

Male - Female Gender Differences

Gender differences are, simply put, certain physical and mental distinctions between male and female humans. Over the years, there have been many arguments and studies relating to this subject and although some gender differences are proven and some still controversial, they should not be confused with sexist stereotypes. No one can really tell whether these gender differences are caused by nature/evolution or environment. The fact is that sex differentiation starts taking place immediately as the male or female begin to develop within the womb. Contrary to the beliefs of feminists or bisexuals, several studies have proven that there are expressed differences between males and females programmed within the DNA from the moment of conception

Some differences (such as reproductive organs) are congenital, while others obviously environmental (such as given names).

Physical Differences

The several obvious differences between men and women include the following:

1. An average man is taller and heavier than the average woman. Men have strong bone structures while women have more flexible bone structures.
2. Men on an average are over 30% stronger/ heavier than women, especially in the upper body.
3. Men have more bodily hair than women, especially on the chest and extremities.
4. Women are more sensitive to sound than men.
5. On average, girls enter puberty approximately two years before boys. Also, the effects of puberty are markedly different in boys and girls.



Effects of puberty on boys	Effects of puberty on girls
Hair growth in armpits and face	Axillary hair, hair growth in armpits
Larynx grows making voice deeper	Development of breasts
Pubic hair growth	Pubic hair growth
Genitals enlarge	Menstrual periods start
Thigh muscles develop	Thighs thicken due to deposition of fat

6. Men have larger hearts and lungs and their higher levels of testosterone cause them to produce greater quantity of red blood cells.
7. Differences in intake and delivery of oxygen translate into some aspects of performance: when a man is jogging at about 50% of his capacity, a woman will need to work at over 60% of her capacity to keep up with him.
8. Female fertility decreases after the age of 40, ending with menopause but men are capable of making children even when very old.
9. Men's skin has more collagen and sebum, which makes it thicker and oilier than women's skin.
10. Women generally have a greater body fat percentage than men.

11. Men and women have different levels of certain hormones; for example, men have a higher concentration of androgens such as testosterone, while women have a higher concentration of estrogens.
12. An average male brain has approximately 4% more cells and 100 grams more brain tissue than an average female brain. Though this is not connected with intelligence, it results in both sexes having similar brain weight to body weight ratios.
13. In men, the second finger is often shorter than the fourth finger, while in females the second tends to be longer than the fourth.
14. Men have better distance vision and depth perception and usually better vision in lighted environments. Women have better night vision, see better at the red end of the light spectrum and have better visual memory.

Mental Differences

Brain structure differences: Several studies have proven significant differences between male and female brains. Differences are located in both the primitive regions as well as the newer parts of the brain called neocortex called the higher brain regions. Men and women process information differently because of differences in a portion of the brain called the splenium, which is much larger in women than in men and has more brain-wave activity.

Intelligence differences: Several researches done on volunteers have proven there is no significant difference in the average intelligence level of men and women.

However, some slight differences can be zeroed in:

1. An average man performs better on tests of 3-dimensional and mathematical ability, while women perform better on tests of verbal ability and memory. Males are much better in visualizing a three-dimensional object than women.
2. Men's IQ has greater variance, which means that there are more men than women in the very high and very low IQ groups.

3. In general, males have better spatial and math skills than females. On the other hand, girls tend to be more vocal than boys.

Differences in Mental Health:

Several mental illnesses are proven to be differently distributed between genders. The most common include:

1. Happiness - In general, it has been proven that women are happier with their lives than men are. Women also show greater concern about family and home life issues, while men express more sympathies about political issues.
2. Depression – Several researches have shown that this condition affects females twice as often as it does males. Serotonin is a chemical required in the brain for “happy mood maintenance”. The rate of synthesis and level of serotonin in the blood are significantly higher in men than in women. These differences may help explain why depression is more common in women. Both depression and panic disorder rates, higher in women than men, may also be tied to childhood experiences of suppression/abuse.
3. Schizophrenia - Although this disorder affects men and women equally, men typically experience symptoms earlier, with more intensity and have poorer prognosis than women. Symptoms of schizophrenia in women more frequently involve depression and greater disorders in thought conceptualization, while men report more apathy, disorders of speech, disturbance in cognitive function and social isolation.
4. Alzheimer’s disease - Several studies have shown that women are at a higher risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease than men are. This disease is caused by the damage to the white brain matter. On the other hand, men with Alzheimer’s disease have a higher risk of mortality than women do.
5. Stress Disorders - Anxiety disorders are chronic illnesses that occur more often in women than men. The risk of post-traumatic stress disorder is much higher in

women than men. Women are also more likely to have been previously assaulted or to have sustained injury by a relative or someone known to them.

Permeability to Diseases

1. More men than women become infected with HIV.
2. More males are likely to be diagnosed with tuberculosis than females.
3. Women are less likely to suffer from cardiovascular disease.
4. Men are more likely to suffer from cancer.
5. Women are more likely to suffer from osteoarthritis, osteoporosis and blindness.

Behavioural differences:

Some proven behavioural differences between men and women exist and the most unquestionable are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Men are physically more aggressive. ◆ Men masturbate more. ◆ Men have more positive attitudes about sex than women do. ◆ Men are more prone to taking risks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Women are less likely to successfully commit suicide but more likely to attempt it. ◆ Women express their emotions more readily and experience a greater intensity of emotion.
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Some Other Differences

Employment - In most of countries, there are more wealthy or rich men than there are women and many more unemployed females as well. Employed women earn 80% of the income of men. Women are less productive than men – women in non-agricultural industries work 35.9 hours per week versus 41.6 hours for men. Also,

the nature of work differs between men and women, though this may be attributable to a lesser or greater degree to our prejudices and expectations.

More Men related Occupations	More Women preferred Occupations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining • Construction • Transportation • Farming • Computer and mathematical occupations • Engineering and architecture • Fire fighting • Police and patrol officers • Electricians • Dentists and surgeons etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social work • Paralegals and legal assistants • Teachers • Nurses • Speech pathologists • Dieticians • Dental hygienists • Maids and housekeeping cleaners • Childcare workers • Glamour related work • Advertising and media related work etc.

Education: When talking about literacy we should keep in mind that, worldwide, men are more likely to be literate, with 100 men considered literate for every 88 women. Regarding higher education, the differences are not so obvious.

Internet usage: The percentage of men using the internet was ahead against that of women.

Men on Internet	Web Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log on more often to the net and spend more time online. • Download more music and videos. • Are more likely to video stream. • Are more likely to pay bills online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are more likely to e-mail friends and family about a variety of topics. • Use the internet for shopping and banking. • Are more likely to look for advice on family related affairs and daily chores.

Between the Two Genders?

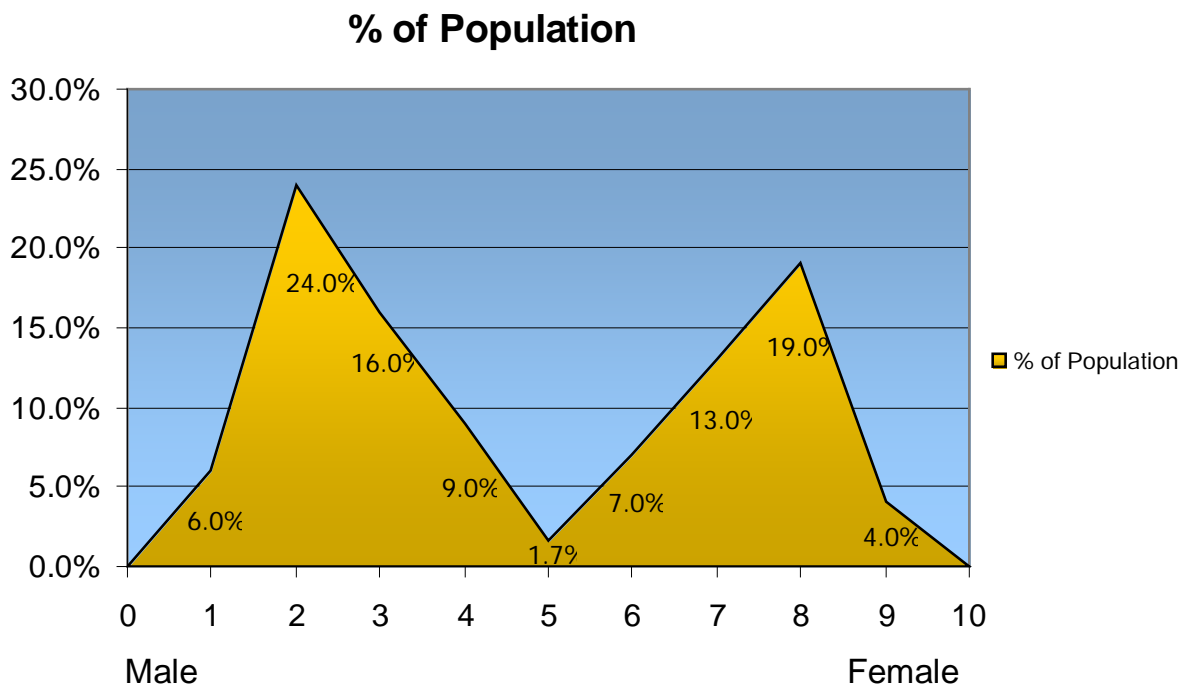
Human sexuality is a continuum, not a dichotomy. In fact, no male or female is complete in gender, though their genitals may work within a certain range of what is called as 'normal'. There are several degrees of such 'normality' and it is nebulous at best about which point this 'normality' ceases and 'abnormality' begins. Gender is more often the result of a host of factors, including physical and psychological behaviour.

The argument that human sexuality is a continuum, not a dichotomy, rests in large measure on the claim that intersex births are a fairly common phenomenon. Specifically, the incidence of intersexual births is about 2.0 per 100 live births. To arrive at that figure, intersex is defined as any 'individual who deviates from the Platonic ideal of physical dimorphism at the chromosomal, genital, gonadal or hormonal levels', e.g. a male without a full beard or a female with a partial beard are intersexed. Similarly, a male with a large beard having full breasts (gynaecomasty) is also an intersex condition.

The chart below represents the continuum plotting of the population, with 0 representing the 'complete' male, accompanied by a total lack of female characteristics and 10 representing the 'complete' female, accompanied by a total lack of male characteristics. Hence, 0 on the scale represents only male characteristics being present, with 0% female characteristics, 1 represents the presence of 10% female characteristics, 2 represents the presence of 20% female characteristics and so on. At the other end, 10 on the scale represents only female characteristics being present, with 0% male characteristics, 9 represents the presence of 90% female (10% male) characteristics

and so on. We may consider the sample 'male' population as that falling between 1 and 3 on the scale and the 'female' population as that falling between 7 to 9, since there is no sample size at either 0 or 10 on the scale. People falling between 4-6 on the scale are those that exhibit a significant amount of characteristics of the other gender, i.e. either males exhibiting significant female characteristics or vice versa.

Change graph



As can be seen from the above, nature does not create a 'complete' male or female; rather she has created a continuum of sexes.

Male is one who was, is and/or will be able to penetrate and a woman is one who was, is and/or will be able to be penetrated. For clarification, people who are incapable of reproduction but still fall into either of the categories described above will be termed as such for the purpose of this book. For example, people who have a penis and are capable of penetration but unable to reproduce due to low sperm count or sperm motility will still be termed as male, while women who have a vagina and are capable of being

penetrated but cannot bear children due to any hormonal/structural deficiency, e.g. blockage of fallopian tubes etc. are termed as female.

Most, if not all so-called 'normal' males or females have had a latent, if unexpressed desire at some stage in their lives to live out their fantasy of donning the attire of the opposite gender and acting like them or at least wondering about what differences would be manifest in their lives as the opposite sex.

Intersex is the grey area between the sexes, where there is a significant presence of the characteristics of the opposite sex in either a male or a female. This presence is significant enough to cause the sufferer to not want to belong to either the male or female gender group or be classified as either gender, often at great cost and hardship.

Sometimes a child is born with genitalia which cannot be classified as female or male. A genetically female child (i.e., with XX chromosomes) may be born with external genitalia which appear to be those of a normal male. Or, a genetically male child (XY chromosomes) may be born with female-appearing external genitalia. In very rare cases, a child may be born with both female and male genitalia. Because these conditions are in a sense "in-between" the two sexes, they are collectively referred to as intersex.

While male and female stand on the extreme ends of a biological continuum, there are many bodies, such as *Suydam's*, that evidently mix anatomical components together, conventionally attributed to both males and females. If nature really offers us more than two sexes, then it follows that our current notions of masculinity and femininity are cultural conceits.

No two human faces are alike. The penis, clitoris, vulva, vagina, urethra, pubic hair etc. differ in size, bulge, location and texture from one person to another, just like the other parts of the body. In eunuchs, however, the differences are far greater than in gendered beings. The variation in the position of the urethra, its size and bulge is so large, it is difficult to classify it as a minor one. In eunuchs, the midsections are manlier, since they

do not have uterus, ovaries and other female reproductive parts and the accompanying layer of fat around the stomach and hip areas.

The body height in the case of 92% of boys is in the range of the height of the father ± 1 inch, while 87% of girls are in the range of the height of the mother ± 1 inch. The author collected sample data for the height of eunuchs and compared their values with those of their parents. It was found that on average, if the father of a eunuch is 5'7" and the mother is 5'2", then their eunuch progeny is likely to have a height of 5'5" ± 1 . This indicates that most eunuchs inherit their height from both parents though the characteristics of the father are predominant, the cause for this trait unascertainable. As a wild guess it could be presumed that more MtF could be a cause of the same.

