

# 'THE BOY CRISIS': PART TWO

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By Dr. Derek Conte

The response to last month's article on the plight of boys in our present culture was so strong (and positive) a follow-up seemed entirely warranted. Recently, I came across an interview on YOU TUBE with Warren Farrell, PhD. (In 1966, Farrell received an M.A. from UCLA in political science and in 1974 a Ph.D. at NYU, he served as an assistant to the president of New York University ---Wikipedia). Dr. Farrell authored the book THE BOY CRISIS. The interview centered on the largely unappreciated bias against, and even outright hostility to, our young men in America and in Western nations, generally.

Last month's article covered the fallout caused by the lack of a father at home and the boundaries to behavior he would provide to govern the intense competitive energies innate to boys --- the kind of energy that, when controlled and positively focused, conquers, protects, invents and builds civilizations. When this energy is not disciplined, it can result in destructiveness. Nature has made it this way.

These traits are attributable to many things like brain structure and the powerful hormone testosterone, which builds great muscle mass, bone strength and overall stature. Male structure also provides for more mysterious things like linear/vertical thinking (single-minded problem-solving), and aggressiveness of temperament.

Generally speaking, this is what boys are --- this is not what girls are. Both sexes exhibit a complementary and overlapping range of anatomical, physiological and behavioral traits that have ensured the reproductive and cultural success of the Human race for hundreds of thousands of years, or millions of years if one includes our distant ancestors.

There has been a decades-long trend in this country to "fix" boys, to "temper" them; to make them compliant as young girls. This social engineering has had dire effects, both psychological and physiological. Boys can expect shorter lives without a father at home. Not because of riskier male behavior or the dangerous jobs boys eventually choose, but literally an alteration of a boy's cells.

Dr. Farrell offers some stunning physiological evidence: *"When boys are without a father they do worse than their peers with intact families. Scientifically speaking, by the age of 9, the **telomeres** (involved in cellular division) are 14% shorter in dad-deprived girls, but are 40% shorter still in dad-deprived boys. Telomere length is a direct predictor of lifespan".* ---The longer the telomeres, the longer the lifespan. The study of acquired genetic changes based on environment is called "Epigenetics", and gives support to the interdependence of "Nature vs. Nurture" in predicting health and success.

Dr. Farrell also adds that male testosterone is down, sperm counts are down, male IQ's are down and the general physical status of boys is down. Educational achievement is down and the number of boys entering college is also down. I remember attending the graduation ceremony of a close friend who received his law degree from St. John's University in NY. 60% of the law degrees were conveyed to female graduates. That was in the early 1990's.

Another challenge Farrell points out, is a legal system which seems to assume that divorced fathers should go to extraordinary lengths to gain equal time with, or custody of their own children (only 10% of the time). In the case of unmarried parents, who today account for 53% of all American children born, the father and children suffer even more as 40% of those children never see their father two years after the separation.

Bottom line: The lack of a father's involvement and the boundaries he provides increases the boy's risks across a wide and steadily-growing spectrum of psychological and social dysfunction. Dr. Farrell offers a typical sequence of a boy's deterioration without his dad at home....." *less empathy > ADHD diagnosis > mind-altering drugs (Ritalin) > opioid addiction > addiction to video games > isolation > later difficulty attracting women > video pornography addiction > distortion of healthy male-female relationships > increased isolation and anger > acting violently > suicide. The current rate of suicide is 4x to 5x greater in males than in females.*"

And to top it all off, boys are devalued if they complain or "show weakness" of any kind.

**It is not a male trait to complain or show weakness. It is a male trait to be stoic and keep his pain to himself.** Boys are not girls and they must be helped to develop expression of their greatest potential according to their own particular biological design.

To deprive a boy of his father's physical presence, wisdom and love is to deprive him of the vital nutrients necessary to becoming a healthy man. Attempting to "train out" what Nature and God have already perfected has proved catastrophic.

Decades ago, Dr. Farrell was an extremely popular and sought-after speaker as a Feminist supporter, but with his more recent advocacy for boys and men, his financial fortunes have taken a tumble and his speeches are met with violent protest. This makes his work, if anything, more credible than ever.

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