

Male and Female Public Attitudes Toward Stuttering	
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I. Introduction

- A. Numerous reports of negative attitudes toward stuttering (e.g., Al-Khaledi, Lincoln, McCabe, Packman, & Alshatti, 2009; Boyle, Blood & Blood, 2009; St. Louis, 2005)
- B. A few reports of more negative attitudes by male respondents than female respondents (e.g. Van Borsel, Verniers & Bouvry, 1999)

II. Purpose

- A. To compare attitudes toward stuttering of male vs female respondents from a growing archive of attitudes measured around the world by the *Public Opinion Survey of Human Attributes-Stuttering (POSHA-S)*
- B. *POSHA-S* shown to be reliable and valid measure of public attitudes toward stuttering (St. Louis, Reichel, Yaruss & Lubker, 2009; St. Louis, Lubker, Yaruss & Aliveto, 2009)

III. Method

- A. 50 males and 50 females chosen by stratified sampling from *POSHA-S* archive
 - 1. From more than 2800 respondents, 1-2 respondents selected at random from 42 different samples representing...
 - a. 12 countries
 - (1) USA, Canada, Brazil, Nicaragua, Denmark, Bulgaria, Turkey, Kuwait, Russia, Nepal, Cameroon and South Africa
 - b. 8 languages
 - (1) English, French, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Bulgarian, Turkish, Russian and Arabic
 - c. 3 response modes for *POSHA-S*
 - (1) All converted to ratings from -100 to + 100 with all items arranged with higher scores reflecting more accurate, sensitive, knowledgeable ratings
 - 2. Respondent profiles (See Table 1)

IV. Results

- A. Summary means (See Table 2)
- B. Significant differences between individual *POSHA-S* items
 - 1. Conservative: t tests between male and female using Bonferroni correction ($p \leq .00417$)...
 - a. 1 of 49 general and stuttering ratings significant
 - (1) "Tell the person to 'slow down' or 'relax'" (M better)
 - b. 0 of 10 demographic items significant
 - 2. Standard t test between male and female ($p < .05$)...
 - a. 3 of 49 general and stuttering ratings significant

- (1) "Stuttering caused by a virus or disease" (F better)
- (2) "PWS should try to hide their stuttering" (F better)
- b. 1 of 10 demographic items significant
 - (1) Age (M > F)

V. Conclusions

- A. Using a large pool of international respondents...
 - 1. Aside from differences in age and slight differences in education (greater in males)
 - 2. Very little difference between the two sexes in attitudes toward stuttering or other human attributes measured
 - a. Rare differences sometimes suggest better attitudes in males and sometimes in females
- B. Data support assuming no differences between the sexes in stuttering attitudes
 - 1. But possible differences may occurring certain populations

Table 1. Respondent profile.

	Males	Females
Age (yr)	40.4 yr	32.1 yr
Education (yr)	15.5 yr	14.6 yr
Composite Income Score (-100 to +100)	19	11
Working / Not working / Retired (%)	50% / 8% / 8%	46% / 22% / 4%
Physical health (-100 to +100)	51	50
Mental health (-100 to +100)	66	69
Ability to learn (-100 to +100)	60	66
Ability to speak (-100 to +100)	66	63
Stuttering: Self-identification (%)	6%*	4%*

*2/50 samples (4%) consisted entirely of stutterers & 1 sample of specialists in fluency disorders

Table 2. Summary scores combined for males and female ratings.

	Males	Females
OBESITY/MENTAL ILLNESS	-31	-37
Impression	-22	-21
Want/Have	-76	-87
Amount Known	5	-4
BELIEFS: ABOUT PWS	27	24
Traits/Personality	8	-1
Help From	24	21
Cause	29	30
Potential	45	48
SELF REACTIONS: TO PWS	-7	-9
Accommodating/Helping	48	49

Social Distance/Sympathy	1	3
Knowledge/Experience	-37	-51
Knowledge Source	-39	-39
MEAN: STUTTERING	10	8

References

- Al-Khaledi, M., Lincoln, M., McCabe, P., Packman, A., & Alshatti, T. (2009). The attitudes knowledge and beliefs of Arab parents in Kuwait about stuttering. *Journal of Fluency Disorders, 34*, 44-59.
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