

Employees with obesity may have higher loss of work productivity than those with normal weight

June 17 2023



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People with obesity may have lower work productivity due to increased risk of illness, contributing to increased costs for employers, according

to industry-supported research being presented Saturday at ENDO 2023, the Endocrine Society's annual meeting, in Chicago, Ill.

Obesity is a significant public health issue affecting approximately 42% of people in the United States. Employees with overweight or [obesity](#) are more likely to develop weight-related comorbidities such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, [sleep apnea](#), [cardiovascular disease](#), and cancer, which all contribute to lower work productivity.

"Employees with overweight and obesity may have higher loss of work productivity as measured by absenteeism, short and long-term disability, and worker's compensation compared to employees with [normal weight](#)," said Clare J. Lee, M.D., of Eli Lilly & Company in Indianapolis, Ind.

Co-author Shraddha Shinde M.B.A, also of Eli Lilly & Company, added that, "Given the substantial burden of overweight and obesity on employee health and function that was demonstrated by this study, employers should focus on building tailored interventions that could be beneficial in improving the health of these individuals."

The researchers evaluated 719,482 employees with and without obesity in the MarketScan databases. They determined the percentage of employees with work loss, number of hours/days lost from work, and costs associated with productivity loss were higher among people with overweight or obesity. The loss of [work productivity](#) was greater with each higher Body Mass Index (BMI) category.

The researchers found costs associated with absenteeism, short and long-term disability, and worker's compensation were \$891, \$623, \$41, and \$112 higher per year (respectively) for people with obesity compared to those with normal weight.

More information: Conference livestream at endomediastream.com.

Provided by The Endocrine Society

Citation: Employees with obesity may have higher loss of work productivity than those with normal weight (2023, June 17) retrieved 12 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-06-employees-obesity-higher-loss-productivity.html>

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