

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

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Susan L. Averett

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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](#)

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