

Depression in adults who are overweight or obese

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In an analysis of primary care records of 519,513 UK adults who were overweight or obese between 2000-2016 and followed up until 2019, the incidence of new cases of depression was 92 per 10,000 people per year.

The risk of depression also rose with higher weight, according to the *Obesity* analysis.

The study also found that [antidepressants](#) were prescribed in approximately two-thirds of adults who were overweight or obese. Prescriptions for [fluoxetine](#) dropped over time (from 20.4% in 2000 to 8.8% in 2018) and [prescriptions](#) for sertraline increased (from 4.3% in 2000 to 38.9% in 2018).

"Our findings highlight the complex relationship between depression and obesity," said lead author Freya Tyrer, of the University of Leicester, in the UK. "We would like to see tailored guidance on antidepressant prescribing and services that focus on both mood and behaviors to improve outcomes for these individuals."

More information: Freya Tyrer et al, Incidence of Depression and First-Line Antidepressant Therapy in People with Obesity and Depression in Primary Care, *Obesity* (2020). [DOI: 10.1002/oby.22772](https://doi.org/10.1002/oby.22772)

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