

Sex Differences

The following is a collection of sex differences reported by Janet Shibley Hyde (2005) in a review of papers that conducted a *meta-analysis*. I am only showing psychological sex difference with a median *effect size* of at least 2.5% (r^2).

Reasoning

Adolescent boys are better at mechanical reasoning (12.6%) and mental rotation (9.4%). Adolescent girls are better at spelling (4.8%) and language arts (3.8%), whereas boys are better at science (2.5%) and computers (3.3%).

Aggression

Adolescent and adult men are more assertive (6.1%) and aggressive (3.6%). They are more aggressive verbally (2.8%) and especially physically (7.1%), whereas women are more likely to use indirect aggression (2.9%).

Social Relationships

Adolescent and adult women are more trusting (3.0%), agreeable and tender (17.2%). Women are more likely to smile (3.8%), especially in social situations (5.0%). Though they are also more neurotic and anxious (2.5%). Women are better at speaking (2.7%) and recognizing the emotions of others (3.0%). Men are more likely to interrupt during a conversation (2.7%). At least when others are around, men are more likely to help others in distress (12.0%).

Sexuality

Body image is a greater concern for women in forming their self-esteem (7.8%). Men are more likely to masturbate (18.7%). Casual sex is more appealing to men than women (14.1%).

There are 28 notable (effect size of $r^2 \geq 2.5\%$) psychological sex differences found repeatedly. The biggest psychological sex differences are in masturbation (18.7%), agreeableness (17.2%), casual sex (14.1%) and mechanical reasoning (12.6%). Yet even the notable, replicable, psychological sex differences reveal sex accounts for only about 7% of who we are. Differences within sexes are far greater than differences between sexes.