

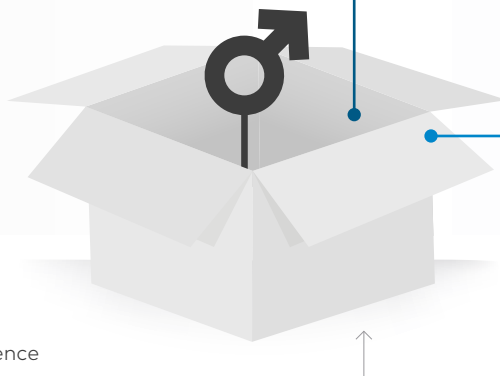
THE MASCULINITY BOX IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

CONSTRUCTION, ATTITUDES, AND IMPACT OF MASCULINITIES ON THE BASQUE POPULATION

The masculinity box is an **analytical concept used to explain the degree of proximity or distance individuals have from the most traditional and conservative view of masculinity.**

The **indicators** of the "masculinity box" are measured quantitatively through a questionnaire, asking respondents about their level of agreement with 17 indicators related to masculinity, divided into five thematic areas:

- Avoiding vulnerability and legitimizing violence
- Embracing traditional gender roles and values
- Normalizing hypersexualization
- Rejecting diversity in sexual orientation
- Criticizing the care of physical appearance



INSIDE

Individuals who strongly adhere to the hegemonic masculinity model, **excessively exalting masculinity** and traditional gender mandates.

ON THE EDGE

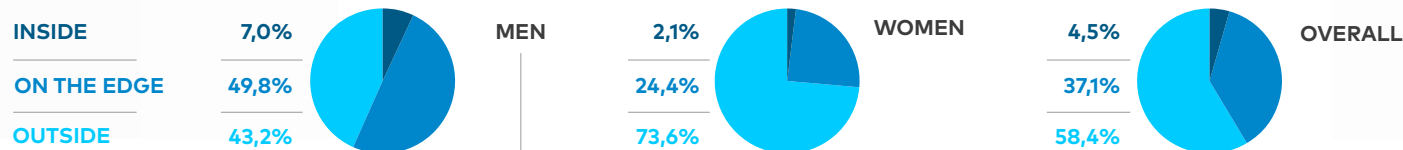
Those who do not fully agree with traditional mandates but have **not yet fully embraced egalitarian masculinity.**

OUTSIDE

Those who consciously and firmly reject traditional hegemonic masculinity and strive to adopt gender models based on **empathy and equality.**

Based on agreement with 17 items (rated on a scale from 1 to 4), cases are classified as "inside," "outside," or "on the edge" of the box.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BASQUE POPULATION



There are significant differences between age groups, with **men under 20 years** old being the most aligned with the masculinity box.

TRADITIONAL MASCULINE MANDATES THAT PERSIST AMONG BASQUE MEN

The Basque population largely rejects traditional hegemonic masculinity, especially women.

	MEN	WOMEN
Not defending oneself from abuse is a sign of weakness	30.1%	14.0%
"Real men" are heterosexual	22.5%	10.0%
It is normal for a man to flirt with a woman he does not know in a public space if he finds her attractive	20.6%	9.0%
A real man can never be effeminate	20.3%	9.2%
Going to prostitution to have sex is normal	19.5%	7.1%
If a man does not have enough sex with his partner, it is understandable that he would cheat	17.3%	5.6%

IMPACT OF GENDER VIOLENCE

There is widespread rejection of gender violence in the Basque population. **80.3%** state that gender violence is a very serious social problem.

	MEN	WOMEN
Men have lost the presumption of innocence	43.1%	26.4%
Gender violence is a ideological invention	14.9%	6.7%
You deserve to know where your partner is at all times	14.1%	12.2%
Gender violence is a very serious social problem	72.6%	88.0%

Gender violence is a very serious social problem

BY AGE GROUPS	15 TO 29	30 TO 49	50 TO 65
	71.9%	79.2%	86.4%

SOURCE: "The Masculinity Box in the Basque Country. Construction, attitudes, and impact of masculinities on the Basque population," a study conducted by the Reina Sofia Center of Fad Juventud for Emakunde. 2024.