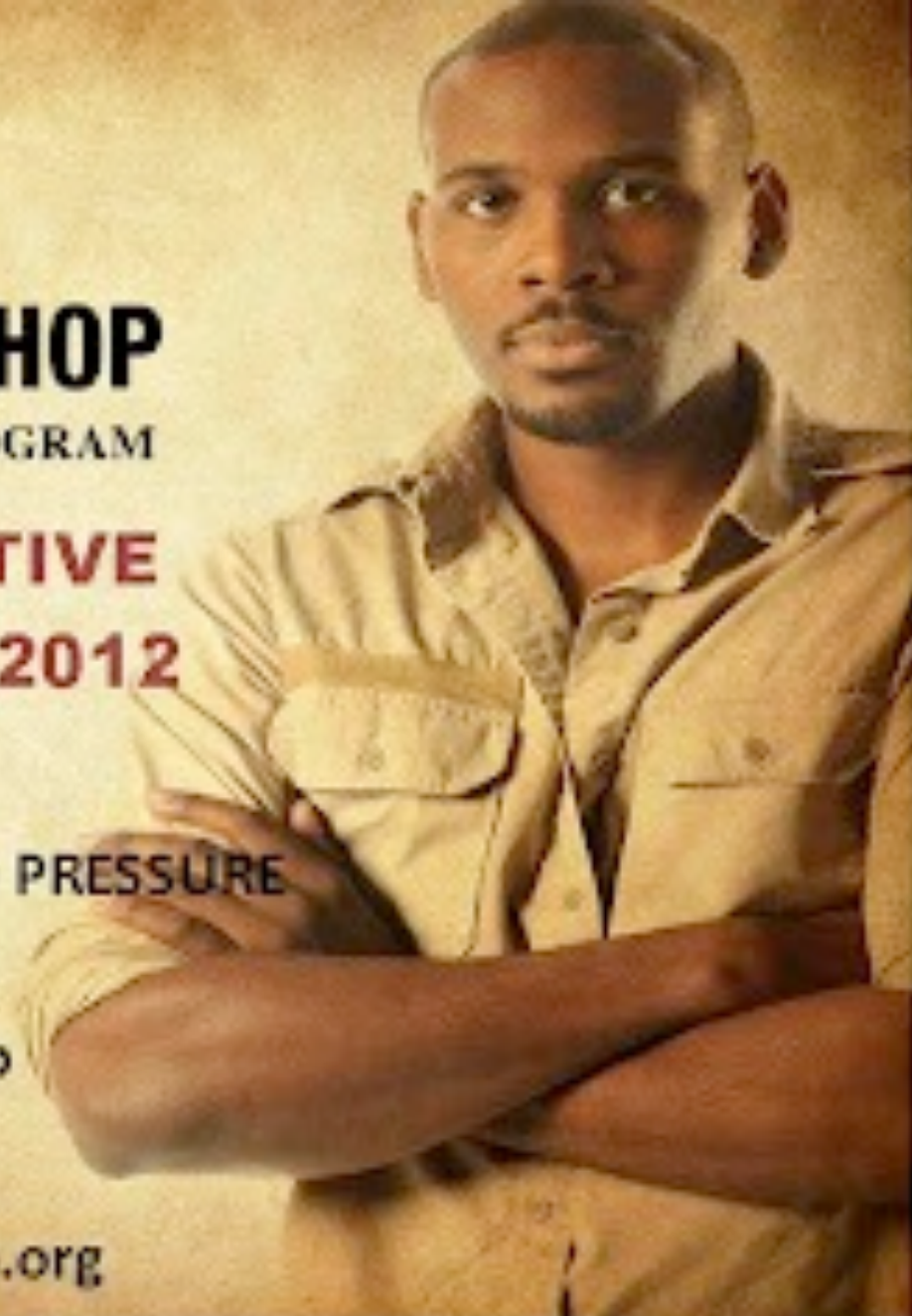
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Key Messages

- There are unique research questions that need to be addressed related to gender, sex, work and health.
- Sex and gender are every body's business.
- Accounting for gender and sex strengthens science and makes workplace and work-related health research more equitably applicable to people's real-world needs.

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