

Children as young as five are treated for anorexia

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Do you think it is cute when a five-year old girl is conscientious about her weight and evaluates other girls as being “chubby-wubby”? You should not, says a Globe and Mail reporter [Zosia Bielski](#)

According to the research, young girls with body-image issues are more at risk of developing eating disorders later on. They attributed negative feelings to

[teasing from peers](#)

, pop-culture images and parents (the ultimate role models) audibly criticizing their own bodies. In her

[second publication](#)

on this topic this past summer, Zosia Bielski brings to our attention the alarming fact, that children as young as five are treated for anorexia, questioning among other factors parental modeling.

According to another study, [Project EAT](#) (Eating Among Teens), 44% of the adolescent girls and 29% of adolescent boys display weight-related problems. Data collected for this study between 1998 and 2007 also suggested that about 40% of overweight girls and 20% of overweight boys engaged in at least one of the disordered eating behaviours (binge eating and/or extreme weight control). Weight-teasing by family, personal weight concerns, and dieting/unhealthy weight-control behaviours strongly and consistently predicted overweight status, binge eating, and extreme weight-control behaviours among teenagers 5 years later.

More food for thought -- “ [MissRepresentation](#) ”, a documentary about the media role in shaping women’s image in society, screened during the last Vancouver Film Festival.