

Social Justice Watch 0128

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[A record number of women are serving in the 117th Congress](#)

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Laura

@LauraLikesWine

...

How about instead of me explaining
why I don't find rape jokes funny, you
explain why you DO find them funny.

Go ahead, I'll wait.

<https://www.facebook.com/WOMENSRIGHTSNEWS/photos/a.2045420629215/>



The Loud Protestor
@LoudProtestor

BLM isn't anti white.
Feminism isn't anti men.
LGBT isn't anti straight.
It's about equality.

<https://www.facebook.com/100169151995752/photos/a.100490018630332/111426490520832/>

#shethepeople



Anantika Mehra

@AnantikaMehra

Definitely allowing my husband
to work after marriage. I'm such a
progressive woman 

What we say:

Wow your husband allows you to work after marriage such a progressive person

What we forget :

Husband has no authority to give permission for anything because authority to dictate women is not equality. It is our life and we can do anything we want to do. Husband is not a class teacher who will give permission for going to bathroom and then we will go. I mean just imagine saying may I go to work dear husband ??

<https://www.facebook.com/115998856437195/photos/a.116037606433320/4597/>



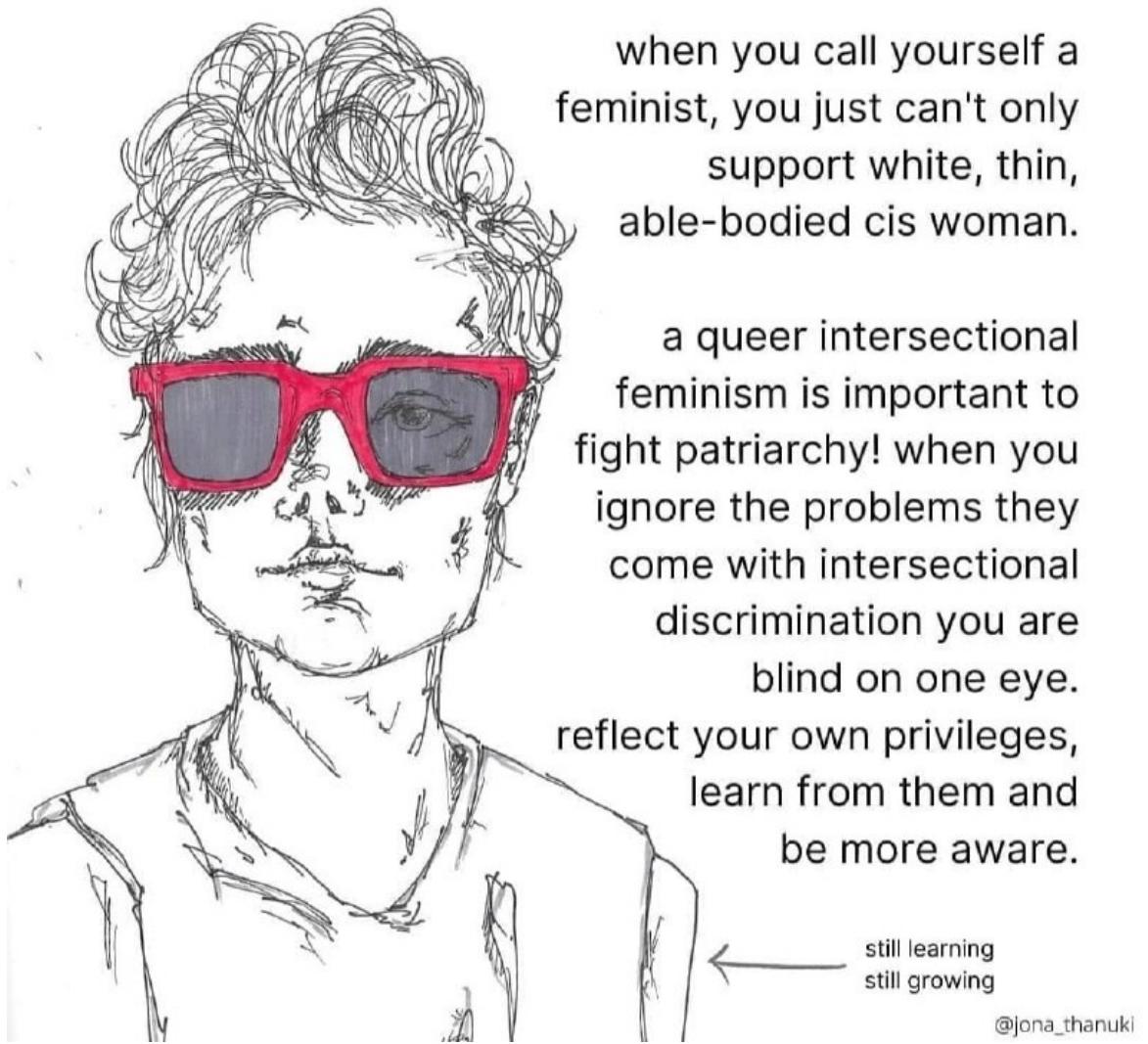
thorsbian

Not to be a downer but if i had to, at 12 years old, listen to my mother tell me all the different ways men would want to hurt my body, and how i might prevent that, then i really feel like teenage boys can handle a conversation with their parents that starts “let's talk about consent”

<https://www.facebook.com/WOMENSRIGHTSNEWS/photos/a.2045420629215/>

**Opposing student loan
forgiveness because
you paid off yours is like
not feeding the hungry
because you already
ate.**

[https://www.facebook.com/photo?
fbid=10158483010665783&set=a.10151180477090783](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10158483010665783&set=a.10151180477090783)



when you call yourself a feminist, you just can't only support white, thin, able-bodied cis woman.

a queer intersectional feminism is important to fight patriarchy! when you ignore the problems they come with intersectional discrimination you are blind on one eye.
reflect your own privileges, learn from them and be more aware.

still learning
still growing

@jona_thanuki

<https://www.facebook.com/transarmy/photos/a.101087104719810/250365173125>



Dan Price 
@DanPriceSeattle

...

Many people use my story (voluntarily cutting my CEO pay to give all workers \$70k+) as evidence capitalism works.
"He did it on his own"

No! It proves it doesn't work. It's been 6 years & not one big company followed suit. Corporations will never voluntarily do the right thing.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheOther98/photos/a.115969958413991/5833814513>

Forever wondering if I'm truly far left or if I'm just an empathetic person living in a late capitalist hellscape where I get called a commie for saying, “Hey maybe poor people don't deserve to starve”

@TheRealRynnstar



<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10223518439527387&set=a.1195155717316>







INDIA NEEDS #FEMINISM
BECAUSE

"BOYS WILL BE BOYS"

IS A @girl_incognito24
CRIMINAL RESPONSE TO RAPE



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/globalfeministperspectives/permalink/268821>



Elizabeth M.
 @_ElizabethMay

▼

All I did was ask women to tell me about their terrifying experiences of rejecting men.

In response, men have sent threatening messages, responded to months old tweets, dismissed 2k+ comments from women, derailed, trolled, insulted.

How do you not see you're proving the point?

<https://www.facebook.com/WOMENSRIGHTSNEWS/photos/a.2045420629215/>



<https://www.facebook.com/WOMENSRIGHTSNEWS/photos/a.7951578338599/>



**“If you are silent
about your pain,
they’ll kill you and
say you enjoyed it.”**

-Zora Neale Hurston

<https://www.facebook.com/WorldWideWomenAll/photos/a.337175296300130/7>



sweetperfectionnnn

➡ dealbo

whimps:

kngslyr:

The reason a fetus has more rights than a woman in America is because a fetus still has a chance of being a man.

Powerful as fuck

60,111 notes



<https://www.instagram.com/p/CJob7aMnX5H/>

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telegra.ph/Stop-Pretending-Trap-has-Nothing-to-Do-with-Trans-Women-01-22 |
[source](#)

Telegraph

Stop Pretending ‘Trap’ has Nothing to Do with Trans Women
CW: Liberal use of uncensored slurs, mentions and discussion of transmisogynistic violence and murder If you’re a trans woman, trans femme or just a femme presenting trans or non-binary person who happens to pass very well for cis, chances are you’ve been...

telegra.ph/A-record-number-of-women-are-serving-in-the-117th-Congress-01-22

Telegraph

A record number of women are serving in the 117th Congress
Women make up just over a quarter of all members of the 117th Congress – the highest percentage in U.S. history and a considerable increase from where things stood even a decade ago. Counting both the House of Representatives and the Senate, 144 of 539 seats...

telegra.ph/For-American-couples-gender-gaps-in-sharing-household-responsibilities-persist-amid-pandemic-01-27

Telegraph

For American couples, gender gaps in sharing household responsibilities persist amid pandemic
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed nearly every aspect of American life, including how people work, get an education, connect with their family and friend networks and fill their social calendars. Despite quarantine orders that forced many people to stay home...

[URGENT] JoeBiden halted all deportations but ICEgov is trying to deport Mariana right now. After more than 21 months in ICE custody, separated from her babies & with an asylum appeal pending. The cruelty is endless. We are fighting for her. Share her story.

[#FreeMariana link source](#)

Twitter

Ayanna Pressley

!! We need to mobilize NOW. Mariana, a mom and asylum seeker is in @ICEgov custody. Last night she lost consciousness. She had a serious medical condition and despite Drs recommending her immediate release, ICE isn't listening -putting her life in immediate...

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A record number of women are serving in the 117th Congress

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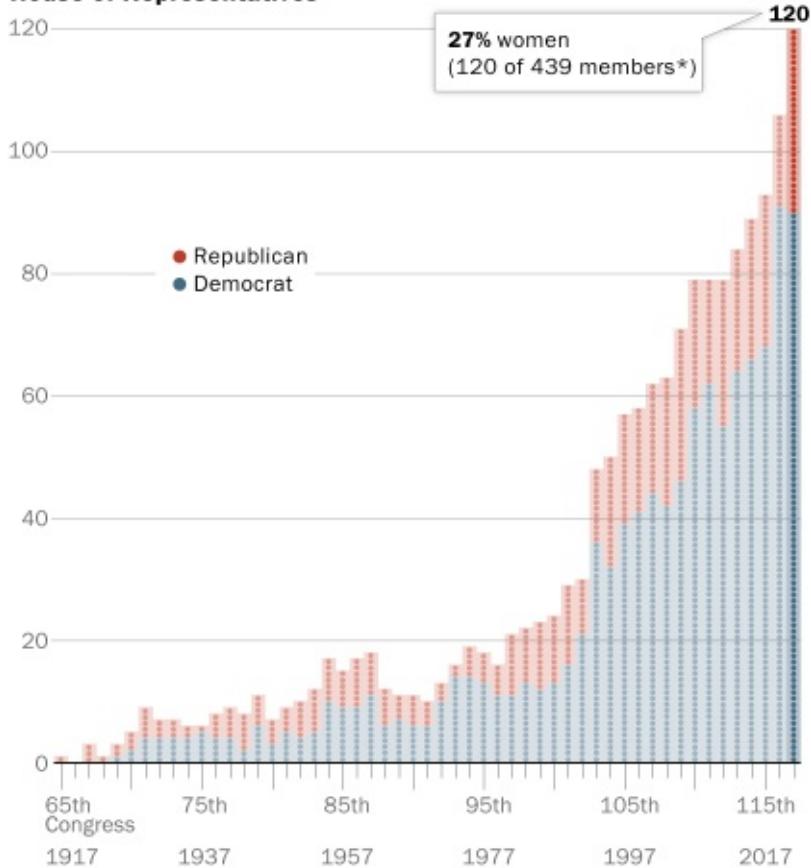
Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives are sworn in by Speaker Nancy Pelosi during the first session of the 117th Congress on Jan. 3, 2021. (Erin Scott/POOL/AFP via Getty Images)

Women make up just over a quarter of all members of the 117th Congress – the highest percentage in U.S. history and a considerable increase from where things stood even a decade ago.

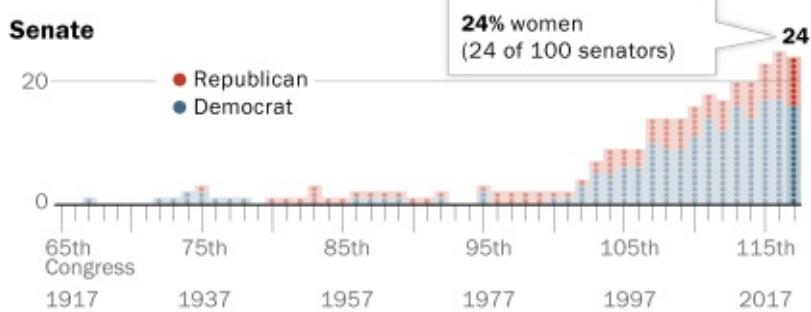
Women make up more than a quarter of the 117th U.S. Congress' membership

Women members of Congress, by party

House of Representatives



Senate



*Analysis based on House members sworn in as of Jan. 15, 2021.

Sources: Biographical Directory of the United States Congress; U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Historian; Women in the United States Congress, 1917-2014 (Congressional Research Service); CQ Roll Call; Associated Press.

Counting both the House of Representatives and the Senate, 144 of 539 seats – or 27% – are held by women. That represents a 50% increase from the 96 women who were serving in the 112th Congress a decade ago, though it remains far below the female share of the overall U.S. population. A record 120 women are serving in the newly elected House, accounting for 27% of the total. In the Senate, women hold 24 of 100 seats, one fewer than the record number of seats they held in the last Congress.

This analysis counts voting as well as nonvoting members of Congress. Figures for the 117th Congress exclude two House seats that were vacant as of early January. It also excludes Sens. Kamala Harris, who is expected to resign her seat ahead of her inauguration as vice president on Jan. 20, and Kelly Loeffler, who lost a runoff election in Georgia earlier this month. Both are set to be replaced by men.

This analysis builds on earlier Pew Research Center work to analyze the gender makeup of Congress.

In the House, one New York race has not been called yet, and one Louisiana seat is empty because the congressman-elect died before he could be sworn in. Both seats were vacant when Congress was sworn in on Jan. 3, 2021, so the current number of representatives is 439. This analysis includes nonvoting members.

Independent members of Congress are counted with the party they caucus with.

Because Sen. Kamala Harris will ascend to the vice presidency this month, we are not including her in the count of female senators. We are, however, counting her seat as Democrat-held because a Democrat has been named to take her place.

For historical data on Congress, we used data from the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Historian, the Congressional Research Service’s “Women in the United States Congress, 1917-2014” and CQ Roll Call. For 2020-21 election results, we used data from Ballotpedia and the Associated Press, as well as news reports.

Women make up a much bigger share of congressional Democrats (38%) than Republicans (14%). Across both chambers, there are 106 Democratic women and 38 Republican women in the new Congress. Women account for 40% of House Democrats and 32% of Senate Democrats, compared with 14% of House Republicans and 16% of Senate Republicans.

The 2020 general election sent just one new congresswoman to the Senate, Republican Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming, making her the first female senator to represent that state.

Republican women made significant gains in the House in the most recent election cycle. Of the 27 newly elected representatives who are women, two-thirds (18) are Republicans. Between the 115th and 116th Congresses, the number of GOP women in the House fell from 25 to 15. That number doubled this year to 30, the highest total ever.

California Rep. Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat and the first female speaker of the House, is serving her fourth term as speaker after being reelected earlier this month.

The partisan gender division hasn't always looked this way. Until the 1929 stock market crash, most of the dozen women elected to the House were Republicans, and for several decades afterward the two parties were generally close in numbers in that chamber. But the gap widened in the 1970s and has persisted, despite a temporary narrowing during the Reagan-Bush 1980s. Of the 232 women elected to the House in 1992 or later, 157 (68%) have been Democrats, as have 27 of the 42 women (64%) who have served in the Senate since 1992.

The history of women in Congress

Milestones for women in Congress

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



1916: Jeannette Rankin (R-MT) becomes first woman elected to Congress



1964: Patsy Mink (D-HI) becomes first Asian American woman elected to Congress



1968: Shirley Chisholm (D-NY) becomes first black woman elected to Congress



1973: Yvonne Braithwaite Burke (D-CA) becomes first congresswoman to give birth while in office



1983: Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) begins her time in the House, longest tenure of any woman



2007: Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) becomes first woman to serve as speaker (1983-present)

SENATE



1922: Rebecca Latimer Felton (D-GA) is first woman appointed to Senate; serves one day



1932: Hattie Caraway (D-AR) becomes first woman elected to Senate



1948: Margaret Chase Smith (R-ME) becomes first woman elected to Senate in a regular general election



1978: Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) becomes first woman elected to a full Senate term without her husband having previously served in Congress



1986: Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) elected to first of five Senate terms. Including her previous five terms in the House, she served in Congress longer than any other woman (40 years)



1992: Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL) becomes first black woman elected to Senate

Sources: Biographical Directory of the United States Congress; U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Historian; Women in the United States Congress, 1917-2014 (Congressional Research Service, Oct. 31, 2014); CQ Roll Call.

Women have been in Congress for more than a century. The first, Republican Jeannette Rankin of Montana, was elected to the House in 1916, two years after her state gave women the vote. But it's only been in the past few decades that women have served in more substantial numbers. About two-thirds of the women ever elected to the House (232 of 352, including the newest members of the 117th Congress) have been elected in 1992 or later.

The pattern is similar in the Senate: 42 of the 58 women who have ever served in the Senate – including Lummis, the newest female senator – took office in 1992 or later.

The 19th Amendment, which extended the franchise to women across the nation, was ratified in 1920. That November, Alice Mary Robertson of Oklahoma became the first woman to defeat an incumbent congressman. (She lost the seat back to him two years later.) In 1922, veteran suffragist Rebecca Latimer Felton of Georgia was appointed to fill a vacant Senate seat; when Congress was unexpectedly called back into session, Felton was sworn in as the first-ever female senator, though she only served for a day.

While women remained scarce in the Senate well into the 1980s, their numbers gradually, though not consistently, increased in the House – generally paralleling the expansion of women's roles in society more broadly. In 1928, seven women were elected to the 71st Congress, a record at the time, and two more joined them later via special election. But that trend plateaued during the Great Depression and World War II. It wasn't until after the war that the upward trajectory of women in Congress resumed, with 18 women serving in the House in 1961-62.

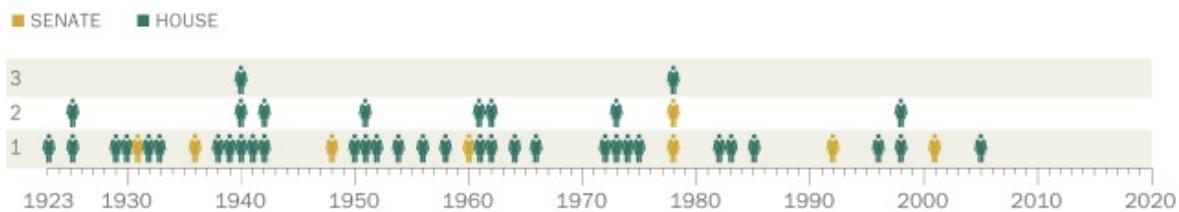
Although the 1970s saw prominent figures such as Barbara Jordan, Elizabeth Holtzman and Bella Abzug enter Congress, women's overall numbers didn't change much until 1981, when their House caucus exceeded 20 members for the first time. The big jump, however, came in 1992 – later dubbed "The Year of the Woman" – when four new female senators and 24 new congresswomen were elected. Academics have offered various explanations for why 1992 was such a breakthrough year for women in Congress, including an unusually large number of open seats due to redistricting and backlash from the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearings.

‘Widow’s succession’ in Congress

Well into the 1970s, one of the most common ways for a woman to enter Congress was by succeeding her deceased husband or father, either by election or appointment. Of the 90 women who served in the House between 1916 and 1980, 31 were initially elected to their husband’s seat after he died; three were chosen to replace their husbands on the ballot when the men died before Election Day; and one, Winnifred Mason Huck of Illinois, was elected in 1922 to fill the last four months of her late father’s term. (Another early congresswoman, Katherine Gudger Langley of Kentucky, won her husband’s seat in 1926 after he resigned following his conviction for violating Prohibition laws.)

‘Widow’s succession’ less common than it used to be

Number of women who were elected or appointed to their late husband’s seat in the House or Senate



Note: Includes three women who were named on the ballot after their husbands died before the election, and one woman appointed to the Senate seat her husband had won posthumously.

Sources: Biographical Directory of the United States Congress; U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Historian; Women in the United States Congress, 1917-2014 (Congressional Research Service, Oct. 31, 2014); CQ Roll Call.

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Like Langley, most of the holders of these so-called “widow’s succession” seats stayed in Congress for only a term or two. But some went on to distinguished careers on Capitol Hill. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, for instance, won a special election in 1940 to fill the last seven months of her husband’s term. Smith went on to win four full House terms on her own, then was elected to four terms in the Senate, thereby becoming the first woman to serve in both chambers. Lindy Boggs, who was elected to her husband’s seat in 1973 after he was presumed killed in a plane crash, served nearly 18 years. She later was named U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

Six of the 14 women who served in the Senate before 1980 were either elected or appointed to fill their late husbands’ seats. Of those, only two (Hattie Caraway of Arkansas and Maurine Brown Neuberger of Oregon) subsequently

won full terms in their own right.

Note: This is an update of a post originally published Dec. 18, 2018.

Share this link: Carrie Blazina

is an associate digital producer at Pew Research Center. POSTS BIO EMAIL



Drew DeSilver

is a senior writer at Pew Research Center. POSTS BIO TWITTER EMAIL

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For American couples, gender gaps in sharing household responsibilities persist amid pandemic

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(Getty Images)

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed nearly every aspect of American life, including how people work, get an education, connect with their family and friend networks and fill their social calendars. Despite quarantine orders that forced many people to stay home and spend more time with their families, a new Pew Research Center analysis of October 2020 survey data finds that many of the dynamics between couples haven't changed much during this turbulent time.

At the same time, there has been a change in how some parents *feel* about the amount of time they spend with their children. Specifically, fathers are now more likely to say they spend the right amount of time with their children than they were before the pandemic, when a majority said they spent too little time.

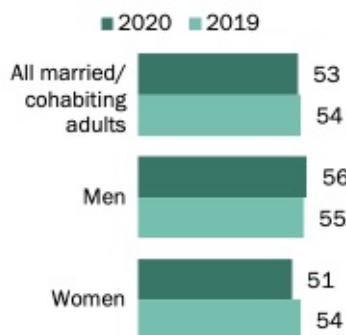
Pew Research Center conducted this study to better understand how U.S. adults who are married or cohabiting assess their relationship with their spouse or partner amid the coronavirus outbreak and how the sharing of household responsibilities has (or has not) changed among couples from pre-pandemic times.

This analysis examines married and cohabiting adults, and in some cases those who have children younger than 18 living in their household. It is based on three nationwide surveys conducted Oct. 13-19, 2020, among 10,332 U.S. adults; June 25-July 8, 2019, among 9,834 U.S. adults; and Aug. 8-Sept. 28, 2017, among 4,573 U.S. adults. Everyone who took part is (or was) a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way, nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the ATP's methodology.

Here are the questions used for this report, along with responses, and its methodology.

Couples are as satisfied with their relationships now as they were before the pandemic

Among adults who are married or living with a partner, % saying things in their marriage or relationship are going very well



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 13-19, 2020.

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Among all married or cohabiting adults, 53% say things in their marriage or relationship currently are going very well, while an additional 37% say things are going fairly well. Roughly one-in-ten (9%) say their relationship is going not too or not at all well. These shares are virtually unchanged from a Pew Research Center survey conducted in 2019, well before the coronavirus outbreak started. Men remain somewhat more likely than women to rate their relationship positively.

While assessments of overall relationship satisfaction haven't changed among either men or women, men are more likely than they were before the pandemic to say they are satisfied with at least one aspect of their relationship with their spouse or partner: how household chores are divided.

Satisfaction with some aspects of their relationships and family dynamics are up among men

*Among adults who are married or living with a partner,
% saying they are **very satisfied** with each of the
following*

The way household chores are divided

Among men



Among women



*How well their spouse/partner balances work and personal life**

Among men



Among women



How well they and their spouse/partner communicate

Among men



Among women



*Their spouse's/partner's approach to parenting***

Among fathers



Among mothers



*Based on those with a spouse or partner who is employed.

**Based on those with children younger than 18 in the household.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 13-19, 2020.

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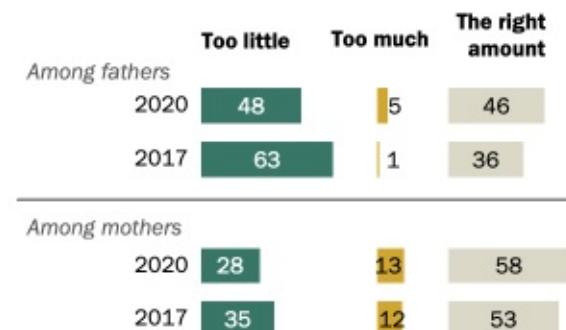
In 2019, married and cohabiting men (49%) were more likely than their female counterparts (39%) to say they were very satisfied with the way household chores are divided between them and their spouse or partner. That gap has grown in 2020: As of October, 55% of men say they are very satisfied with this aspect of their relationship, compared with 38% of women.

Another area where gender patterns have shifted is in views about how well spouses or partners are balancing work and personal life. Among married or cohabiting adults with a working spouse or partner, men (48%) are more likely than women (40%) to be very satisfied with this aspect of their relationship. In 2019, men's and women's views on this did not differ significantly.

As was the case in 2019, men are more likely than women to be satisfied with their spouse or partner's approach to parenting (57% of fathers vs. 41% of mothers are very satisfied) and with how well they and their partner communicate (47% of men say they are very satisfied compared with 40% of women).

Growing share of fathers say they spend the right amount of time with their kids

Among parents with children under 18, % saying they spend ___ time with their children these days



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 13-19, 2020.

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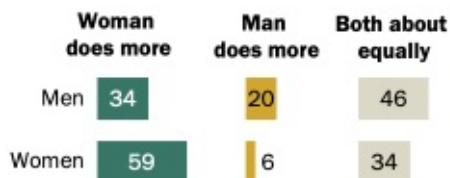
Perhaps the most notable change in attitudes about family dynamics is in fathers' assessments of the amount of time they spend with their children. As of October 2020, 46% of fathers report spending the right amount of time with their kids – a 10 percentage point increase from 2017. A similar share of fathers (48%) say they spend too little time with their kids, down significantly from 63% in 2017. Only 5% of dads say they spend too much time with their children.

Women's views on this have not changed significantly. In the latest survey, 58% of mothers say they spend the right amount of time with their children, 28% say they spend too little time and 13% say they spend too much time with their children.

Men and women have different perceptions about who does more at home

Among adults who are married or living with a partner of the opposite sex, % saying that, when it comes to each of the following ...

Household chores and responsibilities



Managing household finances



*Managing their child(ren)'s schedule and activities**



*Being an involved parent**



*Based on those with children younger than 18 in the household.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 13-19, 2020.

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Long-standing gender disparities in the household division of labor – which have been well-documented – have persisted during the pandemic. The survey finds that, across a range of activities, married or cohabiting men and women in opposite-sex relationships have different perspectives on who shoulders more of the burden. A majority of women (59%) say they do more household chores than their spouse or partner, while 6% say their spouse or partner does more. Among men, a plurality (46%) say these responsibilities are shared about equally, while 20% say they do more and 34% say their spouse or partner does more.

The management of household finances is another area where perspectives differ significantly by gender. Some 47% of women say they do more of this than their spouse or partner, while 25% say their husband or partner does more. Men see things quite differently: 50% say they do more than their wife or partner in this area, while 23% say their spouse or partner does more than them. Gender differences in perceptions of how household chores and finances are divided were similar in 2019, suggesting these dynamics have changed little during the pandemic.

When it comes to child-rearing, women see themselves carrying a much heavier burden than their spouses or partners, while men are more likely than women to say responsibilities are evenly shared. About three-quarters (74%) of mothers say they do more to manage their children's schedules and activities than their spouse or partner; only 3% say their husband or partner does more of this. Roughly half (54%) of mothers say they do more than their spouse or partner to be an involved parent, while just 3% say their spouse or partner does more.

Most fathers (63%) say being an involved parent is shared about equally between them and their spouse or partner, compared with 43% of mothers who say the same. Similarly, fathers are more likely than mothers to say managing schedules and activities is evenly shared. Among women, perceptions about this haven't markedly changed over the past year.

Note: Here are the questions used for this report, along with responses, and its methodology.

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Amanda Barroso

is a writer/editor focusing on social trends at Pew Research Center. POSTS BIO
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Stop Pretending ‘Trap’ has Nothing to Do with Trans Women

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CW: Liberal use of uncensored slurs, mentions and discussion of transmisogynistic violence and murder

If you’re a trans woman, trans femme or just a femme presenting trans or non-binary person who happens to pass very well for cis, chances are you’ve been called or have seen some other trans femme person be called, a **trap**.

A **trap**, for those lucky uninitiated, is (by definitions that have been given to me by many-a person defending it) a term that popped up in online anime communities in the Anglo speaking world (4Chan especially), that refers to cis men who are so extremely feminine, that people (usually cishet men who are attracted to them) cannot tell them apart from cis women.

The term is meant to invoke discomfort for the cishet man who experiences attraction to someone they learn is a man, and comedic to onlookers who find the idea of some unsuspecting dude being unknowingly attracted to someone of the same gender because of gender presentation, to be humorous.

This sort of relationship is undoubtedly homophobic, as there shouldn’t be anything funny or strange about finding someone of the same gender attractive. The humour directly comes from the idea of same-sex attraction being abnormal and worthy of mockery and from the cis man having his masculinity and heterosexuality put into risk and questioned. Him losing face to his fellows is a comedic element.

In recent years as meme culture developed, people began to wear their attraction to ‘traps’ on their sleeves, no longer really feeling ashamed or disgusted of it (barring the unhealthy dynamic this sprang from and the term itself).

In this way, i assume many cis men discovered latent sexual attractions, or simply grew more comfortable with the attraction to the point where they feel

their heterosexuality is intact.

This isn't really anything new. Many cishet men have always found transgender women or crossdressing men appealing. You see it throughout history, and especially well documented in recent times (the popularity of trans porn and trans sex workers for cis men etc;). Cis men in the 60's and 70's in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco openly engaged trans women there and knowingly sought them out, either for dancing or sex (as many trans women and drag queens in the district were sex workers).

However, this shouldn't be taken as a justification or that this relationship somehow became healthy in general, as such giving validity to the term.

True, some people may develop more than just a fetishistic attraction to the idea, develop their sexuality to the point where they see trans women as also people who you can date, interact with, fall in love with and not just objects of sexual urges.

But as a fetish this dynamic is still very very much alive and thriving, and constitutes the majority of transgender pornography produced and consumed.

This is one dynamic is what you see present when a transgender woman is referred to as a trap.

Many cis guys who see a trans woman and think 'trap' either know they're trans women and are engaging with her in the only way they know how (a disgusting and off-putting one for many), some don't know and assume it's a crossdressing cis man (a lot to read into that too) but many know they're trans women and don't care and **specifically use the term to deny the trans woman her identity**.

In this way, 'trap' joined the ranks of 'shemale' and 'tranny' as the go-to slur to refer to trans women, and all three sharing a dynamic of both being a statement of power and as well as extremely sexual terms, 'shemale' and 'trap' more than 'tranny', but nonetheless you see 'tranny' used in transgender pornography.

Yet despite all this, many people who hold the term in close regard deny the term is even adjacent to trans women or is even used on trans women at all.

This is usually followed by the caveat that, if it is, it's either being used incorrectly by a minority of people, or the oversensitive transgender SJW cabal

took the term, ignorant of it's true context and accused the innocent anime fans of transphobia.

The truth is that whether or not they want to admit it, trans women (trans sex workers ESPECIALLY) are routinely and commonly referred to as traps, either by men who get off on the fetish or by men who wish to stigmatise and harm trans women by directly implying she will only ever be a man trying to trick cis men into having sex with her.

One of the largest (if not THE largest) trans erotica subreddits on reddit is called /r/traps, and the rules explicitly state that it is a subreddit for trans women to post erotic content along with crossdressing men.

Beyond that, look at the results for 'trap' on sites like PornHub, XHamster, RedTube. **Many, many of the people featured in the video are not crossdressing men, but transgender women and various trans femmes.**

Some transgender sex workers, actresses and camgirls market themselves using the term exactly BECAUSE they understand that a significant portion of their audience experiences trans women as 'traps' rather than as women, and as such depend upon them as an audience.

The term 'trap' and its application to a group of people who never consented to it, hits a chord all-too familiar for many trans women and trans femmes, a pervasive and old cultural idea that contributes to the violence we face day-to-day and dictates many of our interactions.

How and who we date, how we speak, how we present, where we go and when and where we go to the bathroom: **the idea that trans women are cis gay men who's reason for transitioning is to lure unsuspecting cishet men into sex. Thereby 'trapping' them.**

The 'trans panic' defense is legal in all but two US states and it is a legal defense where a cishet man can get away with viciously murdering a transgender woman, if he claims that he panicked upon seeing her genitalia during a sexual encounter and felt he was in danger of being raped. The idea there of course is that the transgender woman explicitly lured him with her feminine wiles explicitly to rape him.

Many trans activists and just ordinary trans women sticking up for themselves,

argue that a lot of what we consider to be an innate sexual attraction is really a blend of cultural traditions that influence what we're attracted to, that ultimately, attractions is ideology.

Unsurprisingly, they're pilloried by both cis men and TERFs as trying to 'force' people to have sex with them out of shame, and here we see that exact same dynamic played up again.

What prompted me to make this was seeing a response to a twitter leftie talking about much of what i spoke about her, in refference to news of a trans woman who was stabbed a staggering 119 times, about why you shouldn't call trans women 'traps' because it's the reason many of us face violence like this.

The response accused them of exploiting a murder for political pointscoring, as according to them, 'trap' has absolutely nothing to do with trans women because **'transphobes don't see trans women as 'traps', just as men'**.

However this makes no sense within their internal logic here. If we accept their premise that 'traps' aren't trans women, but feminine cis men, then what is the implication of 'trap' being used to reffer to a trans woman here, if not 'you're actually a man'? 'Traps' are understood to be male by a large portion of the men engaging with the term.

How many times have we seen this gif, when the topic is about a trans woman:



Transphobic men calling trans women 'traps' are specifically calling them that because they accept the idea that a 'trap' is male. They're aware of what they're doing and how they're using the term and they use it to abuse trans women.

Even the pervasive question ‘are traps gay?’ is full of implications pointing directly at trans women. This question comes from an internal division, from people who seek to secure their heterosexuality by claiming that ‘traps’ are so feminine that their genitalia (and by their gender essentialist logic, maleness) doesn’t matter, while the other camp is firmly set in the original idea that a ‘trap’ will only ever be a man.

Here we see an implicit acceptance that ‘femininity’ and even the feminine gender is largely performative, and that a feminine cis man is effectively abandoning his assigned gender. Thereby the person attracted to them has saved his heterosexuality.

This question is often levied at trans women or posed whenever the topic is a cis passing trans woman by cis men who are either insecure in their sexualities or are trying to unnerve transgender women by perpetuating a negative stereotype.

The fact is, no matter how much they try to say it isn’t related to us, we on the other hand, have to live with the reality where we’re just as likely to be called ‘traps’ as we are ‘trannies’. Where we have to sit and watch ourselves be referred to as ‘traps’ in Internet forum after Internet forum and then have asswipes tell us it never happens.

Oh, and if you’re one of those who believes trans women are women but still refer to us as ‘traps, please...

Don’t.

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