Unspoken: Decreasing Attitudes of Stigma Towards Obese Women by Healthcare Providers
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Problem Statement

Adult obese women may delay or avoid gynecological care due to stigma, secondary to implicit or explicit bias of health care providers. This stigma results in decreased empathy caused by lack of knowledge and training about the care of obese women.

Background

Obesity is a chronic health condition that impacts 600 million adults worldwide and 78 million adults in the United States. Fifty-two percent of the world’s adult population and 70.7% of the adult population of the United States is overweight or obese (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016; Johnson, Hayes, Brown, Hoo & Ethik, 2014; World Health Organization, 2016).

Mean Body Mass Index (kg/m²), ages 18+, 2014 (age standardized estimate) Female

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<tr>
<th>Mass-Body Mass Index (kg/m²)</th>
<th>18.5-24.9</th>
<th>25.0-29.9</th>
<th>30.0-34.9</th>
<th>35.0-39.9</th>
<th>40.0-44.9</th>
<th>≥45.0</th>
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Note: For mapping purposes, this map shows estimated values for Sudan and South Sudan. These values concern the former Sudan as it existed prior to July 2011.

Plan for Data Analysis

The Thin-Fat implicit bias test and Anti-Fat Attitudes test will be administered before, immediately after and one to three months after the educational intervention. The test will be offered and administered to all the healthcare providers and staff in the practice that have patient contact. The link to the implicit bias test will be made available for subjects to complete at their convenience. Subjects will be asked to record their scores along with the date of the test and the interpretation of the scores. Each survey will be given a random number so that they may be completed and analyzed without identifying the subjects.

The data will be analyzed with descriptive statistics of the mean and median scores with a standard deviation and range. A repeated measures one-way ANOVA statistical analysis will be applied to the bias tests to see if there is a significant difference in the change in bias over time.

References


