

Abstract

The purpose of the present study was to examine the differences between Hong Kong and Beijing adolescents in judging physical attractiveness. One thousand and thirty-eight Hong Kong adolescents and 743 Beijing adolescents completed measures assessing physical attractiveness, body satisfaction, attitudes towards body and shape, pathogenic eating behaviors, self-esteem and depressive symptoms. Results indicate that Beijing adolescents prefer bigger and more rounded body shape. Health, height and weight were the most important parts in judging male's physical attractiveness. Health, smile, body curvature, body scent and waist were more important in judging female's physical attractiveness, though different areas may have different ranking on these body parts. Beijing adolescents emphasized more on body. However they showed fewer body concerns, less depression symptoms, fewer pathogenic eating behaviors and higher self-esteem and body satisfaction. Results indicated that Hong Kong adolescents might have adopted more Western-like standard in judging physical attractiveness than Beijing adolescents.