



# Obesity Care Week

February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## WEIGHT BIAS and CHILDHOOD BULLYING

# 92% OF CHILDREN



REPORT THAT THEY WITNESS THEIR PEERS AFFECTED BY OBESITY AND EXCESS WEIGHT BEING TEASED AT SCHOOL.<sup>1</sup>



Childhood obesity is the most common chronic disease of childhood, affecting more than 30 percent of children in the U.S.

Weight bias begins as early as pre-school, and may get worse as children age 2, leading to increased incidences of bullying in our schools.



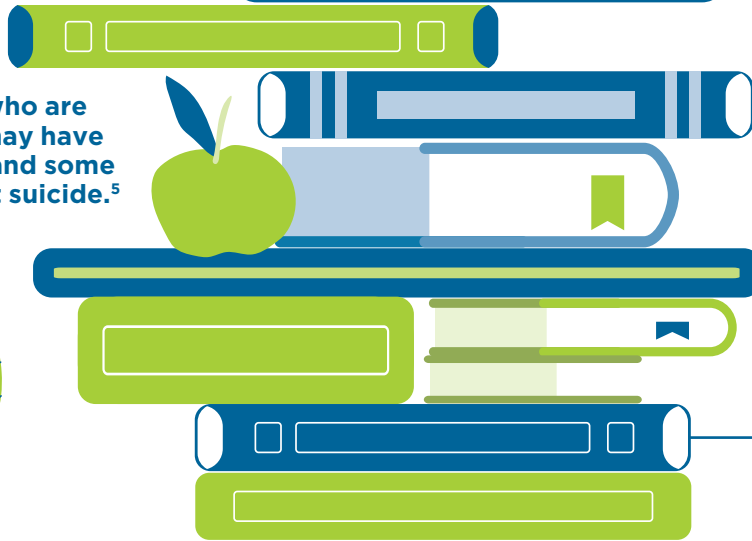
GIRLS 63%



BOYS 58%

58 percent of boys and 63 percent of girls in high school experience daily teasing, bullying or rejection because of their size.<sup>4</sup>

Children and teens who are victims of bullying may have thoughts of suicide and some may actually commit suicide.<sup>5</sup>



Children affected by obesity miss more days of school than their peers.<sup>6</sup>

Students affected by obesity are viewed as self-indulgent, lazy and are excluded from social activities by their peers.<sup>8</sup>

Sign-up for OCW Alerts to learn how you can get involved!

[ObesityCareWeek.org/ocw-alerts](http://ObesityCareWeek.org/ocw-alerts)

Negative attitudes toward children with obesity begin as early as preschool.<sup>8</sup>



### SOURCES:

1. Puhl, RM, Luedicke, J, & Heuer, C. (2011). Weight-based victimization toward overweight and obese adolescents: Observations and reactions of peers. *Journal of School Health*, 81, 696-703.
2. Chalker B, O'Dea J. Fat kids can't do maths: Negative body weight stereotyping and associations with academic competence and participation in school activities among primary school children. *The Open Education Journal*. 2009;2:71-77; Greenleaf C, Chambliss H, Rhea DJ, Martin SB, Morrow JR. Weight stereotypes and behavioral intentions toward thin and fat peers among White and Hispanic adolescents. *J Adolescent Health*. 2006;39:546-552; Turnbull JD, Heaslip S, McLeod HA. Pre-school children's attitudes to fat and normal male and female stimulus figures. *Int J Obes*. 2000; 24, 1705-06; Watanabe H, Chen RS. Reactions to morphological deviance: A comparison of Japanese and American children and adolescents. *Soc Devel*. 2000; 9, 40-61.
3. National Education Association. Report on Size Discrimination. 1994; Available at <http://www.lect-law.com/files/con28.htm>. Retrieved September 5, 2007.
4. BULLYING, Bullycide and Childhood Obesity by JoAnn Stevelos, MS, MPH
5. 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.
6. Geier A, et al. The Relationship between Relative Weight and School Attendance Among Elementary Schoolchildren. *Obesity*, 2007; 15 (8): 2157-61.
7. Libbey HP et al. (2008) Op. cit.; Puhl RM (2007) Op. cit.; Salvy SJ, Bowker JC, Nitecki LA, et al. Impact of simulated ostracism on overweight and normal-weight youths' motivation to eat and food intake. *Appetite*. 2011;56:39-45.
8. Brownell KD, Puhl RM, Schwartz MB, Rudd L. Weight bias: Nature, extent, and remedies. NY: Guilford Press, 2005.