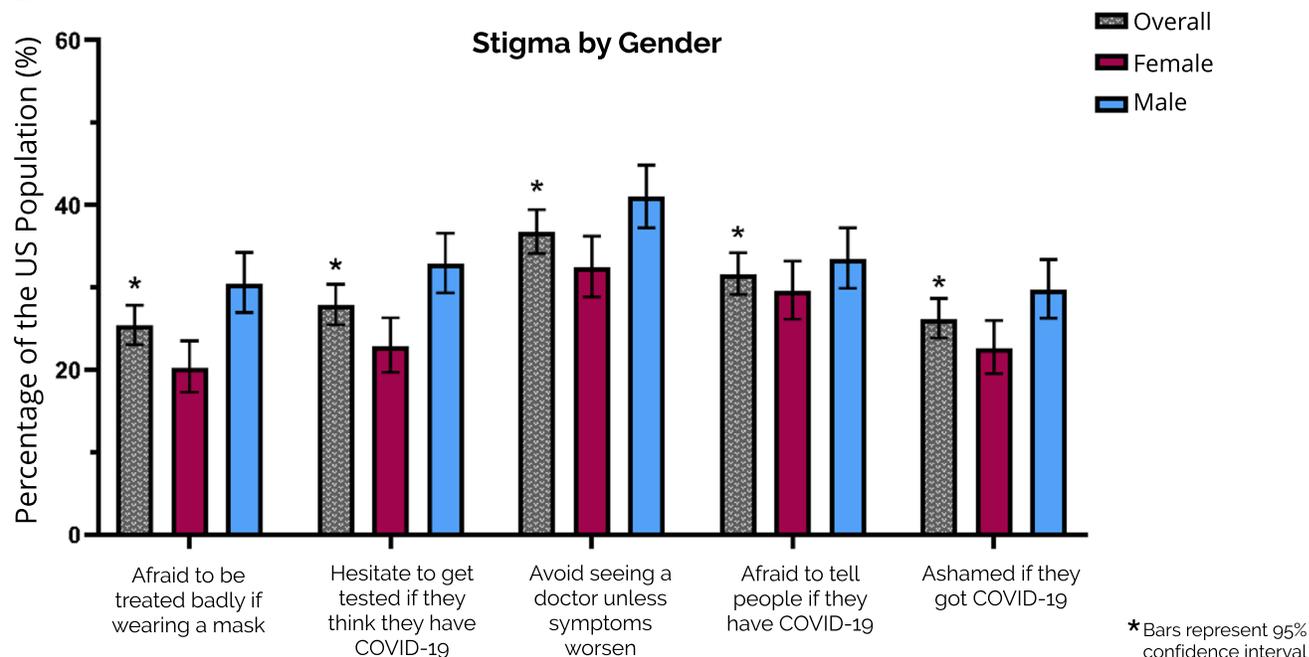


Men are More Likely to Feel Ashamed and Hesitate to Seek Care for COVID-19

Researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that compared to women, men reported higher levels of perceived shame and stigma as well as more hesitation to seek medical care and testing for COVID-19. These findings show that the following percentage of the US population strongly agree or agree with the following statements.



WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?

It is imperative to recognize the **high levels of perceived stigma and shame** associated with COVID-19 among the US population. While public health and social measures for controlling the COVID-19 pandemic are often implemented uniformly across all members of society, this data highlights the **urgent need for more nuanced intervention approaches to more precisely target individuals based on their gender.**

This is particularly relevant given half the US population is male, and men are at higher risk for severe disease and death from COVID-19.¹ Our findings underscore the need to address gender differences in adherence to effective prevention measures to protect population health.

We suggest closely monitoring stigma and shame associated with COVID-19 as the pandemic in the US evolves and these disparities may have important implications for targeting socio-behavioral interventions and communication to contain the spread of COVID-19. There were no substantial differences in perceived stigma and shame by race and ethnicity group.

About the National Pandemic Pulse

This study, conducted between September 1-7, 2020, aims to describe racial and sociodemographic differences in risk perception of exposures and activities, access to information, support and care, and associated stigma and shame during the COVID-19 pandemic in 1,592 overall respondents nationwide. The sample size range for these outcomes was 1,507 to 1,540. Results are currently under peer-review.

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For more information visit <https://www.covidinequities.org>

1. Peckham H, Gruijter NM de, Raine C, Radziszewska A, Clurkin C, Wedderburn LR, Rosser EC, Webb K, Deakin CT. Male sex identified by global COVID-19 meta-analysis as a risk factor for death and ICU admission. Nature Communications. 2020;11(1):6317. doi:10.1038/s41467-020-19741-6