

The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

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HOW WOMEN AND MEN ARE DIFFERENT: (No Snickering) WOMEN MORE EMOTIONAL; MEN MORE AGGRESSIVE

Take the Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll Gender (no, not Sex) Quiz.

Does each of the following descriptions apply more to women, more to men, or is there no difference?

The Gender Quiz: Check one box---->	Women	Men	No Diff.
Who is:			
More aware of what is going on around them			
More manipulative			
More compassionate			
More willing to take risks			
More logical or rational			
Has better 'people skills'			
More aggressive			
More intelligent			
More ethical or moral			
More capable managers			
More decisive			
Better at listening			
More emotional			
More stubborn			
Better able to do more things at one time			
More-self-centered			

Why ask? Well, in a survey conducted in March of 2000 we found that almost everyone in New Jersey (90%) believes "men and women have fundamentally different natures." We wanted to find out more about this. In what ways did people see women and men as different? Was this something that men and women would be in agreement about? How did men view

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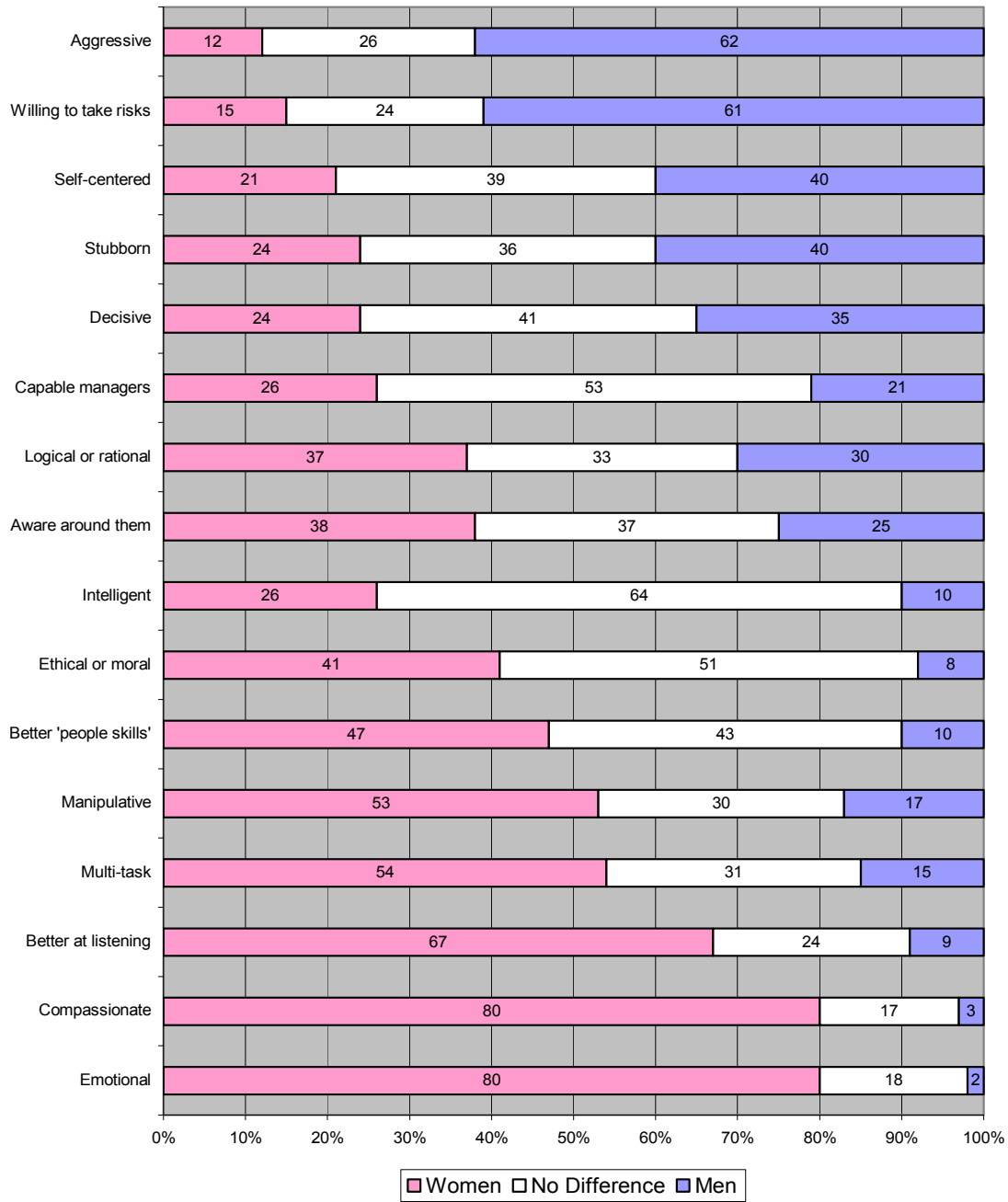
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women, and women view men? How did each view his/her own sex? We took a look at this in our last survey, putting these 16 questions to a statewide sample of 1,002 men and women (501 of each) interviewed between April 24 and May 4.

Gender Differences in Traits



Of Women--Sugar & Spice?

What are women like? Well, they're more emotional and more compassionate than men. Just about everyone thinks that's so—80 percent of both women and men; just two percent give men an advantage on these traits, and just 18 percent think there is no difference between the sexes.

Women are also viewed as better listeners (67 percent) and better able to do more things at once (54 percent) than men (9 and 15 percent, respectively). And these are traits that far more women feel they have than do men. For example, 79 percent of women feel they are “better at listening,” compared to 56 percent of men. And, more than twice as many women than men (74% to 35%) feel that women are better able to multi-task.

However, half of the New Jersey public also believes that women are more manipulative. The remaining half is split between those who feel men are more manipulative (16%) and those who feel there is no difference between the sexes (31%) on this quality. Far more men than women (63 to 43%) give women the nod as manipulative.

Finally, there are two qualities that women have a distinct edge on, even though not quite a majority cede their superiority: 47 percent say women have “better people skills,” and 41 percent say they are “more ethical or moral.” Just one-in-ten give men a preference in either of these ways, with most of the remainder saying there is no difference. Far more women (56%) than men (38%) say females have better people skills.

Of Men--NASCAR?

Seems men are willing to claim the descriptors of being aggressive and willing to take risks, and on that women are in complete agreement. Sixty-five percent of men and 60 percent of women find men to have a more aggressive nature; 69 percent of men and 53 percent of women believe men are more willing to take risks than are women.

Statewide, twice as many describe men as “self-centered” and “stubborn” than ascribe these traits to women. About four-in-ten feel each of these better describes men, two-in-ten women, and the remaining four-in-ten feel there is little difference between men and women on these traits. There are, however, clear differences in how men and women feel on these matters. Men for the most part are split—about one-third feels these negative adjectives better apply to them, one-third to the other sex, and the remaining third that there is no difference. In contrast, a majority of women call men self-centered (51%), and 46% believe they are more stubborn.

Of Androgyny

The remaining five traits asked about are the clear property of neither gender: decisiveness, logicity, intelligence, capability and awareness. Here's a note on each:

Decisive: A slight nod to the men. Overall 35 percent say men are more decisive than women, 24 percent feel it's the other way around, and 41 percent say there is no difference. Not much in the way of gender differences in responses.

Logical or Rational: Overall a wash. But it depends very much on whom one is talking to. Men give themselves a 39 to 28 percent advantage on this score, with the remaining third saying there is no difference. Women, however, believe *they* are more logical and rational, by a larger margin of 45 to 22 percent, also with a third saying there is no difference.

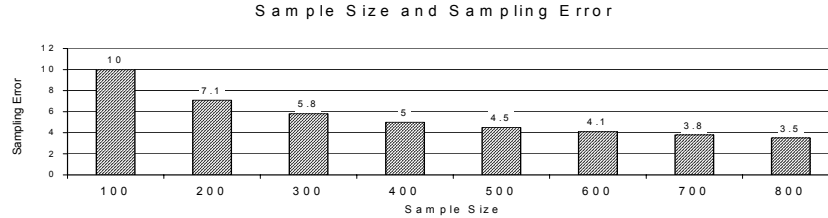
Intelligence: Most say there is no difference. This response is given by over six-in-ten of both women and men. But of the remainder, whoa! Women believe their sex to have superior intelligence over men by a margin of 34 to 4 percent. In contrast, equal numbers of men say women (18%) as say men (16%) are more intelligent.

Capable Managers: The overall split is neutral—26 percent women, 21 percent men, the rest not choosing. However, women choose women over men by 33 to 16 percent; men choose men over women by a lesser 26 to 18 percent margin.

More Aware of what is going on around them: Again a situation where members of each sex give their own gender an advantage, but far more pronounced among women. Female respondents had little doubt as to the correct answer to this: women, 50 percent; men 14 percent. Males tilted to their own kind by a much narrower spread of 36 to 25 percent.

BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE (EP143-5) May 23, 2003

The latest *Star-Ledger*/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll was conducted by telephone from April 24 to May 4 with a scientifically selected random sample of 501 New Jersey adults. All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for 501 is ± 4.5 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey residents were found to be less likely to agree with a statement, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 45.5 and 54.5 percent (50 ± 4.5) had all New Jersey residents been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported for residents of North, Central and South Jersey, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. The following chart shows the relationship between sample size and sampling error.



Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects. The verbatim wording of all questions asked is reproduced in this background memo. The sample has been stratified based on county and the data have been weighted on age and education to insure an accurate proportional representation of the state. The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

“In a survey like this one that we did a couple of years ago, most people told us they thought that women and men have different natures. We want to find out more. I’m going to read you some words or descriptions. For each one, just tell me if you think it applies more to women, more to men, or if there’s no difference. First (READ ITEM) - does this better describe women, men, or is there no difference?” [GD]

May 2003	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
More aware of what is going on around them	38%	25%	36%	1%	100%	(501)
<u>Gender</u>						
--Men	25	36	37	2	100	(234)
--Women	50	14	35	1	100	(267)
More manipulative	53%	16%	30%	1%	100%	(501)
<u>Gender</u>						
--Men	63	9	27	2	101	(234)
--Women	43	22	33	1	99	(267)
More compassionate	80%	3%	17%	--	100%	(501)
<u>Gender</u>						
--Men	79	4	17	--	100	(234)
--Women	81	2	16	1	100	(267)
More willing to take risks	15%	61%	23%	1%	100%	(501)
<u>Gender</u>						
--Men	8	69	23	--	100	(234)
--Women	23	53	22	2	100	(267)

May 2003	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
More logical or rational	37%	30%	32%	1%	100%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	28	39	33	--	100	(234)
--Women	45	22	32	1	100	(267)
Has better "people" skills	47%	10%	40%	3%	100%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	38	15	44	3	100	(234)
--Women	56	5	35	3	99	(267)
More aggressive	12%	62%	25%	1%	100%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	14	65	21	--	100	(234)
--Women	11	60	28	2	101	(267)
More intelligent	26%	10%	62%	2%	100%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	18	16	63	4	101	(234)
--Women	34	4	60	2	100	(267)
More ethical or moral	41%	8%	49%	2%	100%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	39	12	48	1	100	(248)
--Women	42	4	51	3	100	(253)
More capable managers	26%	21%	53%	1%	100%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	18	26	55	--	99	(248)
--Women	33	16	50	1	100	(253)
More decisive	24%	35%	39%	2%	100%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	21	35	43	1	100	(248)
--Women	26	34	35	5	100	(253)
Better at listening	67%	9%	22%	1%	99%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	56	14	29	--	99	(248)
--Women	79	5	15	1	100	(253)
More emotional	80%	2%	18%	--	100%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	79	2	19	--	100	(248)
--Women	81	2	16	--	99	(253)
More stubborn	24%	40%	36%	1%	101%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	30	34	35	2	101	(248)
--Women	17	46	36	--	99	(253)

May 2003	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Better able to do more things at one time	54%	15%	30%	1%	100%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	35	24	40	1	100	(248)
--Women	74	5	21	--	100	(253)
More self-centered	21%	40%	38%	--	99%	(501)
<i><u>Gender</u></i>						
--Men	28	30	42	--	100	(248)
--Women	14	51	34	--	99	(253)