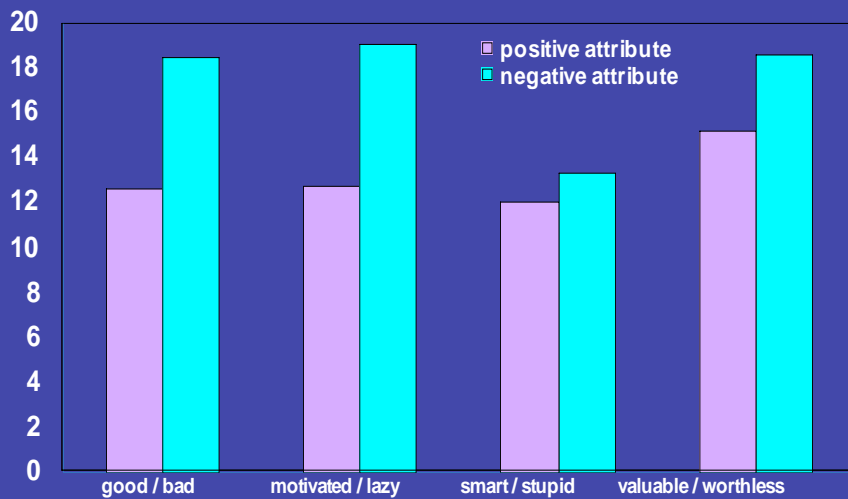


OBESITY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



Schwartz MB, O'Neal H, Brownell KD, Blair S, Billington C. Weight Bias among health professionals specializing in obesity. *Obes Res.* 2003;11:1033-1039.

Even health care professionals who specialize in obesity research and treatment are not immune to negative attitudes. Several years ago, at an international obesity conference, Schwartz and colleagues (2003) had obesity professionals complete the IAT at the opening ceremonies of the conference. And, what you can see here, is that even people who specialize in obesity research and clinical care of obese patients have these implicit associations. As you can see, scores were higher when “fat people” was paired with “bad” or “lazy” or “stupid” and “worthless” compared to “good” or “motivated” or “smart” or “valuable”.

This helps put into perspective how normative it is to hold negative attitudes about people who are overweight and obese, and this is one of the challenges in trying to find ways to reduce stigma.

(For more information about this research, see PDF file of article by Schwartz and colleagues, 2003).