

Driver Diagram

What is it and how can it help me?

Factors that influence the achievement of your aim or goal are called “drivers.” A driver diagram maps the relationships between the aim and primary and secondary drivers that impact it. It depicts your “theory of change.” In other words, once you have determined what you want to change, a driver diagram helps you to determine how you will make changes that lead to your desired outcome.

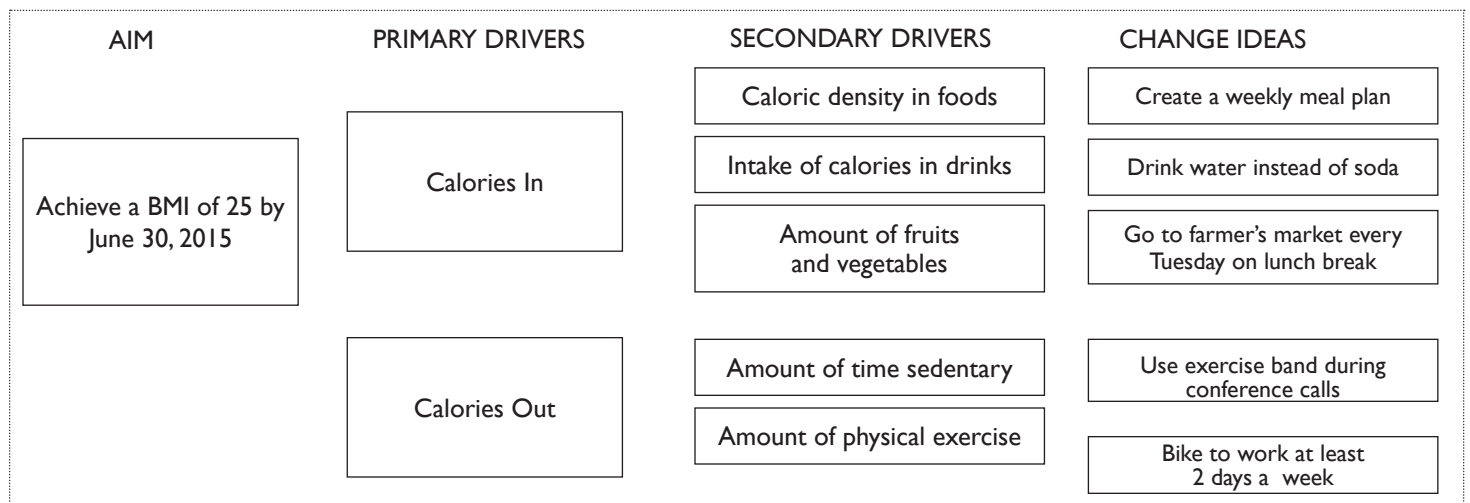
A driver diagram:

- Defines key leverage points, or “drivers,” in the system
- Explores factors need to be addressed
- Shows how different factors are connected
- Helps communicate a change strategy
- Provides the foundation for a measurement framework

How to use this tool:

1. State your “aim:” what you want to improve, by how much, for whom, by when (see Aim Statement Worksheet).
2. As a team, brainstorm the high-level factors needed to achieve your aim. Note: It is unnecessary to determine whether drivers are “primary” or “secondary” at this point.
3. Group the drivers and define high-level headers that summarize the groups. The headers will be the primary drivers. The grouped items under each are the secondary drivers.
4. Check your list of drivers for duplicates, clarity, missing elements, and team consensus.
5. Draw arrows to show the cause and effect relationships (if secondary drivers have arrows to more than one primary driver then the grouping may need to be adjusted; most secondary drivers should align under one primary driver each).
6. Define the interventions or strategies (the “hows”) that will impact the various drivers.
7. Define project measures for tracking progress as you test your theories for improvement.

Example



Driver Diagram Worksheet

* Note: There is no set number of primary or secondary drivers that should be included, adjust to meet your needs.

AIM	PRIMARY DRIVERS	SECONDARY DRIVERS	CHANGE IDEAS