

## Abstract

The present study examined the psychological characteristics and eating behaviors among Chinese adolescents of different weight categories in Hong Kong. Subjects, 1021 boys and 2229 girls aged from 12 to 18, completed the EDI-2, fear of negative evaluation, self-esteem and depression scales. In general the heavier subjects, regardless of gender, reported poorer psychological functioning than the less heavy subjects. The most significant differences among different weight categories were found on those variables directly related to body concerns and eating behaviors such as drive for thinness, bulimia, body dissatisfaction and asceticism. There were few such differences on scales related to general emotion and self-value such as self-esteem, fear of negative evaluation and perfectionism. Moreover, boys of different weight categories displayed less significant difference in psychological characteristics than girls. Girls, especially the heavier subjects, showed greater body concern and more frequent eating and pathogenic weight loss behaviors than boys.