

WEIGHT BIAS AND CHILDHOOD BULLYING



Obesity Care Week



Fast facts about weight-based bullying

- 1 **92% of children** report that they witness their peers affected by obesity and excess weight being teased at school.¹
- 2 Childhood obesity is the most common chronic disease of childhood, **affecting more than 30% of children in the U.S.**
- 3 **58% of boys and 63% of girls** in high school experience daily teasing, bullying or rejection because of their size.²
- 4 Negative attitudes toward children with obesity begin **as early as preschool**.³



Impacts of weight-based bullying on children

- Weight bias begins as early as pre-school, and may get worse as children age leading to increased incidences of bullying in our schools.
- Children and teens who are victims of bullying may have thoughts of suicide and some may actually commit suicide.⁴
- Children affected by obesity miss more days of school than their peers.⁵
- Students affected by obesity are viewed as self-indulgent, lazy and are excluded from social activities by their peers.³



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

SOURCES

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3. Brownell KD, Puhl RM, Schwartz MB, Rudd L. *Weight bias: Nature, extent, and remedies*. NY: Guilford Press, 2005.
4. Eaton DK, Lowry R, Brener ND, Galuska DA, Crosby AE. Associations of body mass index and perceived weight with suicide ideation and suicide attempts among US high school students. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*. 2005 Jun;159(6):513-9.
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