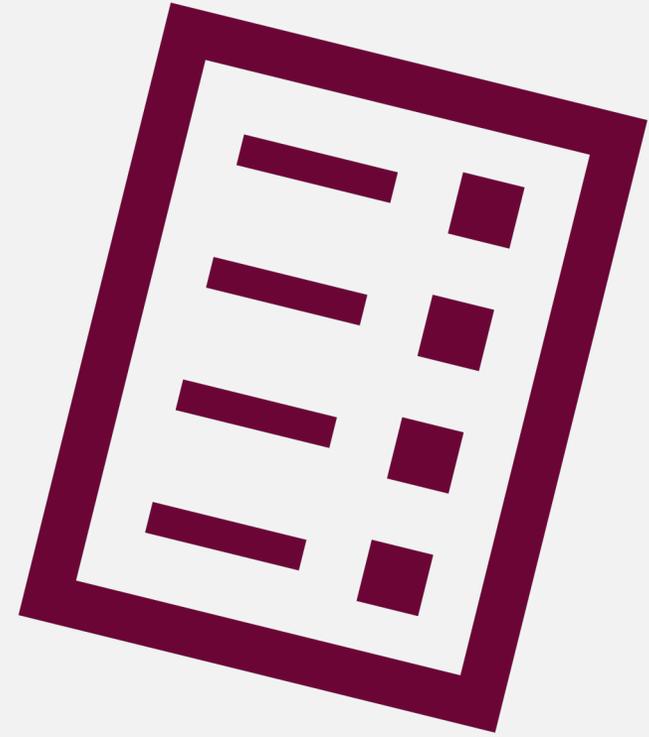


WHY GENDER- RESPONSIVE ASSESSMENT



Dr. Breanna Boppre, Ph.D.
Wichita State University
School of Criminal Justice

Overview

[1] Increases in Women's System-Involvement

[2] Women's Pathways

[3] Gender-Neutral vs. Gender-Responsive

Overview

[1] Increases in Women's System-Involvement

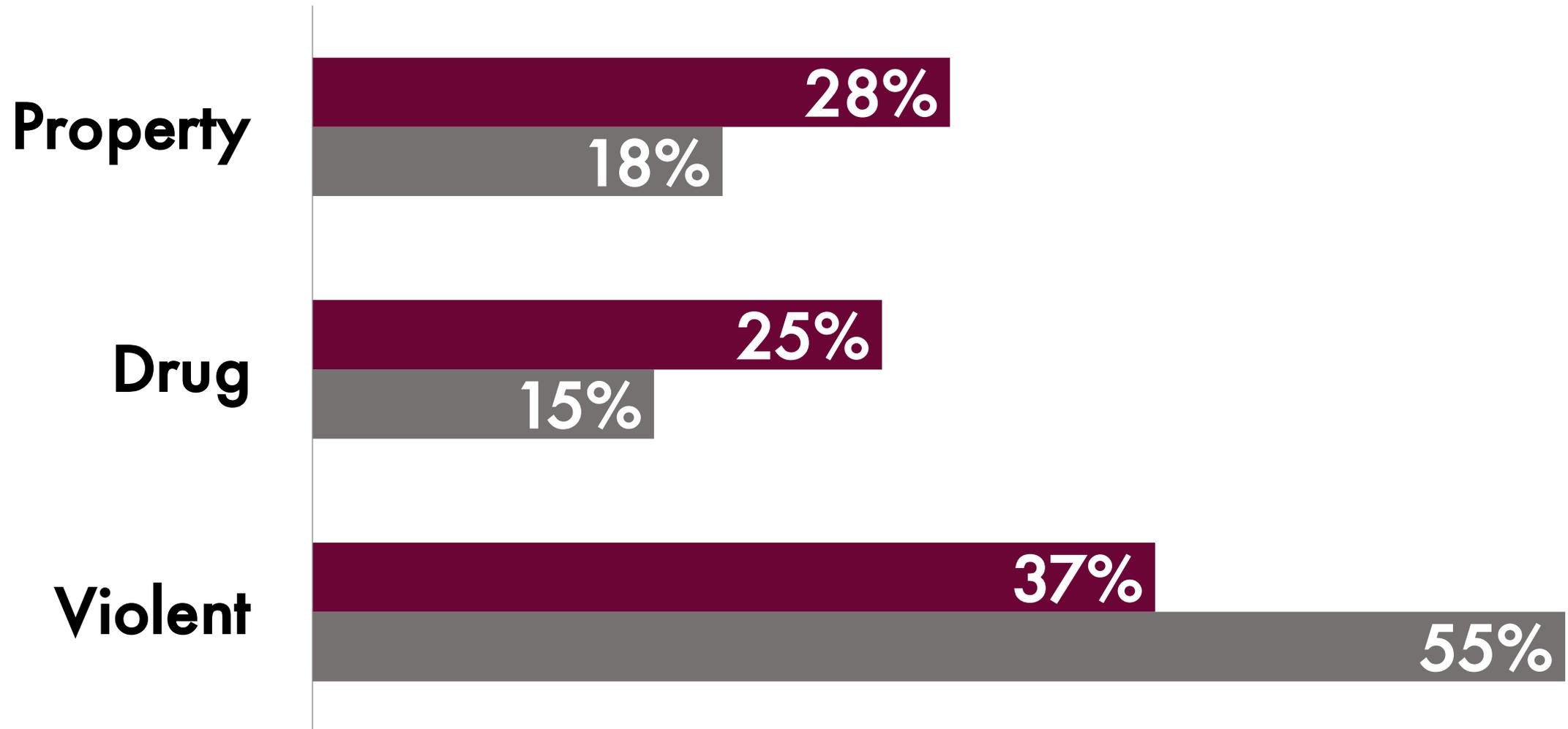
[2] Women's Pathways

[3] Gender-Neutral vs. Gender-Responsive

**The proportion
of women in
the U.S. prison
population rose
from 4% to 7%
since 1978**



Women are more likely than men to be incarcerated for non-violent offenses

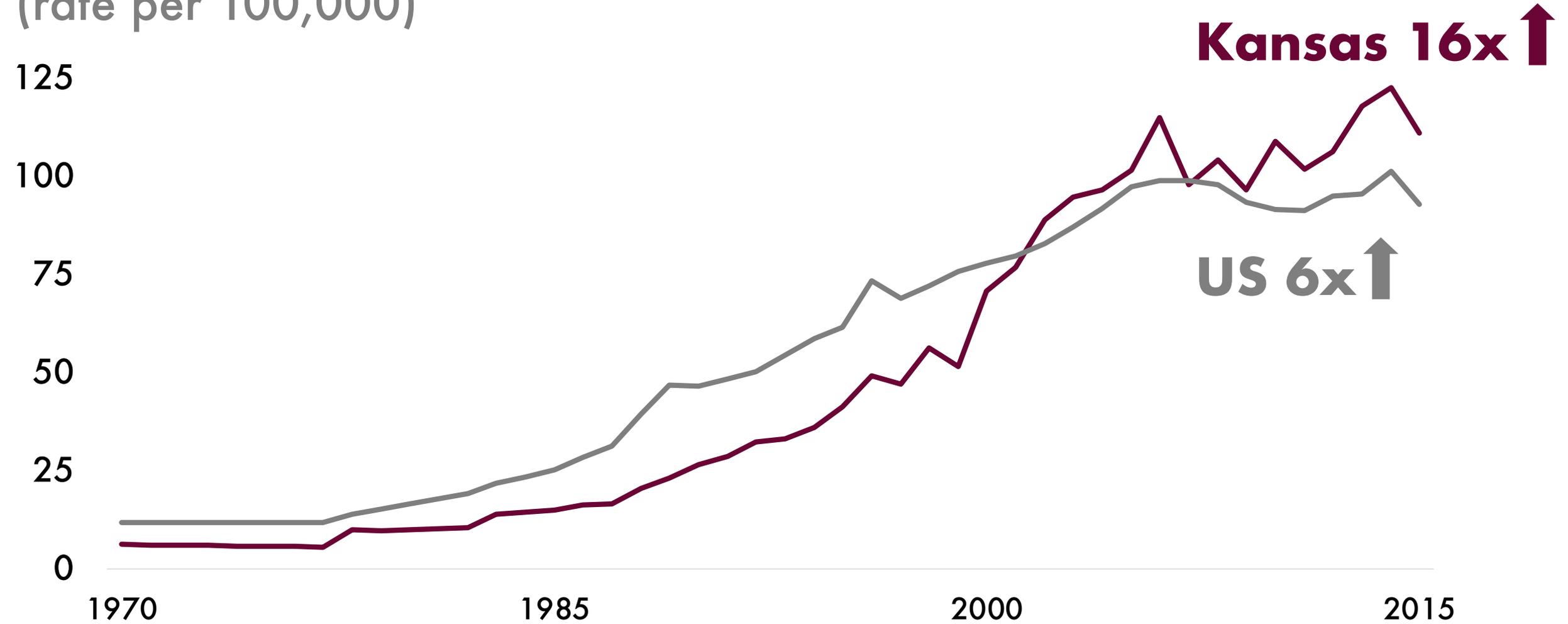


Men are incarcerated in Kansas jails at a higher rate than women as of 2015



Overall, the rate increase since 1970 for Kansas is much higher than the US

(rate per 100,000)



The rate increase in Kansas jail populations since 1970 was far greater for women in comparison to men



Overview

[1] Increases in Women's System-Involvement

[2] Women's Pathways

[3] Gender-Neutral vs. Gender-Responsive

Women's Pathways to System-Involvement

Childhood Abuse

Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse from family or others

Dysfunctional Relationships

Physical or emotional abuse, isolation

Mental Health

Depression, anxiety, PTSD

Substance Use

Self-medicating; initiation through intimate partners or family

Human & Social Capital

Less access to employment, education, and connections in the community

Narratives

“When I was about six or seven, my mom remarried. He abused us girls in every sense of the word for a couple years. He really committed the worst abuse when any of us were left alone. [I use because of] my childhood... I don't like feeling lows in my emotions. I use not to feel... I wanted to be numb... I would say that my childhood, out of everything we talked about, had the most impact on [my system-involvement].”

–Scarlet

Overview

[1] Increases in Women's System-Involvement

[2] Women's Pathways

[3] Gender-Neutral vs. Gender-Responsive

Issues with “gender-neutral”

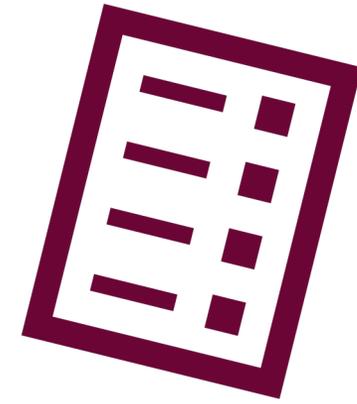
Gender-neutral is not truly neutral

Correctional approaches are largely androcentric and male-based

Generalized approaches do not account for the distinct needs of women, especially related to trauma



Issues with Gender-Neutral Assessment



Gender-neutral assessments tend to overclassify women

Gender-neutral assessments miss needs most relevant to women

Gender-Responsive Correctional Strategies

Uses research on gendered experiences to direct policies, programs, and procedures for women

Tailors supervision and services to women's needs and strengths

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Corrections

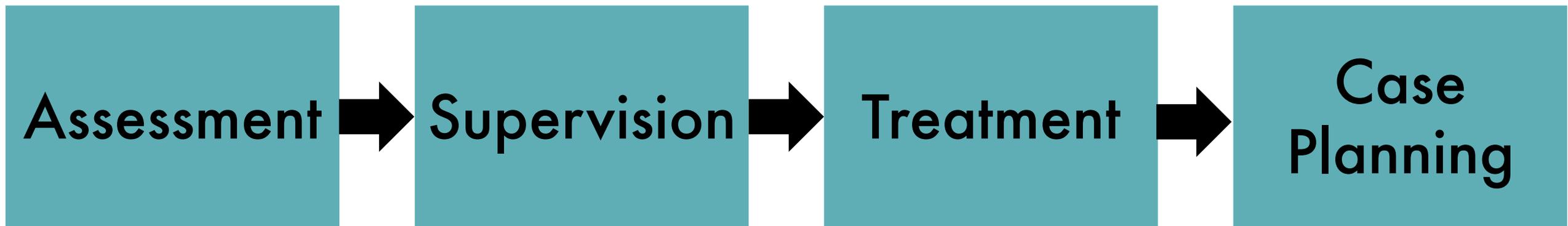


Research,
Practice, and
Guiding
Principles
for Women
Offenders

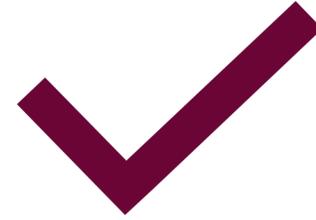
Gender-Responsive Strategies



Gender-Responsive



Effectiveness



Research consistently shows that gender-responsive assessment and treatment are **more effective** at preventing recidivism and other crime-related outcomes than those that are “gender-neutral”

EQUALITY vs EQUITY



Future Directions for Kansas

Gender-responsive assessment (whether new or existing) has the potential to address the specific pre-trial needs and diversion for women

Keep intersectionality and genderfluidity in mind

*Thank
you!*

Breanna Boppre, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
School of Criminal Justice
Wichita State University

breanna.boppre@wichita.edu

Twitter: @bree_bop