Research Question

- Do girls attending single sex schools have an overall lower self-esteem than girls attending coed schools?
Literature

• Valerie Lee and Anthony Bryk

• Jacqueline Granleese and Stephen Joseph

• Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale

• Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Study & Education Longitudinal Study
Survey

25 Questions:
- Self-Esteem
- Peer Relationships
- Appearance
- Academics

Examples:
- I like who I am.
- I constantly compare myself to my peers.
- I am satisfied with how I look.
- If I want to learn something well, I can.
Measurements

1 = Strongly Agree
2 = Agree
3 = Disagree
4 = Strongly Disagree

A low score on the survey = high self-esteem
Responses

- 10 female students from one coed high school
- 60 female students one single sex high school
- Focus group with three 15 year-old female students from the coed high school
Survey Results

- NO significant difference in terms of: Self-Esteem, Appearance, Peer Relationships and Academics

- The weakest relationship was between Appearance and Academics
Focus Group Results

- **Overall high levels of self-esteem**
  - “I feel like I have the self-esteem I need.” - Mya
  - “It’s also disappointing when you did something and you thought you did really good on it and you tried really hard on it and you get a lower grade than you expected. It almost feels like you let yourself down.” - Mya
Complications

● Female Competition

■ “I feel like your first concern is with the girls. That’s your main concern, well that’s my main concern.” - Layla

■ “If you see the way someone dresses and then everyone likes her or she gets the guys, then people are like, ‘oh if I wear that, and I do that, and I look like that, then I could kind of have what she has.’” - Layla
Overall Conclusions

- Girls at both the single sex and coed school had high levels of self-esteem

- Competition was a main theme between girls and was a central component to girls’ self-esteem
Further Research

- Several coed & single sex schools
- Focus group at both a coed and single sex school
- Open ended questions on survey
- Compare females’ self-esteem to males’ self-esteem
Thank You!

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