

YOUNG FEMALES SNAPSHOT 2022

Butterfly Foundation's first *BodyKind* Youth Survey was conducted in 2022 to better understand the body image experience of young Australians aged 12 to 18 years. In total, 1635 young people responded.

What do young females have to say?

Who are they?

787 (48.1%) of survey respondents identified as female.

The majority (88.6%) of females were aged 15-18 years.

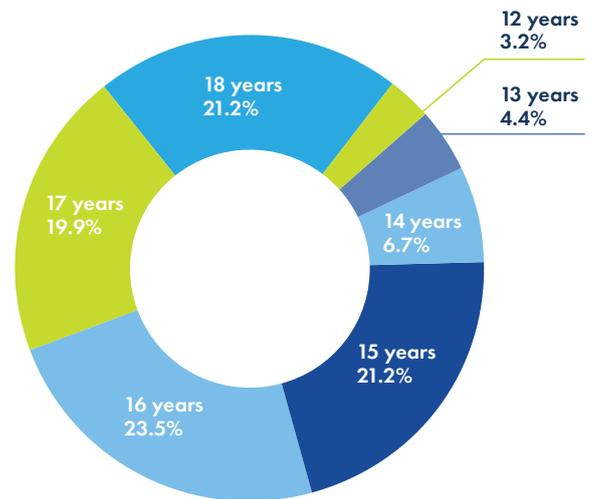


Figure 1. Age distribution of female respondents (right)

Respondents most frequently identified as:

Heterosexual

63.4%

Bisexual

16.9%

Non-Indigenous

94.5%



Their body image

48.4%

reported some level of body dissatisfaction.

31.1%

reported a high level of body dissatisfaction.

92.8%

an overwhelming majority, reported some level of concern about their body image.

4 in 10

reported a high level of concern about their body image.

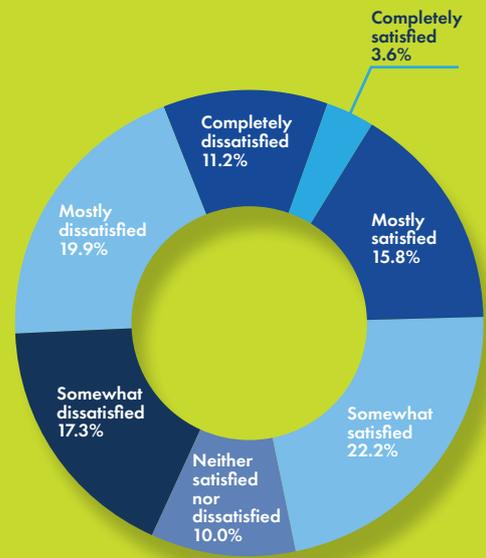


Figure 2. Body satisfaction of female respondents

60.0%

desired to be more muscular and 49.6% desired to be taller.

69.4%

desired to be thinner.

How much do young females appreciate their body?

25.6%

Never/rarely respect their body.

41.9%

Never/rarely are comfortable in their body.

37.1%

Never/rarely feel good about their body.

20.0%

Never/rarely feel their body has at least some good qualities.

Are they Body Kind?

52.2%

never or rarely speak positively about their body.

36.7%

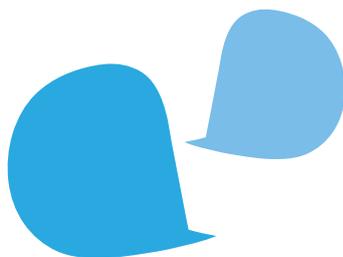
never or rarely feel grateful for what their body allows them to do.

36.4%

never or rarely spend less time focusing on their appearance to have more time for other things they enjoy.

58.8%

never or rarely talk to someone if they're not feeling good about their body or appearance.



yet **72.4%**

often or always try to value people for their personality and who they are rather than how they look.

Females most frequently compare their bodies (often/always) to:

70.9%

Other teens

62.6%

Their friends

52.3%

Influencers

47.1%

Celebrities

When asked what is most important to them from a list of being healthy, sporty, good looking, smart and kind,

14.9%

ranked being good looking as the most important.

Has body image ever stopped young females from doing certain activities?



49.1%

reported a high level of disengagement from going to the beach or pool.



37.9%

reported a high level of disengagement from going to a social event, party or gathering.



41.9%

reported a high level of disengagement from going clothes shopping.



36.3%

reported a high level of disengagement from doing a physical activity/sport.



38.0%

reported a high level of disengagement from giving an opinion or standing up for themselves.



1 in 4

reported a high level of disengagement from going to school,

with about a third reporting body image affected their willingness to raise their hand in the classroom quite a bit or all the time,

and **33.8%** reported their body image impacting their ability to focus on schoolwork, quite a bit or all the time.

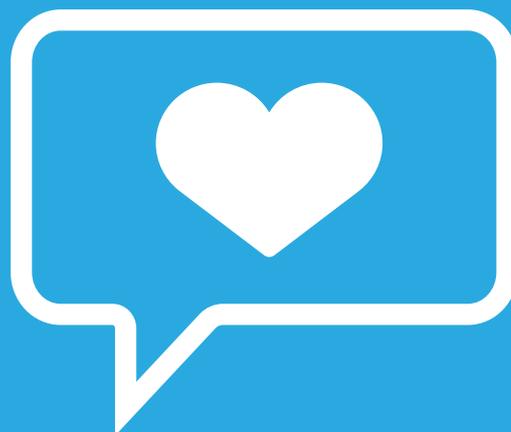


Social media

Of the 734 who reported using social media,

64.4% described using social media more than they would like.

58.0% reported that social media made them feel dissatisfied with their body.



In relation to social media literacy strategies:

42.3%

never took a break because it was affecting how they felt about their body.

24.3%

never posted unfiltered images.

25.6%

never unfollowed pages that made them feel bad about their body.

68.3%

often or always comment kindly and honestly on a friend's post.

What is their experience of appearance-related teasing?

70.3% reported receiving negative comments or being teased about their appearance.

This happened most frequently at



School 70.2%



Social media 31.3%



Home 37.1%



Family events 28.2%