

32 Labor Market Consequences: Employment, Wages, Disability, and Absenteeism

[Get access >](#)

Susan L. Averett

<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199736362.013.0032> Pages 531–552**Published:** 18 September 2012

Abstract

This chapter is concerned with whether or not obesity *causes* adverse labor-market outcomes, placing particular emphasis on the econometric methods used to overcome the potential endogeneity of obesity. The research using non-U.S. data provides more evidence that obesity exerts a negative and significant impact on wages, but the results are more mixed. The chapter then turns its attention to other labor-market outcomes that may be adversely affected by obesity. Job absenteeism and employment disability are potentially an important indirect cost of obesity that deserves more scrutiny in order to understand the true costs of the obesity epidemic. Recent experimental evidence from Sweden presents convincing evidence that the obese are less likely to be hired, some of which might reflect customer discrimination.

Keywords: [obesity](#), [labor market](#), [wages](#), [job absenteeism](#), [employment disability](#), [customer discrimination](#)

Subject: [Health, Education, and Welfare](#), [Economics](#)

Series: [Oxford Handbooks](#)

Collection: [Oxford Handbooks Online](#)

You do not currently have access to this chapter.

Sign in

[Get help with access](#)

Personal account

- Sign in with email/username & password

Institutional access

Sign in through your



- Get email alerts
- Save searches
- Purchase content
- Activate your purchase/trial code
- Add your ORCID iD

Sign in >

Register

institution

Sign in through your institution

Sign in with a library card

Sign in with username/password

Recommend to your librarian

Institutional account management

Sign in as administrator

Purchase

Institutions

Flexible purchasing options

Browse products >

Individuals

Recommend to your librarian