

Gender differences in the relationships between lean body mass, fat mass and peak bone mass in young adults

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Running title: body composition and peak bone mass

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1 **Mini abstract**

2 The relationships between fat mass and bone mass in young adults are unclear. In 1183 young
3 Australians, lean body mass had a strong positive relationship with total body bone mass in both
4 genders. Fat mass was a positive predictor of total body bone mass in females, with weaker
5 association in males.

6 **Abstract**

7 **Purpose:** Body weight and lean body mass are established as major determinants of bone mass, but
8 the relationships between fat mass (including visceral fat) and peak bone mass in young adults are
9 unclear. The aim of this study was to evaluate the associations between bone mass in young adults
10 and three body composition measurements: lean body mass, fat mass and trunk-to-limb fat mass
11 ratio (a surrogate measure of visceral fat).

12 **Methods:** Study participants were 574 women and 609 men aged 19-22 years from the Raine study.
13 Body composition, total body bone mineral content (TBBMC), bone area and areal bone mineral
14 density (TBBMD) were measured using DXA.

15 **Results:** In multivariate linear regression models with height, lean body mass, fat mass and trunk-
16 to-limb fat mass ratio as predictor variables, lean mass was uniquely associated with the largest
17 proportion of variance of TBBMC and TBBMD in males (semi-partial R^2 0.275 and 0.345,
18 respectively) and TBBMC in females (semi-partial R^2 0.183). Fat mass was a more important
19 predictor of TBBMC and TBBMD in females (semi-partial R^2 0.126 and 0.039, respectively) than
20 males (semi-partial R^2 0.006 and 0.018, respectively). Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio had a weak,
21 negative association with TBBMC and bone area in both genders (semi-partial R^2 0.004 to 0.034).

22 **Conclusions:** Lean body mass has strong positive relationship with total body bone mass in both
23 genders. Fat mass may play a positive role in peak bone mass attainment in women but the
24 association was weaker in men; different fat compartments may have different effects.

25

26 **Introduction**

27 Body weight is a major determinant of bone mass, reflecting in part the adaption of the skeleton to
28 mechanical loading. As body mass is composed of lean, fat and bone mass, evaluating the role of
29 lean and fat mass on bone has been the focus of many studies. Lean body mass has consistently
30 been found to be positively associated with measurements of bone mass or density in studies of
31 different age groups [1-5], which may reflect direct mechanical effects of muscle on bone, genetic
32 factors that regulate both components [2] and lifestyle factors such as physical activity [6] that
33 influence both. The findings of studies reporting relationships between fat mass and measurements
34 of bone are less consistent, with the relationship being reported as positive [1-4], negative, or absent
35 [5, 7-9]. This heterogeneity in findings could be due to the rather complex mechanisms underlying
36 the relationship between fat and bone. As well as effects of mechanical loading, adipose tissue may
37 indirectly influence bone metabolism by the action of hormones and cytokines. It has been
38 suggested that fat may stimulate bone formation by producing estrogens through the aromatization
39 of androgens, and increased insulin and peripheral leptin levels [10, 11], but fat may also have
40 deleterious effects on bone due to increased inflammatory cytokines [12].

41 As attainment of an optimal peak bone mass is considered the best protection against subsequent
42 age-related bone loss and susceptibility to bone fracture [13], it is important to understand the
43 association between each of lean and fat mass and peak bone mass attained at skeletal maturity,
44 particularly in the current context of the increased number of obese and overweight people
45 worldwide and the resulting negative health consequences [14]. However, only a few studies have
46 evaluated the association of lean and fat mass with peak bone mass in young adults, and the results
47 were conflicting [2, 3, 5, 8, 15]. In some studies, data from young adults have not been analysed
48 separately, but have been combined with other age groups such as adolescents [5] or middle-aged
49 men [8]; interpretation of such data is difficult because of the effects of age on sex hormone levels
50 and body composition, as well as interactions between these two potential confounders. During
51 puberty and adolescence, gender differences in body composition become more pronounced, with a

52 dramatic increase in lean body mass in boys and slight increase in fat mass in girls [16]. Gender
53 differences in the association between body composition and bone density have been shown in
54 middle age and older adults [17, 18], but have not been well studied in young adults. Furthermore,
55 most studies examining the relationship between fat mass and bone have examined only total fat
56 mass [2, 3, 5, 8, 15]. There are marked differences in metabolic activity between subcutaneous and
57 visceral fat, and recent studies in adolescent girls and young women suggest that these fat
58 compartments may have opposite relations with bone mass [19-21].

59

60 To address these uncertainties, we examined the relationships between lean and fat mass and bone
61 mass in a well-characterised cohort of young adults aged 19-22 years. In this relatively
62 homogeneous population, we evaluated the relationships between each of lean mass, fat mass and
63 trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio (as a surrogate marker of visceral fat) with three bone parameters: total
64 body bone mineral content (BMC, reflecting the amount of bone mineral), bone area (reflecting the
65 size of bone) and areal bone mineral density (BMD). A recent longitudinal study of Canadian
66 children followed up to 30 years of age showed that bone mass reaches a plateau at approximately
67 18 years of age in girls and 20 years in boys [22]; thus our cohort is of an ideal age to examine
68 relationships between body composition and peak bone mass.

69

70 **Methods**

71 ***Participants***

72 The study participants were from the West Australian Pregnancy Cohort (Raine) Study. This study
73 recruited 2,900 pregnant women from the public antenatal clinic at King Edward Memorial Hospital
74 and surrounding private clinics in Perth, Western Australia between May 1989 and November 1991,
75 and has subsequently followed the offspring as a birth cohort study. Inclusion criteria were a
76 gestational age between 16 and 20 weeks, English language skills sufficient to understand the study
77 demands, an expectation to deliver at King Edward Memorial Hospital, and an intention to remain
78 in Western Australia to enable future follow-up of their child [23]. Compared with the general
79 Western Australian population, the Raine cohort at birth was characterized by higher proportions of
80 high-risk births and fathers employed in managerial and professional positions, however
81 comparison of participants remaining in the study at the 14-year follow-up suggested attrition
82 resulted in a cohort comparable with the general population [24]. Of the 2,868 children born to
83 mothers recruited to the Raine Study, a total of 1,306 participants participated in the physical
84 examination component of the 20 year cohort follow-up. Twenty-eight of these participants did not
85 undergo a dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scan for the following reasons: participant was
86 pregnant or breastfeeding, had difficulty adopting the supine position for the required scan time,
87 refused or the DXA machine was not available. Six hundred and seventy males and 608 females
88 underwent DXA scanning. Data from 95 participants were excluded due to the presence of artefacts
89 in the region of interest or because participants were too tall or large for their body to fit in the
90 scanning area. Data from 574 females and 609 males aged 19-22 years were included in this
91 analysis. This study was approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of University of
92 Western Australia. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant.

93

94 ***Whole body DXA***

95 Whole body scan was performed using DXA on a Norland XR-36 densitometer (Norland Medical
96 Systems, Inc., Fort Atkinson, WI, USA), according to manufacturer-recommended procedures.
97 Analysis of scans was performed using built-in machine software (version 4.3.0) and the regions of
98 interest for head, trunk, arms and legs manually placed by trained study staff according to a
99 standard analysis protocol. All analyses were checked by one researcher (JM) for consistency. The
100 analysis provided estimates of whole body fat mass (g), lean mass (bone free) (g), BMC (g), bone
101 area (cm²) and areal BMD (mg/cm²). Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio was calculated as trunk fat mass
102 divided by fat mass of arms and legs, and used as the surrogate of visceral fat. A previous study
103 showed that trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio has a good correlation with visceral fat tissue area
104 measured by MRI at the level of L4 vertebra [25]. Percentage body fat mass was calculated as (fat
105 mass divided by total mass) × 100 and percentage trunk fat mass was calculated as (trunk fat mass
106 divided by total mass) × 100. Fat mass index was calculated as fat mass (kg)/height (m)² and lean
107 mass index was calculated as lean mass (kg)/height (m)². Daily calibration was performed on the
108 DXA machine prior to each scanning session. The densitometer had a variation in precision of <2.0%
109 for the measured site at standard speed.

110

111 *Other assessments*

112 Weight and height were measured with subjects dressed in light clothes. Body weight was measured
113 to the nearest 0.1 kg. Body height was measured with a hypsometer to the nearest 0.1 cm. Body
114 mass index (BMI) was calculated as weight (kg)/height (m)².

115

116 *Data analysis*

117 Variables are presented as means ± standard deviations (SD) by gender. Comparisons between
118 males and females were made by Student's t-test and analysis of covariance (ANCOVA).

119 Correlation coefficients between body composition (lean body mass, fat mass and trunk-to-limb fat
120 mass ratio) and bone measures (total body BMC, bone area and BMD) were calculated using

121 Pearson's correlation analysis separately for each gender. Linear regression analysis was used to
122 evaluate the relationships between body composition and bone measures, with total body BMC,
123 bone area and BMD as dependent variables; lean mass, fat mass and trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio as
124 the predictor variables; and age and height as covariates. The interaction terms for gender and each
125 body composition measure were tested in each model. To account for the inter-correlation between
126 body size and body composition measures, the semi-partial R^2 for each predictor variable was
127 calculated to estimate the proportion of the variance associated uniquely with each predictor.
128 Collinearity was tested in each regression model, and a variance inflation factor (VIF) value larger
129 than 10 was considered as showing the existence of collinearity or near collinearity [26]. The
130 adequacy of the assumption of linearity of associations for each predictor adjusted for other
131 predictors and covariates was assessed by examination of the partial regression plots for each model.
132 The normality and independence of the residuals and the homogeneity of variance of each model
133 were checked using residual plots (normal probability plot and plot of residuals vs predicted values).
134 Statistical significance level was set at $P < 0.05$ (two-tailed). All analyses were performed using
135 IBM SPSS (version 20, IBM, Chicago, IL, USA).

136

137 **Results**

138 *Descriptive statistics*

139 The mean age of male participants was 20.1 ± 0.5 years and female 20.0 ± 0.4 years. Males were
140 taller and heavier compared with females but there was no significant difference in BMI (**Table 1**).
141 The percentage of participants with normal BMI ($20\text{-}25 \text{ kg/m}^2$) was similar in males and females
142 (54.5% vs 52.6%), but a higher proportion of females were underweight (12.2% in males vs. 18.3%
143 in females), whereas a higher proportion of males were overweight (BMI $25\text{-}30 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 24.3% in
144 males vs 19.2% in females). The prevalence of obesity (BMI $>30 \text{ kg/m}^2$) was similar in males and
145 females (9.1% vs 9.9%). Young men had significantly higher lean body mass and lean mass index,
146 whereas women had significantly higher fat mass, fat mass index, percentage body and trunk fat
147 and a higher trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio (Table 1). Total body BMC, bone area and BMD were
148 significantly higher in males compared with females (Table 1). Adjusting for body weight, height
149 and total body bone area, males still had significantly higher size-adjusted total body BMC than
150 females (estimated mean \pm SE: $2,993 \pm 11$ vs $2,881 \pm 11$ g, $P < 0.001$).

151

152 *Correlation analyses*

153 The correlation coefficients between anthropometry and body composition variables with total body
154 bone parameters are shown in **Table 2**. Body weight had moderate correlation with all bone
155 parameters in both genders ($r = 0.54\text{-}0.69$). In both males and females, height was strongly
156 correlated with bone area ($r = 0.73\text{-}0.82$), moderately correlated with total body BMC ($0.58\text{-}0.62$),
157 but only weakly correlated with total body BMD ($r = 0.26\text{-}0.29$). Lean body mass had moderate to
158 strong correlation with all bone measures in males ($r = 0.66\text{-}0.80$), and the correlation was slightly
159 weaker in females ($r = 0.50\text{-}0.66$). Fat mass was weakly correlated with bone measures in males (r
160 $= 0.19 - 0.26$), and moderately correlated in females ($r = 0.40\text{-}0.50$). Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio
161 had a very weak inverse correlation with total body bone area ($r = -0.13$) in males, and a weak

162 positive correlation with BMD ($r = 0.15$) in males and with total body BMC and BMD in females (r
163 $= 0.18-0.25$).

164

165 ***Regression analyses***

166 In the regression analysis for all three bone parameters, age was not a significant predictor in any of
167 the models, indicating that there was no significant additional contribution of age for total body
168 BMC, bone area and BMD in the narrow age range of study participants. Accordingly, age was not
169 retained in the final models. For total body BMC, there was significant gender and fat mass
170 interaction ($P < 0.001$), indicating gender-specific associations between fat mass and total body
171 BMC. For total body bone area, there were significant interactions between gender and all three
172 body composition measures (lean body mass $P = 0.002$; fat mass $P < 0.001$; trunk-limb-fat mass
173 ratio, $P = 0.050$), indicating gender-specific associations between measures of body composition
174 and bone area. There were no significant interactions between gender and body composition
175 measures for total body BMD. All subsequent analysis was performed separately for each gender.
176 **Table 3** shows the regression coefficients of predictor variables and corresponding semi-partial R^2
177 values, which can be interpreted as the proportion of variability in each outcome specifically
178 explained by each predictor.

179 **Total body BMC:** In males, lean body mass was the most significant predictor of total body BMC,
180 uniquely associated with 27.5% of the variance, whereas fat mass only explained a small proportion
181 of the variance (1.8%). In females, both lean and fat mass were important predictors of total body
182 BMC, uniquely associated with 9.9% and 12.6% of the variance, respectively. The estimated
183 increase in total body BMC associated with each additional kilogram of lean mass was 35.7g in
184 men and 25.2g in women, whereas for fat mass, each additional kilogram was associated with BMC
185 increases of 9.4 g in men and 15.0 g in women (**Figure 1**). In both genders, height had a positive
186 association with total body BMC, whereas trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio had a negative association

187 with total body BMC. Each additional 0.1 unit increase in the trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio was
188 associated with a decrease in total body BMC of 16.4 g in males and 23.0 g in females.

189

190 **Total body bone area:** In both men and women, height was the most significant predictor of total
191 body bone area, accounting for 21.1% and 26.6% of the variance, respectively. In males, both lean
192 and fat mass had a positive association with bone area. In females, fat mass was an important
193 predictor of bone area and was uniquely associated with 14.8% of the variance, whereas lean mass
194 was only of borderline significance. In both genders, trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio had a negative
195 association with total body bone area, and could account for 2.3% of the variance in male and 3.4%
196 in female. Each additional 0.1 unit in trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio was associated with a decrease in
197 total body bone area of 17.6 cm² in males and 23.1 cm² in females.

198

199 **Total body BMD:** Lean body mass was the most significant predictor of total body BMD, with a
200 stronger predictive value in males than females. It was uniquely associated with 34.5% of the
201 variance in males and 18.3% in females. Fat mass was associated with 3.9% of the variance in
202 female, but was only of borderline significance in males. The estimated increase in total body BMD
203 associated with each additional kilogram of lean mass was 10.1 mg/cm² in males and 8.7 mg/cm² in
204 females, whereas for fat mass each additional kilogram was associated with total body BMD
205 increases of 1.3 and 2.1 mg/cm² in males and females, respectively (Figure 1). Height had a
206 negative relationship with total body BMD in males after accounting for lean and fat body mass,
207 and was not a significant predictor in females. Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio was not a significant
208 predictor of total BMD in either gender.

209 **Discussion**

210 In this study of young Australian adults, we found that lean body mass was strongly associated with
211 total body BMC and BMD in both genders, uniquely accounting for 9.9-34.5% of the variation in
212 these parameters, and associated with a greater proportion of the variance in males. Our study
213 demonstrated gender differences in the association between fat mass and peak bone mass. Whereas
214 fat mass was strongly associated with peak bone mass in females, accounting for 12.6% and 3.9%
215 of the variation in total body BMC and BMD, respectively, it accounted for less than 2% of
216 variation in these parameters in males. Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio, which we used as a surrogate
217 measure of visceral fat [25], had a weak negative association with total body bone area and
218 consequently total body BMC in both genders.

219

220 There is growing concern regarding the global epidemic of obesity. In 2008, 1.5 billion people aged
221 20 years or above were overweight, and among them over 200 million men and nearly 300 million
222 women were obese [14]. Despite the adverse health consequences of overweight and obesity, body
223 weight and BMI are major determinants of bone density, and a meta-analysis of population-based
224 cohort studies showed that low BMI is a risk factor for total, osteoporotic and hip fracture in both
225 men and women [27]. As attainment of an optimal peak bone mass is considered the best protection
226 against subsequent age-related bone loss and fracture [13], it is important to understand
227 determinants of peak bone mass including the role of lean mass, fat mass and different fat
228 compartments.

229

230 Our study showed a positive relationship between fat mass and bone in female participants, which is
231 consistent with the findings of previous studies in young women [2, 3], but not with a study that
232 included adolescent girls in the study population [5]. In young men, we found fat mass had a weak
233 but positive association with total body bone measures, whereas the relationships observed in
234 previous studies with young men were conflicting, with some studies showing a positive association

235 [2], and others an inverse or no association [5, 8]. The differences in findings could in part be due to
236 the bone sites assessed and the techniques used. In a study with opposite sex twins, fat mass was
237 positively correlated with total body and hip BMD in women aged under 50 years, but not in men of
238 similar age [17]. Overall these results together with the findings of our study suggest that fat mass
239 plays a less important role in determining bone mass in young males, compared to young females.
240 Our study demonstrated that lean mass had a greater association with total body BMC and BMD
241 than fat mass (kilogram for kilogram) in both genders, with the differences more pronounced in
242 males (Figure 1). A previous study in 921 young women aged 20-25 years also showed that per kg
243 change of lean mass associated with greater increased in BMD of femoral neck, spine and total
244 body compared with that of fat mass [3].

245 There are marked differences in metabolic activity between subcutaneous and visceral fat, and
246 recent studies in adolescent girls and young women suggest that subcutaneous fat may be positively
247 associated with bone mass whereas visceral fat may have negative association with bone mass [19-
248 21]. Consistent with that, our study demonstrated a negative association between trunk-to-limb fat
249 mass ratio (a surrogate of visceral fat) and peak bone mass in young women. Furthermore, our study
250 is the first to demonstrate a significant negative association between visceral fat and each of bone
251 size and bone mass in young men, suggesting a negative relationship of visceral fat and peak bone
252 mass attained in males. One study with Korean adults aged 21-83 years showed that visceral fat
253 area had an inverse association with BMD of hip and spine in both men and women [28], indicating
254 the adverse impact of visceral fat in all age groups. The adverse influence of visceral fat on bone in
255 our study appears to be mainly on bone size. Consistently, a study with 100 healthy women aged
256 15-25 years also showed that visceral fat had a negative association with femoral cross-sectional
257 bone area as assessed by QCT [21]. As bone strength is related to both the size and shape of bone
258 and the amount of mineralization [29], the smaller bone area associated with high visceral fat may
259 imply an increased fracture risk in later life. The negative association between visceral fat and bone
260 could be related to increased inflammatory cytokines, such as TNF- α or IL-6, which are more

261 related to visceral adiposity [30, 31] and have deleterious effects on bone mediated by increased
262 bone resorption or inhibited osteoblast function [12]. In addition, hyperlipidaemia associated with
263 central adiposity may also play a role; a negative relationship between hyperlipidaemia and bone
264 mass has been reported in adult men and women [32].

265

266 Strengths of our study include the large sample size and the relatively homogeneous nature of the
267 cohort, particularly with regard to age. The latter is important for evaluating the relationship
268 between body composition and bone, as the association varies with age [11, 33]. The inclusion of
269 males and females, analysed separately, enabled us to evaluate gender differences in the
270 relationships between body composition and peak bone mass. In addition, our analysis controlled
271 for height rather than body weight, avoiding the problem of collinearity associated with adjusting
272 for body weight in the analysis [11], as body weight and body fat are highly correlated ($r = 0.807$
273 for males and $r = 0.925$ for females in our study population). Furthermore, the calculation of semi-
274 partial R^2 for each predictor variable accounted for the inter-correlation between body size and body
275 composition measure, and thus allowed the evaluation of the proportion of variance uniquely
276 associated with each predictor. Limitations of the study include the observational, cross-sectional
277 nature of the study, and we cannot assume that the relationships demonstrated are causal in nature.
278 Another limitation is that we did not have bone structure assessment and bone strength estimate
279 using pQCT or QCT. Nevertheless, DXA is considered as the “gold standard” for areal BMD
280 measurements and its role in fracture risk prediction is well accepted [34]. Our study population
281 was at an age expected to have reached peak bone mass [22], however the negative relationship
282 between height and total body BMD in males may indicate that full bone mineralization had not
283 been achieved in the taller participants. Our study population was recruited from the offspring of a
284 pregnancy cohort but the general characteristics of the cohort are comparable with the general
285 population [24].

286

287 In conclusion, our study confirmed a positive association between fat mass and peak bone mass in
288 young women. However, the relationships differed between fat compartments, with high visceral fat
289 associated with smaller bone area and consequently lower BMC. In young males, fat mass was not
290 an important determinant of peak bone mass overall, but a similar negative association between
291 visceral fat and bone was demonstrated. Therefore, besides other health benefits such as reduced
292 risk for cardiovascular disease and metabolic syndrome, preventing the accumulation of visceral fat
293 from an early age may benefit bone health and contribute to skeletal integrity and fracture
294 prevention. Our study demonstrates a strong positive relationship between lean body mass and total
295 body bone mass in both genders, thus lifestyle factors such as physical activity that benefit both
296 bone and lean body mass should be encouraged for the achievement of optimal peak bone mass.
297

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302

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312

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Table 1 Anthropometric, body composition and bone measures in participants

	Male (n = 609)	Female (n = 574)	P*
Age (year)	20.1 ± 0.5	20.0 ± 0.4	0.109
Height (cm)	178.3 ± 7.1	165.9 ± 6.4	<0.001
Weight (kg)	76.8 ± 14.0	65.3 ± 13.1	<0.001
BMI (kg/m ²)	24.1 ± 3.9	23.8 ± 4.7	0.180
Body composition measures			
Lean mass (kg)	56.7 ± 7.9	36.5 ± 5.0	<0.001
Lean mass index (kg/m ²)	17.8 ± 2.0	13.3 ± 1.5	<0.001
Fat mass (kg)	17.5 ± 10.0	26.9 ± 11.0	<0.001
Fat mass index (kg/m ²)	5.5 ± 3.1	9.8 ± 4.1	<0.001
Percentage body fat (%)	21.7 ± 8.7	39.4 ± 8.9	<0.001
Percentage trunk fat (%)	9.9 ± 5.4	18.4 ± 5.8	<0.001
Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio	0.89 ± 0.27	0.95 ± 0.21	<0.001
Total body bone measures			
BMC (g)	3174 ± 428	2689 ± 327	<0.001
Bone area (cm ²)	2825 ± 194	2633 ± 180	<0.001
BMD (mg/cm ²)	1121 ± 108	1019 ± 83	<0.001

Values are mean ± SD. * Student's t-test.

Table 2 Correlation coefficients between body composition and total body bone measures

	Male			Female		
	BMC	Bone area	BMD	BMC	Bone area	BMD
Weight	0.669**	0.539**	0.563**	0.685**	0.541**	0.556**
Height	0.615**	0.824**	0.288**	0.581**	0.728**	0.261**
Lean mass	0.799**	0.663**	0.657**	0.656**	0.496**	0.566**
Fat mass	0.258**	0.185**	0.234**	0.497**	0.402**	0.402**
Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio	0.040	-0.128*	0.146**	0.174**	0.015	0.251**

*P < 0.01; ** P < 0.001.

Table 3 Predictors of total body bone measures

	Male			Female		
	Regression coefficient (95% CI)	P	R ² *	Regression coefficient (95% CI)	P	R ²
Total body BMC (g)						
Height (cm)	10.8 (7.2, 14.3)	<0.001	0.018	17.0 (14.1, 20.0)	<0.001	0.073
Lean body mass (kg)	35.7 (32.6, 38.7)	<0.001	0.275	25.2 (21.4, 29.0)	<0.001	0.099
Fat mass (kg)	9.4 (6.3, 12.5)	<0.001	0.018	15.0 (13.0, 17.0)	<0.001	0.126
Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio (0.1 unit increase)	-16.4 (-27.7, -5.1)	0.005	0.004	-23.0 (-33.8, -12.2)	<0.001	0.010
Common variance shared by all predictors			0.373			0.361
Total variance explained			0.688			0.669
Total body bone area (cm²)						
Height (cm)	16.4 (15.0, 17.8)	<0.001	0.211	17.8 (16.3, 19.4)	<0.001	0.266
Lean body mass (kg)	6.4 (5.2, 7.7)	<0.001	0.043	2.1 (0.1, 4.1)	0.035	0.002
Fat mass (kg)	5.1 (3.9, 6.4)	<0.001	0.027	9.0 (7.9, 10.0)	<0.001	0.148
Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio (0.1 unit increase)	-17.6 (-22.2, -13.0)	<0.001	0.023	-23.1 (-28.7, -17.5)	<0.001	0.034
Common variance shared by all predictors			0.446			0.255
Total variance explained			0.750			0.705
Total body BMD (mg/cm²)						
Height (cm)	-2.5 (-3.7, -1.4)	<0.001	0.016	-0.4 (-1.4, 0.7)	0.489	0.0005
Lean body mass (kg)	10.1 (9.1, 11.1)	<0.001	0.345	8.7 (7.4, 10.0)	<0.001	0.183
Fat mass (kg)	1.3 (0.3, 2.4)	0.009	0.006	2.1 (1.4, 2.8)	<0.001	0.039
Trunk-to-limb fat mass ratio (0.1 unit increase)	1.0 (-2.7, 4.7)	0.598	0.0003	0.8 (-2.8, 4.5)	0.656	0.0002
Common variance shared by all predictors			0.100			0.180

Total variance explained

0.467

0.402

* R^2 for individual predictor variable refers to semi-partial R^2 , which is the proportion of the variance associated uniquely with the predictor.

Figure Legends

Figure 1 Mean differences in bone measure in relation to lean and fat body mass, values are mean (95% CI). BMC, bone mineral content; BMD, bone mineral density.

Figure 1

