

2026 Research Fact Sheet: Survey on Appearance-Related Experiences of Individuals with Facial Differences

I. Survey Background

- **Executing Organization:** Sunshine Social Welfare Foundation.
- **Valid Samples:** 239 responses (199 adults, 40 adolescents aged 13–17).
- **Target Respondents:** Service users with burn injuries, oral cancer, and facial disfigurement / facial differences.

II. Social Realities of Individuals with Facial Differences (All Respondents)

- **Prevalence of Unfriendly Experiences:** 65.7% of respondents have experienced unfriendly treatment due to their appearance.
- **Average Frequency:** Those with prior experiences have encountered an average of over 3 different types of unfriendly behaviors.
- **Career & Life Development Barriers:** 46.6% of respondents feel concerned and restricted by their facial differences when planning their career and life paths.
- **Social Comparison:** Compared to the general public data from Sunshine's 2025 survey (where approx. 1/5 experienced unfriendly treatment), individuals with facial differences face significantly higher environmental pressure.

III. On Campus: Microaggressions and Dilemmas Faced by Adolescents

- **Percentage of Victims:** 50.0% of adolescents with facial differences have experienced unfriendly treatment.
- **Primary Settings:** Unfriendly behaviors are heavily concentrated in educational environments, with 70.0% occurring in "schools or cram schools".
- **Primary Perpetrators:** 65.0% come from classmates or peers.
- **Specific Unfriendly Behaviors (Multiple Choice):**
 - Feeling uncomfortable due to others staring (50.0%).
 - Being mocked or teased about their appearance (35.0%).
 - Experiencing social exclusion or ostracism (30.0%).

IV. Coping Strategies and Psychological Impacts (Adolescent Respondents)

- **Silent Reactions:** When facing unfriendly situations, a striking 89.5% of adolescents choose "not to fight back through verbal or physical actions".
- **Immediate Psychological Reactions (Multiple Choice):** The most common immediate feelings are "helplessness (45.0%)" and "discomfort (40.0%)".
- **Long-Term Consequences (Among those affected):**
 - 77.8% experience a lack of self-confidence.
 - 77.8% feel their interpersonal relationships are negatively affected.
 - 55.6% experience social withdrawal.

V. Social Behavior Patterns (Adult Respondents)

- **High-Risk Settings:** Unfamiliar strangers (72.4%) are the primary perpetrators. The most common settings are "public transportation (46.0%)" and "restaurants (36.3%)".
- **Primary Behavior:** "Feeling uncomfortable due to others' stares" accounts for the highest percentage at 71.5%.

Data Notes:

Data regarding feelings and behavior patterns are derived from **multiple-choice questions**. The percentage base is calculated from "respondents who have experienced unfriendly treatment". * All proportions have been rigorously cross-checked with the original questionnaire statistics.

Further Links:

[Press release](#)

[Learning materials for Schools](#)

[Story from oral cancer survivor about discrimination in hospitality](#)