

Genetic and hormonal factors may explain why COVID deaths are more common among men

[Data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that in the United States, women account for 45.6 percent of Covid-19 deaths so far and men account for 54.4 percent. (Men make up slightly less than half the U.S. population.) Among Americans ages 65 to 84 — the group at highest risk for severe Covid-19 — the gap is even larger: 57.9 percent of deaths have occurred among men and 42.1 percent among women.

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Yale University researchers [noted](#) that there are well-established differences in immune responses to infections between men and women.... Men with Covid-19 had [higher](#) blood levels of inflammatory proteins that regulate immune responses, for example. This could lead to an overexuberant immune response to the coronavirus.

Other researchers [argue](#) that [hormonal factors](#) might be at play. Testosterone may tamp down men's immune response, while estrogen may play a role in women's tendency to have more immune B cells, which produce antibodies. Estrogen may inhibit the kind of immune cells that are thought to play a role in myocarditis. Still, the reasons men seem to fare worse remain mostly a mystery. Much more research is needed to understand it, and there are most likely several factors at play.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.**](#)