

Almost everyone is on a diet – but most people fail to lose weight long term. According to the data of American **National Weight Control Registry**, the probability of losing 30+ lbs and keeping it off for just 1 year **is less than 1 in 10,000**.

For 15 years I was failing too. I tried different approaches. Finally I started to succeed. I slowly lost more than 60 lbs - I am definitely in “1 in 10,000” category mentioned above. This presentation describes what really works (and what doesn't). And how to be healthy and live longer (like people in “Blue Zones” – later in this presentation).



268 lbs in 2010



208 lbs in 2017

I highly recommend to listen to some episodes of the "Big Change the Film" series by Jason Cohen.

You can find it on youtube or iTunes:

on youtube: - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzFwW-13NfNBAtGbJxvJsQQ/videos>

on iTunes: - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/big-change-the-film-podcast/id1093956175?mt=2>



As of today (June 1, 2018) there are 96 interviews so far. They are stories of people who lost weight - and kept it off. And have become much healthier.

After multiple attempts they all converge to the same approach.
It is NOT about dieting (eating less to reduce calories).
It is NOT about exercising to reduce calories.

It is about switching to more nutritious foods (whole foods, mostly plant-based) and removing dead and toxic foods. It is about switching from standard american diet to diet close to that used by people living in "Blue Zones" and staying healthy for much longer than average americans.

Specifically it is about removing mostly or completely:
all animal products (no meats, chicken, eggs, dairy)
all highly processed products (sugars, sodas, oils, etc.).

The most difficult for me was removing milk and cheese.
The strangest for me was removing oils.
Yes, no oil, not even olive oil, etc.

Good foods are greens, beans, berries, vegetables, nuts and seeds, rice, oats, buckwheat, etc.

There are many scientists describing how to live this way.

Main famous names:

Dr. John McDougall

Dr. Joel Fuhrman

Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn - and his son Rip Esselstyn

Dr. Michael Greger

Dr. Neal Barnard

Dr. Dean Ornish

You can find their lectures and interviews on youtube.

There are also many books by those authors.

Many websites and communities joining people.

Also there are great documentaries (look at Netflix and Google):

Forks Over Knives (2011)

What The Health (2017)

The Human Longevity Project (2018)

etc.

Here is a short list of most effective things people do to lose weight:

- keep insulin low
- remove some "dead or toxic" foods, increase amounts of fresh nutritious foods.

1. no sugar and no flour – only whole natural foods.

Avoid all sweet taste (no sugar, no juices or sodas, etc.).

Avoid all flour-containing foods (no bread, pasta, chips, etc.)

Avoid all highly-processed food, “empty” calories, fatty foods and oils. Yes, not even olive oil in salad.

2. intermitting fasting.

No snacking between meals – give time to allow insulin to go down.

Eat 2-3 times/day. Have one long fast (no-eating period – 12..16 hours long) every day.

Simple strategy - skip breakfast and lunch - and only eat at night after work.

3. Eat lots of greens, vegetables, beans, also some fruits & berries.

Eat mostly Low-Calorie-Density natural foods (vegetables and fruits, fresh or minimally processed).

You may have huge meals - and still lose weight very fast.

Example: 1000 calories = 9 lbs of raw lettuce salad or spinach or other green leaves or cabbage or cauliflower,

or 6 lbs of raw broccoli

or 5 lbs of carrots,

or 4 lbs of apples.

Attention – do not use oily dressing, because it can easily quadruple calories.

4. Reduce (or completely eliminate) animal products

(no meat, no chicken, no eggs, no dairy: no milk, no cheese, etc.) and no oils (not even olive oil).

Notes:

- losing weight on "will power" doesn't work long term
- "eat less, exercise more" formula doesn't work long term:
 - eating less - causes metabolism slowdown and doesn't work long term for 95% of people.
 - exercise - contributes less than 5% (if any) if you consider long term.
- eat lots of vegetables. Find a way to add a big serving of salad / vegetables to each meal.
You can eat lots of cabbage, spinach, etc.
- you don't need extra protein from meat, etc. You get it from vegetables and beans.
- you don't need milk for calcium. In fact you should stay off milk products (or use only goat or sheep milk).
- you don't need vitamin pills – you will get everything from food.
(you do need some sun for vitamin D, and some animal products for B12)

- eating snacks between meals is bad. You should eat at maximum 3 times per day.
Snacks are more harmful than eating big meals.
It is very important to avoid snacking between meals - to allow insulin levels to decrease.
- <https://intensivedietarymanagement.com/perils-snacking-hormonal-obesity-xiii/>
- oscillating (eat - stop_eat, a.k.a. intermittent fasting) works.
And it doesn't cause metabolic slowdown. It doesn't make you hungry.
- Note (important!) - the world record in long fasting is 382 days !
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2495396/> -
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2495396/pdf/postmedj00315-0056.pdf> -

You need to have long periods of not-eating to allow body to lose weight.

Recommended lengths of regular fasting are anywhere between 12 hours to several days.

- <https://intensivedietarymanagement.com/fasting-regimens-part-6/> -
- <https://intensivedietarymanagement.com/longer-fasting-regimens-part-7/> -

Notes:

- damaged metabolism (even type-2 diabetes) can be reversed in just 2 weeks using natural eating (no sugar, no flour, etc. - only natural foods) plus some fasting

- removing stress and oscillating between activity and rest is very important.

- inner work.

I took the course "**Bright Line Healing**", which is associated with "Bright Line Eating".

Basic approach - remove judgement and shame, love yourself unconditionally as you are.

Talk to your compulsion as it is a small child inside of you.

No accusations, no blame, no guilt, no war.

Instead - love, care, game, humor, patience.

(awareness, surrender, forgiveness, connection)

This is best explained by Mary O'Malley (search for her on youtube and on amazon).

- avoid foods which poison you.

Steven Gundry's book "Plant Paradox" explains

how today's common American foods are dangerous,

and how to select and/or prepare "**safe**" foods.

Especially how to make your heart and arteries healthier.

What do I do?

I removed sugar almost completely (and removed all sweet taste).

I removed bread, pasta, and all other products made of flour.

I try to eat mostly Low-Calorie-Density foods (salads, vegetables) and control amount of High-Calorie-Density foods (oils, cheese, nuts, raisins, etc.).

I try to somewhat control portions at night.

I weigh myself daily and keep records with phone app "**MyFitnessPal**" - this helps me to keep track and make adjustments.

Here are the top links describing the methods I am using:

- <https://intensivedietarymanagement.com> (Jason Fung - book "Obesity Code")
- <http://www.leangains.com> - (intermittent fasting)
- <http://www.eatstopeat.com> - (intermittent fasting)
- <https://www.drmcDougall.com> - (book "The Starch Solution" - by John McDougall (vegetables and starches))
- <http://gundrymd.com/books/> - (book "Plant Paradox" by Steven Gundry – healthy heart and arteries via diet)
- <http://www.ariwhitten.com> - (weight loss and energy)
- <https://brightlineeating.com/> - (Susan Peirce Thompson - book and BLE program)
- <http://www.maryomalley.com> - (about loving and accepting yourself)
- <https://bluezones.com> - eye-opening wisdom from Earth longest-living people (book "Blue Zones Solution")
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CdwWliv7Hg> - Jeff Novick - Calorie Density
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6fcMML8-6Q> - PTs about - Calorie Density
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Pkj1MO-LNq> - What The Health Documentary 2017

How 500 cal look like

5 apples

6 eggs

120 grams of cheese

24 grams of butter

4 strips of bacon



Relationship Between Calorie Density & Satiety



400 Calories of Oil

400 Calories of Beef

400 Calories of Vegetables



8 Dorito chips (100 calories) or 25 medium strawberries (100 calories)



200 Calories

200 Calories

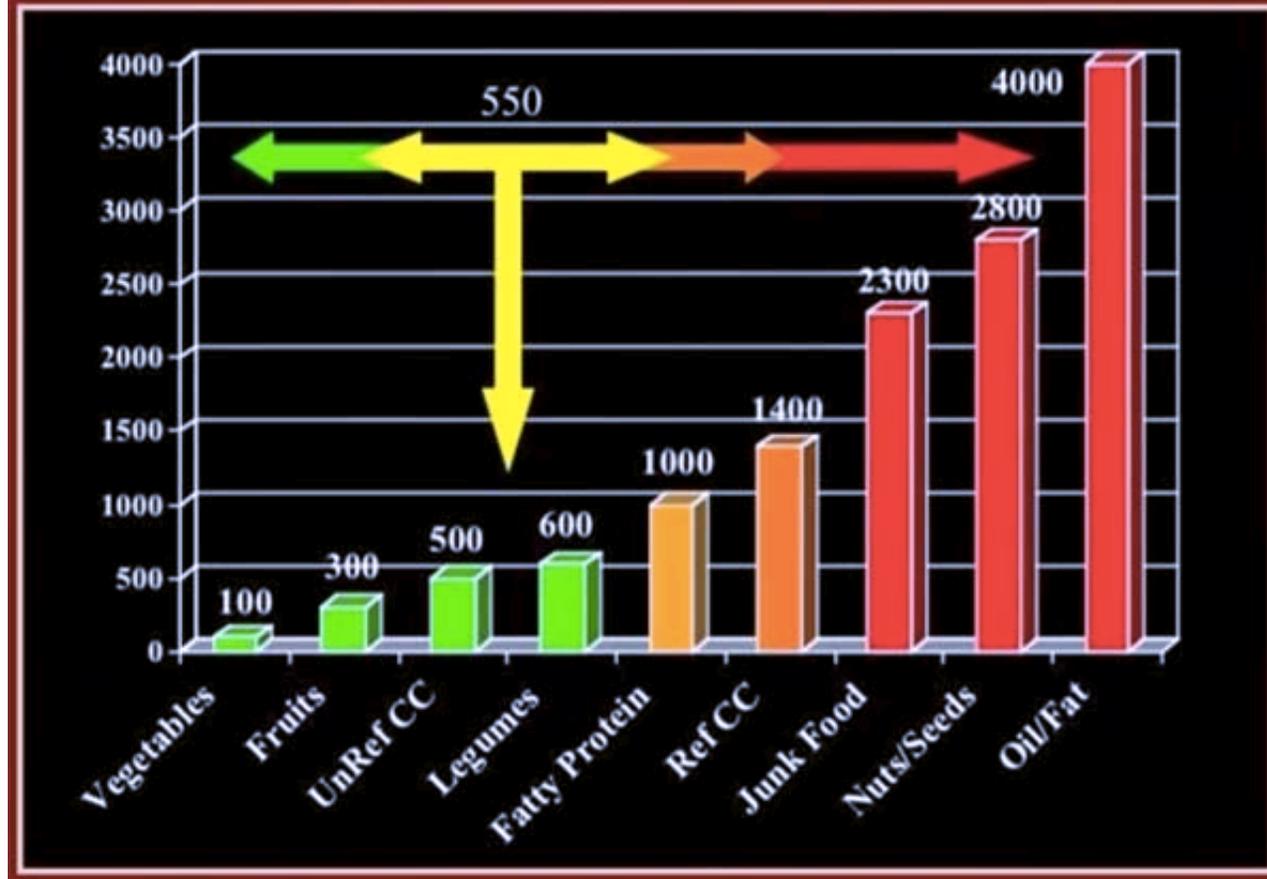


Bad

Good

Calorie Density

From Jeff Novick



Healthy

Unhealthy

Okinawa Diet - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okinawa_diet

Okinawa is one of “Blue Zones” – places with highest concentration of healthy 100+ year old people.

People from the Ryukyu Islands (of which Okinawa is the largest) have a life expectancy among the highest in the world.

Also they have low mortality from cardiovascular disease and certain types of cancers. Compared age-adjusted mortality of Okinawans versus Americans (1995) average Okinawan was:

- 8 times less likely to die from coronary heart disease,
- 7 times less likely to die from prostate cancer,
- 6.5 times less likely to die from breast cancer,
- and 2.5 times less likely to die from colon cancer

Recently numbers got worse because young people shift to Western diet.

What is the magic of the “old diet? In short, the Okinawans circa 1950 ate mostly sweet potatoes, with some rice, legumes, and other grains. Of the 1262 grams of food per day: 849-sweet potato, 154-rice, 71-legumes, 38-grains, 150-everything else.

The dietary intake of Okinawans compared to other Japanese circa 1950 shows that Okinawans consumed:

- fewer total calories (1785 vs. 2068),
- less polyunsaturated fat (4.8% of calories vs. 8%),
- less rice (154g vs. 328g),
- significantly less wheat, barley and other grains (38g vs. 153g),
- less sugars (3g vs. 8g),
- more legumes (71g vs. 55g),
- significantly less fish (15g vs. 62g),
- significantly less meat and poultry (3g vs. 11g),
- less eggs (1g vs. 7g),
- less dairy (<1g vs. 8g),
- much more sweet potatoes (849g vs. 66g),
- less other potatoes (2g vs. 47g),
- less fruit (<1g vs. 44g),
- and no pickled vegetables (0g vs. 42g). [4]

Some people achieve good results using **support groups**. If you want to be a part of some program, I highly recommend Susan Peirce's program "Bright Line Eating" (BLE). It grew from Food Addicts Anonymous (FAA) 12-step program, but it is more flexible, scientific, provides support via internet, and at this point in time it is the most effective program in existence:

- <https://brightlineeating.com/>

You can buy Susan's book on amazon. Also here is Susan's book launch presentation slides from March of 2017:

- <https://brightlineeating.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/BLE-Book-Launch-PowerPoint.pdf>

About 12-step programs - there are many of them, for example:

- 1939 – Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
- 1960 – Overeaters Anonymous (OA)
 - Food Addicts Anonymous (FAA) (1987)
 - Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous (ABA) (1993)
 - Compulsive Eaters Anonymous-HOW (CEA-HOW) (1996)
 - Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) (1998)
 - Eating Disorders Anonymous (EDA) (2000)
 - GreySheeters Anonymous (GSA)
 - Recovery From Food Addiction, Inc. (RFA)
 - Food Compulsions Anonymous (FCA)

The 12-step groups work well for some people because they provide personal support which is very important for people who are high on susceptibility scale (a.k.a. food addicts). But results will depend on specific group. You need a group where people achieve results. If people just meet to wine and complain - this will not be effective. Also you need a group where people use modern scientific-based approach.

How to eat at different places:

Chinese – “Buddha's Delight” – make it steamed, no oil, with sauce on the side

- <http://www.eatthis.com/8-diet-experts-order-chinese-restaurants>

McDonalds - Basic Side Salad, Fruit (Apple Slices and Cuties), Fruit & Maple Oatmeal

Generic restaurant - ask to make a plate of greens, vegetables, berries, and fruits, no oil, no dressing

Mexican restaurants – I usually order salad without dressing, salsa without chips, coffee, some fruits or berries for dessert

Coffee shops – I take 1-shot espresso + oat or soy milk + cold water

Calories in Coffee (8oz - small):

- Cappuccino with half & half – 330
- Cappuccino with whole milk – 113
- Latte with 2% milk – 95
- Americano – 8

Calories in some products:

- Hazelnuts (12) – 100
- brazil nut (1) - 33
- Raisins (50) - 80
- Apple or similar size fruit (1 medium) - 90
- Potato (1 medium) - 160
- banana (1 medium) - 105

More links:

- <https://www.veghealth.com> - Discover How to Thrive on a Vegetarian Diet and Stop Being Vulnerable to Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies
- <https://youtu.be/LkXwfTsqQgQ> - muscles matter
- <https://youtu.be/0z03xkwFbw4> - custom diets for different people (depends on microbiome)

- <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2015/04/11/398325030/eating-to-break-100-longevity-diet-tips-from-the-blue-zones> - from the book “**The Blue Zones Solution**” by Dan Buettner, National Geographic explorer
 - Stop eating when your stomach is 80 percent full to avoid weight gain.
 - Eat the smallest meal of the day in the late afternoon or evening.
 - Eat mostly plants, especially beans. And eat meat rarely, in small portions of 3 to 4 ounces. Blue Zoners eat portions this size just five times a month, on average.
 - Drink alcohol moderately and regularly, i.e. 1-2 glasses a day.

Five Blue Zones:

- **Icaria, Greece** - potatoes, goat's milk, honey, legumes (especially garbanzo beans, black-eyed peas, and lentils), wild greens, some fruit and relatively small amounts of fish, feta cheese, lemons and herbs like sage and marjoram. Rarely goat meat.
- **Okinawa, Japan** - seaweed, turmeric and sweet potato, bitter melons, tofu, garlic, brown rice, green tea and shitake mushrooms.
- **Sardinia, Italy** - goat's milk and sheep's cheese, flat bread, sourdough bread and barley, plenty of fennel, fava beans, chickpeas, tomatoes, almonds, milk thistle tea and wine from Grenache grapes.
- **Loma Linda, Calif** - Seventh-day Adventists - mostly plant-based diet (grains, fruits, nuts and vegetables, and drink only water. Some of them eat small amounts of meat and fish.) Sugar is taboo. Their top foods include avocados, salmon, nuts, beans, oatmeal, whole wheat bread and soy milk. Pesco-vegetarians in the community, who ate a plant-based diet with up to one serving of fish a day, lived longer than vegan Adventists.
- **Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica** - beans, corn and squash. papayas, yams, bananas and peach palms (fruit).

Blue Zones – 9 principles.

People who live in a Blue Zone have nine characteristics in common, according to researchers. For the Blue Zones Project, these are called "Power 9 Principles."

1. Move naturally - Get more physically active by walking in the community, do manual labor around the house and yard, and grow gardens.
2. Know your purpose - People who know why they get up in the morning live up to seven years longer than those who don't.
3. Down shift - To reverse inflammation related to every major age-related disease, find time each day to meditate, nap, pray or enjoy a happy hour.
4. 80 percent rule - It takes the stomach 20 minutes to tell the brain it is full, causing most people to accidentally overeat. Stop eating when 80 percent full.
5. Plant slant - Eat a mostly plant-based diet heavy on beans, nuts and green plants. This is consistent with U.S. Department of Agriculture recommendations.
6. Wine at 5 - For those who have a healthy relationship with alcohol, 1-2 glasses of wine daily can add years to a life, especially when combined with a healthy diet.
7. Family first - Living in a thriving family is worth six extra years of life expectancy.
8. Belong - Recommit, reconnect or explore a faith-based community. No matter which faith, studies show that people who show up to their faith community four times a month live an extra four to 14 years.
9. Right tribe - Friends have a long-term impact on well-being. Expand a social circle to include healthy-minded, supportive people. This could be the most powerful way to add years to a life.

Here are some links about exercising:

Flexibility - Tom Merrick

- <https://youtu.be/hoQbrx955-8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT4hvcljKtc>

Flexibility - Emmet Louis

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=askyPISMogs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HVSDRjOHqU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KDJDfaEHM>

Strength max load (1-4 reps, 4 sets/day):

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0bo-kDHT7Y>

Strength – endurance (more pullups)

(3 variations, 3 sets each – 9 sets total at ~70% of max
or go to max. number of sets. At the end – hold and slow release):

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gROqn53az2g>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj_bOz2aigQ
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnN8ksvVRIQ>

Yoga - yogaglo: <https://www.youtube.com/user/yogaglo>

Yoga for surfers (17 min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oX6l6vs1EFs>

Yoga with Adriene: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7AYKMP6rOE>

Also – walk/run (with your dog), play outside, etc. – 30-60 min/day