

Hierarchical Linear Modeling of Body Surveillance Frequency: Linking Media Consumption Intensity and Internalized Thin-Ideal in Adolescent Females

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

While the rationale for using HLM is well justified by the presence of significant between-school variance and an interpretable ICC, the manuscript would benefit from a more detailed methodological description of the modeling strategy (e.g., centering decisions, treatment of random effects, model fit indices), so that readers can fully evaluate the robustness and reproducibility of the analytic approach.

The operationalization of “media consumption intensity” is central to the argument but remains somewhat underspecified; clarifying whether the measure captures quantity of use, appearance-focused content, platform type, or active versus passive engagement would considerably strengthen construct validity and interpretability of the media-related findings.

The practical implications section is one of the strongest parts of the manuscript, underscoring the need for multi-level interventions; however, the recommendations would gain impact from being more concrete (e.g., examples of school-level policies, components of media literacy programs, or specific psychosocial techniques for challenging thin-ideal internalization) and more tightly linked to the empirical results of this study.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The theoretical integration of objectification, thin-ideal internalization, and social comparison processes is generally strong, but the introduction occasionally reads as densely packed with overlapping constructs; the narrative could be streamlined by more clearly distinguishing conceptual roles (e.g., media as exposure, thin-ideal as internalized schema, body surveillance as behavioral outcome) and specifying hypothesized mechanisms and pathways.

The interpretation of school-level variance is compelling, yet the absence of measured Level-2 variables (e.g., school climate, policies, peer norms, aggregated BMI, prevalence of teasing) limits the explanatory value of the multilevel findings; at minimum, the discussion should more explicitly acknowledge that the “school effect” is currently a statistical residual rather than a theoretically specified contextual construct.

Given the cross-sectional design and exclusive reliance on self-report, the language of causality in several parts of the discussion is somewhat stronger than the data warrant; I encourage the authors to consistently frame the results in terms of associations and potential pathways, and to more clearly consider reverse or reciprocal effects (e.g., high body surveillance leading to increased media use) in the limitations section.

The focus on adolescent girls from Hungary is appropriate and well motivated, yet the generalizability of the findings is quite constrained; the manuscript would be strengthened by a more nuanced cultural discussion, including how local beauty norms, media ecosystems, and educational systems might shape the observed patterns, and what aspects are likely to differ in other cultural or gender groups.

The discussion of BMI as a covariate and its association with body surveillance is insightful, but the current treatment tends to conflate body size with weight stigma; it would be helpful to more carefully disentangle objective adiposity from experiences of discrimination and teasing, and to explicitly note that BMI is at best a crude proxy for embodied and social experiences related to weight.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.