

**Equity Starts
Here**

**Screening
Eating
Disorders in
School Based
Health Centers**

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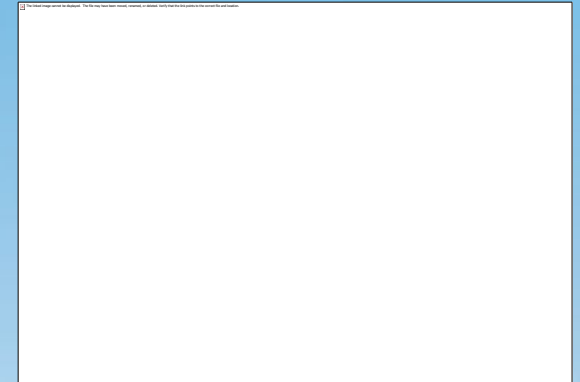
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This series is intended for Dentists, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Psychologists, Registered Dietitians, and Social Workers.

Please complete the survey and claim your post-session certificate on the Weitzman Education Platform after today's session. **Please note:** Pharmacists must claim credits within two week's following today's session or we will not be able to award ACPE credits.



Disclosures

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this workshop, the participant will be able to

- Identify clinical red flags and select appropriate evidence-based eating disorder screening tools for SBHC settings
- Demonstrate trauma-informed, culturally responsive strategies to determine appropriate follow-up, monitoring and referral

Myths & Realities

(National Eating Disorders Association, n.d.; University of Rochester Medical Center, n.d.; Arcelus et al., 2011)

	MYTH	REALITY
Eating disorders can develop at any age		x
Parents cause eating disorders	x	
Eating disorders have the second highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness behind opiate addiction		x
“Disordered pattern of eating” is a synonymous term for a clinical eating disorder	x	
Eating disorders affect mostly girls	x	
Parents are crucial to their child's recovery with an eating disorder		x
Eating disorders are a matter of vanity, or a way to get attention	x	
To avoid conflict, parents should let their child with an eating disorder eat as much or as little as they want	x	
People at a normal body weight cannot have an eating disorder	x	
Food insecurity predicts a greater risk of binge eating		x

DSM 5 Eating Disorder Diagnosis

Anorexia Nervosa (AN)

- **Restriction of Energy Intake**, leading to low body weight
- **Intense Fear of Weight Gain/Fatness**
- **Self-evaluation highly influenced by Weight/Shape**

Bulimia Nervosa (BN)

- **Recurrent Binge Eating**
- **Recurrent Compensatory Behaviours** (vomiting, fasting, excessive exercise etc)
- **Self-evaluation highly influenced by Weight/Shape**

Binge Eating Disorder (BED)

- **Recurrent Binge Eating**
- **Marked Distress/Guilt** about Binges

OSFED

(Other Specified Feeding or Eating Disorder)

- **Mixed behaviours / presentation**
- **Significant impact on functioning**

Atypical Anorexia Nervosa (AAN) (OSFED)

- **Restriction of Energy Intake** (body weight in a healthy range)
- **Intense Fear of Weight Gain/Fatness**
- **Self-evaluation highly influenced by Weight/Shape**

Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder

- **Weight loss, failure to grow or malnutrition** with associated medical risk, as a consequence of **inadequate food intake**
- **Restricted eating** (quantity or variety)

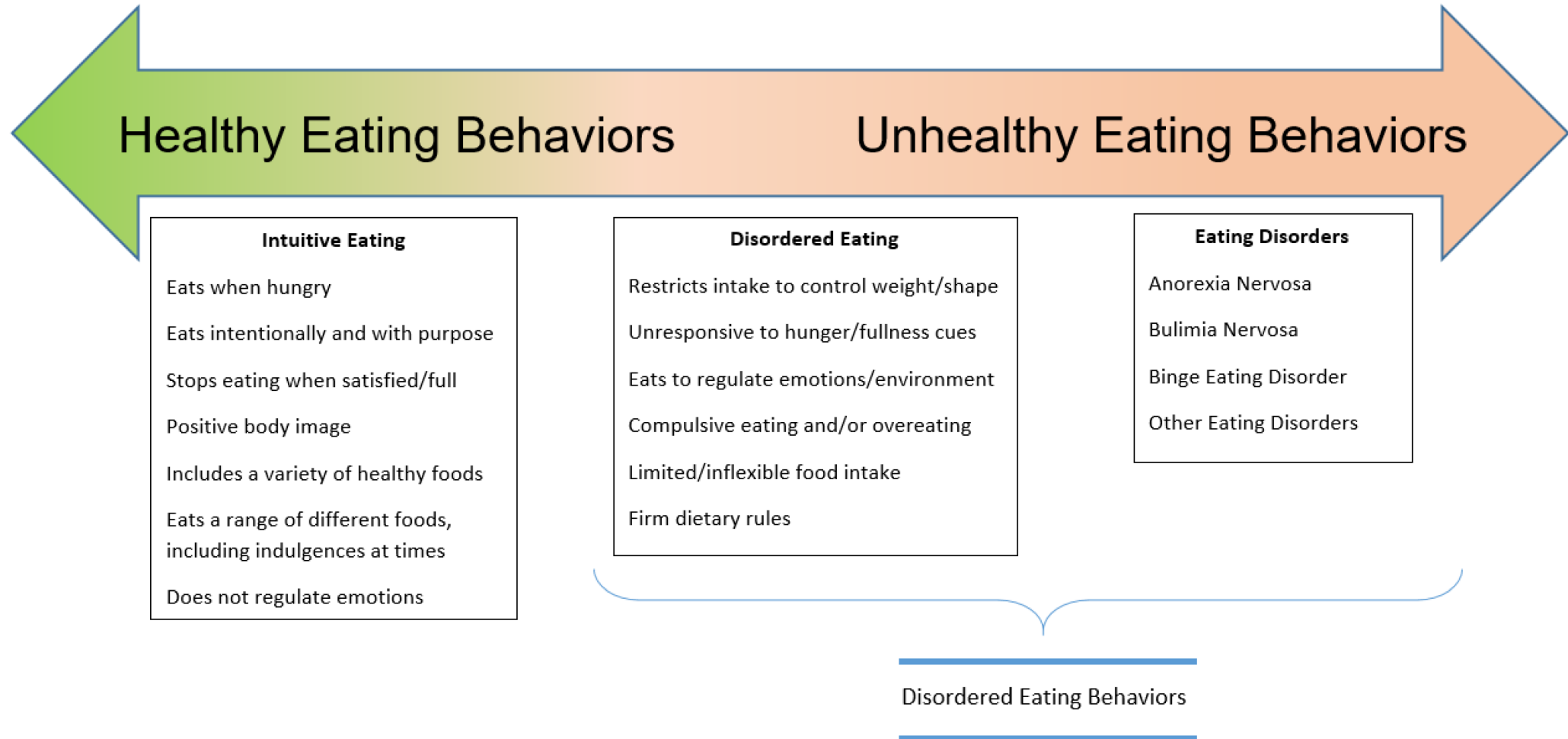


Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID)

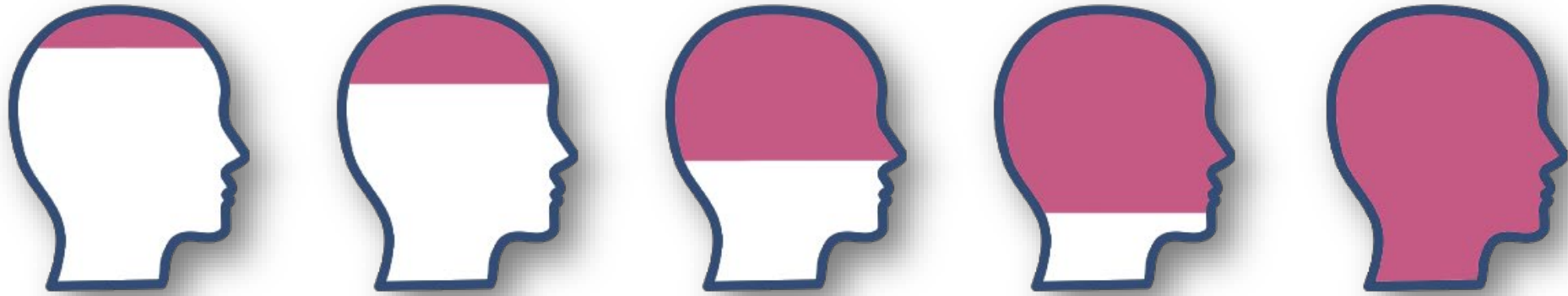
An eating disturbance as manifested by persistent failure to meet appropriate nutritional and/or energy needs associated with one (or more) of the following:

- Significant weight loss
- Failure to achieve expected weight gain
- Faltering growth in children
- Significant nutritional deficiency
- Dependence of enteral feeding or oral nutritional supplements
- Marked interference with psychosocial functioning

Spectrum of Eating Behaviors



MINDSHARE CONTINUUM



Preoccupation with
Food, Body & Eating

Common Pathways to Eating Disorders



Triggers

Environmental changes or trauma
Disruptions in routine (move, new environment)
Increased social media use
Social isolation (e.g., during COVID)



Emotional Impact

Fear
Anxiety
Stress
Uncertainty



Responses

Maladaptive coping to avoid difficult emotions
ED thoughts: rumination, preoccupation with weight/shape
ED behaviors: restriction, compulsive exercise, bingeing, purging

Risk Factors



Biological

EDO family history
Family history of mental health disorders
Hx of dieting
Low energy availability
Elevated BMI



Psychological

Perfectionism
Low cognitive flexibility
Impulsivity
Emotional dysregulation
Body image dissatisfaction
Mood disorders
Substance use disorder



Social

Being teased or bullied
Appearance ideal internalization
History of trauma
Victim of discrimination
Food insecurity

Risk Factors: Less Commonly Known



Braces



New diagnoses
like celiac or DM



Recent GI viral
illness



Sports



Food insecurity





Athletes

2X risk for eating disorders

Higher rates seen in weight class sports and aesthetic sports

- 62% girls
- 32% boys

Source: National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA), 2010

2025 Be Real USA NFP.

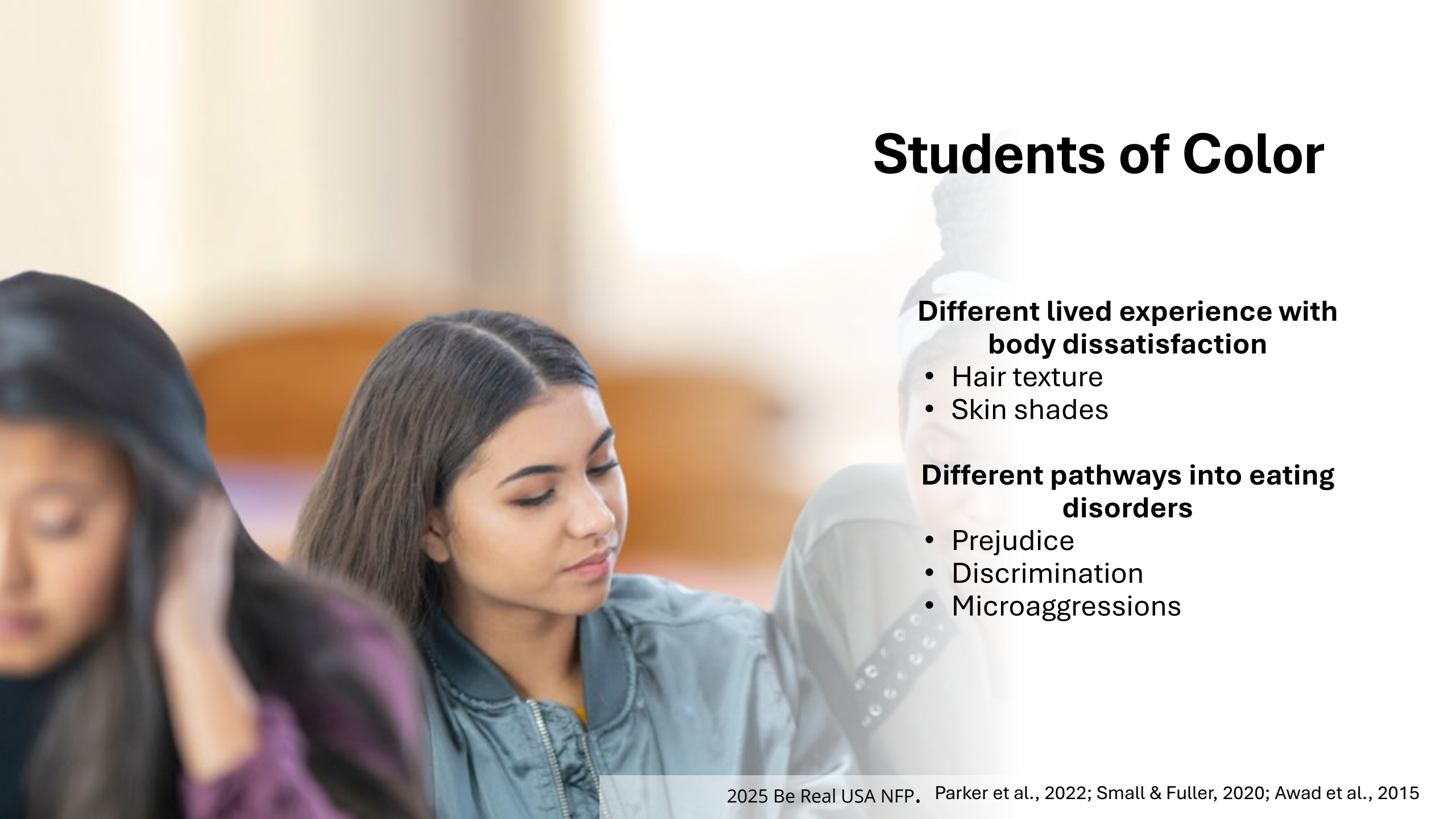
LGBTQ Youth

LBGQ

- 2-6x more likely to engage in disordered eating behaviors
- Especially vulnerable to body dissatisfaction

Transgender

- Body doesn't align with felt gender identity
- Puberty: Body developing "wrong" direction
- Transphobia: Distress
- Significantly higher rates of body dissatisfaction and EDs



Students of Color

Different lived experience with body dissatisfaction

- Hair texture
- Skin shades

Different pathways into eating disorders

- Prejudice
- Discrimination
- Microaggressions

Disordered Eating: other causes



Acute stress/Anxiety

Can suppress appetite by stimulating corticotropin-releasing hormone and urocortin release in the hypothalamus



Chronic Stress

Stress, anxiety and increased cortisol release (resulting from HPA axis activation) are positively correlated with cravings for high-fat, high sugar foods and may underlie emotional eating in people with BED



Food Insecurity

When a person does not know when they will have access to food, binge eating is potentially adaptive response when food is available

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- +ACEs + chronic stress=more likely to have high BMI in adulthood
- Children with ≥ 4 ACEs are 2x more likely to be overweight or obese

ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Mother treated violently



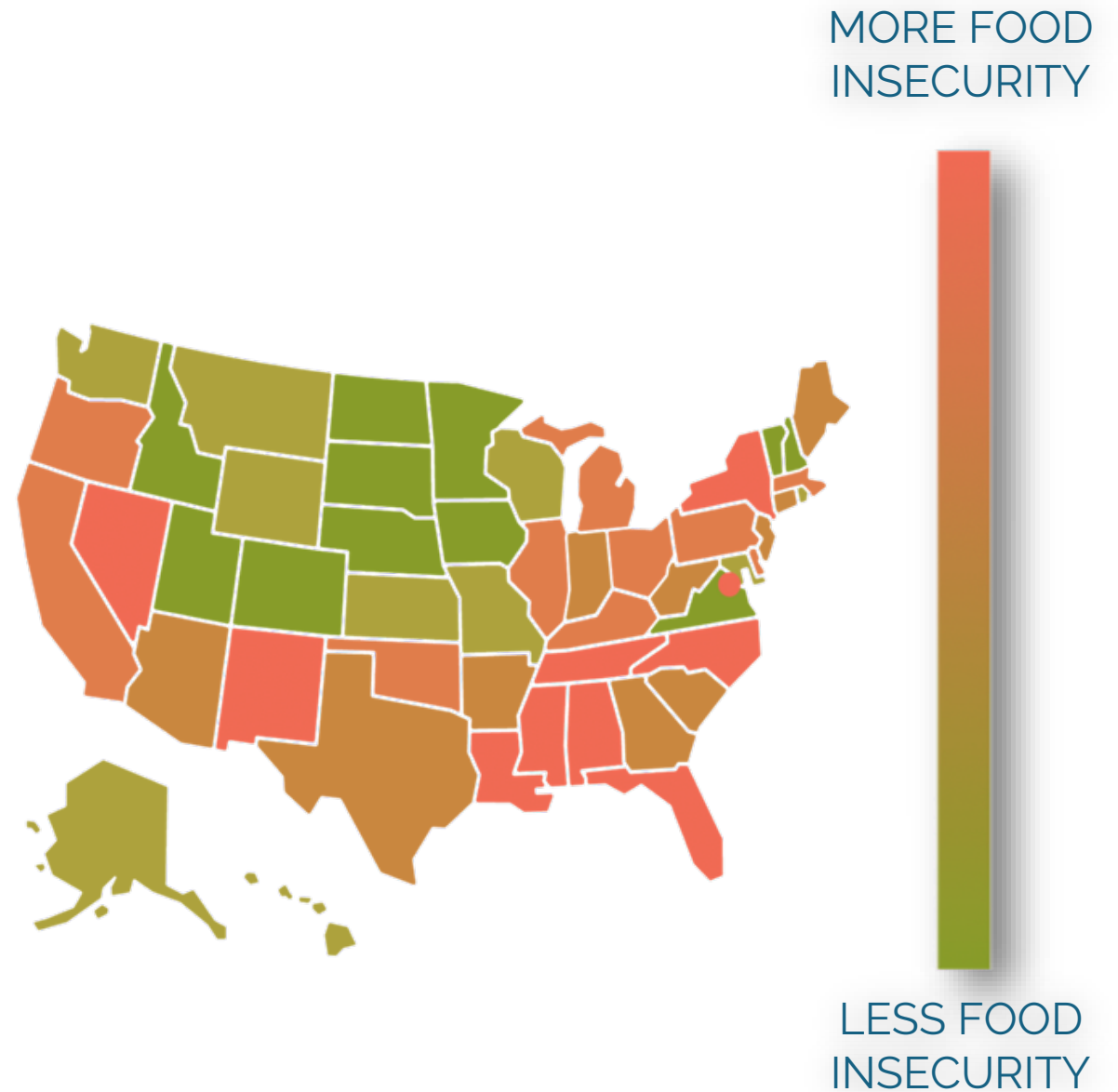
Substance Abuse



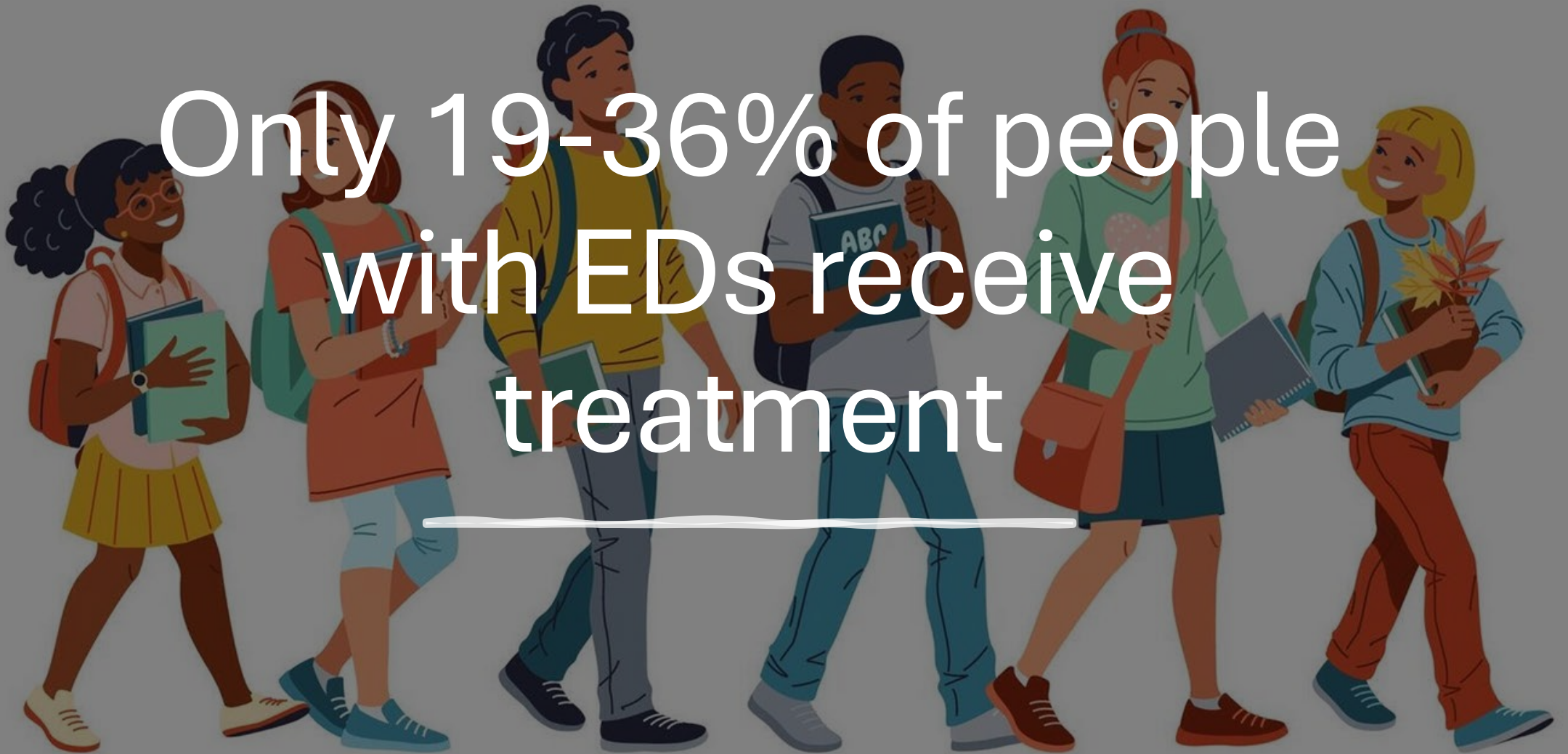
Food Insecurity

Inconsistent and unreliable access to enough nutritious food to lead a healthy life

- 1 in 6 students in the US are food insecure (post-Covid)
- Food insecure students:
 - Need to eat when food is available
 - Can lead to behaviors that may present similarly to AN on the surface but driven by the need to preserve food that is available.
 - Is associated with higher BMI likely because of the restriction and binge cycle.



Only 19-36% of people
with EDs receive
treatment



The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly angled view of a calendar page. The calendar is white with a grid of dates. A large, dark, metallic ring, possibly a keychain or a decorative element, is draped over the calendar, looping around the dates. The ring has a reflective, polished surface. The calendar dates are printed in a bold, black font. The overall lighting is soft, creating a professional and somewhat somber atmosphere.

Treatment Delays

Average delays before treatment

Restrictive anorexia 2.5 years

Binge eating disorder 6 years

Atypical Restrictive anorexia 9.2 years

Treatment Disparities Across Race and Gender

Preventative

- Minoritized racial or ethnic identities are less frequently asked by providers about eating behaviors compared to privileged identities

Assessment

- White people 2x as likely as Black or Asian people to be diagnosed/treated for EDs
- Screening and diagnosis were originally based mostly on studies of young white women, shaping understanding for decades.
- As a result, eating disorders are still often incorrectly seen as mainly affecting thin, upper-class, cisgender white women

Treatment

- Latin and Indigenous people presenting with ED symptoms are less likely than White people with similar symptoms to receive treatment referrals.
- Among men, EDs are under-recognized and under-treated, but are increasing in prevalence.



Screening

The USPSTF recommends screening for all at-risk patients

Who is “at-risk”?

- Elevated BMI
- Low BMI
- Drop in BMI during adolescent phase
- Any medical or behavioral red flags
- Any signs of disordered eating



EDO Screening Tools

- Bias and lack of awareness that can lead to missed ED diagnoses can be reduced by using validated screening tools designed for diverse populations
- Although validated, current screening tools may not adequately capture EDOs in marginalized groups
- Current screening tools are heavily focused on evaluation of AN and BN with little consideration of other EDs

ESP

Eating Disorder Screen for Primary Care

Eating Disorder Screen for Primary Care (ESP)¹

	YES	NO
1. Are you satisfied with your eating patterns?		
2. Do you ever eat in secret?		
3. Does your weight affect the way you feel about yourself?		
4. Have any members of your family suffered with an eating disorder?		
5. Do you currently suffer with or have you ever suffered in the past with an eating disorder?		

* A “no” to question 1 is considered an abnormal response.

** A “yes” to questions 2-5 are considered abnormal responses.

EDE-Q

Eating Disorder Examination Questionnaire

		No days	1-5 days	6-12 days	13-15 days	16-22 days	23-27 days	Everyday
1	Questions 1 to 12: Remember that the questions only refer to the past four weeks (28 days) only. Have you been deliberately TRYING to limit the amount of food you eat to influence your shape or weight (whether or not you have succeeded)?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Have you gone for long periods of time (8 waking hours or more) without eating anything at all in order to influence your shape or weight?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Have you TRIED to exclude from your diet any foods that you like in order to influence your shape or weight (whether or not you have succeeded)?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Have you TRIED to follow definite rules regarding your eating (for example, a calorie limit) in order to influence your shape or weight (whether or not you have succeeded)?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Have you had a definite desire to have an EMPTY stomach with the aim of influencing your shape or weight?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Have you had a definite desire to have a TOTALLY FLAT stomach?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Has thinking about FOOD, EATING or CALORIES made it very difficult to concentrate on things you are interested in (for example, working, following a conversation, or reading)?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Has thinking about SHAPE or WEIGHT made it very difficult to concentrate on things you are interested in (for example, working, following a conversation, or reading)?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Have you had a definite fear of losing control over eating?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Have you had a definite fear that you might gain weight?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Have you felt fat?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
12	Have you had a strong desire to lose weight?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
13	Questions 13-18: Remember that the questions only refer to the past four weeks (28 days).							
	Over the past 28 days, how many TIMES have you eaten what other people would regard as an UNUSUALLY LARGE AMOUNT OF FOOD (given the circumstances)?							
14	On how many of these times did you have a sense of having lost control over your eating (at the time that you were eating)?							

SWED

Stanford- Washington Eating Disorder Screen

[Learn](#) ▾[Get Help](#) ▾[Get Involved](#) ▾[About Us](#) ▾[Get Screened](#)[Español](#)[D](#)

Eating Disorders Screening Tool

by the NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS ASSOCIATION

Our short screening, for people who are 13 and up, helps to figure out if you're at risk for an eating disorder.

It won't give you a diagnosis but it can help you better understand if it's time to get help. Once you're done, you'll be connected with the right treatment resources for you.

By participating in this screening you're allowing your data to be shared anonymously with our research partners studying eating disorders.

Now you can click get started. It will take about three minutes to complete.

[Get Started](#)

EAT-26

Eating Attitudes Test-26

Part B: Check a response for each of the following statements:	Always	Usually	Often	Some times	Rarely	Never
1. Am terrified about being overweight.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Avoid eating when I am hungry.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Find myself preoccupied with food.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Have gone on eating binges where I feel that I may not be able to stop.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Cut my food into small pieces.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Aware of the calorie content of foods that I eat.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. Particularly avoid food with a high carbohydrate content (i.e. bread, rice, potatoes, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. Feel that others would prefer if I ate more.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. Vomit after I have eaten.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. Feel extremely guilty after eating.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11. Am preoccupied with a desire to be thinner.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
12. Think about burning up calories when I exercise.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
13. Other people think that I am too thin.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
14. Am preoccupied with the thought of having fat on my body.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15. Take longer than others to eat my meals.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16. Avoid foods with sugar in them.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
17. Eat diet foods.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18. Feel that food controls my life.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
19. Display self-control around food.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
20. Feel that others pressure me to eat.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
21. Give too much time and thought to food.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
22. Feel uncomfortable after eating sweets.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
23. Engage in dieting behavior.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
24. Like my stomach to be empty.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
25. Have the impulse to vomit after meals.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
26. Enjoy trying new rich foods.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Children's Binge Eating Disorder Scale and Response Frequencies

TABLE 2. Children's binge eating disorder scale and response frequencies

Item	Response Choice	Number of Participants Responding yes, <i>N</i> (%)
1. Do you ever want to eat when you are not even hungry?	Yes/No	24 (44%)
2. Do you ever feel that when you start eating you just cannot stop?	Yes/No	28 (52%)
3. Do you ever eat because you feel bad, sad, bored, or any other mood?	Yes/No	34 (63%)
4. Do you ever want food as a reward for doing something?	Yes/No	26 (48%)
5. Do you ever sneak or hide food?	Yes/No	15 (28%)
6. How long have you been doing this? (transformed to wks)	—	120
7. Do you ever do anything to get rid of what you ate?	Yes/No	0 (0%)

Update Your Note Template

Disordered Eating Evaluation-

EDO thoughts/behaviors:

ARFID screening:

Dietary Recall:

Describe current physical activity:

Malnutrition-related ROS:

Pertinent Past Medical History-Growth curve reviewed:

Social history- ex. Death of loved one, parent divorce, bullying

Pertinent Physical Exam - See NoShare note for weight trends

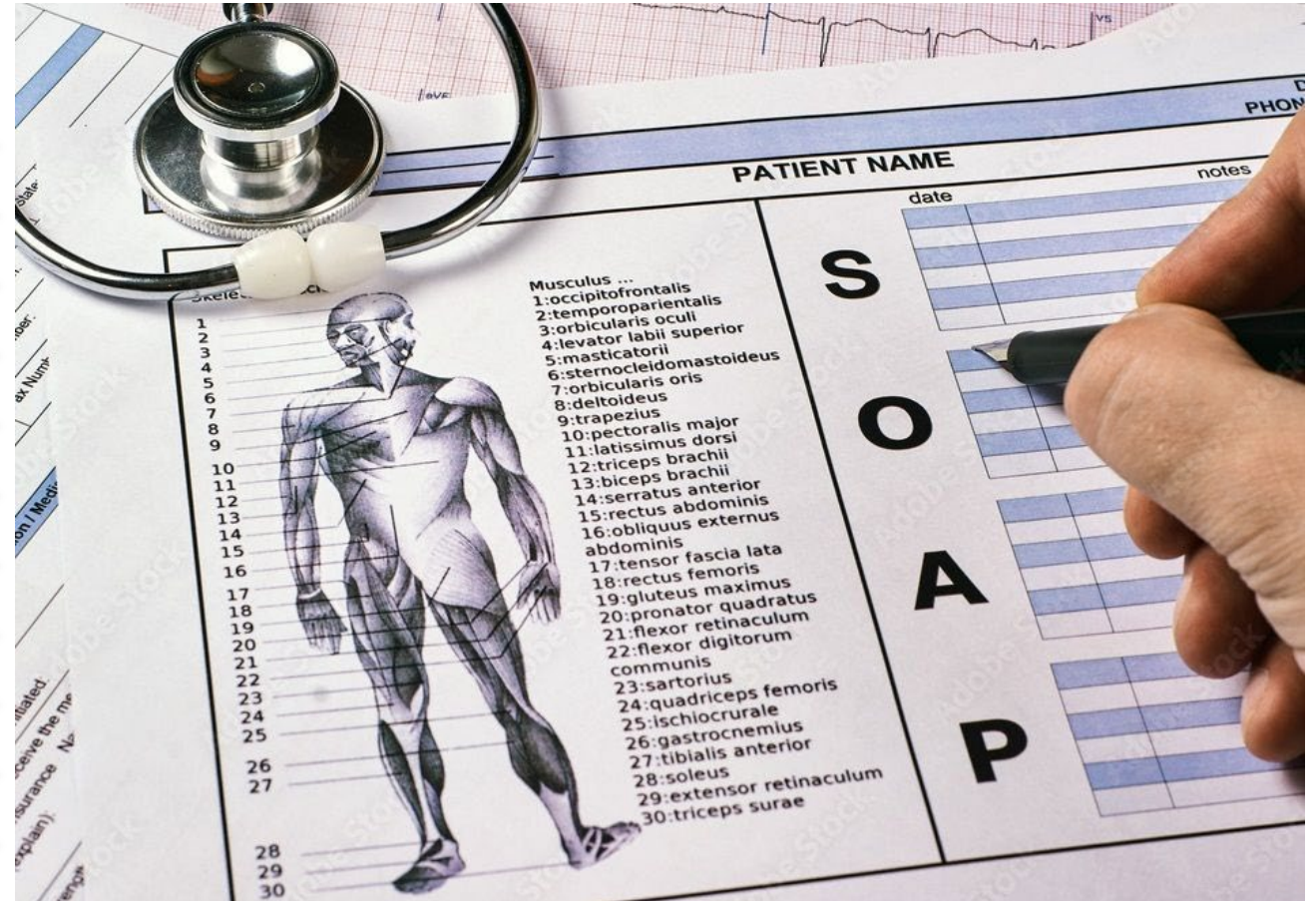
Delta P: symptomatic?

EDO Counseling/Education for Patient/Family:

Recommended level of care/Referrals

Nutrition: Meal Plan & Shakes

Exercise- contingent on nutrition completion/restricted



Your student
screened
positive



Determining Level of care

History reporting	Vitals Physical Exam	Level of Care Recommendation
Good insight & parent support Willingness to make changes & return for monitoring H/O dieting or skipping meals intermittently	Normal VS Weight changes minimal	Weekly to Monthly SBHC Support & Monitoring with PCP collaboration
Disordered eating habits <1200 kcal/day Lack of parent insight/support	Weight changes Normal VS	Regular referral to EDO medical specialist + RD + Therapist
<500 kcal/day Frequent purging through emesis Reports of SI or increased self harm	Bradycardia <60 Orthostatic hypotension Rapid weight loss >2 weeks BMI <15 adults or >10% weight loss in teens	Urgent referral to EDO medical specialist within 1 week
Syncope, chest pain, SOB, peripheral edema, acute food refusal over last 3-5 days, acute SI, psychiatric, self harm.	Bradycardia <50 Abnormal labs	Urgent medical evaluation same day through ED, possible admission

SBHC Management

- Weekly-Monthly
- Sports clearance
- Blind weight
- Orthostatic VS
- Nutrition recall
- Symptom monitoring (ex. Dizziness, HA, sleep)

Monitor



- Therapist
- Food pantry
- EDO Specialist

Refer



- PCP
- Parents
- EDO Specialist
- School

Collaborate



Not safe to manage in SBHC setting

Eating <500-800 calories/day for past 2 + weeks = at risk for re-feeding syndrome

SBHC Management: Work Up



Restriction Symptoms

Hypoglycemia★
Bone marrow suppression;
leukopenia, neutropenia,
thrombocytopenia
Liver dysfunction; elevated
AST/ALT
Electrolyte abnormalities
Anemia



Purging Symptoms

Low potassium★
Low sodium and low volume★
status
Increased amylase



Consider This

CMP, CBC w diff, Phosphate,
Magnesium, Amylase & Lipase,
ECG

**Most patients who purely
restrict will have normal
labs**

★ = requires urgent medical attention

SBHC Management: Parent Involvement

Tips for Family in Recovery

- Focus on behaviors and health, not weight or appearance
- Provide consistent structure around meals and routines
- Offer calm, firm support during meals; avoid power struggles
- Encourage open, nonjudgmental communication
- Validate feelings, even if you can't support the behavior
- Model a healthy relationship with food and body image
- Limit exposure to triggering content (diet talk, social media)
- Remove access to scales



Urgent ED Evaluation Criteria

Purging with abnormal labs (electrolytes)	Water loading (leading to abnormal electrolytes)
HR <50	Syncope with history of inadequate nutrition
Acute food refusal (<500 calories/day for 3 or more days)	ED with acute SI
Hypotension	Hypothermia
Dehydration	Abnormal EKG
Shortness of breath	Edema



Red Flags: Medical

Bradycardia

Amenorrhea

Headaches

Dizziness or syncope

Coldness (even in warm room)

Deviation from personal childhood growth curve

Red Flags: Behavioral



1920s: "Smoke to stay slim"

To keep a slender figure
No one can deny...



Reach
for a
LUCKY
instead of a
sweet



"It's toasted"
No Throat Irritation - No Cough.

**"Light a Lucky
and you'll never miss sweets
that make you fat"**

Constance Talmadge
Constance Talmadge,
Charming Motion
Picture Star

Instead of eating between meals... instead of fattening sweets... beautiful women keep youthful slenderness these days by smoking Luckies. The smartest and loveliest women of the modern stage take this means of keeping slender... when others nibble fattening sweets, they light a Lucky!

Lucky Strike is a delightful blend of the world's finest tobaccos. These tobaccos are toasted—a costly extra process which develops and improves the flavor. That's why Luckies are a delightful alternative for fattening sweets. That's why there's real health in Lucky Strike. That's why folks say: "It's good to smoke Luckies."

For years this has been no secret to those men who keep fit and trim. They know that Luckies do not cut their wind nor harm their physical condition. They know that Lucky Strike is the favorite cigarette of many prominent athletes, who must keep in good shape. They respect the opinions of 20,679 physicians who maintain that Luckies are less irritating to the throat than other cigarettes.

A reasonable proportion of sugar in the diet is recommended, but the authorities are overwhelming that too many fattening sweets are harmful and that too many such are eaten by the American people. So, for moderation's sake we say:—

"REACH FOR A LUCKY
INSTEAD OF A SWEET."

"It's toasted"
No Throat Irritation - No Cough.





Reach for a
Lucky
instead
of a sweet.

© 1925, The American Tobacco Co., Manufacturers

Quench between-meal hunger with
non-fattening
Libby's



It helps you
stay with
your slimming program

RICH IN VITAMINS, TOO!

Lower in calories than any other type of juice



Have you promised yourself a beautifully-slim-for-slacks figure? Don't give up because you get hungry between meals. Have Libby's 3 times a day. Never thin and watery, this is the *satisfying* tomato juice that stops hunger pangs. Libby's is twice-rich: rich in flavor, rich in vitamins. And just 25 calories to the 4-ounce glass! Libby, McNeill & Libby, Chicago 9, Illinois

1950s: "Shake away fat"



**TOO
FAT
TOO
FAT**

**KEEP SLIM. TRIM.
HEALTHY!**

Gentle, natural Ford Pills help rid you of ugly surplus fat, restoring your lithe trim figure, bringing back your buoyant good health.

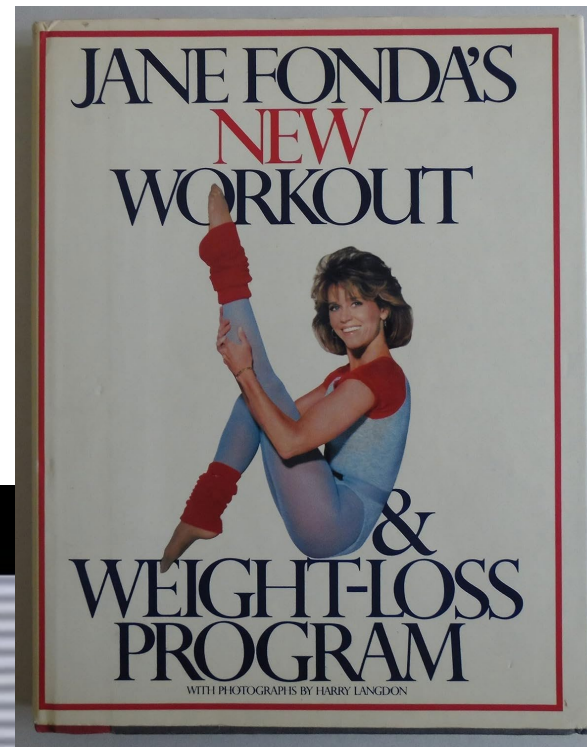
**FORD
PILLS**

Buy them everywhere
FREE DIET CHART
Send stamped
addressed envelope
to Ford Pills, Dept.
IPC, Box 5,
Aurulitta, N.S.W. 2206




1950, 1951

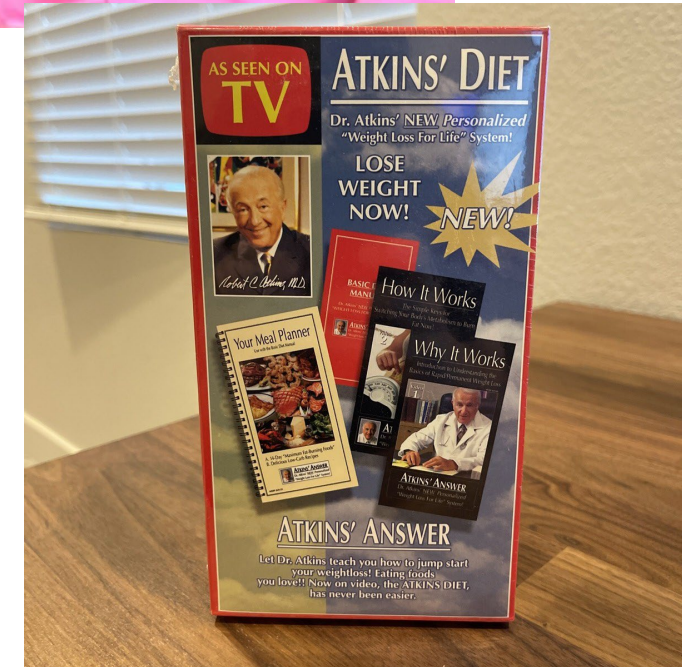
1980s: "Burn calories,
earn thinness"



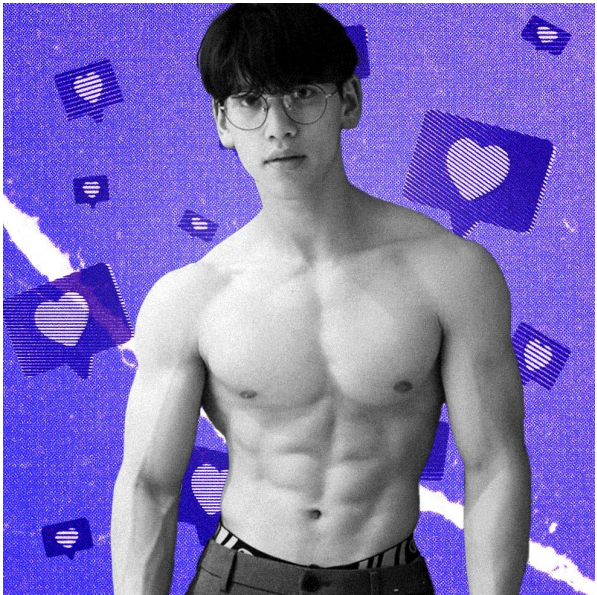
1986 Kellogg's Special K "Pinch an inch" TV Commercial



1990s and 2000s: "Transform your body"



2020s “Wellness” Culture
"Optimize your health"



Red Flags: Behavioral



Excessive or secret
exercising



New “picky” eating



Isolated eating



Extended meal time
periods



Eliminating an entire
food group (ex.
Sugar or carbs)



New “clean” eating, cutting
out gluten/dairy without
medical indication



Going to school
day without eating

Red Flags: GI + Weight Loss



Decreased
appetite



“Not hungry”



Belly discomfort



Constipation



Early fullness after
a few bites



Physical discomfort
with foods previously
tolerated

Red Flags: Mental Health



Anxiety



Depression



School Avoidance



Grades Dropping



Mood swings



Poor sleep



Referrals for EDO Specialists

Consult with a known local/regional eating disorder **expert** or facility or get help from a national nonprofit to find one:

- National Alliance for Eating Disorders
www.findedhelp.com or 1-866-662-1235

Refer to a national eating disorder nonprofit resource for an eating disorder **evaluation**:

- Project HEAL
www.theprojectheal.org/clinical-assessment

Refer to a national eating disorder nonprofit resource for **support**:

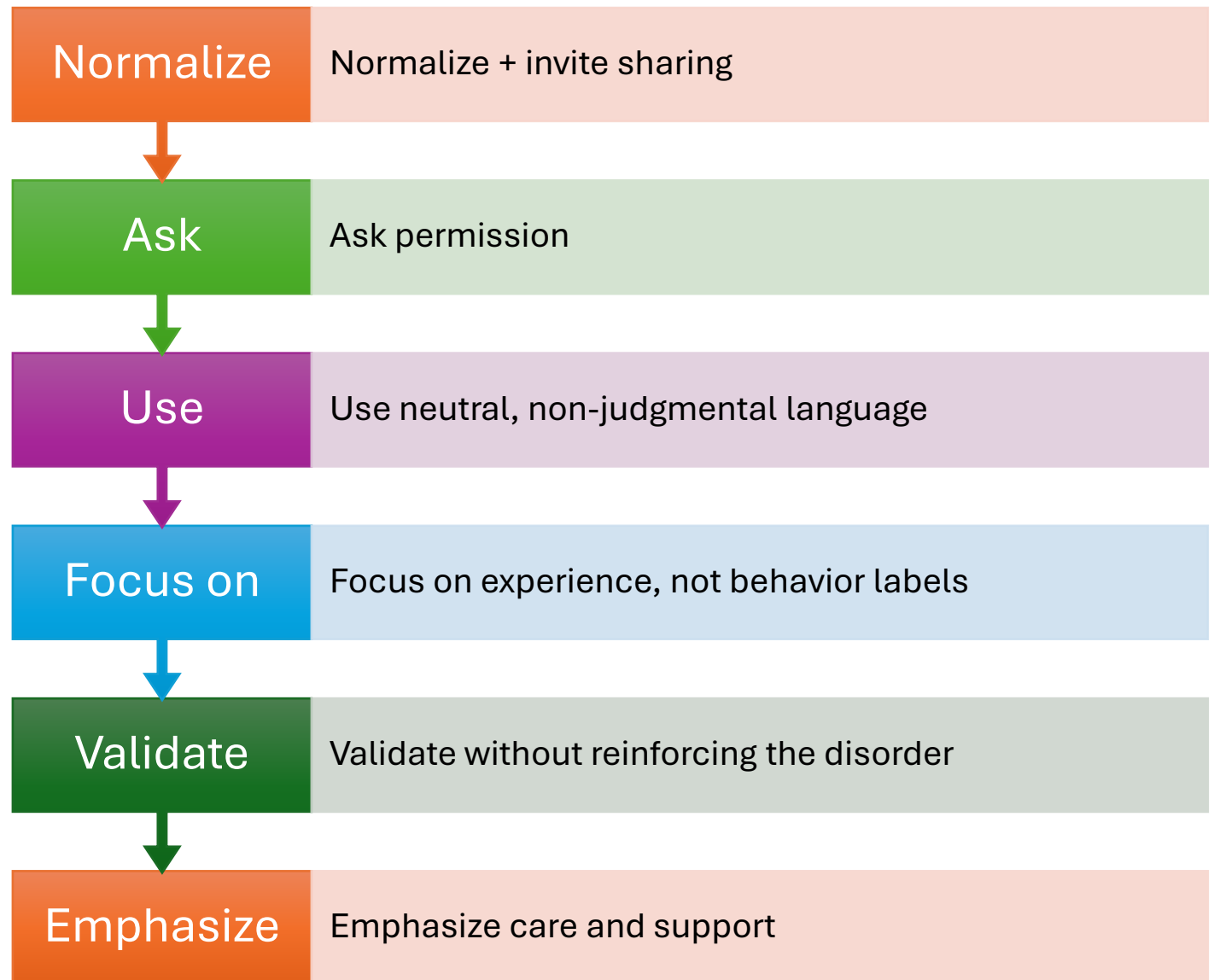
- National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA)
www.nationaleatingdisorders.org
- National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD)
www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/get-help/ or 888-375-7767

Refer parents for support from a national/international parent resource:

- Eating Disorder Family Support Network – Mom2Mom
www.facebook.com/groups/EatingDisordersMom2Mom
- Families Empowered And Supporting Treatment for Eating Disorders (FEAST)
www.feast-ed.org

From the AAP Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight Webinar Series, “Eating Disorders in Children and Adolescents” (<https://tinyurl.com/2rnd898n>)

Difficult Conversations



Phrases to Avoid

Numbers-focused language

- **Avoid:** “How many calories do you eat?” / “What’s your weight goal?”
- **Why:** Reinforces preoccupation and can escalate symptoms
- **Instead:** “I typically am not going to talk much about numbers; however some historical things are important. Do you know your highest weight and lowest weight you’ve been in adolescence?”

Appearance-based comments (even “positive”)

- **Avoid:** “You look healthy now” / “You don’t look underweight” / “Your BMI is normal”
- **Why:** Can invalidate or reinforce distorted body image. Even people with “normal” or elevated BMIs can have EDO
- **Instead:** “Your drop in your typical growth curve along with your physical symptoms of (ie. Dizziness) are concerning for malnutrition.

Oversimplifying or minimizing

- **Avoid:** “Just try to eat more regularly” / “You’ll be fine” / “Just don’t lose anymore weight.” / “Let’s just start you on iron supplements or vitamins”
- **Why:** Ignores complexity of eating disorders
- **Instead:** Discuss your plan and regular follow up recommendations out of concern for their overall health.

What Patients May Be Thinking → How to Respond in the Moment

Minimize / “Not sick enough”

→ “What you’re going through matters—there’s no threshold for deserving help.”

Denial / “I don’t have a problem”

→ “I hear that—can I share what I’ve noticed and why I wanted to check in?”

Shame / “This is my fault”

→ “That sounds really heavy—this isn’t about blame.”

Fear of losing control

→ “That is super normal for the eating disorder side of your brain to worry about losing control, but in reality, we want to help you gain back control that it’s taken from your life.”

Desire for quick/simple answers

→ “There’s no one simple fix, but we can take this step by step.”

Fear of weight gain

→ “That fear is really common—we can talk through it at your pace.” “Our focus is on helping your body and mind feel stronger and more supported—not rushing anything without talking it through.” *Do not make any comments on how much they will or won’t need to gain during recovery*

Family conflict (anger + desire for understanding)

→ “It makes sense to feel both—we can figure out how to help you feel heard.”

Anger toward provider

→ “It’s okay to feel angry—this is hard, and I’m here to listen.”

Referral Phrases



Hospital Admission/Urgent Evaluation

“Your HR is dangerously low and puts you at risk for heart attack or death. We need you medically evaluated today for your safety.”



Referral to EDO Specialist

“The specialist will not be forcing you to do anything that day (unless there are safety issues). The team will offer recommendations for you and your parents to review and use to decide on a plan together.”



Close Monitoring in SBHC

“Your physical exam and symptoms are showing signs of malnutrition. I’d like us to set some small goals together to slowly increase your nutrition. We can best monitor how your body reacts by meeting monthly in the clinic. “



Case Studies

- Brief scenario will be shown
- Use the QR code to vote on what you would do next.
- Discuss case together.
- Supportive language will be demonstrated for each scenario.

Case Study #1

- ❑ A female teen in a larger body presents to your SBHC
- ❑ There is concern about ongoing weight gain
- ❑ BMI 95%



After further discussion, you learn:

Screening
tool option:
BED Scale

She often restricts intake during the day, then eats large amounts of food most evenings

Eats quickly and feels out of control

Feels guilty afterwards

Reports feeling 'ravenous' at night after skipping breakfast and lunch

Uses eating in the evening to cope with stress and 'shut her brain off'

Avoids the school cafeteria due to discomfort eating around peers

Lives in a home where meals are inconsistent and food availability varies

Has a history of significant stress at home and ongoing anxiety symptoms

Mother comments often on her weight and that she eats too much

Describes trying to follow strict food rules during the day, then 'losing control' at night



< Activities



Visual settings



Edit



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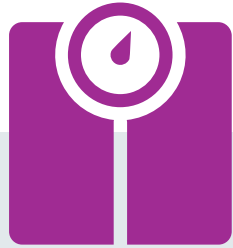


What is your leading concern?

- A. Lifestyle-related weight gain 0%
- B. Binge Eating Disorder 0%
- C. Metabolic syndrome 0%
- D. Emotional eating 0%

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What's driving the binge?



What we often see

Overeating
Poor self-control
Unhealthy habits
Weight gain



Actual behavior drivers

Biological
Psychological
Environmental
Trauma & Stress

How do you
respond in this
visit?



Binge Eating Disorder: First-line Interventions in SBHC

- **1. Normalize & Reframe**
 - “This pattern is common when the body isn’t getting enough during the day.”
 - Emphasize: binge eating is not a failure of willpower
 - Frame as a biological + emotional response, not just a behavior
- **2. Stabilize Nutrition First (Foundational Step)**
 - Encourage 3 meals + 1–3 snacks daily
 - Prioritize eating earlier in the day (even if small at first)
 - Reduce long gaps without food (>3–4 hours)
 - Avoid prescribing dieting or restriction
 - *Simple script:*
 - “**The goal right now isn’t to eat perfectly—it’s to eat *consistently*.**”
- **3. Address the Binge Cycle Directly**
 - Explain restriction → binge cycle in simple terms
 - Encourage permission to eat regularly (including previously “forbidden” foods)

Binge Eating Disorder: First-line Interventions in SBHC

- **4. Build Alternative Coping (Without Removing Food Yet)**
- Validate that eating is currently serving a purpose
- Gently introduce additional coping tools for evenings:
 - Distraction (TV, calling a friend, hobbies)
 - Sensory strategies (shower, music)
 - Emotional expression (journaling, texting someone safe)
- **5. Improve Structure & Environment**
- Problem-solve school-day eating (portable breakfast, snacks)
- Explore safe, consistent access to food
- **6. Address Co-Occurring Concerns**
- Screen and begin management for:
 - Anxiety / depression
 - Sleep issues
 - ADHD or impulsivity
- Review medications that may impact appetite

Case Study #2

- A 16-year-old male presents for an annual well visit in your SBHC.
- He has a history of BMI around the 75-85th percentile.
- Today, his BMI is at the 40th percentile.
- On review of systems, he reports:
- Headaches
- Constipation and nausea with meals for the past 6 months





< Activities



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What is your best next step?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----|
| A. Praise for weight loss | <div></div> | 0% |
| B. Take a deeper look at growth curves | <div></div> | 0% |
| C. Order labs for medical causes (thyro... | <div></div> | 0% |
| D. Refer to GI for symptoms | <div></div> | 0% |

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Growth Curve Review

Vitals:

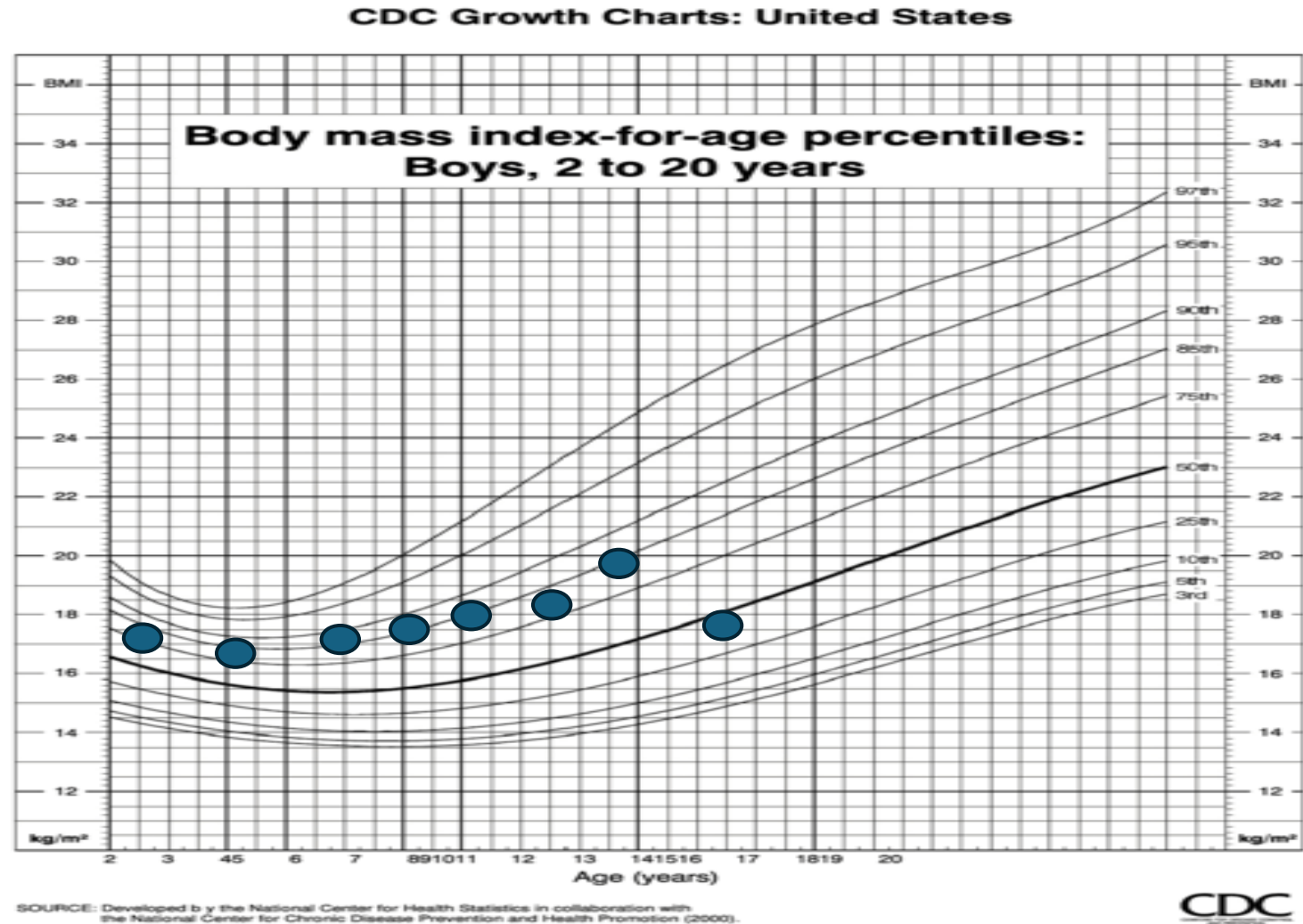
HR 58 BP 100/72

Delta P: 30

Exam:

Hands and feet cool to touch, cap refill ~2 seconds

Otherwise stable exam



On further discussion:

Intentional 40 lb
weight loss over 1 year

No longer eats with
family

Avoids most
previously preferred
foods

Primarily eats fruits,
vegetables, and
protein shakes

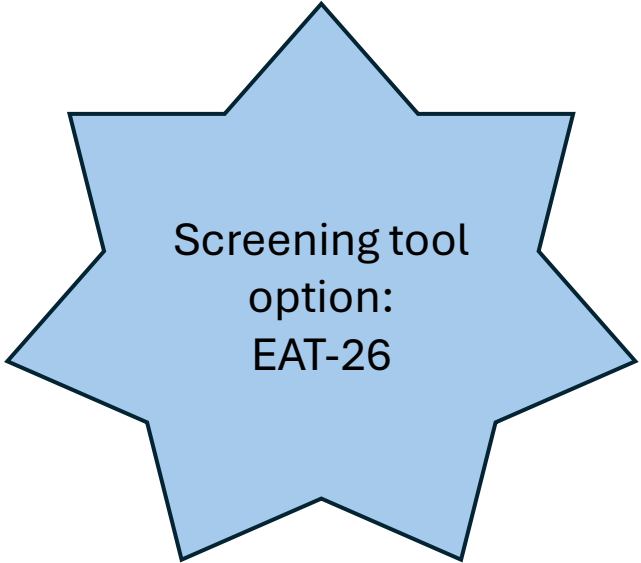
Notes he used to be
“chubby and got made
fun of” but now he’s
comfortable with his
weight

Sleep changes

Mood changes
(anxiety)

Dizziness on standing
most days but no
syncope

Fatigue and coldness



Screening tool
option:
EAT-26



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What is your leading concern?

A. Healthy lifestyle change 0%

B. Anxiety 0%

C. Atypical Anorexia Nervosa 0%

D. Gastrointestinal disorder 0%

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What is the most appropriate next step?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----|
| A. Continue SBHC monitoring only | <div></div> | 0% |
| B. Call parents and refer to eating | <div></div> | 0% |
| C. Hospital admission | <div></div> | 0% |
| D. Refer to nutrition | <div></div> | 0% |
| E. Start on SSRI for new anxiety | <div></div> | 0% |

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How do you
respond in this
visit?



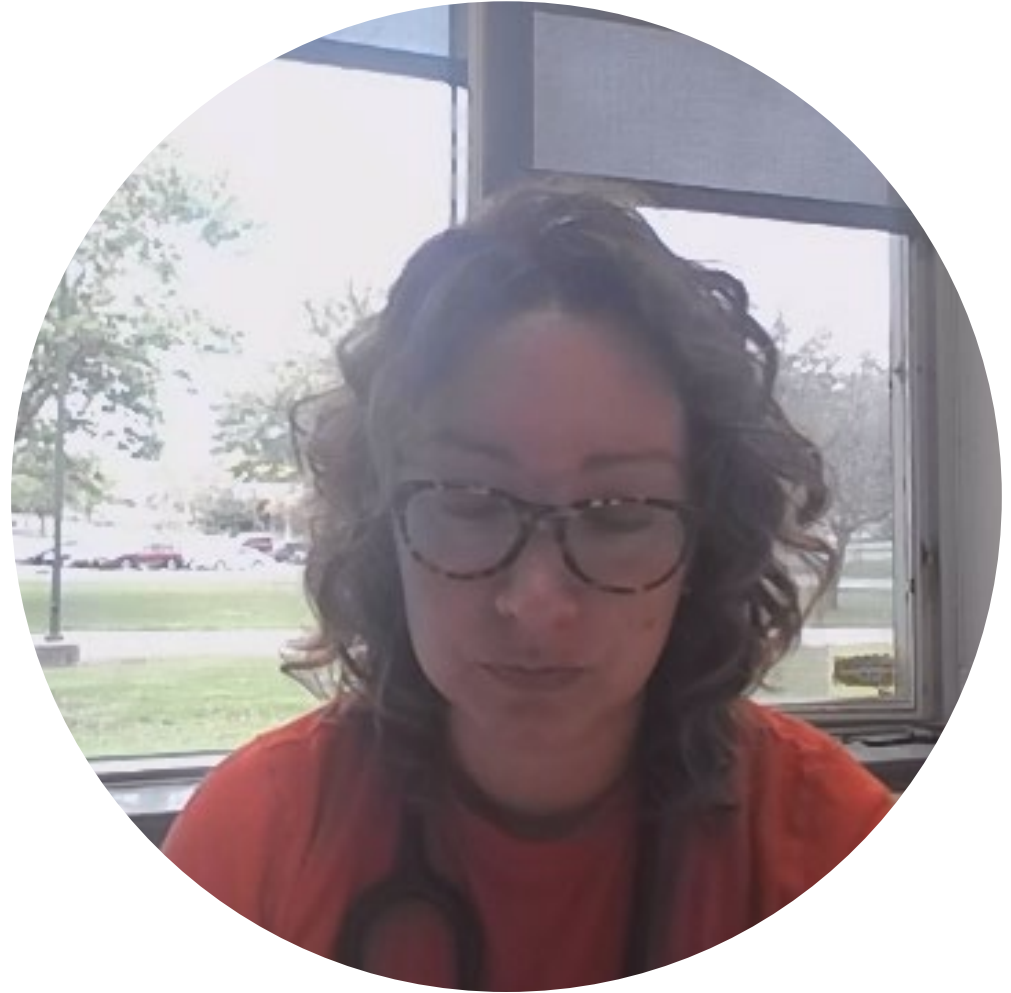
SBHC Support while waiting for EDO Specialist Referral

- Weekly Monitoring (blind weights, vitals)
- Coordination with PCP
- Bridging care
- Refer to specialist (urgent vs routine)
- Communication with specialist
- Engage family early
- Letter to coach- if pausing sports until evaluation
- Use caution with starting SSRI for anxiety



Blind Weight Discussion

How to explain the rationale
behind this.



Case study #3

You're seeing a 17-year-old female in your school-based health center. She has had a BMI around the 80th percentile most of her life.

She presents with:

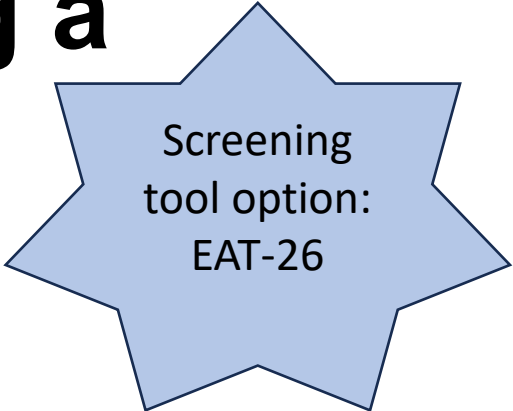
- Frequent abdominal pain
- Constipation
- Dizziness and fatigue

On exam you note:

- Calluses on the hands
- Dental enamel erosion
- Bilateral cheek fullness ('chipmunk cheeks')
- Vital signs WNL today
- Weight stable, minimal changes



You ask about eating behaviors using a screening approach. She reports:



Screening
tool option:
EAT-26

Purging (self-induced vomiting) 4 times per week for 3 months

Binge eating about 2 days per week

Poor body image and desire to be thinner





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What is your best next step?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----|
| A. Lab work today & follow up in 1 day | <div></div> | 0% |
| B. Send to the emergency department | <div></div> | 0% |
| C. Refer to therapy to start since BMI is within normal range | <div></div> | 0% |
| D. Initiate referral to EDO outpatient specialist + labs + close follow-up | <div></div> | 0% |

Lab Results

- CMP normal
- CBC normal
- Lipase normal
- Amylase- **elevated**





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What are your best next steps?



0

A. Order an abdominal US to look for pancreatitis.

B. Engage parents, initiate purging precautions at home, and refer to EDO specialist. (consider urgent referral due to electrolyte risk)

C. Send to emergency room.

How to talk with
parents about labs,
referral, & purging
precautions support at
home



Case Study #4



A 13-yo female with a normal BMI presents frequently to your SBHC for headaches—usually around 1–2pm.

You've already ruled out:

- Sleep issues
- Stress or major life changes
- Vision concerns
- Migraine history

Vitals today are stable

- HR 85
- BP 118/78
- Delta P: 12

RECORD # _____



On further discussion:

They skip breakfast and lunch most days (rushed and hates school food)

Have had some weight loss over the past 2 years (~5 lb)

Say it's *not intentional* and denies any body image concerns.

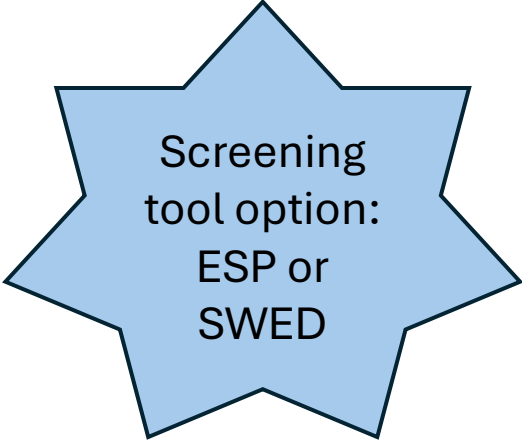
Also noticing some fatigue, trouble focusing in class, feeling cold

They are:

Open to talking and trying to eat more

Aware that symptoms (headache, dizziness, fatigue, poor focus) may be from not eating enough

They have access to:
Free school breakfast/lunch,
Snacks, Food pantry



Screening tool option:
ESP or
SWED



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How are you conceptualizing this case?

0

- A. Likely Restrictive Anorexia Nervosa
- B. Disordered eating & malnutrition symptoms without...
- C. Primarily social determinants (food access issue)
- D. Normal teen behavior

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What do you do next?

0

- A. Refer to adolescent medicine—likely eating disorder
- B. Monitor every 2 weeks in SBHC with structured nutrition goals
- C. Refer to nutritionist ASAP
- D. Call parents to partner in increasing intake
- E. B and D

How to talk with this
student about your
recommendations
and plan



Questions or Comments?



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NURSING
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