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How Americans See Men and Masculinity

Republican men stand out in views of their own masculinity, changing gender roles and men's progress in recent decades

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand Americans' views of men and masculinity at a time when these topics are at the forefront of national conversations.

For this analysis, we surveyed 6,204 adults from Sept. 3 to 15, 2024. Most of the respondents who took part in this survey are members of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), a group of people recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses who have agreed to take surveys regularly. The survey also included an oversample of Black, Hispanic and Asian adults from the SSRS Opinion Panel, another probability-based online survey web panel recruited primarily through national, random sampling of residential addresses. Surveys were conducted either online or by telephone with a live interviewer. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other factors. [Read more about the ATP's methodology.](#)

Here are the [questions used](#) for this report, the [topline](#) and the [survey methodology](#).

Terminology

References to White, Black and Asian adults include those who are not Hispanic and identify as only one race. Hispanics are of any race.

All references to party affiliation include those who lean toward that party. Republicans include those who identify as Republicans and those who say they lean toward the Republican Party. Democrats include those who identify as Democrats and those who say they lean toward the Democratic Party.

Table of Contents

About Pew Research Center	1
How we did this	2
Terminology	3
Overview	5
1. Public views on men and masculinity	12
2. Behaviors people find acceptable and unacceptable in men	19
3. Views on the progress men and women have made in different areas	25
4. Views of the impact of changing gender roles	34
5. How Americans see differences between men and women	39
6. How men and women rate their masculinity and femininity	44
Acknowledgments	52
Methodology	53

How Americans See Men and Masculinity

Republican men stand out in views of their own masculinity, changing gender roles and men’s progress in recent decades

The status of men in American society has been at the center of [recent national political conversations](#). Some people have spoken out about what they perceive to be [attacks on traditional manhood](#), while others have warned about what they see as “[toxic masculinity](#).” More broadly, many have expressed concern about how men are doing [socially and economically](#).

Amid these conversations, we asked 6,204 U.S. adults about their views on men and masculinity. Our survey covered traits people think are valued too much or too little in men these days; how acceptable they think certain behaviors are in men; and how they think men have fared relative to women in various aspects of life. The survey was conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.¹

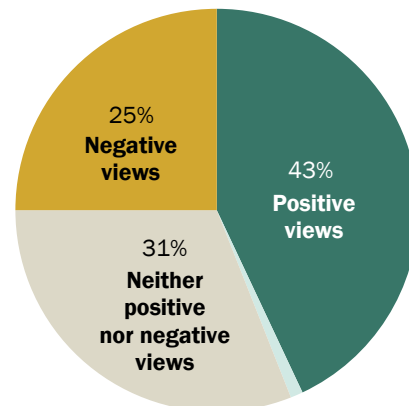
Key findings

Relatively few Americans say people have negative views of masculine men.

- 25% say people in the United States have mostly negative views of men who are “manly or masculine.” This is smaller than the shares who say people have mostly *positive* views of masculine men (43%) or that views are neither positive nor negative (31%).
- But among Republican men, 45% *do* think people have negative views of masculine men, and the vast majority of those who feel this way say this is a bad thing. Much smaller shares of Republican women (24%), Democratic men (20%) and Democratic women (13%) say people view masculine men negatively. (Republicans and

A quarter of Americans say views of ‘masculine’ men are mostly negative

% saying that, in general, people in the U.S. have mostly ___ of men who are manly or masculine



Note: Share of respondents who didn’t offer an answer is shown but not labeled.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. “How Americans See Men and Masculinity”

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¹ Refer to the [Methodology](#) section for more details.

Democrats include those who lean toward either party.)

Majorities of Americans say most people in the U.S. don't place enough value on men who are caring, open about their emotions, soft-spoken or affectionate.

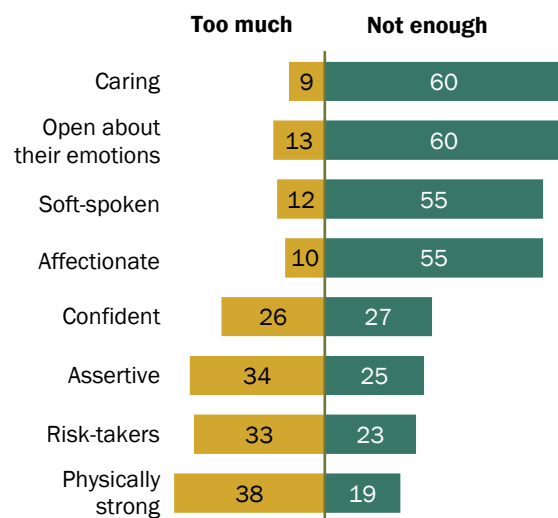
- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say people don't value men with these traits enough. But even among Republicans – including among Republican men – more say these traits aren't valued enough in men than say they are valued too much.

Views are more mixed when it comes to traits that tend to be associated with traditional masculinity.

- On balance, the public leans toward saying that people in the U.S. place *too much* rather than too little value on men who are physically strong, assertive or risk-takers. About four-in-ten adults or more say most people value these traits in men about the right amount.
- Men and Republicans are more likely than women and Democrats, respectively, to say these traits *aren't valued enough* in men.

6 in 10 Americans say people in the U.S. don't place enough value on men who are caring or open about their emotions

% saying most people in the U.S. place ___ value on men who are ...



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer or who said most people value men with these traits about the right amount are not shown. Shares saying each of these traits are valued about the right amount in men range from 26% to 46%.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

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Majorities of men and women find certain behaviors that could be associated with “toxic masculinity” to be unacceptable.

- About six-in-ten Americans or more say it’s not too or not at all acceptable for men to join in when other men are talking about women in a sexual way (75%); to have many different sexual partners rather than commit to one relationship (69%); to drink a lot of alcohol when out with friends (63%); or to throw a punch if provoked (62%).
- While there are some differences in views across gender and party lines, majorities of men, women, Republicans and Democrats see these behaviors as unacceptable.

About four-in-ten men (42%) see themselves as highly masculine.

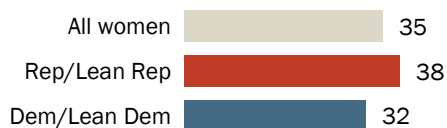
- A similar share (43%) say they lean masculine, while 11% are neither masculine nor feminine or equally both. Another 4% say they either lean feminine or are highly feminine. (Read [Chapter 6](#) for more detail on how we constructed the masculinity-femininity scale.)
- Among women, 35% rate themselves as highly feminine. A larger share (46%) say they lean feminine, while 15% are neither feminine nor masculine or both equally. And 4% say they either lean masculine or are highly masculine. (The number of people in the survey who do not identify as a man or a woman is too small to analyze separately.)
- Men and women under 30 are less likely than their older counterparts to rate themselves as highly masculine or highly feminine, respectively.
- A much larger share of Republican men than Democratic men rate themselves as highly masculine (53% vs. 29%). The partisan difference is much more modest among women: 38% of

Republican men are far more likely than Democratic men to see themselves as highly masculine

% of men rating themselves as **highly masculine**



% of women rating themselves as **highly feminine**



Note: All respondents were asked to rate themselves on two five-point scales ranging from “Not at all masculine/feminine” (0) to “Extremely masculine/feminine” (4). Femininity ratings were subtracted from masculinity ratings to create a single scale ranging from highly feminine to highly masculine.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. “How Americans See Men and Masculinity”

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Republican women see themselves as highly feminine, compared with 32% of Democratic women.

Most Americans say women are doing better than they were 20 years ago when it comes to getting leadership positions at work, getting a well-paying job, and getting into a college or university.

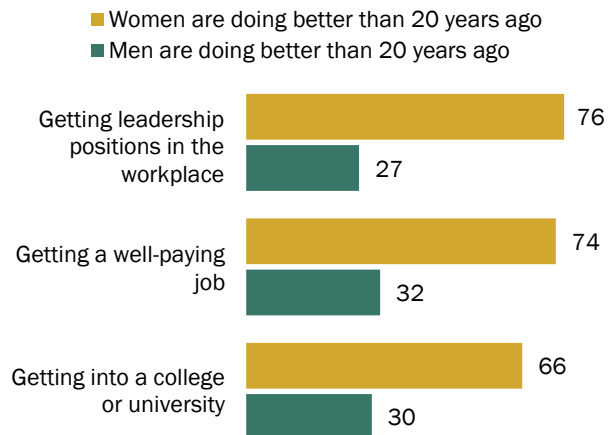
- The shares saying this are much larger than the shares who think *men* have made progress in these areas.
- Pluralities say men are doing neither better nor worse in these areas compared with 20 years ago.
- Republican men are especially likely to say men are doing *worse* in these areas today than in recent decades.

Despite seeing more progress for women than for men in the past two decades, most Americans (81%) don't think the gains women have made in society have come at the expense of men, according to an [April 2024 Pew Research Center survey](#).

- Majorities across gender and party lines share this view, though Republican men are less likely than those in other groups to say women's gains haven't harmed men.
- About three-in-ten Republican men (31%) believe women's gains *have* come at the expense of men, compared with 16% each among Democratic men and Republican women, and just 9% of Democratic women.

Public sees more progress in recent decades for women than men in the workplace, higher education

% saying that, compared with 20 years ago, men/women are **doing better** in each area these days



Note: Figures combine "A lot/Somewhat better." Other response options included "A lot worse," "Somewhat worse" and "Neither better nor worse."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Jump to read more about:

- [Views of men and masculinity](#)
- [Behaviors people find acceptable and unacceptable in men](#)
- [Views of the progress men and women have made in different life areas](#)
- [Views of the impact of changing gender roles](#)
- [How Americans see differences between men and women](#)
- [How men and women rate their own masculinity and femininity](#)

Other important findings

About two-thirds of men (66%) say their father influenced their views about what it means to be a man a great deal or a fair amount.

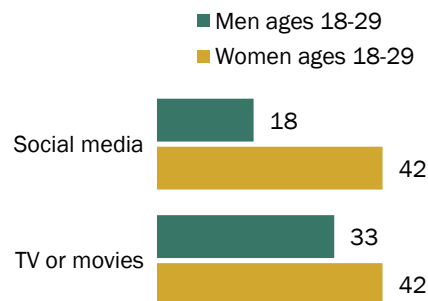
- The same share of women say this of their mother's influence on their views about what it means to be a woman.
- While 47% of men say their *mother* has had at least a fair amount of influence on their views about being a man, a smaller share of women (32%) say their *father* has influenced their views about being a woman. (These figures exclude those who say each item doesn't apply to them).

Young women are much more likely than young men to say social media has had a lot of influence on their views about their gender.

- About four-in-ten women under 30 say social media and TV or movies have had a great deal or fair amount of influence on their views of what it means to be a woman. Among young men, 18% say social media has influenced their views of what it means to be a man, and 33% say this about TV or movies.

About 4 in 10 young women say social media, TV or movies have influenced their views about being a woman

% of young men and women saying ___ influenced their views about what it means to be a man or a woman a great deal/fair amount



Note: Figures are based on those who didn't indicate the item doesn't apply to them. Men were asked about influences on their views of what it means to be a man and women were asked about influences on their views of what it means to be a woman. Other response options included "Some," "Not much" and "Not at all." Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Most Americans say men and women are basically different in many ways, but there is no consensus on whether society or biology drives these differences.

- The view that men and women are different in how they express feelings, their physical abilities, their approach to parenting, and their hobbies and personal interests is widespread across gender and party lines.
- But while women and Democrats tend to point to *societal expectations* as the main reason for these differences, men and Republicans largely cite *biological differences* between genders as the reason.

A majority of Americans (57%) say men and women are basically similar in the things they are good at in the workplace.

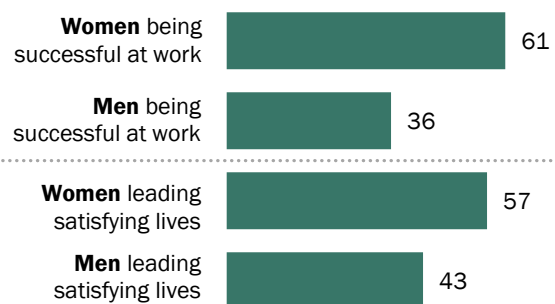
- There are wide partisan gaps in these views: 68% of Democrats say men and women are similar in this regard, compared with 47% of Republicans.
- 64% of Democrats who see differences in this area say they are rooted in societal expectations for men and women, while 61% of Republicans point to biology.

The public sees women as benefitting more than men from changing gender roles at work and in the family.

- Majorities say the fact that more women now work outside the home than in the past and men are more involved in household chores and child care has made it easier for women to be successful at work (61%) and to lead satisfying lives (57%).
- Fewer than half say changing gender roles have made it easier for *men* to be successful at work (36%) and to lead satisfying lives (43%).
- 57% of Americans say changing gender roles have made it easier for families to earn enough money to live comfortably. A

More say changing gender roles have benefited women than say these changes have benefited men

*% saying that having more women working outside the home and men more involved in household chores and child care has **made things easier** for each of the following*



Note: Other response options included “Has made things harder” and “Has not made much difference.”

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. “How Americans See Men and Masculinity”

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smaller share (47%) says the same about the impact on marriages being successful.

A majority of Americans (57%) say it's extremely or very acceptable for men to take care of the home and children while their wife works for pay.

- About a third say the same about men taking charge in day-to-day decisions about their relationship (35%) and splitting the bill when out on a date (34%). (For this question, respondents were asked to think about men who date women or are in a relationship with a woman.)
- 23% say it's highly acceptable for men to take their wife's last name when they get married.

About four-in-ten Americans (42%) say it's extremely or very acceptable for men to put a lot of effort into their style or fashion choices.

- 22% say the same about men playing video games on a regular basis.
- Men and women under 30 are more likely than their older counterparts to say each of these is extremely or very acceptable.

1. Public views on men and masculinity

Our survey asked a few questions to understand how Americans think society views men who are “manly or masculine.” We also asked people whether they think certain traits are valued in men too much or too little.

Perceptions of how manly or masculine men are viewed in the U.S.

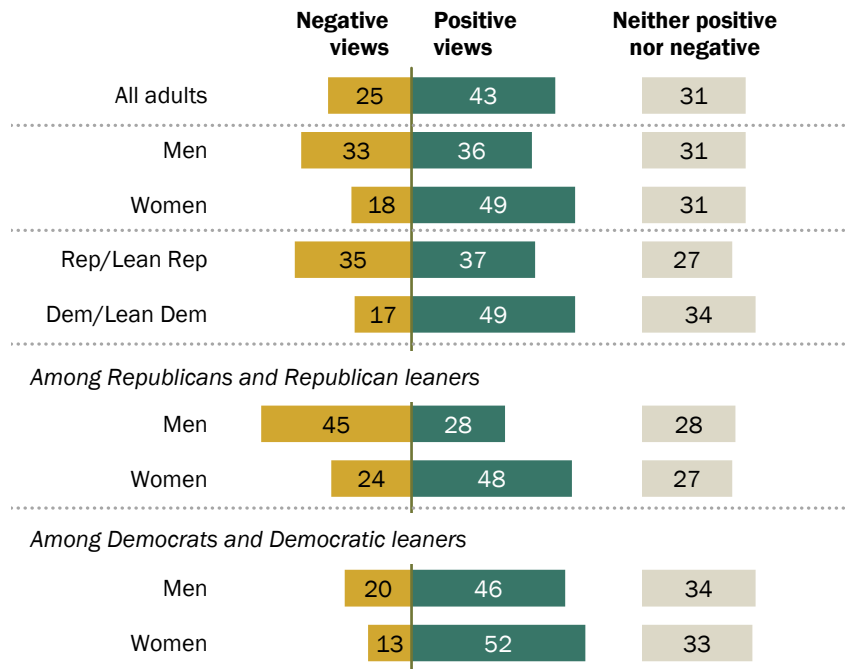
More Americans say people in the U.S. have mostly *positive* views of men who are manly or masculine (43%) than say people have mostly *negative* views (25%). About three-in-ten (31%) say most people have neither positive nor negative views of these men.

Of those who say people in the U.S. have mostly *positive* views of masculine men, more see this as a *good thing* (47%) than a *bad thing* (7%). Some 46% say it’s neither good nor bad that people have mostly positive views of masculine men.

Among those who say people in the country have mostly *negative* views of masculine men, about three-quarters (73%) say this is a *bad thing*. Just 9% say it’s good that people in the U.S. have mostly negative views of this type of man, while 18% say this is neither good nor bad.

45% of Republican men say people in the U.S. have mostly negative views of ‘masculine’ men

% saying that, in general, people in the U.S. have mostly ___ of men who are manly or masculine



Note: Shares of respondents who didn’t offer an answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.
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Differences by gender

Women are more likely than men to say people in the U.S. have mostly positive views of masculine men (49% vs. 36%). In turn, 33% of men say people have mostly negative views, compared with 18% of women.

Men who say people have mostly *positive* views of masculine men are somewhat more likely than women who say the same to see this as a *good thing* (51% vs. 45%).

And while majorities of men and women who say people have mostly *negative* views of masculine men see this as a *bad thing*, a larger share of men (77%) than women (66%) holding this view say this is the case.

Differences by party

About half of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (49%) say views of masculine men are mostly *positive*; 37% of Republicans and Republican leaners say the same.

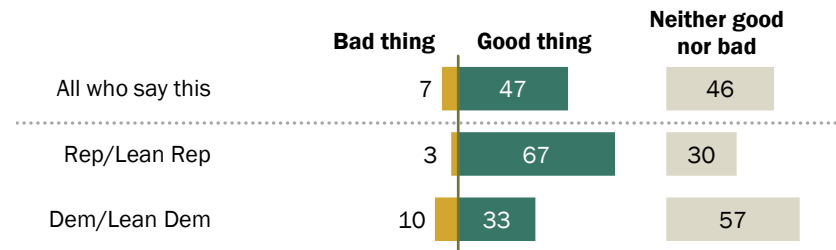
Republicans are about twice as likely as Democrats to say people in the U.S. have mostly *negative* views of masculine men (35% vs. 17%).

Among those who think Americans have mostly *positive* views of masculine men, 67% of Republicans say this is a *good thing*, compared with 33% of Democrats.

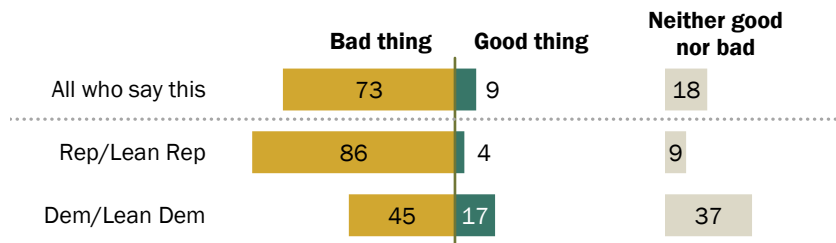
Similarly, 86% of Republicans who say people in the U.S. have mostly *negative* views of

Most of those who say masculine men are viewed negatively in the U.S. see this as a bad thing

Among those who say people in the U.S. have mostly positive views of men who are manly or masculine, % saying this is a ...



Among those who say people in the U.S. have mostly negative views of men who are manly or masculine, % saying this is a ...



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown. Overall, 43% of U.S. adults say people in the U.S. have mostly positive views of masculine men, while 25% say people have mostly negative views.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

masculine men see this is a *bad thing*, much larger than the share of their Democratic counterparts who say the same (45%).

Overall, Republican men are more likely than Republican women and both Democratic men and women to say people in the U.S. have negative views of men who are manly or masculine. In fact, Republican men are the only group in which more say views are *negative* than positive.

- **Republican men:** 45% say people have mostly negative views; 28% say views are positive.
- **Republican women:** 24% negative versus 48% positive.
- **Democratic men:** 20% negative versus 46% positive.
- **Democratic women:** 13% negative versus 52% positive.

Traits society values too much or too little in men

When thinking about how men are viewed in the U.S. these days, 60% of Americans say most people don't place enough value on men who are caring or open about their emotions.

Majorities also say most people don't value *soft-spoken* or *affectionate* men enough (55% each).

Views are more split when it comes to traits that tend to be [associated with traditional masculinity](#). For example, similar shares say society values men who are confident too much (26%) as say they're valued too little (27%).

And the public leans toward saying most people place *too much* value, rather than too little value, on men who are:

- Assertive (34% vs. 25%)
- Risk-takers (33% vs. 22%)
- Physically strong (38% vs. 19%)

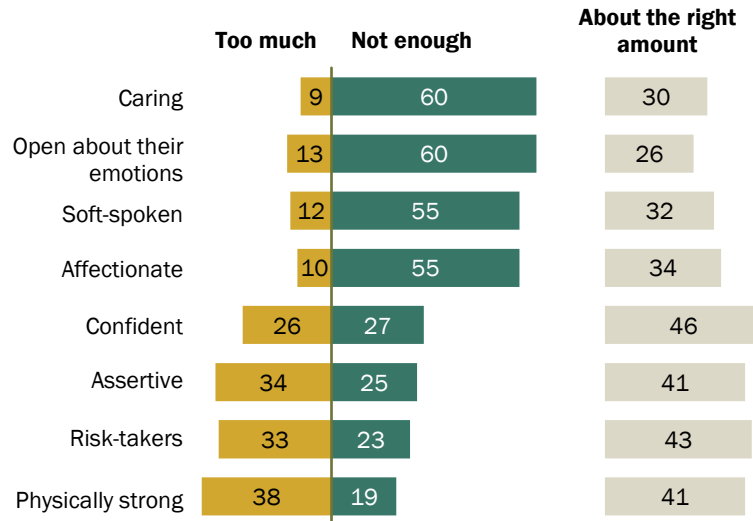
Still, roughly four-in-ten Americans or more say people value these traits in men about the right amount.

Differences by gender

About half or more among both women and men say society doesn't place enough value on men who are caring, open about their emotions, affectionate or soft-spoken. But larger shares of

Majorities say most people in the U.S. don't place enough value on men who are caring, soft-spoken, affectionate or open about their emotions

% saying most people in the U.S. place ___ value on men who are ...



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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women than men say this is the case when it comes to men who are open about their emotions, affectionate or soft-spoken.

By margins ranging from 4 to 10 percentage points, women are more likely than men to say most people place *too much* value on men who are physically strong, assertive, risk-takers or confident. Meanwhile, men are more likely than women to say these traits *aren't valued enough* in men.

Differences by age

Americans under 50 are more likely than those ages 50 and older to say men who are caring, open about their emotions, affectionate or soft-spoken *aren't valued enough*.

Those in the younger group are also more likely than those in the older group to say most people place *too much* value on men who are physically strong, assertive, risk-takers or confident.

These age differences are evident among both men and women.

Differences by party

By margins of 10 points or more, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say most people in the U.S. *don't place enough* value on men who are:

- Open about their emotions (71% vs. 49%)
- Soft-spoken (65% vs. 46%)
- Affectionate (62% vs. 50%)
- Caring (66% vs. 56%)

In turn, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say most people don't place enough value on men who are:

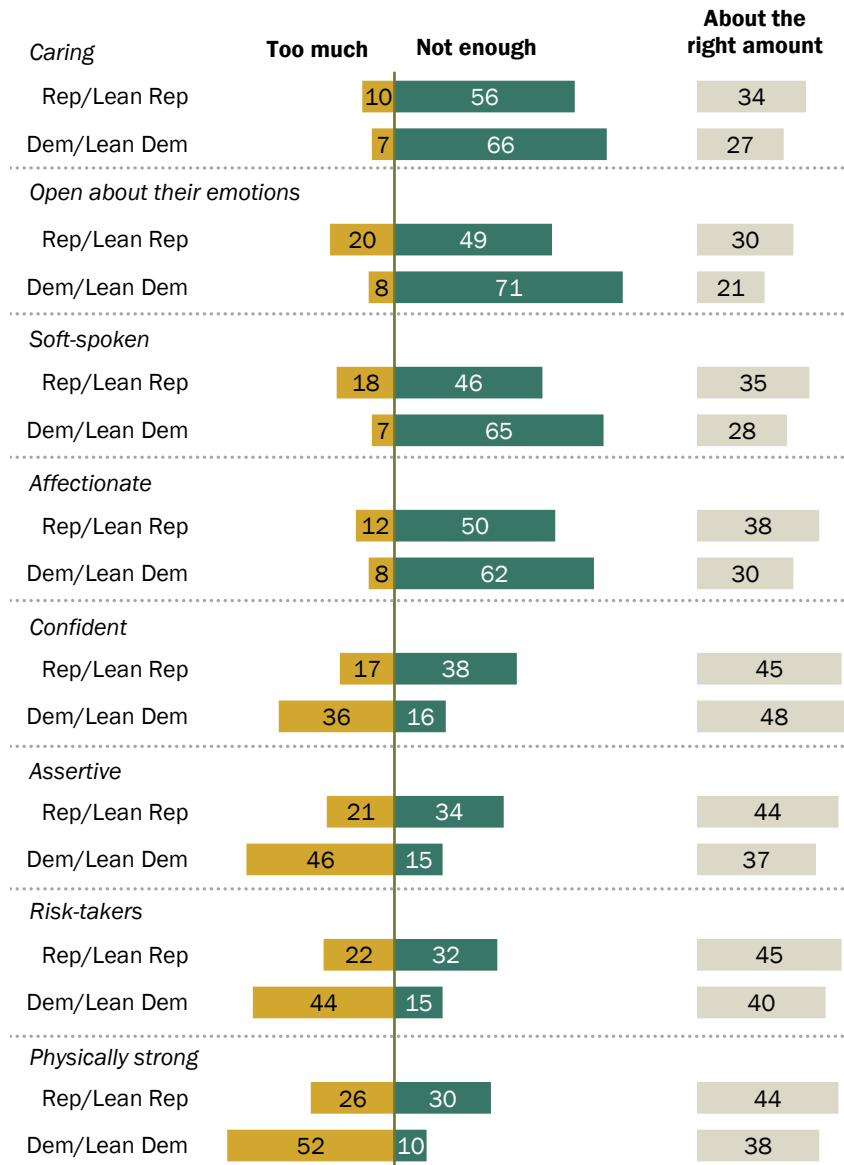
- Confident (38% vs. 16%)
- Physically strong (30% vs. 10%)
- Assertive (34% vs. 15%)
- Risk-takers (32% vs. 15%)

Differences by masculinity and femininity rating

The survey asked respondents to rate themselves on masculinity and femininity scales. (Read [Chapter 6](#) for more details on these measures.) Among men, views of whether certain traits are valued too much or not enough vary by how they rate themselves.

Republicans, Democrats differ over what traits should be valued more or less in men

% saying most people in the U.S. place ___ value on men who are ...



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Men who see themselves as highly masculine are more likely than those who rate themselves as less masculine to say most people *don't place enough* value on men who are:

- Confident (40% vs. 24%)
- Assertive (39% vs. 23%)
- Risk-takers (35% vs. 23%)
- Physically strong (29% vs. 17%)

2. Behaviors people find acceptable and unacceptable in men

When it comes to how Americans view certain behaviors in men, most say they personally think it's *not too* or *not at all acceptable* for men to:

- Join in when other men are talking about women in a sexual way (75%)
- Have many different sexual partners rather than commit to one relationship (69%)
- Drink a lot of alcohol when out with friends (63%)
- Throw a punch if provoked (62%)

Four-in-ten also think it's unacceptable for men to play video games on a regular basis. Another 22% say this is extremely or very acceptable, and 37% find it somewhat acceptable.

Three-quarters of U.S. adults think it's unacceptable for men to join in when other men are talking about women in a sexual way

% saying they personally think it is ___ for men to ...

	Extremely/Very acceptable	Somewhat acceptable	Not too/Not at all acceptable
Put a lot of effort into their style and fashion choices	42	42	15
Play video games on a regular basis	22	37	40
Throw a punch if provoked	13	24	62
Drink a lot of alcohol when out with friends	11	25	63
Have many different sexual partners*	11	19	69
Join in when other men talk about women in a sexual way	8	17	75

* Full question wording included "rather than commit to one relationship."

Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Of the behaviors asked about in the survey, the only one more people find highly acceptable (42%) than highly unacceptable (15%) is for men to put a lot of effort into their style and fashion choices.

Differences by gender

Women are more likely than men to see five of the six behaviors asked about in the survey as unacceptable for men. Still, majorities of both women *and men* agree that it's unacceptable for men to join in when other men are talking about women in a sexual way (80% vs. 69%); have many different sexual partners rather than commit to one relationship (74% vs. 65%); drink a lot of alcohol when out with friends (67% vs. 59%); or throw a punch if provoked (66% vs. 59%).

Men are somewhat more likely than women to say it's unacceptable for men to put a lot of effort into their style and fashion choices (18% vs. 13%), but relatively small shares in each group say this.

Differences by age

Adults under 30 are more likely than those in older age groups to see each of the behaviors asked about in the survey as extremely or very acceptable for men, with differences of 10 points or more on the following items:

- **Putting a lot of effort into their style and fashion choices:** 58% of those ages 18 to 30, 45% of those 30 to 49, and 32% of those 50 and older say this is acceptable.
- **Playing video games on a regular basis:** 40% of those ages 18 to 30, 29% of those 30 to 49, and 10% of those 50 and older find this acceptable.

In turn, adults ages 65 and older are the most likely to see almost every behavior we asked about as *unacceptable* for men. The exception is when it comes to putting a lot of effort into their style and fashion choices. On that item, the difference is between those ages 50 and older and those under 50, with the older group somewhat more likely than the younger group to see this as unacceptable.

These patterns are similar among both men and women.

Differences by party

Majorities of Republicans and Democrats see four of the six items asked about as *unacceptable* for men. Still, there are partisan differences in how Americans see these behaviors.

By double-digit margins, larger shares of Republicans than Democrats say it's not too or not at all acceptable for men to have many different sexual partners rather than commit to one relationship (76% vs. 61%) or to play video games on a regular basis (48% vs. 32%).

For their part, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say it's unacceptable for men to throw a punch if provoked (68% vs. 57%).

There are more modest partisan differences on other items.

Shares saying it is unacceptable for men to do certain things vary by party

% saying they personally think it is **not too/not at all acceptable** for men to ...

Join in when other men are talking about women in a sexual way



*Have many different sexual partners**



Drink a lot of alcohol when out with friends



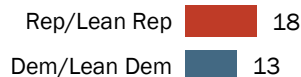
Throw a punch if provoked



Play video games on a regular basis



Put a lot of effort into their style and fashion choices



* Full question wording included "rather than commit to one relationship."

Note: Other response options included "Extremely acceptable," "Very acceptable" and "Somewhat acceptable."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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What is and isn't acceptable in relationships

We also asked some questions about things people may or may not find acceptable for men who date women or who are in a relationship with a woman.

A majority of U.S. adults (57%) say it's extremely or very acceptable for a man to take care of the home and children while his wife works for pay.

Smaller shares say it's highly acceptable for men to take charge in day-to-day decisions about the relationship (35%), split the bill when out on a date (34%) or take their wife's last name when they get married (23%).

A majority of U.S. adults say it's highly acceptable for a man to take care of the home and children while his wife works

% saying they personally think it is ____ for men who date women or who are in a relationship with a woman to ...

	Extremely/Very acceptable	Somewhat acceptable	Not too/Not at all acceptable
Take care of the home and children while their wife works for pay	57	28	15
Take charge in day-to-day decisions about the relationship	35	39	25
Split the bill when out on a date	34	33	32
Take their wife's name when they get married	23	23	53

Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Just over half of U.S. adults (53%) think it's not too or not at all acceptable for a man to take his wife's name when they get married.

Differences by age

Similar shares across age groups say it's extremely or very acceptable for a man to take care of the home and children while his wife works for pay. But adults under 30 are more likely than older Americans to say it's as acceptable for men to take charge in day-to-day decisions about the relationship, split the bill when out on a date, or take their wife's name when they get married.

Adults ages 50 and older are generally less accepting of these behaviors. For example, most adults ages 50 to 64 (61%) and 65 and older (65%) say it's not too or not at all acceptable for men to take their wife's name when they get married. That compares with 48% of those ages 30 to 49 and a smaller share (36%) of adults under 30.

Differences by party

Similar shares of Democrats and Republicans say it's extremely or very acceptable for men to take charge in day-to-day decisions about the relationship, but larger shares of Democrats than Republicans say it's highly acceptable for a man to:

- Take care of the home and children while his wife works (66% vs. 48%)
- Split the bill on a date (44% vs. 24%)
- Take his wife's last name (34% vs. 12%)

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to see each of these three items as not too or not at all acceptable.

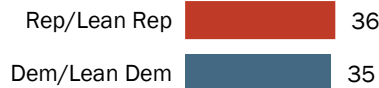
Most Democrats say it's highly acceptable for a man to focus on home and kids while his wife works for pay

% saying they personally think it is **extremely/very acceptable** for men who date women or who are in a relationship with a woman to ...

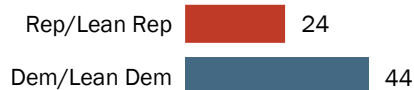
Take care of the home and children while their wife works for pay



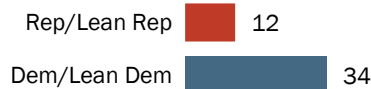
Take charge in day-to-day decisions about the relationship



Split the bill when out on a date



Take their wife's last name when they get married



Note: Other response options included "Somewhat acceptable," "Not too acceptable" and "Not at all acceptable."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Gender and age differences on splitting the bill

Views on whether it's acceptable for men to do each of these things varies only modestly, if at all, between men and women. For example, about a third of men (34%) and women (33%) say it's extremely or very acceptable for a man to split the bill when out on a date with a woman.

But an interesting pattern emerges when looking at different age groups.

About half of men ages 18 to 29 (51%) say it's extremely or very acceptable for a man to split the bill on a date, compared with 39% of women in the same age group. Men ages 30 to 49 are also more likely than women in their age group to say this is highly acceptable, but the difference is more modest (43% vs. 37%).

There is no significant gender gap on this item among those ages 50 to 64. But women ages 65 and older are *more likely* than their male counterparts to say it's highly acceptable for men to split the bill on a date (26% vs. 17%).

3. Views on the progress men and women have made in different areas

Women in recent decades have made significant progress in [higher education](#) and in the workplace. But they continue to lag behind men when it comes to [wages](#) and to representation in [top leadership roles](#). At the same time, certain groups of men have [struggled in the labor force](#) and seen little or no growth in their wages.

We asked Americans how they think men and women are doing today compared with 20 years ago across a range of areas – from education and work to their relationships and physical health.

Overall, the public is more likely to see progress for women than for men over the last two decades in most areas we asked about.

Workplace and education

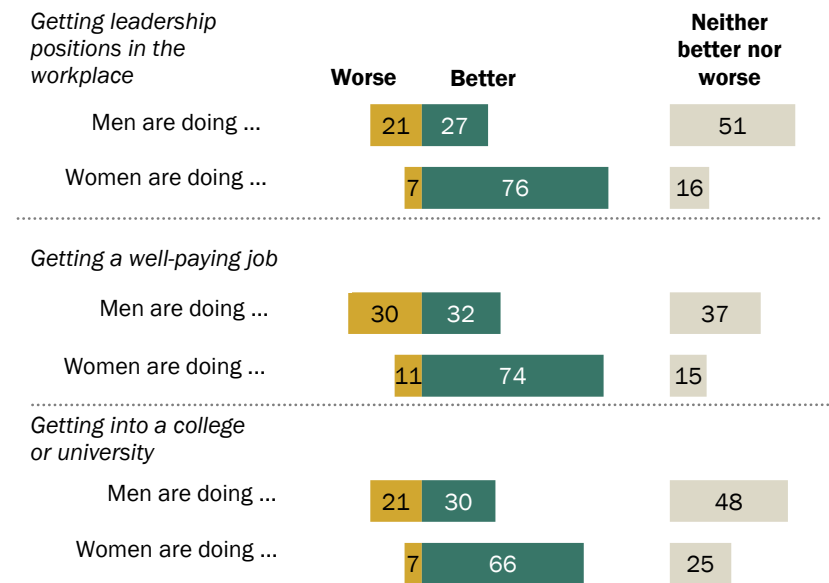
Majorities of adults say *women* are doing a lot or somewhat better than they were 20 years ago when it comes to:

- Getting leadership positions in the workplace (76%)
- Getting a well-paying job (74%)
- Getting into a college or university (66%)

By contrast, the public is more divided on whether *men* are doing better or worse in these areas. Substantial shares say men are doing neither better nor worse than they were two decades ago.

Public sees more progress in recent decades for women than men in the workplace, higher education

% saying that, compared with 20 years ago, men/women are doing ___ in each area



Note: Figures combine “A lot/Somewhat better” and “A lot/Somewhat worse.” Shares of respondents who didn’t offer an answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.
 “How Americans See Men and Masculinity”

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For example, while 76% of Americans say women are doing better today when it comes to getting leadership positions in the workplace, a far smaller share (27%) says men are doing better in this area.

The patterns are similar for progress in getting a well-paying job and getting into a college or university. In each case, much larger shares of the public say women are doing better today than say the same about men.

Differences by gender

Men are more likely than women to say *women* are doing better than they were 20 years ago in all three areas. Even so, majorities of both men and women say women have made progress in recent decades. For instance, 78% of men and 70% of women say women are doing better today in getting well-paying jobs.

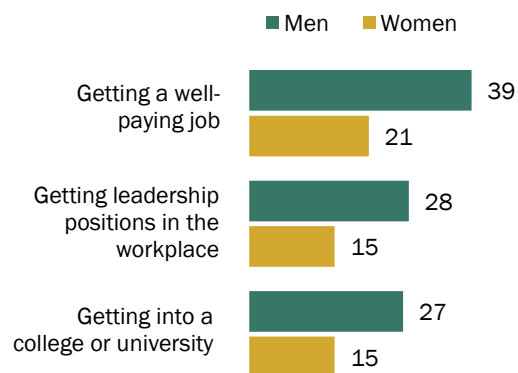
When it comes to how *men* are doing these days, women are more likely than men to see progress in each area. And men are substantially more likely than women to say men are doing worse.

Roughly four-in-ten men (39%) say that, compared with 20 years ago, men are doing worse in getting well-paying jobs. Among women, only 21% say the same.

Similarly, there are gender gaps in the shares saying men are doing worse in getting leadership positions at work (13 points) and in getting into a college or university (12 points).

Men more likely than women to say men are doing worse today in the workplace, higher education

% of men/women saying that, compared with 20 years ago, **men are doing worse** when it comes to ...



Note: Figures combine “A lot/Somewhat worse.” Other response options included “A lot better,” “Somewhat better” and “Neither better nor worse.”

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. “How Americans See Men and Masculinity”

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Differences by party

Republicans and Democrats are largely in agreement about the progress women have made in the past two decades, with majorities saying women are doing better today in these aspects of work and education.

There are notable partisan differences in views about how men are doing, especially in the share saying men are losing ground. Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are more likely than Democrats and Democratic leaners to say men are doing worse, compared with 20 years ago, in all three areas.

Republican men in particular stand out: 43% say men are doing worse today when it comes to getting a well-paying job. This compares with 33% of Democratic men, 25% of Republican women and 18% of Democratic women.

The pattern is similar when it comes to men getting leadership positions at work and getting into college. About three-in-ten Republican men or more of say men are doing worse in these areas, compared with smaller shares among Democratic men and among both Republican and Democratic women.

Relationships and personal well-being

The survey also asked how men and women are doing these days, compared with 20 years ago, on several dimensions of life that relate to relationships and personal well-being:

- Having someone to turn to for emotional support
- Being in good physical health
- Balancing work and family responsibilities
- Finding a romantic partner

Views on the progress men and women have made in these areas are more closely aligned than on the economic and educational issues we asked about.

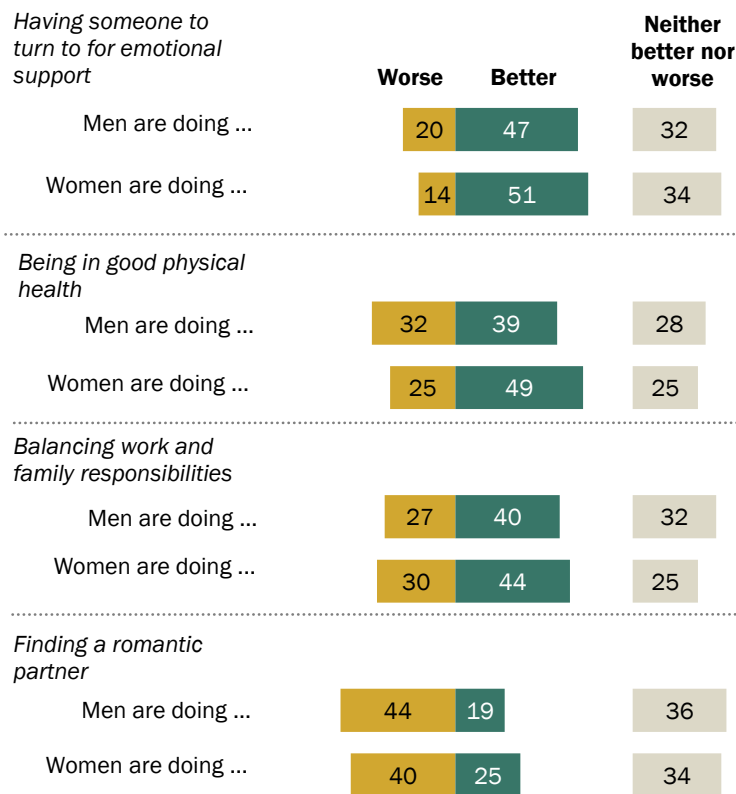
Overall, the public thinks both men and women are doing better rather than worse today when it comes to having emotional support and work-family balance.

The public is more likely to say women are doing better when it comes to their physical health than to say the same about men (49% vs. 39%). About a third of all adults (32%) say men are doing worse in this area.

The one area where a higher share of Americans say things have gotten *worse* rather than better for both men and women is in finding a

Public doesn't see big differences in the progress men and women have made in recent decades on key measures of personal well-being

% saying that, compared with 20 years ago, men/women are doing ____ in each area



Note: Figures combine "A lot/Somewhat better" and "A lot/Somewhat worse." Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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romantic partner. Four-in-ten say women are doing worse in this area than in the past, and 44% say the same about men.

Differences by gender

Men and women have similar views about where *women* are making progress and where they're losing ground on issues related to relationships and personal well-being. There are some modest differences, however. Women (46%) are slightly more likely than men (42%) to say women are doing better today than they were 20 years ago when it comes to balancing work and family responsibilities.

Views differ more on the progress *men* have made in these areas. Women are more likely than men to say men are doing better these days when it comes to emotional support, work-family balance, physical health and finding a romantic partner. And men are more likely than women to say men are doing worse in each of these areas.

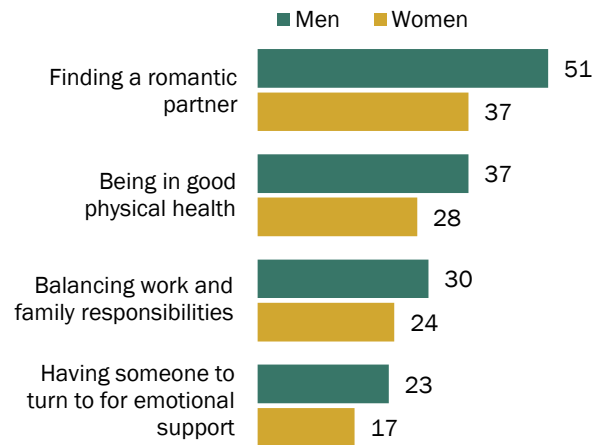
The gender gap in views about how men are doing in the dating realm is particularly wide. About half of men (51%), compared with 37% of women, say men are doing worse today in finding a romantic partner.

Differences by party

In general, Democrats are more upbeat about the progress men and women have made over the past two decades in these areas of their relationships and personal well-being. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say women are doing better on each measure. For example, 52% of Democrats versus 37% of Republicans say that, compared with 20 years ago, women are doing better in balancing work and family responsibilities.

About half of men say men are doing worse than in the past when it comes to finding a romantic partner

% of men/women saying that, compared with 20 years ago, **men are doing worse** when it comes to ...



Note: Figures combine "A lot/Somewhat worse." Other response options included "A lot better," "Somewhat better" and "Neither better nor worse."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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And Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to say women are doing worse today than they were in the past. For instance, while 31% of Republicans say women are doing worse in terms of their physical health, only 19% of Democrats say the same.

The pattern is similar when it comes to how men are doing. Larger shares of Democrats than Republicans say men are doing better than in the past in each area, while larger shares of Republicans than Democrats say they're doing worse. Half of Republicans say men are doing worse in finding romantic partners than in the past; 38% of Democrats express this view.

Have women's gains affected men?

Most Americans (81%) say the gains women have made in society have *not* come at the expense of men, according to an [April 2024 Pew Research Center survey](#). About one-in-five (18%) say these gains *have* come at the expense of men.

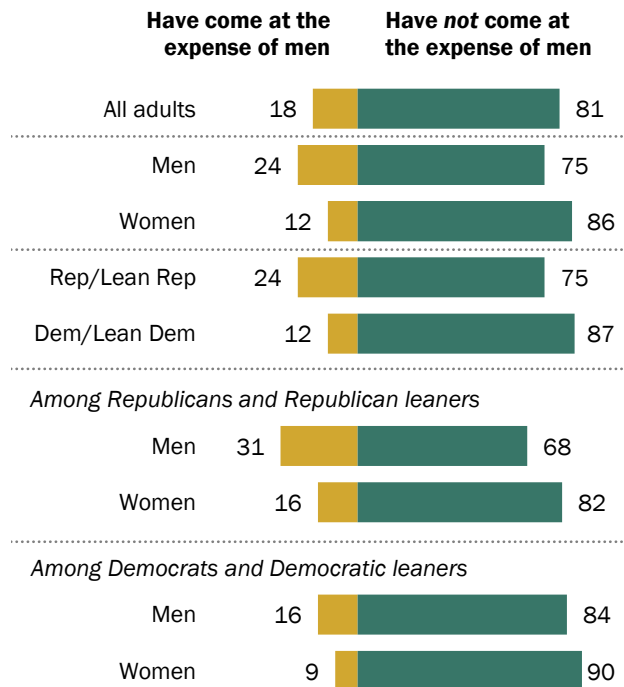
Views on this differ by gender and party. Majorities of both men (75%) and women (86%) say women's gains have not come at the expense of men. Still, men are twice as likely as women to say that they have (24% vs. 12%).

Similarly, majorities of Republicans (75%) and Democrats (87%) say women's gains haven't hurt men. But Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to say they have (24% vs. 12%).

Republican men are among the most likely to say women's gains *have* come at the expense of men. About three-in-ten (31%) say this, compared with 16% of Democratic men, 16% of Republican women and 9% of Democratic women.

Most Americans say women's gains have not come at the expense of men

% saying the gains women have made in society ...



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Apr. 8-14, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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How do Americans feel about how men and women are doing?

We asked Americans, in thinking about how things are going for men and women in the U.S. overall these days, how often they feel a range of emotions.

When thinking about how *women* are doing:

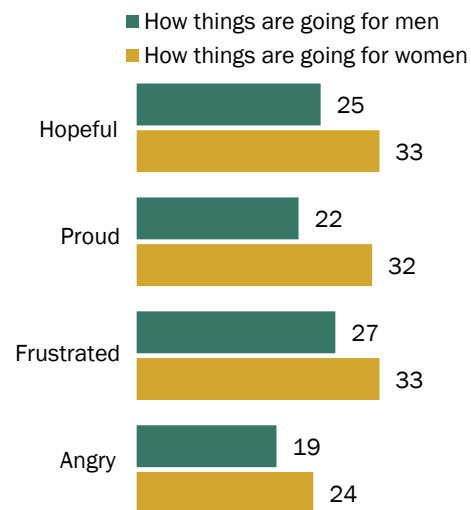
- 33% say they feel hopeful extremely or very often.
- 32% say they feel proud.
- 33% say they feel frustrated.
- 24% say they feel angry.

Somewhat smaller shares say they feel these emotions when thinking about how *men* are doing in the U.S. today:

- 25% say they feel hopeful extremely or very often.
- 22% say they feel proud.
- 27% say they feel frustrated.
- 19% say they feel angry.

About a third of Americans feel proud, frustrated about how things are going for women these days

% saying they feel ___ extremely/very often when they think about how things are going in the U.S. these days for men/women



Note: Other response options included "Sometimes," "Rarely" and "Never."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.
"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Differences by gender and party in feelings about how women are doing

Women are more likely than men to say they often feel frustrated, proud or angry about how women are doing these days. And Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they experience these feelings.

When it comes to frustration, 37% of women versus 27% of men say they often feel this way when thinking about how women are doing these days. And while 40% of Democrats say they often feel frustrated, only 26% of Republicans say the same.

Among Democrats, 46% of women say they often feel frustrated about how women are doing. This compares with 33% of Democratic men, 30% of Republican women and 23% of Republican men.

At the same time, women are more likely than men to say they often feel proud about how women are doing these days (34% vs. 30%). And a larger share of Democrats than Republicans say the same (36% vs. 28%).

Differences by gender and age in feelings about how men are doing

Men are somewhat more likely than women to say they often feel frustrated or hopeful when they think about how men are doing in the U.S. today. But the gender differences are modest.

Adults under 50 are more likely than those ages 50 and older to say they feel frustrated or angry about how men are doing these days. And those in the older age group are more likely to say they feel hopeful or proud.

Democrats more likely than Republicans to feel frustrated about how women are doing these days

% saying they feel ___ extremely/very often when they think about how things are going in the U.S. these days for women

	Frustrated	Proud
All adults	33	32
Men	27	30
Women	37	34
Rep/Lean Rep	26	28
Dem/Lean Dem	40	36
<i>Among Republicans and Republican leaners</i>		
Men	23	26
Women	30	30
<i>Among Democrats and Democratic leaners</i>		
Men	33	34
Women	46	39

Note: Other response options included "Sometimes," "Rarely" and "Never."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Men under 50 are among the most likely to say they often feel frustrated about how men are doing: 36% say this, compared with 22% of men ages 50 and older. Younger women are more likely than older women to say they feel frustrated as well (30% vs. 20%).

When it comes to feeling proud about how men are doing, men and women ages 50 and older are more likely than their younger counterparts to say they often feel this way.

Men under 50 are among the most likely to feel frustrated about how men are doing in the U.S. these days

% saying they feel ___ **extremely/very often** when they think about how things are going in the U.S. these days for **men**

	Frustrated	Proud
All adults	27	22
Men	29	23
Women	26	21
Ages 18-49	33	19
50+	21	25
<i>Among men</i>		
Ages 18-49	36	20
50+	22	27
<i>Among women</i>		
Ages 18-49	30	18
50+	20	24

Note: Other response options included "Sometimes," "Rarely" and "Never."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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4. Views of the impact of changing gender roles

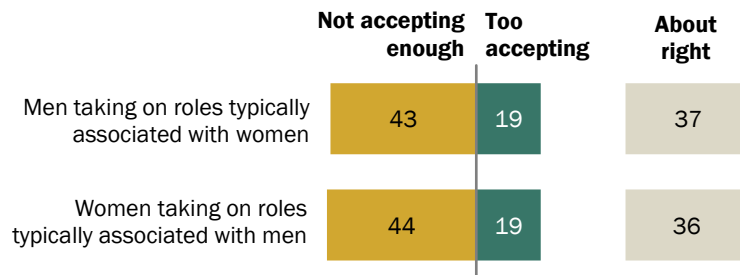
We asked Americans a series of questions about changing gender roles for men and women. First, we asked if society is too accepting or not accepting enough of men and women who take on roles typically associated with the other gender. On balance, the public thinks society is *not accepting enough* of men and women who do this.

Overall, 43% of adults say society is not accepting enough of men who take on roles typically associated with women, 19% say society is too accepting of these men and 37% say acceptance is about right.

When we asked about women who take on roles typically associated with men, the results were almost identical. Some 44% say society is not accepting enough of women who do this, 19% say society is too accepting and 36% say things are about right.

Many Americans say society is not accepting enough of men and women who take on roles usually associated with the opposite gender

% saying that, in general, society is ___ when it comes to ...



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Differences by gender

Women are more likely than men to say that society is not accepting enough of *men* who take on roles typically associated with women (49% vs. 36%), while men are more likely than women to say acceptance is about right (43% vs. 33%).

In addition, a higher share of women than men say society is not accepting enough of *women* who take on roles usually associated with men (53% vs. 35%). Again, men are much more likely than women to say things are about right (42% vs. 30%).

Differences by party

Republicans and Democrats have very different views on these issues. On balance, Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are about evenly divided on whether society is too accepting

(28%) or not accepting enough (27%) of men who take on roles that are usually associated with women. Some 45% of Republicans say things are about right.

Democrats and Democratic leaners tilt heavily toward the position that society is not accepting enough of men who take on women’s roles. About six-in-ten Democrats (59%) say this, while only 10% say society is too accepting of these men and 30% say things are about right.

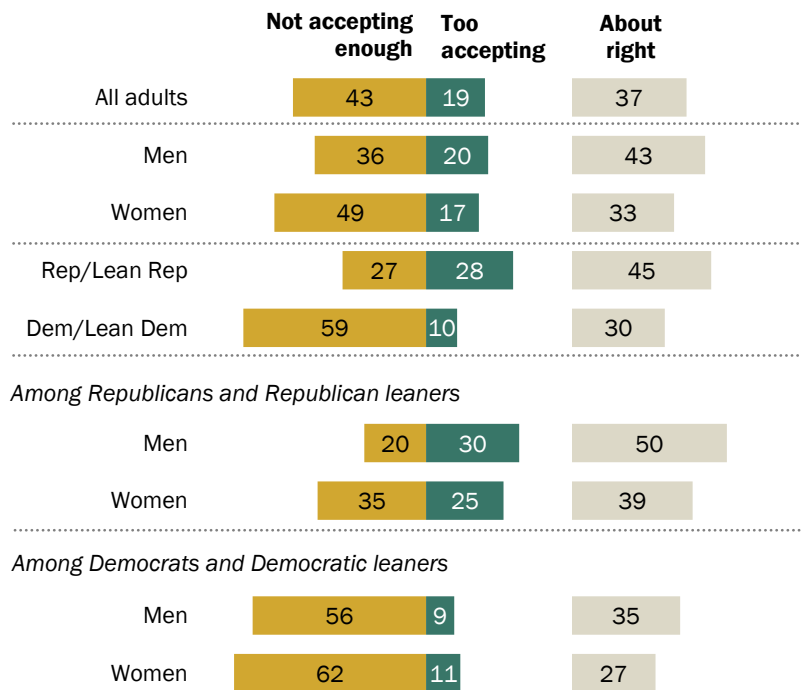
The partisan pattern is very similar on the question of how society treats women who take on roles typically associated with men. Republicans are divided over whether society is too accepting or not accepting enough of these women, while a majority of Democrats say society is not accepting enough.

Across gender groups within the parties, Republican men are the most likely to say that society is *too accepting* of men

who take on roles often associated with women (30% say this) and of women who take on roles associated with men (33%). Democratic women are the most likely to say there’s *not enough acceptance* for these men (62%) and women (69%).

Views about men who take on roles typically associated with women are sharply divided by party

% saying that, in general, society is ___ when it comes to **men** taking on roles typically associated with women



Note: Shares of respondents who didn’t offer an answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.
 “How Americans See Men and Masculinity”

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How have changing gender roles impacted men and women?

We also asked Americans about the impact of having more women working outside the home and men more involved in household chores and child care. Overall, the public thinks the changing roles of women and men in our society have been more beneficial for women than for men.

When it comes to being successful at work:

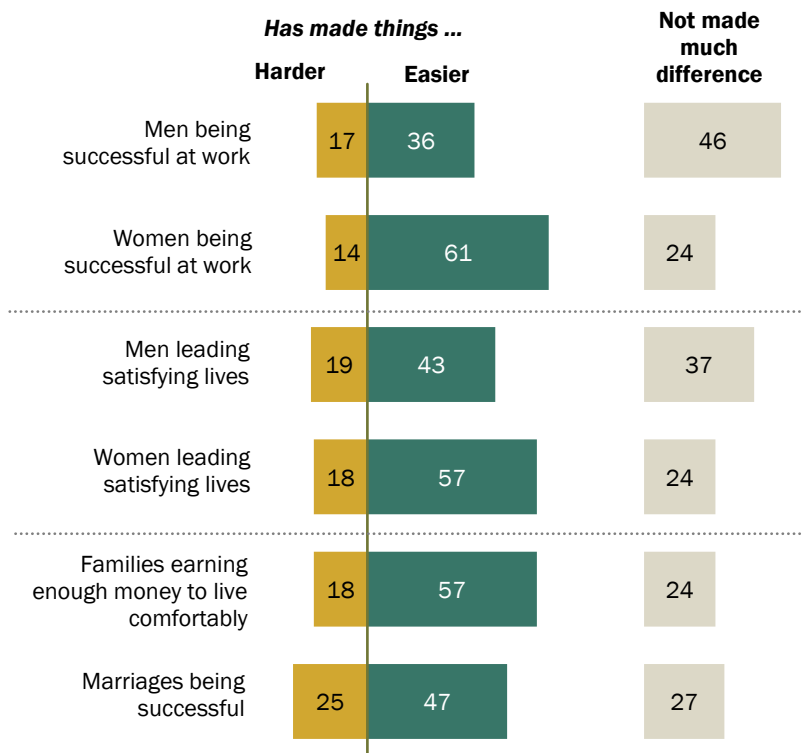
- 61% say changing gender roles have made it easier for *women*.
- 36% say they've made it easier for *men*.

And when it comes to leading satisfying lives:

- 57% say changing gender roles have made it easier for *women*.
- 43% say they've made it easier for *men*.

Majorities say changing gender roles have made it easier for women to be successful at work, lead satisfying lives

% saying that having more women working outside the home and men more involved in household chores and child care has made things ____ for each of the following



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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The public also sees more benefit than harm from changing gender roles for married couples and families:

- 57% say changing roles have made it easier for families to earn enough money to live comfortably.
- 47% say they've made it easier for marriages to be successful.

Differences by gender

Men and women are mostly in agreement about the impact changing gender roles have had on the areas of life we asked about. Women are somewhat more likely than men to say these changes have made it easier for women and men to lead satisfying lives and for marriages to be successful. Still, on balance, both men and women see these changes as more beneficial than harmful.

Among women, those with a bachelor's degree or more education are significantly more likely than those without a four-year college degree to say changing gender roles have been beneficial across almost all items. For example, 67% of women with at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 55% of women with less education, say these changes have made it easier for women to lead satisfying lives.

The one exception is on the impact changing gender roles have had on men's ability to be successful at work. Here, 40% of women without a four-year college degree say these changes have made it easier for men to be successful, while only 32% of women with at least a bachelor's degree say the same.

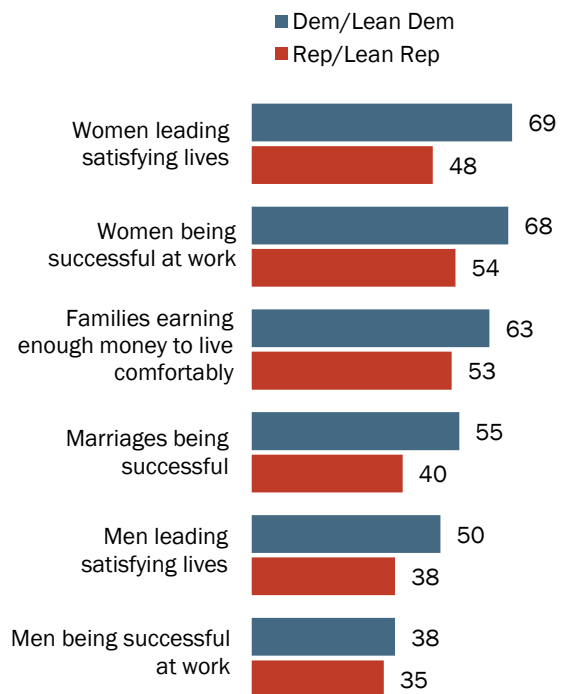
Differences by party

Democrats and Republicans have differing views on the impact changing gender roles have had on women, men and families. By significant margins, larger shares of Democrats than Republicans say changing gender roles have made each of the following easier:

- Women leading satisfying lives (69% vs. 48%)
- Women being successful at work (68% vs. 54%)

Democrats more likely than Republicans to say changing gender roles make life easier for women, men and families

*% saying that having more women working outside the home and men more involved in household chores and child care has **made things easier** for each of the following*



Note: Other response options included "Have made things harder" and "Have not made much difference."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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- Families earning enough money to live comfortably (63% vs. 53%)
- Marriages being successful (55% vs. 40%)
- Men leading satisfying lives (50% vs. 38%)
- Men being successful at work (38% vs. 35%)

For their part, significant shares of Republicans say changing gender roles have made certain aspects of life harder. A third of Republicans say these changes have made it harder for marriages to be successful, compared with 18% of Democrats who say the same. A quarter of Republicans (versus 13% of Democrats) say the changes have made it harder for men to lead satisfying lives. And 24% (versus 11% of Democrats) say they've made it harder for women to lead satisfying lives.

5. How Americans see differences between men and women

Most Americans, including majorities of men, women, Republicans and Democrats, say men and women are different in many ways. But there are gaps by gender and partisanship when it comes to views of whether biology or societal expectations are driving these differences.

About two-thirds of U.S. adults or more say men and women are basically *different* in:

- How they express their feelings
- Their physical abilities
- Their approach to parenting
- Their hobbies and personal interests

A majority (57%) say men and women are basically *similar* when it comes to the things they are good at in the workplace. Still, a sizable share (43%) sees men and women as different in this area.

Views of whether men and women are different or similar vary modestly, if at all, by gender.

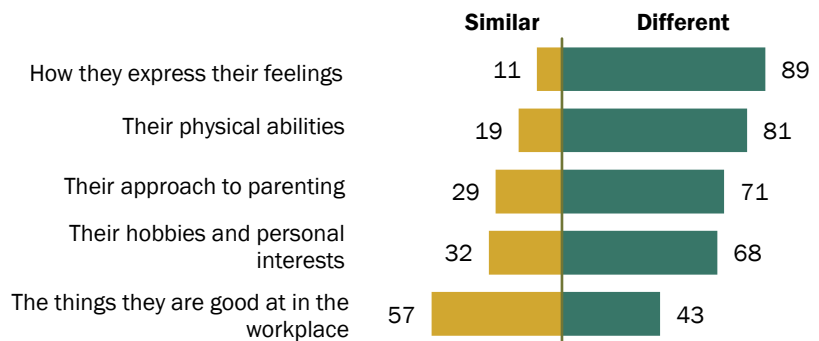
There are wider gaps in these views by party. By margins of 14 percentage points or more, Republicans and Republican-

leaning independents are more likely than Democrats and Democratic leaners to say men and women are basically different when it comes to:

- Their physical abilities (89% vs. 73%)
- Their hobbies and personal interests (75% vs. 61%)
- The things they are good at in the workplace (53% vs. 32%)

Most Americans see differences between men and women on many traits

% saying men and women are basically ___ when it comes to ...



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

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Compared with 2017, when we last asked this question, Americans are now more likely to say men and women are different when it comes to their approach to parenting (+7 points), the things they are good at in the workplace (+6) and their physical abilities (+5).

The role of biology and societal expectations in gender differences

Among those who see differences between men and women, there is little agreement about whether these differences are mostly based on **biology** or on **societal expectations**.

For example, of those who say men and women are different in their hobbies and personal interests, their approach to parenting, and the things they are good at in the workplace, about half say these differences are rooted in biology. Similar shares say they are based on societal expectations for men and women in these areas.

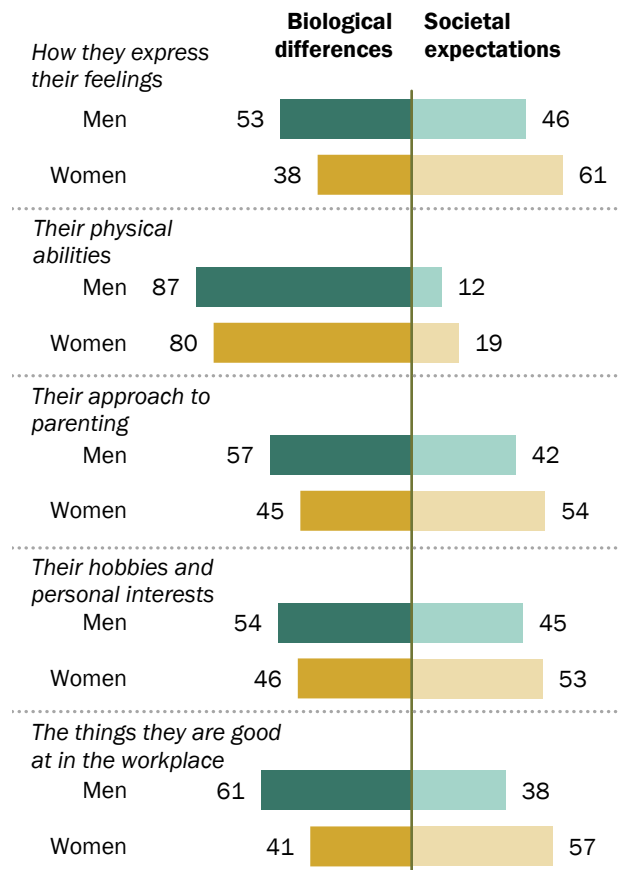
Differences by gender

On each of the items asked about, women are more likely than men to say differences between the two genders are mostly based on societal expectations. Men tend to point to biology as the reason.

Gaps are particularly wide when it comes to differences in how men and women express their feelings, their approach to parenting, and the things they are good at in the workplace. On these items, there is at least a 10-point gap in the shares of women and men who point to societal expectations versus biology as the basis for gender differences (among those who see differences).

Men tend to point to biology, women cite societal expectations as basis for gender differences

Among those who say men and women are **basically different** in each area, % saying these differences are mostly based on ...



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown. Full response option wording included "Biological differences between men and women" and "Different expectations society has for men and women."
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Differences by party

Partisan gaps are even wider. On all items we asked about, majorities of Republicans point to biology as the main driver of differences between men and women (among those who say there are differences).

In turn, on nearly every item, majorities of Democrats say differences between men and women are mostly based on the expectations society has for the two genders. The only exception is when it comes to differences in physical abilities. Most Democrats (79%) say this is mostly based on biological differences between men and women.

Differences by gender within each party

Across the five items in the survey, Republican men are more likely than Republican women to point to *biology* as the basis for differences between men and women.

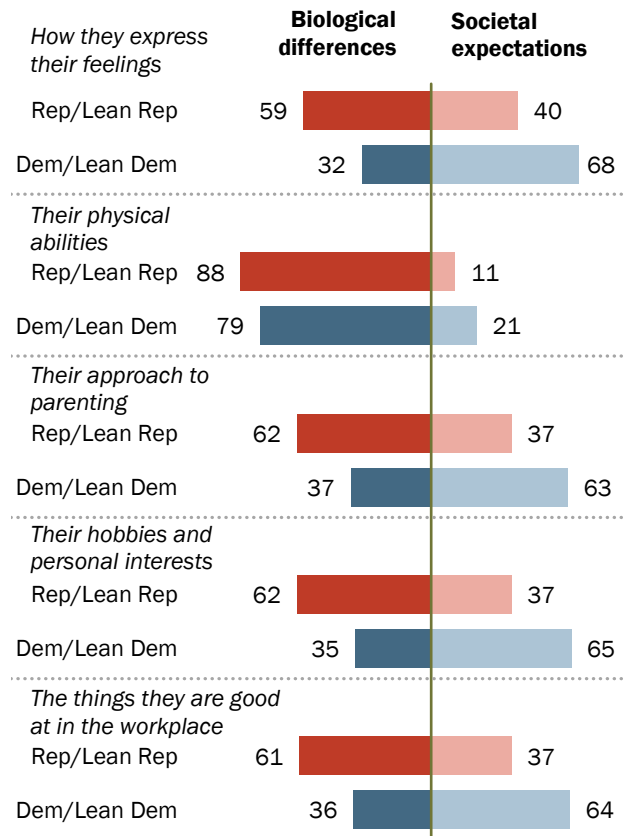
Still, on nearly every item, majorities of Republican women say these differences are mainly based on biology. When it comes to what drives differences in how men and women express their feelings, Republican women are about evenly divided: 51% point to biology and 48% point to societal expectations.

Among Democrats, women are more likely than men to say *societal expectations* are the basis the differences between the two genders.

Though for the most part, Democratic men are more likely to point to societal expectations than to biology as the reason for these differences.

Wide partisan gaps on whether gender differences are based on biology or societal expectations

Among those who say men and women are basically different in each area, % saying these differences are mostly based on ...



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown. Full response option wording included "Biological differences between men and women" and "Different expectations society has for men and women."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Are mothers or fathers better at handling certain parenting duties?

While Americans largely say that men and women are different in their approach to parenting, they also tend to see them as equally capable when it comes to certain parenting duties. Shares ranging from 66% to 81% say that, generally, in families with a mother and a father raising children together, both parents would be equally good at:

- Teaching moral values
- Helping children with their schoolwork
- Playing or doing activities with children
- Disciplining children

To the extent that people see a difference, more say the mother would do a better job **helping children with schoolwork** (20%) than say the father would be better at this (5%). In turn, more say the *father* would do a better job **disciplining children** (26%) than say this about the mother (8%).

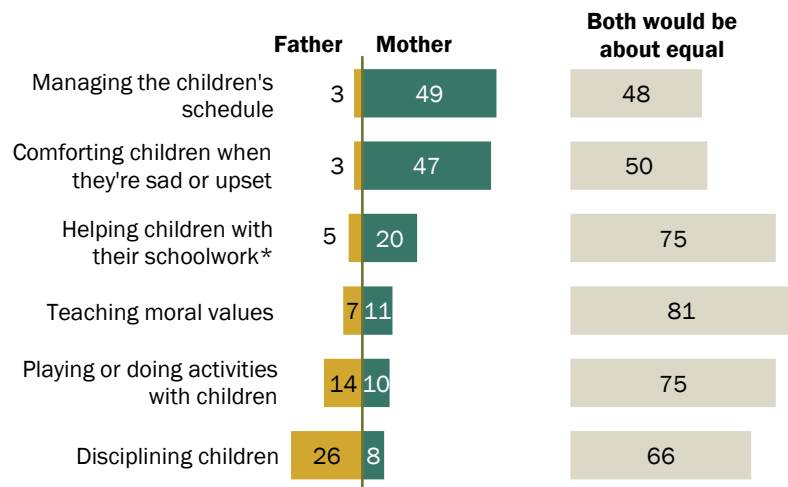
While there are some differences by gender and by party, majorities of men, women, Democrats and Republicans say mothers and fathers would be equally good at these aspects of parenting.

The public's views are more split when it comes to

comforting children when they're sad or upset and to **managing the children's schedules**. On these, similar shares say the *mother* would be better as say both parents would be equally good.

Most Americans say mothers and fathers are equally good at various parenting duties

% saying that, in general, in families with a mother and a father raising children together, the ____ would be better at ...



* Full item wording included "their homework and other school assignments."

Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Parents of children younger than 18 and those who don't have young children offer similar views on each of the aspects of parenting we asked about.

Differences by gender within each party

Differences in views by gender and by party on this question tend to be modest, but Republican men stand out on two items.

- **Comforting children:** 59% of Republican men say the *mother* would be better at this, compared with 50% of Republican women, 43% of Democratic women and 42% of Democratic men.
- **Disciplining children:** 43% of Republican men say the *father* would be better at this, compared with 24% of Republican women, 23% of and Democratic men and 16% of Democratic women.

6. How men and women rate their own masculinity and femininity

To understand how U.S. adults see their own masculinity and femininity, we asked men and women to rate themselves on two scales:

- A **masculinity scale** from 0 to 4, where 0 means *not at all masculine* and 4 means *extremely masculine*.
- A **femininity scale** from 0 to 4, where 0 means *not at all feminine* and 4 means *extremely feminine*.

We then subtracted ratings on the femininity scale from ratings on the masculinity scale to come up with an overall rating for each respondent. For example, if someone rated themselves a 4 on the masculinity scale and a 1 on the femininity scale, their overall rating would be 3. We created the following categories based on overall ratings:

- Highly masculine (4, 3)
- Lean masculine (2, 1)
- Neither masculine nor feminine *or* equally masculine and feminine (0)
- Lean feminine (-1, -2)
- Highly feminine (-3, -4)

How men and women rate themselves on a masculine-feminine scale

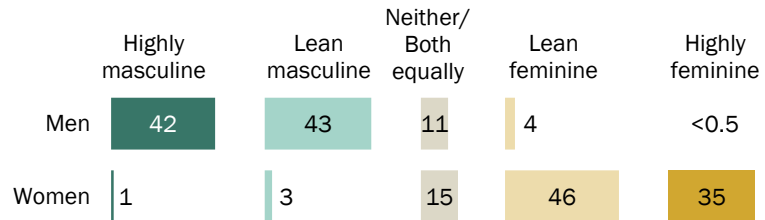
Overall, 42% of men rate themselves as *highly masculine*, while a similar share (43%) lean masculine. About one-in-ten men (11%) are neither masculine nor feminine or equally both, and 4% say they either lean feminine or are highly feminine.

Among women, 35% rate themselves as *highly feminine*. A higher share (46%) lean feminine, while 15% are neither feminine nor masculine, or both equally. And 4% of women say they either lean masculine or are highly masculine.

The number of people in the survey who do not identify as a man or a woman is too small to analyze separately.

Men are more likely to rate themselves as highly masculine than women are to see themselves as highly feminine

% rating themselves as ...



Note: All respondents were asked to rate themselves on two five-point scales ranging from “Not at all masculine/feminine” (0) to “Extremely masculine/feminine” (4). Femininity ratings were subtracted from masculinity ratings to create a single scale ranging from highly feminine to highly masculine. Shares who didn’t offer a rating on one or both scales are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

“How Americans See Men and Masculinity”

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Differences by race and ethnicity

Among men

About four-in-ten or more White (41%), Hispanic (47%) and Black (49%) men rate themselves as highly masculine. A smaller share of Asian men (24%) see themselves this way.

Among Asian men, 31% rate themselves in the middle or on the feminine side of the scale, as do 20% of Hispanic men and 18% of Black men. These shares are higher than the 10% of White men who rate themselves this way.

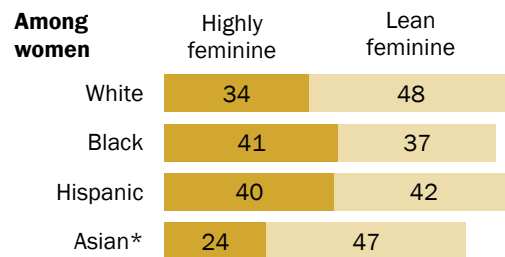
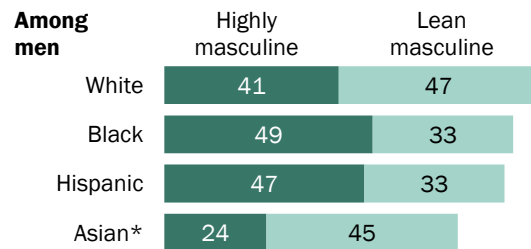
Among women

About four-in-ten Black (41%) and Hispanic (40%) women rate themselves as highly feminine. These are higher than the shares of White (34%) and Asian (24%) women who rate themselves this way.

About three-in-ten Asian women (29%) say they are either in the middle or on the masculine side of the scale, as do 21% of Black women and 17% each among Hispanic and White women.

Among men and women, ratings on the masculinity-femininity scale differ by race and ethnicity

% rating themselves as ...



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: All respondents were asked to rate themselves on two five-point scales ranging from "Not at all masculine/feminine" (0) to "Extremely masculine/feminine" (4). Femininity ratings were subtracted from masculinity ratings to create a single scale ranging from highly feminine to highly masculine. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.

"How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Differences by age

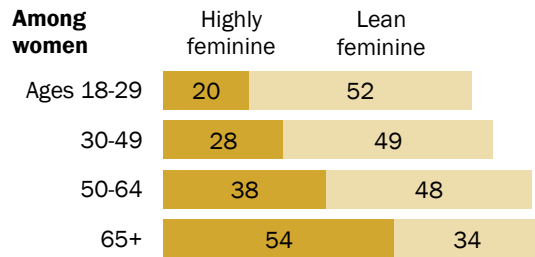
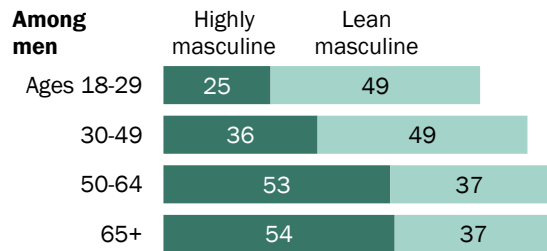
Men under 30 are less likely than older men to rate themselves as highly masculine. A quarter of young men see themselves this way, compared with 36% of men ages 30 to 49 and just over half of those 50 to 64 (53%) or 65 and older (54%).

Similarly, younger women are less likely than older women to rate themselves as highly feminine. But those ages 65 and older stand out as being far more likely than women in any other age group to see themselves this way. Some 54% of women in the oldest age group rate themselves as highly feminine, compared with 38% of those ages 50 to 64, 28% of those 30 to 49, and 20% of women under 30.

Among both men and women, age differences remain when looking separately at Democrats and Republicans.

Young men and women differ from their older counterparts in how they see their masculinity and femininity

% rating themselves as ...



Note: All respondents were asked to rate themselves on two five-point scales ranging from “Not at all masculine/feminine” (0) to “Extremely masculine/feminine” (4). Femininity ratings were subtracted from masculinity ratings to create a single scale ranging from highly feminine to highly masculine.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.
 “How Americans See Men and Masculinity”

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Differences by party and ideology

Republican and Republican-leaning men (53%) are far more likely than men who identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party (29%) to rate themselves as highly masculine.

Among women, 38% of Republicans see themselves as highly feminine, compared with 32% of Democrats.

Republican men who describe their political views as conservative are the most likely to rate themselves as highly masculine (60%). In turn, liberal Democratic men are the *least* likely to rate themselves this way (20%).

Among women, conservative Republicans also stand out. Some 44% of women in this group rate themselves as highly feminine, compared with 30% of moderate or liberal Republican women, 34% of moderate or conservative Democratic women, and 28% of liberal Democratic women.

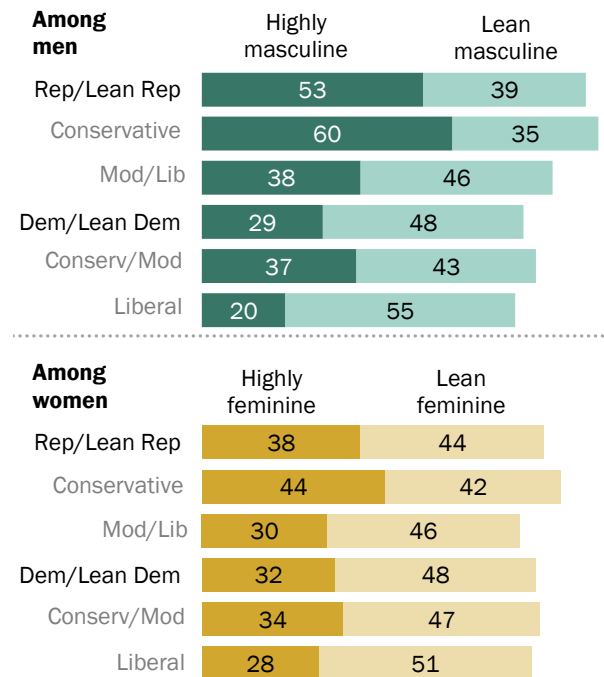
Among Democratic men, ratings differ considerably by race and ethnicity. Some 47% of Black Democratic men and 39% of Hispanic Democratic men rate themselves as highly masculine. These shares are much larger than the 22% of White Democratic men who rate themselves this way.

White (53%) and Hispanic (54%) Republican men are about equally likely to rate themselves as highly masculine.

(There aren't enough Asian Democratic or Republican men or Black Republican men in the sample to analyze separately.)

6 in 10 conservative Republican men see themselves as highly masculine

% rating themselves as ...



Note: All respondents were asked to rate themselves on two five-point scales ranging from "Not at all masculine/feminine" (0) to "Extremely masculine/feminine" (4). Femininity ratings were subtracted from masculinity ratings to create a single scale ranging from highly feminine to highly masculine.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Influences on views about what it means to be a man or a woman

We also asked men and women about factors that may have influenced their views of what it means to be a man or a woman, respectively.

In many ways, sources of influence don't vary much by gender. For example, most men (66%) say their father influenced their views about how to be a man a great deal or a fair amount. The same share of women say their mother influenced their views on being a woman.

Interestingly, men are more likely to say their mother had a lot of influence on their views about what it means to be a man (47%) than women are to say their father influenced their views about being a woman (32%).

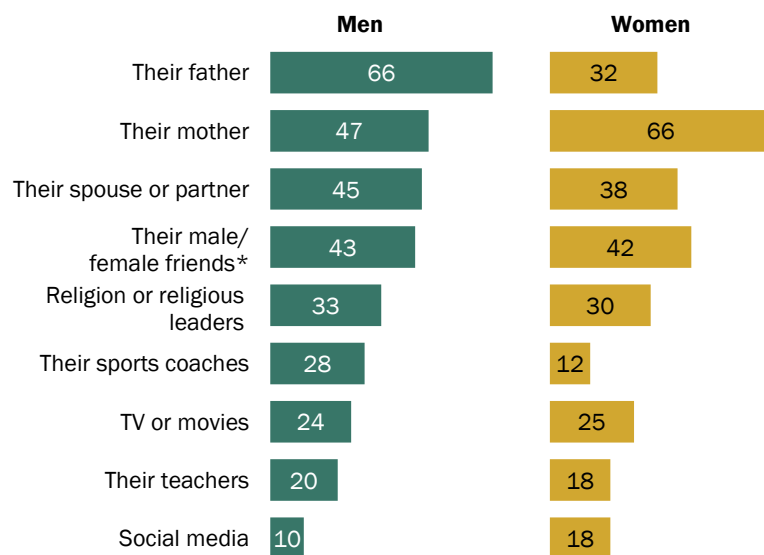
(The figures in this analysis exclude those who say the item does not apply to them.)

Beyond their parents, similar shares of men and women point to each of the following as having a great deal or a fair amount of influence on their views:

- Their friends of the same gender
- Religion or religious leaders
- Television or movies
- Their teachers

66% of men and women say their parent of the same gender has been highly influential in shaping their views about what it means to be a man or a woman

% of men and women saying each of the following influenced their views about what it means to be a man or a woman a great deal/fair amount



* Men were asked about male friends and women were asked about female friends.
 Note: Figures are based on those who didn't indicate the item doesn't apply to them. Men were asked about views of what it means to be a man, and women were asked about views of what it means to be a woman. Other response options included "Some," "Not much" and "Not at all."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024.
 "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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There are some differences, however. Men (28%) are more than twice as likely as women (12%) to say sports coaches have had a great deal or a fair amount of influence on their views.

In turn, women are more likely than men to point to social media as a source of influence. About two-in-ten women (18%) say social media has had at least a fair amount of influence on their views of what it means to be a woman. One-in-ten men say social media has influenced their views on being a man.

Men and women ages 18 to 29 are more likely than their older counterparts to say social media and TV or movies have influenced their views a great deal or a fair amount. But the share saying this is much higher among young women than among young men.

Among adults under 30, about four-in-ten women say social media (42%) and TV or movies (42%) have had at least a fair amount of influence. A third of young men say the same about TV or movies, while 18% say social media has had at least a fair amount of impact.

Differences among men

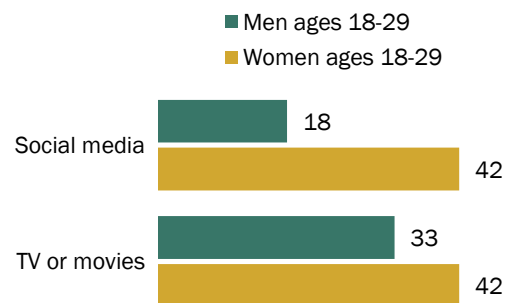
For the most part, the shares of men across demographic and partisan groups that say each of the items has had a great deal or a fair amount of influence on their views about what it means to be a man vary little if at all. But there are some notable differences.

Republican and Republican-leaning men are more likely than Democratic and Democratic leaners to say *their father* (72% vs. 58%) and *religion or religious leaders* (40% vs. 23%) have had at least a fair amount of influence on their views of what it means to be a man.

Some 44% of Black men say *religion or religious leaders* have influenced their views about being a man. This is larger than the shares of Hispanic (32%), White (31%) or Asian (24%) men who say the same.

About 4 in 10 young women say social media, TV or movies have influenced their views about being a woman

% of men and women saying each of the following influenced their views about what it means to be a man or a woman **a great deal/fair amount**



Note: Figures are based on those who didn't indicate the item doesn't apply to them. Men were asked about influences on their views about what it means to be a man and women were asked about influences on their views about what it means to be a woman. Other response options included "Some," "Not much" and "Not at all."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3-15, 2024. "How Americans See Men and Masculinity"

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Men under 30 (18%) are much more likely than men ages 30 to 49 (9%), 50 to 64 (8%) and 65 and older (5%) to say *social media* has had at least a fair amount of influence. And 33% of young men say the same about *TV or movies*, compared with smaller shares of those ages 30 to 49 (26%), 50 to 64 (19%) and 65 and older (18%).

Differences among women

As is the case among men, there is little variation, if any, in the shares of women who report each of the items has been highly influential. But there are some differences across partisan and demographic groups.

Republican women (35%) are more likely than Democratic women (25%) to point to *religion or religious leaders* as a highly influential factor in their views about what it means to be woman. And Black women (41%) are more likely to say this than Hispanic (31%), Asian (31%) or White (27%).

Additionally, a larger share of Black women (72%) than White (66%) or Hispanic (59%) women say *their mother* had at least a fair amount of influence in their views on being a woman. In fact, roughly half of Black women (49%) say their mother had *a great deal* of influence, compared with 37% of White women, 38% of Hispanic women and 32% of Asian women.

Women under 30 are more likely than women in older groups to say each of the following has influenced their views at least a fair amount:

- **Their female friends:** 51% of women ages 18 to 29, 42% of those 30 to 49, 38% of those 50 to 64, and 39% of those 65 and older.
- **TV or movies:** 42% of women ages 18 to 29, 27% of those 30 to 49, 21% of those 50 to 64, and 13% of those 65 and older.
- **Social media:** 42% of women ages 18 to 29, 17% of those 30 to 49, 8% of those 50 to 64, and 6% of those 65 and older.

Acknowledgments

Pew Research Center received invaluable advice in developing the study from Christine Emba, staff writer at The Atlantic; Richard Reeves, president, Alanna Williams, associate director, and Ben Smith, research associate at the American Institute for Boys and Men; and Andrew Smiler, licensed therapist and past president of the Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinities.

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals. Find related reports online at [pewresearch.org/topic/gender-lgbtq](https://www.pewresearch.org/topic/gender-lgbtq).

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

Data in this report comes from Wave 154 of the American Trends Panel (ATP), Pew Research Center’s nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. The survey was conducted from Sept. 3 to 15, 2024. A total of 6,204 panelists responded out of 8,216 who were sampled, for a survey-level response rate of 76%. This includes 5,202 respondents from the ATP and an additional 1,002 from the SSRS Opinion Panel.

The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 2%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 2%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 6,204 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

The survey includes an [oversample](#) of Hispanic adults, non-Hispanic Black adults and non-Hispanic Asian adults in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of these smaller demographic subgroups. These oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population.

SSRS conducted the survey for Pew Research Center via online (n=5,974) and live telephone (n=230) interviewing. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the ATP, read “[About the American Trends Panel](#).”

Panel recruitment

Since 2018, the ATP has used address-based sampling (ABS) for recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Computerized Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover 90% to 98% of the population.² Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is selected to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.³ Prior to 2018, the ATP was recruited using landline and cellphone random-digit dial surveys administered in English and Spanish.

² AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. “[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#).”

³ Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

A national sample of U.S. adults has been recruited to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”) to improve the accuracy of data for underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the United States. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which Hispanic adults, non-Hispanic Black adults and non-Hispanic Asian adults were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

The ATP was supplemented with an oversample of self-identified non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic panelists from SSRS’s Opinion Panel.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with SSRS. The web program used for online respondents was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the SSRS project team and Pew Research Center researchers. The SSRS project team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or gift code to Amazon.com, Target.com or Walmart.com. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 for ATP respondents, and \$5 to \$10 for SSRS Opinion Panel respondents, depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Sept. 3 to Sept. 15, 2024. Surveys were conducted via self-administered web survey or by live telephone interviewing.

For panelists who take surveys online:⁴ Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset of ATP panelists on Sept. 3.⁵ Survey invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch for ATP, which began with an initial invitation sent on Sept. 3. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled online panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Sept. 4. For the SSRS Opinion Panel, 112 panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on Sept. 4. All remaining SSRS panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Sept. 5.

Panelists participating online were sent an email invitation and up to four email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages were sent an SMS invitation with a link to the survey and up to four SMS reminders.

For panelists who take surveys over the phone with a live interviewer: Prenotification postcards were mailed on Aug. 28, and reminder postcards were mailed on Sept. 3. Soft launch took place on Sept. 3 and involved dialing until a total of three interviews had been completed. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled phone panelists' numbers were dialed throughout the remaining field period. Panelists who take surveys via phone can receive up to six calls from trained SSRS interviewers.

Invitation and reminder dates for web respondents, ATP Wave 154

	ATP		SSRS OP	
	Soft launch	Full Launch	Soft launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	Sept. 3, 2024	Sept. 4, 2024	Sept. 4, 2024	Sept. 5, 2024
First reminder	Sept. 7, 2024	Sept. 7, 2024	Sept. 7, 2024	Sept. 7, 2024
Second reminder	Sept. 10, 2024	Sept. 10, 2024	Sept. 10, 2024	Sept. 10, 2024
Third reminder	Sept. 12, 2024	Sept. 12, 2024	Sept. 12, 2024	Sept. 12, 2024
Final reminder	Sept. 14, 2024	Sept. 14, 2024	Sept. 14, 2024	Sept. 14, 2024

Note: For ATP, reminders 3 and 4 were sent to Black men only. For SSRS OP, reminders 2, 3 and 4 were sent to men only.

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⁴ The ATP does not use routers or chains in any part of its online data collection protocol, nor are they used to direct respondents to additional surveys.

⁵ Postcard notifications for web panelists are sent to 1) panelists who were recruited within the last two years and 2) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, Center researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, two ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

This survey is weighted in a process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the panel survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of recruitment into the panel. For ATP panelists, these weights are then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys, panel attrition, and differential probabilities of selection for this specific survey. Base weights for Opinion Panel respondents were provided by SSRS.

The weights for respondents from each sample were then rescaled and combined to account for the inclusion of multiple samples and their designs. The combined weight was then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2022 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Race/Ethnicity x Gender	
Black (alone or in combination) x Hispanic	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	2021 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2020 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Frequency of internet use	2024 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	
Party affiliation among registered voters	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 154

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	6,204	1.5 percentage points
Men	2,710	2.3 percentage points
Women	3,446	2.1 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	2,515	2.3 percentage points
Dem/Lean Rep	3,531	2.1 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black, and non-Hispanic Asian respondents. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 154

	AAPOR code	ATP	SSRS OP	TOTAL
Completed interview	1.1	5,202	1,002	6,204
Logged in (web) / Contacted (CATI), but did not complete any items	2.11	92	199	291
Started survey; broke off before completion	2.12	69	82	151
Never logged on (web) / Never reached on phone (CATI)	2.20	322	1,246	1,568
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0	0	0
Other noninterview	2.30	0	0	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.90	2	0	2
Total panelists sampled for the survey		5,687	2,529	8,216
Completed interviews	I	5,202	1,002	6,204
Partial interviews	P	0	0	0
Refusals	R	161	281	442
Noncontact	NC	322	1,246	1,568
Other	O	2	0	2
Unknown household	UH	0	0	0
Unknown other	UO	0	0	0
Not eligible	NE	0	0	0
Total		5,687	2,529	8,216
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		91%	40%	76%

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Cumulative response rate, ATP Wave 154

	ATP	SSRS OP	TOTAL
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%	5%	9%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%	59%	69%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 154	35%	72%	46%
Response rate to Wave 154 survey	91%	40%	76%
Cumulative response rate	3%	1%	2%

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A note about the Asian adult sample

This survey includes a total sample size of 554 Asian adults. The sample primarily includes English-speaking Asian adults and, therefore, may not be representative of the overall Asian adult population. Despite this limitation, it is important to report the views of Asian adults on the topics in this study. As always, Asian adults' responses are incorporated into the general population figures throughout this report.

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