

20. Obesity: Implications for Practice

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Obesity is a major global health epidemic which has significant implications for health and social care systems throughout Europe and the United States.

This presentation will discuss the background and size of the problem across the two continents, the health implications of rising rates of obesity and the links between obesity and work. All aspects of occupational health will be discussed but attention will be directed on the effects of work making or aggravating obesity and of the effects of obesity on sickness absence and disability leave. Finally the presentation will discuss some of the literature on prejudice and discrimination towards obese people which impacts on their employability and their experiences of employment.