WEIGHT STIGMA AND BIAS

Weight bias is when people have negative attitudes and beliefs about people who have obesity. The negative attitudes and beliefs cause them to behave unfairly toward people who have obesity.

Examples of weight bias:



Judging workers for choosing fast food^{3,4}



Providing uniform sizes that don't accommodate all body sizes comfortably⁵



Financial penalties, such as higher healthcare costs for being overweight²

The social stigma of obesity can cause:6

- Depression
- Anxiety

- Extreme Dieting
- Binge Eating
- Decreased Physical Activity
- · Avoidance of Medical Care

You can reduce weight bias by using people-first language¹



Avoid terms like... "An obese person"



Consider instead...
"A person with obesity" or
"A person affected by obesity"

Talk to your doctor about how you can take control of your health

1. https://www.obesityaction.org/advocacy/what-we-fight-for/weight-bias (Accessed August 2, 2024); 2. https://www.obesityaction.org/wp-content/uploads/Weight-Bias-in-the-Workplace.pdf (Accessed August 2, 2024); 3. Gupta, CC. et al. Ind Health. 2019;57(4):419-453 [Table 1, 424-434]; 4. Cultural Competence. Food Shame at Work: An Oft-Overlooked Employee Experience. Gallup; 2022. Accessed September 26, 2024. https://news.gallup.com/podcast/397910/food-shame-work-oft-overlooked-employee-experience.aspx?version=print; 5. Gonzales, M. SHRN; 2024. Accessed September 26, 2024. https://www.shrm.org/topics-tools/news/all-things-work/confronting-weight-bias; 6. https://www.obesity.action.org/get-educated/public-resources/brochures-guides/ understanding-obesity-stigma-brochure/ (Accessed August 2, 2024); 7. Brown A, et al. EClinicalMedicine. 2022;47:101408.



