Experienced stigma and health care avoidance among women with obesity: Fusion as a moderator McKenna Prynn, Mirka Jara Rivas, Elizabeth Lukela, Fusion moderates the relationship between experienced **Keegan Moore, and Maureen Flynn** INTRODUCTION stigmatizing situations and health care avoidance among women • 41 % of women with obesity engage in healthcare avoidance because of their weight (Amy et al., 2005). • There is a correlation between healthcare avoidance and weight-related stigma among women with with obesity obesity (Mensinger et al., 2018).

- There must be moderating variables. Two such variables may be fusion and defusion.

METHOD

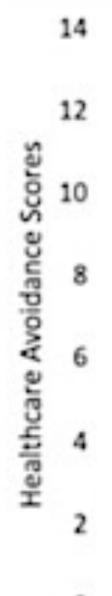
 Cross-sectional online survey of 261 women with obesity on Prolific Tested with moderation analyses. 					Overall models, conditional ef experienced stigma in health	ısing	 significantly predicted health care avoidance (See Table 3) The Johnson-Neyman analysis of the interaction showed that stigma significantly and positively predicted health care avoidan when body image fusion scores were greater than or equal to .3 					howed that care avoidance					
RESULTS						b	SE	t	р	95% CI	standard deviations					• • • • •	
					Overall model				1		 The pick-a-point an 	•				U	
Correlations					F(8, 252) = 7.47, p < .001, R ² = .19 Intercept Wt x StSit	17.08 12	2.56 .05	6.67 -2.23	<.001 .03	[12.04, 22.12] [22,01]	conditional relationships between experienced stigmatizing situations and health care avoidance at one standard deviation above the mean (See Figure 2)						
Table 1					Fusion	.01	.05	.15	.88	[09, .11]	Table 3	C					
						StSit x Fusion	.01	.003	2.44	.02	[.001, .01]						
Correlations, mea	Correlations, means, and standard deviations among constructs					BMI	.02	.03	.62	.54	[05, .09]	Overall models, conditional ef	fførts an	nd interv	action et	fførts us	inσ
					Health	46	.34	-1.35		[-1.12, .21]	Overall models, conditional ej	jects, un			jects us	IIIg	
Variables	1	2	3	4	5	Education	32	.16	-1.96	.05	[63, .002]	experienced stigma in health	caro as t	ho prod	ictorya	riable	
1. Fusion	-					Income	17	.07	-2.41	.02	[31,03]						
2. Defusion	-0.63**	-				Age	05	.02	-2.80	.001	[09,02]		b	SE	t	р	95% CI
3. Body Fusion	0.62**	-0.50**	-			<i>Note</i> : fusion = fusion sub-scale from	the Multion	dimensio	nal Psych	ological Fl	lexibility	Overall model					
4. Stigma	0.27**	-0.16*	0.25**	-		Inventory; StSit = Stigmatizing Inver	ntory Brie	f				$F(8, 252) = 7.30, p < .001, R^2 = .19$	10.04	0.55	7.20	< 0.01	[10 01 00 07]
							, Direi	•				Intercept	18.84		7.38	<.001	[13.81, 23.86]
5. Avoidance	0.29**	-0.20*	0.21**	0.19*	-	Figure 1						Fusion StSit	02 12	.02 .06	-1.00 -1.96		[07, .02] [24, .01]
Mean	16.77	16.37	39.59	12.56	11.57							StSit x Fusion	.004	.00	2.75	.05	[0.001, 0.01]
SD	7.43	6.04	14.82	11.15	4.08	Interaction effect of fusion ar	nd stigm	atizing	experie	nces on	healthcare	BMI	.002	.03	.06	.95	[-0.7, 0.07]
<i>Note</i> . n = 261. * <i>p</i> < .01, ** <i>p</i> < .001										Health	47	.34	-1.36		[-1.14, 0.21]		
 Fusion was significantly and positively 				avoidance scores at different	values					Education	32	.16	-1.98	.05	[-0.64, -0.002]		
	correlated with healthcare avoidance and stigma.										Income	18	.07	-2.44	.02	[-0.32, -0.03]	
				14						Age	06	.02	-3.12	.002	[-0.09, -0.02]		
 Defusion was significantly and negatively correlated with healthcare avoidance and stigma. 				1922	275		_			Note: CFQ-T = body image fusion; S	tSit = Stign	natizing Ir	ventory, '	Brief			
with healthcare avoluance and slight.				12			_			Figure 2							
	•		•			Sala		_	_								
Moderation Analysis for Fusion and Stigma				S 10						Interaction effect of body im	ากสุด fusic	on and (stiomati	zing exn	eriences on		
						900							uge jusie		Jugmanz		
 The conditional effect of fusion did not significantly 				o ga				-	-low fusion	health care avoidance scores	s at diffe	rent val	1105				
predict health care avoidance				AV0				_	-medium fusion	neutin cure avoidance scores	, at affer		ucs				
The condition	onal effect	of exper	ienced v	veight-re	elated	e				_	high fusion	14					
stigma pred	licted healt	h care av	voidance			54				2.5	6			_			
• The interac	tion betwe	en fusior	n and stig	gma		ealt						12					
significantly	<pre>/ predicted</pre>	health c	are avoid	dance (se	ee Table 2)	x 2						se					
 The Jo 	hnson-Ney	yman ana	alysis of t	the inter	raction							S 10					
showe	ed that stigr	na signif	icantly a	nd posit	ively	0						e lo					
predicted health care avoidance when fusion scores					Low StSit Medi	ium StSit	High	StSit			e o			-	low bo	ody fusion	
were greater than or equal to .45 standard										AVA C			-	media	m body fusion		
deviations above the mean.					Moderation Analysis for Body Fusion and Stigma					a			1	high t	ody fusion		
 The pick-a-point analyses indicated that there were 											the second secon			1.1			
significant conditional relationships between							fhady:	maga	fucion d	lid nat a	vignificantly	eal					
•	enced stigr		•			The conditional effect o		inage i		nu nut S	ngimuanuy	I N					

- - experienced stigmatizing situations and health care avoidance at one standard deviation above the mean (See Figure 1)



Table 2

Overall models, conditional experienced stigma in health					ısing	 significantly predicted hea The Johnson-Neyman stigma significantly and when body image fustions 	n analys nd posit	is of th ively p	ne intera redicted	action s d health	howed that care avoidance
	h	SE	t	n	95% CI	standard deviations a	bove th	e meai	า.		
Overall model $F(8, 252) = 7.47, p < .001, R^2 = .19$)	SE	ι	<u>p</u>	95% CI	The pick-a-point ana conditional relationsh	nips betv	ween e	xperien	ced stig	gmatizing
Intercept Wt x StSit	17.08 12	2.56 .05	6.67 -2.23	<.001 .03	[12.04, 22.12] [22,01]	situations and health above the mean (See			e at one	e standa	ard deviation
Fusion StSit x Fusion	.01 .01	.05 .003	.15 2.44	.88 .02	[09, .11] [.001, .01]	Table 3					
BMI Health	.02 46	.03 .34	.62 -1.35	.54 .8	[05, .09] [-1.12, .21]	Overall models, conditional eff	ects, and	l intera	ction ef	fects us	ing
Education Income	32 17	.16 .07	-1.96 -2.41	.05 .02	[63, .002] [31,03]	experienced stigma in health c	are as th	e predi	ctor var	iable	
Age	05	.02	-2.80	.001	[09,02]		b	SE	t	р	95% CI
Note: fusion = fusion sub-scale fro			nal Psycho	ological Fl	exibility	Overall model $F(8, 252) = 7.30, p < .001, R^2 = .19$		51		<u>P</u>	<u> </u>
Inventory; StSit = Stigmatizing Inventory, Brief				Intercept	18.84	2.55	7.38	<.001	[13.81, 23.86]		
				Fusion	02	.02	-1.00	.32	[07, .02]		
Figure 1						StSit	12	.06	-1.96	.05	[24, .01]
				StSit x Fusion	.004	.001	2.75	.01	[0.001, 0.01]		
Interaction effect of fusion of	nteraction effect of fusion and stigmatizing experiences on healthcare				BMI	.002	.03	.06	.95	[-0.7, 0.07]	
				Health	47	.34	-1.36	.17	[-1.14, 0.21]		
avoidance scores at differer	nt values					Education	32	.16	-1.98	.05	[-0.64, -0.002]
avoluance scores at afferen						Income	18	.07	-2.44	.02	[-0.32, -0.03]
14						Age	06	.02	-3.12	.002	[-0.09, -0.02]
Healthcare Avoidance Scores					low fusion medium fusion high fusion	Note: CFQ-T = body image fusion; StS Figure 2 Interaction effect of body images health care avoidance scores 14 12 10 10	ige fusio	n and s	tigmatiz		eriences on
0 Low StSit Me		8 8			-		ody fusion im body fusion				
Moderation Analysis for Body Fusion and Stigma						hcare h			_		ody fusion
The conditional effect	of body i	mage f	usion d	id not s	significantly	4 Healt					

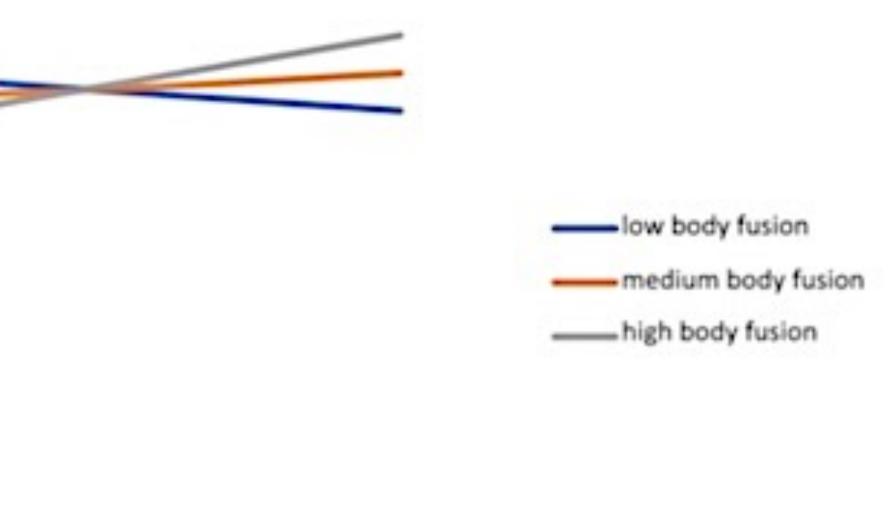


- predict health care avoidance
- The conditional effect of experienced stigma did not significantly
- predict health care avoidance

Low StSit

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• The interaction between body image fusion and experienced stigma 1. • •



- Table 4)

Table 4

Overall models, conditional effects, and interaction effects using

	b	SE	t	p	95% CI
Overall model					
$F(8,252) = 6.60, p < .001, R^2 = .17$					
Intercept	18.40	2.25	8.16	<.001	[13.96, 22.84
StSit	0.11	0.05	2.07	0.04	[.01, .22]
Defusion	-0.004	0.06	-0.07	0.94	[12, .11]
StSit x Defusion	-0.005	0.003	-1.45	0.15	[01, .002]
BMI	-0.003	0.03	-0.07	0.94	[07, .07]
Health	-0.46	0.34	-1.33	0.18	[-1.13, .22]
Education	-0.37	0.16	-2.25	0.03	[,69,05]
Income	-0.18	0.07	-2.45	0.01	[32,04]
Age	-0.06	0.02	-3.15	0.002	[09,02]

- Both general fusion and body-related fusion moderated the relationship between experienced weightrelated stigma and health care avoidance.
- Defusion did not moderate the relationship between experienced weight-related stigma and health care avoidance.
- Future studies could examine the effectiveness of interventions targeting fusion on healthcare avoidance among this population.
- Future research could investigate the possible presence of other moderating variables as well.





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Moderation Analysis for Defusion and Stigma

The conditional effect of defusion did not significantly predict health care avoidance

• The conditional effect of experienced stigma significantly predicted health care avoidance

• The interaction between defusion and experienced stigma did not significantly predict health care avoidance (See

Flexibility Inventory; StSit = Stigmatizing Inventory, Brief

DISCUSSION