**Obesity Care Week** February 28th - March 6th, 2021

### WHY DOES WEIGHT BIAS MATTER?

## 93 Million Americans AFFECTED BY OBESIT

In the United States, it is estimated that 93 million Americans are affected by obesity.

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obesity care

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- In only 10 years, there was a 66% increase in reports of weight discrimination.<sup>1</sup>
- 10.3% of U.S. adults have experienced weight bias 2. in healthcare.9
- Weight discrimination is the second most common 3. form of discrimination reported by women, and is comparable to rates of racial discrimination.<sup>2</sup>
- Weight bias also comes from family members. In one study, 72% of respondents said they experienced weight bias from family members.8
- **5.** Far from improving health outcomes, weight bias can also lead to higher blood pressure and an overall poorer quality of life.<sup>5</sup> With millions of adults and children's lives at risk, it's time to work together to change how we talk, think and act about weight.

#### Sign-up for OCW Alerts to learn how you can get involved! ObesityCareWeek.org/ocw-alerts

## **WEIGHT BIAS** IN THE WORKPLACE

More than half (54 percent) of people with excess weight report experiencing stigma by coworkers.<sup>5</sup>

In addition to being viewed as lazy, less competent and lacking in self-discipline, individuals with excess weight or obesity are paid less on the job.<sup>6</sup>

More than half of people with excess weight report having been stigmatized by coworkers.<sup>3</sup>

Women who are affected by obesity tend to earn salaries that are six percent lower than thinner women (for the same work performed).7

### WEIGHT BIAS ISN' SAME FOR EVERY

32% of Latinos/Hispanics and 26% Asians/Pacific Islanders say they've experienced weight bias in employment compared to 11% of all adults.<sup>10</sup>

47% of Blacks/African Americans and 47% of Latinos/Hispanics and say they've experienced weight bias compared to 42% of all adults.<sup>10</sup>

**31%** of Asians/Pacific Islanders and **30%** of Latinos/Hispanics say they've experienced weight bias in education compared to 14% of all adults.<sup>10</sup>



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  OAC online survey of 429 U.S. Asian/Pacific Islander adults, August 2020; OAC online survey of 429 U.S. Asian/Pacific Islander adults, August 2020.