

# Children and adolescents with eating disorders clinically distinct

January 13 2014, by Rebecca Graham

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“Children were less likely to binge eat, purge, or exercise for shape and weight control compared to adolescents,” Dr Watson says. Credit: Bread For The World

NEW paediatric research suggests that children and adolescents with eating disorders display significant differences in clinical presentation, lending further support to research which has found eating disorders differ across age groups.

The researchers including Princess Margaret Hospital for Children Eating Disorders Program (PMH EDP) Senior Research Psychologist Dr Hunna Watson were interested in determining whether differences in physical, behavioural and clinical features existed between children and [adolescents](#) referred to the program.

They utilised data collected in the HOPE (Helping to Outline Paediatric Eating Disorders) Project, an ongoing paediatric clinical eating disorder registry comprising patients admitted to the PMH EDP from 1996.

Data from the registry on 656 [young people](#) – 104 children (

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