

Gender differences in academic productivity during COVID-19 pandemic

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, most science and medical faculty began working from home, with women reporting a significant decrease in manuscript submissions. Women also report providing 77.6% of the

childcare themselves, compared to 61.3% for men, according to the *Journal of Women's Health*.

A study of faculty in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) found that those individuals with children younger than six years worked significantly fewer hours after the COVID-19 pandemic. Women reported a [significant decrease](#) in first- and co-author manuscript submissions, whereas no significant differences in productivity were reported by men.

"Overall, significant disparities were observed in academic productivity by gender and child age during COVID-19 'stay-at-home' orders and, if confirmed by further research, should be considered by academic institutions and [funding agencies](#) when making decisions regarding funding, hiring, promotion, and tenure," state Rebecca Krukowski, Ph.D., University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and coauthors.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many STEMM faculty to work from home and, especially when young children are in the home, has put a strain on [work hours](#). Publishing is crucial when seeking grant support for research, looking for a job, and seeking promotion and tenure," says *Journal of Women's Health* Editor in Chief Susan G. Kornstein, MD, executive director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health, Richmond, VA.

More information: Rebecca A. Krukowski et al. Academic Productivity Differences by Gender and Child Age in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine Faculty During the COVID-19 Pandemic, *Journal of Women's Health* (2020). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2020.8710](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2020.8710)

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