

The Skinny Jean: Is Society Fashion's Slave?

By: Grace Zawadzki

It's 2022, and denim still dominates the racks. Like all fashion staples, jean styles have cycled in and out of the limelight, shaped by [cultural tides and consumer tastes](#).

[Refinery29](#) aptly recalls, "When skinny jeans first came around in the mid-2000s, they were a revelation. They accentuated the butt without exposing it. Suddenly, hemlines could remain clean and unchewed." This innovation marked a turning point—denim that hugged one's figure, for better or worse.

But in a world increasingly celebrating [body positivity and individuality](#), it begs the question: have trendy styles evolved to match this ethos? Could the once-exclusive skinny jean reclaim its throne, this time catering to all body types and preferences?

Junior psychology major Samantha Stucchi reflects on her personal shift: "I haven't worn skinny jeans since high school. Back then, I wore them because everyone else did. But now I find them uncomfortable, and I've realized the 'mom jean' is more flattering for my body."



Skinny jeans, once heralded for their versatility, carried an implicit exclusivity. [Until recently](#), their sizing primarily catered to smaller frames, leaving plus-sized women to navigate an unspoken directive: conceal rather than celebrate. Meanwhile, petite women were encouraged to showcase their figures in fitted denim.

In early-2000s celebrity culture, baggy jeans reigned supreme, gracing red carpets and streets alike. Though often dismissed as conservative or asexual, the looser fit resonated with a generation embracing a more laid-back aesthetic. Today, that same preference for comfort has fueled a resurgence in oversized and relaxed denim styles.

Millennial Meghan Quinlivan shares her perspective: "At my age, it's more important to dress for your body type and what makes you feel good, rather than chasing trends. Why would I buy

something I'm not confident in? Personal style and comfort matter more than staying up-to-date.”

The rise of straight-leg, boyfriend, bootcut, and ‘mom’ jeans has undoubtedly contributed to the skinny jean’s decline. These alternatives offer a refreshing departure, prioritizing individuality and comfort over conformity.

Skinny jeans once symbolized endless outfit possibilities and effortless chic. But as fashion evolves, so does its meaning. Today, denim remains a staple—not for its fit or trendiness, but for its ability to adapt to the wearer’s confidence and unique sense of style.

Image caption: As the world slowly starts implementing body inclusivity into fashion, the trends are changing.

Photo via: <https://www.therefinery.ca/refined/best-fitting-jeans-for-women.html>