

People Blame and Judge Parents for Children's Heavier Weights

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The big idea

Americans stigmatize parents of heavier children, specifically [blaming them for their children's weights](#), according to experiments conducted by [our team of psychologists](#).

The more a person views parents as responsible for a child's excess weight, the more likely they are to [view such parents as bad parents](#) who are lazy, overindulgent and incompetent.

Our findings corroborate what parents of children with higher weights have reported for years: that other people – friends, other parents, strangers or [even their pediatricians](#) – [might blame them, dislike them and think they are poor parents](#).

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