

## Gender



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## Sex vs. Gender



- Sex
  - Whether you have 2 "X" chromosomes or "X/Y" chromosomes
- Gender
  - The characteristics used to define male and female
  - Biological **or** social

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- **Masculinity**
  - assertiveness, boldness, dominance
- **Femininity**
  - nurturance, emotional expression, empathy
- High on both = **androgynous**
- Low on both = **undifferentiated**



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## Gender Differences



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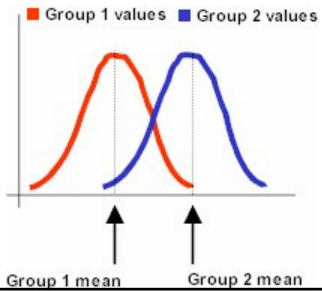
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## What is a Gender Difference?

- Statistically significant difference between the distributions on an outcome



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## Personality Differences



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- Virtually identical

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- Women higher in *need for order*

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- Three subcomponents
  - *gregariousness*: women slightly higher
  - *assertiveness*: men higher
  - *activity*: men slightly higher
- Men more likely to interrupt others during conversation (assertiveness)

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- Two subcomponents
  - **Trust:** women higher
  - **Tender-mindedness:** women much higher
- Women also smile more than men and are higher in **empathy**

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- Two subcomponents
  - **anxiety:** women higher
  - **impulsiveness:** no difference
- Sometimes confused with emotional expressiveness

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## Other Gender Differences

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- Men higher overall (esp. physical)
- Violent crimes much more likely to be committed by men than women
- Women use more **relational aggression**

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- Women more likely to experience positive and negative emotions
- Women also more likely to experience emotions with high intensity

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- Boys and girls the same until adolescence, THEN
- Males higher in late adolescence, early adulthood, THEN
- Differences become non-significant

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- Men higher than women
- Often explained through evolutionary psychology

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- Women prefer working with people
- Men prefer working with objects

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**Social Psychological Theories of Gender Differences**



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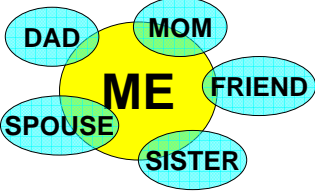
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- Men = *independent self*
- Women = *relational-interdependent self*



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- Based on *behavioral reinforcement*

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- Learning from *modeling* behavior of similar others

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- Breadwinner vs. Homemaker Roles

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- Depends on the situation you're in

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**Other Explanations**



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- Testosterone
  - 200-400 picograms/liter of blood in women
  - 5,000-6,500 picograms/liter of blood in men
  - aggression, dominance, career choice, sex drive

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- Reproductive tendencies for survival
- Aggression in men and intrasexual competition

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