



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION FACT SHEET



ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Compiled in June 2019

Self Esteem

- The percentage of girls who would describe themselves as confident declines more than 25% throughout the middle school years, from 86% to 60%.¹
- As a girl gets older, her confidence declines as drastically as her desire to change her appearance increases.¹
- By the time girls are in high school, 86% report that most girls are in competition with one another.¹
- Girls who spend the most time on social media were the least likely to say that they trust other girls and that they have supportive friends to talk to about serious issues.¹
- Girls who report that they get along well with other girls and trust other girls reported the lowest levels of sadness and depression.¹
- 30% of the girls with the highest reported grade point averages (4.0 or above) do not think they are smart enough for their dream careers.¹

Social Media

- 31% OF GIRLS HAVE BEEN BULLIED OR MADE FUN OF ON SOCIAL MEDIA¹
- 61% OF GIRLS SAY THEIR PARENTS NEVER MONITOR THEIR USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA¹
- 85% OF GIRLS HAVE RECEIVED FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS¹
- 44% OF GIRLS HAVE ACCEPTED FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS¹
- Girls who spend the most time using technology are five times more likely to say they are sad or depressed nearly every day¹

Self Confidence

- 46% OF HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS DO NOT BELIEVE THEY ARE SMART ENOUGH FOR THEIR DREAM CAREER¹
- 86% OF FIFTH GRADE GIRLS DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AS CONFIDENT and BY NINTH GRADE 60% OF GIRLS DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AS CONFIDENT¹

Girls and other girls

- 84% OF GIRLS SAY THEY HAVE SUPPORTIVE FRIENDS TO TALK TO ABOUT SERIOUS ISSUES¹
- 76% OF GIRLS SAY THAT MOST GIRLS ARE IN COMPETITION WITH ONE ANOTHER¹
- 41% OF GIRLS SAY THEY DO NOT TRUST OTHER GIRLS¹
- THE MORE TIME GIRLS SPEND ON SOCIAL MEDIA, THE MORE LIKELY THEY ARE TO SAY THEY DO NOT TRUST OTHER GIRLS¹
- Girls who have supportive friends, get along well with other girls and trust other girls report lower levels of sadness and depression.¹

Girls and School

- 49% OF GIRLS SAY THAT SOMEONE AT THEIR SCHOOL IS HELPING THEM EXPLORE THEIR PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL¹

¹ The Girls' Index



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- 77% OF GIRLS SAY THAT THEIR TEACHERS TREAT THEM LIKE THEY ARE SMART¹

Girls and Leadership

- 61% OF GIRLS SAY THAT THEY LIKE TO BE IN CHARGE¹
- 33% OF GIRLS SAY THAT THEY ARE AFRAID TO BE A LEADER BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT OTHERS TO THINK THEY ARE BOSSY¹
- 46% OF GIRLS SAY THEY DON'T SAY WHAT THEY ARE THINKING OR DISAGREE WITH OTHERS BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE LIKED¹

Girls in New York State²

- 70% of eighth grade girls are not proficient in math in NYS compared to 67% overall in the US
- 20% of girls ages 12-17 are not involved in any community service or volunteer work compared to 17% overall in the US
- 8% of girls ages 6-17 do not feel safe at school compared to 7% overall in the US
- 31% of girls ages 10-17 are overweight or obese in New York State compared to 28% overall in the US
- 37% of girls ages 5-17 live in immigrant families in NYS compared to 25% overall in the US
- In 2007, 5% of girls ages 6-17 had emotional, behavioral, or developmental issues compared to 7% in 2012
- In 2007, 18% of girls ages 5-17 lived in poverty compared to 22% in 2014
- In 2007, 34% of girls ages 5-17 lived in single parent families compared to 36% in 2014
- In 2007, 34% of girls ages 5-17 lived in immigrant families compared to 37% in 2014

² Girls' Well-Being: New York vs. the United States