

Infographic: Why are women less likely to die from coronavirus?

[Gender-specific observations and implications for COVID-19](#) paired with global reported cases indicate men are 50% to 80% more likely to die of Covid-19 (following a diagnosis) than women. Are men more susceptible to an increased severity of infection or are women more immune? [New study](#) addresses the disparity.

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Women – [Research](#) states that in general there exists gender based differences in the way the human body fights off infections. For instance, X chromosome carries the largest number of immune-related genes in the [human genome](#) contributing to female's superior immune response. It however also puts women more at risk for autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease. Additionally [hormones influence the immune system and response](#), and estrogen in the case of women, help provide a more effective defense.

Men- On the other hand testosterone hormones lower immune response making men [more vulnerable](#) with increased mortality from viral respiratory illnesses.

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In countries like Iran, China, Italy, and South Korea where fewer females have contracted the virus, the female smoking rates are much lower than males. [A recent COVID-19 study on 20th March](#) mention that "Smokers contract more respiratory ailments, including colds (commonly rhinoviruses, but also coronaviruses) than non-smokers."

screenshot at type unknown

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