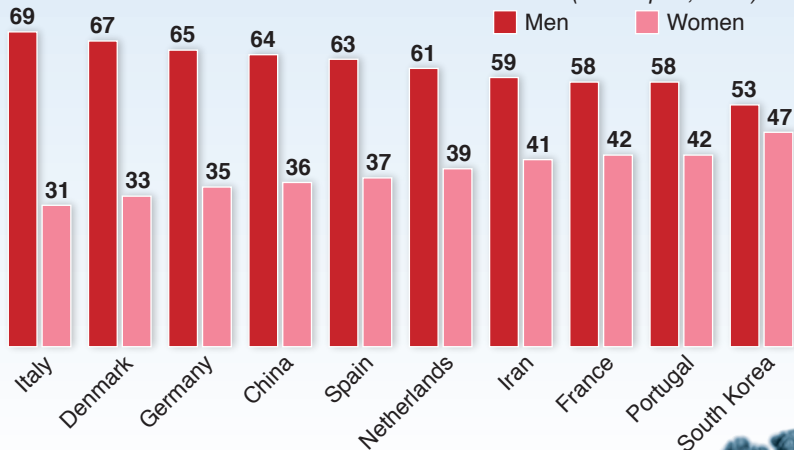


More risk to men from Covid-19 than women

Men infected with coronavirus disease (Covid-19) appear to be at a significantly higher risk of having severe symptoms and dying when compared to women, according to data collected by Global Health 50/50

PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS BY GENDER FROM COVID-19 (as of Apr 3, 2020)



POSSIBLE FACTORS PUTTING MEN AT GREATER RISK

■ **Smoking:** Globally, men are more likely to have smoked more heavily and for longer periods than women.

Evidence from China shows smokers with Covid-19 are 14 times more likely to develop severe respiratory disease

■ **Other coronaviruses:** During previous outbreaks of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), scientists noticed that men seemed more susceptible than women

■ Risky behaviour

Men less likely to seek medical help at first signs of disease or to follow public health advice such as washing their hands

■ **Biology:** Female sex hormone oestrogen plays role in increasing women's antiviral response. Many genes that regulate immune system are encoded on X chromosome (of which women have two while men only have one)

