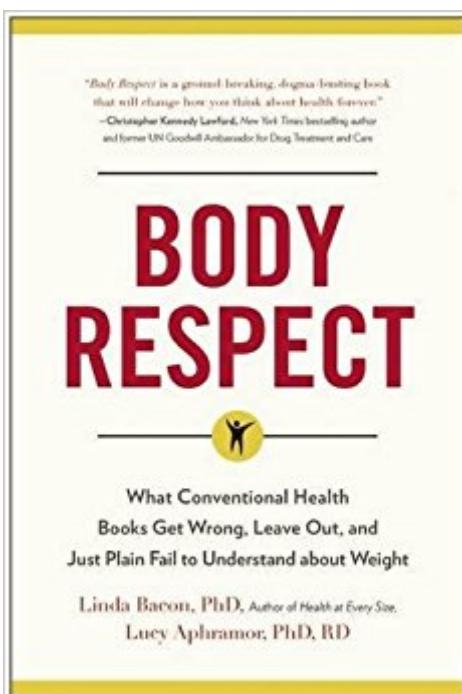


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# Body Respect: What Conventional Health Books Get Wrong, Leave Out, And Just Plain Fail To Understand About Weight



## Synopsis

Mainstream health science has let you down. Weight loss is not the key to health, diet and exercise are not effective weight-loss strategies and fatness is not a death sentence. You've heard it before: there's a global health crisis, and, unless we make some changes, we're in trouble. That much is true; but the epidemic is NOT obesity. The real crisis lies in the toxic stigma placed on certain bodies and the impact of living with inequality; not the numbers on a scale. In a mad dash to shrink our bodies, many of us get so caught up in searching for the perfect diet, exercise program, or surgical technique that we lose sight of our original goal: improved health and well-being. Popular methods for weight loss don't get us there and lead many people to feel like failures when they can't match unattainable body standards. It's time for a cease-fire in the war against obesity. Dr. Linda Bacon and Dr. Lucy Aphramor's *Body Respect* debunks common myths about weight, including the misconceptions that BMI can accurately measure health, that fatness necessarily leads to disease, and that dieting will improve health. They also help make sense of how poverty and oppression; such as racism, homophobia, and classism; affect life opportunity, self-worth, and even influence metabolism. Body insecurity is rampant, and it doesn't have to be. It's time to overcome our culture's shame and distress about weight, to get real about inequalities and health, and to show every body respect.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is profoundly important to address the shortcomings in health discourse, particularly when misinformation is harming the population. *Body Respect* is a ground-breaking, dogma-busting book

that will change how you think about health forever.â •#151;Christopher Kennedy Lawford, New York Times bestselling author and former UN Goodwill Ambassador for Drug Treatment and Care

&#147;Linda and Lucy have written the rare self-help book that places the personal decisions about how to care for ourselves in the larger context of the world's unequal opportunities, judgment, and bias. Body Respect gives us a way to think about our decisionsâ •#151;especially the challenge of valuing ourselves in an indifferent or hostile worldâ •#151;and the concrete steps to feeling better in our bodies right now.â •#151;Deb Burgard, PhD, psychologist, eating disorders specialist, and HAES pioneer &#147;In a world where positive, uplifting and scientifically grounded messages about weight are sorely lackingâ •#151;Linda Bacon and Lucy Aphramor have given us a bright light of hope. Body Respect is a must-read book for anyone interested in the complex and timely topic of weight.â •#151;Marc David, M.A., author and founder of the Institute for the Psychology of Eating &#147;Drs. Bacon and Aphramor have created a smart, engaging and compassionate guide that exposes why the &#145;eat less, exercise moreâ ™ weight loss mantra fails so miserably, and how to achieve true health and wellness. Body Respect is transformative for the individual reader, as well as a wakeup call for the real public health crisis America faces: illness and suffering brought on by chronic stress associated with poverty, social inequality, oppression, and stigma.â •#151;Katja Rowell M.D., author of Love Me, Feed Me and childhood feeding specialist, thefeedingdoctor.com &#147;This book is a must-read for those who struggle and who suffer from our cultureâ ™s pervasively negative attitude towards fat...and for those who want to help them.â •#151;Anita Johnston, Ph.D., author of Eating in the Light of the Moon&#147;With Body Respect Linda Bacon and Lucy Aphramor build on their impressive contributions to Health At Every Size. Whether you're a seasoned activist or new to the scene, this book will prove an invaluable addition to the literature debunking fatphobic health discourse. Body Respect is an essential tool for those seeking wellbeing without stigma.â •#151;Charlotte Cooper, PhD, psychotherapist

Linda Bacon, Ph.D., is an internationally recognized authority on topics related to nutrition, weight, and health. A nutrition professor and researcher, she holds graduate degrees in physiology, psychology, and exercise metabolism, with a specialty in nutrition. She has conducted federally funded studies on diet and health, and is well-published in top scientific journals. Lindaâ ™s advocacy for Health at Every SizeÂ® has generated a large following on social media, health and nutrition listservs and specialty blogs, and the international lecture circuit. She and her work are quoted regularly in national and international publications, with recent appearances in the New York Times, Londonâ ™s Sunday Times, ABC Nightly News with Diane Sawyer, Good Morning America,

and magazines including Prevention, Glamour, Cooking Light, Newsweek, Fitness Magazine, and National Geographic. Well known for her hard-hitting political and social commentary, Linda writes a regular column on the Health at Every Size blog and frequently guest posts elsewhere. Her first book, Health at Every Size: The Surprising Truth About Your Weight was called the "Bible" of the alternative health movement by Prevention Magazine. Lucy Aphramor, Ph.D., R.D., notably pioneered the use of a health at every size approach in the U.K. National Health Service, developing an eight-week HAES course that is now available internationally through licensed facilitators. She is director of a consultancy dedicated to advancing health at every size theory and practice in and beyond the U.K. through training, research, and community engagement. Dr. Aphramor is also an honorary research fellow at Glyndwr University, Wales, and a visiting lecturer in nutrition and dietetics at Surrey University. Dr. Aphramor is the only U.K. dietitian with publishing and teaching expertise in critical weight science. She is at the forefront of the new international Critical Dietetics movement where her work blending critical thinking and compassionate self-care is enthusiastically received. Her influence extends to coverage in the popular press and her reputation as an outspoken scientist gains her interviews across the board from women's magazines to the broadsheets.

This book was a joy to read. There are so many different diets out there and the diet industry is a multi-billion dollar industry (because we all know diets don't work but we all hope we can be in that 5% success rate). If you're done with diets then this book explains why that's actually the best choice of them all. Very easy to read and reassuring that there is nothing wrong with you, society is perversely behind the times. It's time to enjoy life and enjoy your body now! What I most enjoyed and try to share with others is the seven myths of weight stigma: MYTH 1. Fatness leads to decreased longevity. MYTH 2. BMI is a valuable and accurate health measure. MYTH 3. Fat plays a substantive role in causing disease. MYTH 4. Exercise and dietary restriction are effective weight-loss techniques. MYTH 5. We have evidence that weight loss improves health. MYTH 6. Health is largely determined by health behaviors. MYTH 7. Science is value-free. I did read Bacon's book HAES and while I did enjoy it, I found Body Respect to be a quicker read and better for mass appeal. There was a very small section on emotional eating in Body Respect. For a book that continues to discuss the importance of mindfulness and deals much more with emotional eating, I highly recommend Women Food and God by Geneen Roth. Roth also talks about being the size that's right for you but does not go as far as Bacon. Good for those who have disordered eating and can't let go of the idea of dieting. For a book aimed at parents, I recommend Your

Child's Weight by Ellyn Satter. Satter talks about how restrictive diets causes children to gain weight but by allowing your children to enjoy all foods they will end up with a healthy relationship with food and be the weight nature intended them to be.

Body Respect is a solid companion to Bacon's earlier book, Health at Every Size. Linda Bacon and Lucy Aphramor do an excellent job of deconstructing and demythologizing the often shaky science behind the "obesity epidemic" rhetoric. Their ultimate conclusions—that all bodies are worthy of respect, that fatness is not a death sentence, that our attitudes toward fat are socially constructed, that health behaviors matter more than the number on the scale—are reassuring and empowering to anyone who has struggled on the weight-loss merry-go-round.

This book gives the reader a concise overview of the actual science related to fat and health, convincingly separating the myth that being in a larger body automatically creates illness.

A necessary read for health care professionals everywhere. This is an excellent tool to reframe conversations with patients in a body-positive and a pro-health manner--not to mention as a guide for re-examining your own biases as a clinician/medical practitioner.

Highly recommend for another perspective you won't read about in the mainstream media. Complete with references.

A great and balanced book. Not only is this accessible, but the scientific reasoning is also strong. Highly recommended!

I love the new ideas this book gives, challenging many of the supposed truths surrounding diet in today's culture.

....if you are after long-term health, it's the book to read before you start any dieting.

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