



## Potential Policies and Laws to Prohibit Weight Discrimination: Public Views from 4 Countries

There is currently a lack of legislation and policies to address this form of discrimination. This study provides the first multinational examination of public support for policies and legislation to prohibit weight discrimination.

The study assessed public support for the implementation of laws and policies aimed at reducing weight-based stigma across 4 countries: United States, Canada, Australia, and Iceland. These countries were selected due to their comparable socio-cultural values of thinness, per capita incomes, and governance structures. The study included 2866 participants who completed anonymous, online, self-reported surveys.

The survey investigated:

- Predictors of public support for antidiscrimination
- Weight status
- Beliefs about the causes of obesity
- Personal experiences of weight bias
- Attributions of blame and willpower

Results showed that the majority of participants in all 4 of the countries investigated were in favour of their government introducing laws to prohibit weight-based discrimination, and that two thirds of participants in all 4 countries were in favour of the introduction of policies which would make it illegal for employers to refuse to hire, assign lower wages, deny promotions, or terminate qualified employees because of body weight.

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### World Obesity Federation

Suite 406, 107-111 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB

T: +44 (0)20 7936 9987 E: [enquiries@worldobesity.org](mailto:enquiries@worldobesity.org)

[www.worldobesity.org](http://www.worldobesity.org)

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