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Watchers commercials (or the countless memes it's spawned), you've probably lived on an island more remote than the one on Gilligan's Island. But a whole lot of other notable personalities love it too. Jennifer Hudson, Jenny McCarthy and Jessica Simpson have all spoken about their love for the program. So has Sarah, Duchess of York, who was married to Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth II's son. You would like to buy a kitchen scale. Many of Weight Watchers' serving sizes are measured in ounces, which is almost impossible to measure in a measuring cup for non-liquid foods, like nuts or fruit. PIN-IT FOR LATER: Follow Delish on Instagram. This content is created and maintained by a third party and imported into this page to help users enter their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on piano.io If you're trying to lose weight, last week brought headlines that, at first blush, seemed exciting: Weight Watchers are twice as effective as following a doctor's guide on national weight loss treatment guidelines when it comes to shedding pounds, a European study found. Sounds good, doesn't it? Well, before you sign up for Weight Watchers, there are a few things you need to understand about the study-and about the realities of losing weight and obese people in Australia, Germany and the UK were recruited for the study (which was funded by Weight Watchers, by the way). Half of the participants were instructed to follow their doctor's advice on shedding the pounds, while the other participants were told by their doctors to start using Weight Watchers. After 12 months, the Weight Watchers group had lost more than twice the weight of their colleagues-11 pounds compared to just 5 pounds, on average, among those who completed the study. But only 58 percent of participants completed the study, and the dropout rate was the same for both groups. Furthermore, while food diaries show the Weight Watchers group consume fewer calories, carbohydrates, and sugars, weight loss gains had plauteaud for both groups after just six months. More from MensHealth.com: 9 Weight loss rules that work these dropout rates and pound-shed patterns are a common feature of weight loss studies, explains Walter Willett, M.D., chair of the nutrition department at the Harvard School of Public Health. We need to find a new way to eat that can be sustained for life, not something that's done for a few months or a year and then stopped, Willett says. And therein lies the rub. Two U.S. studies showed that other commercial weight loss programs like Jenny Craig or diet books like The South Beach Diet surpassed national weight loss treatment recommendations and triggered weight loss similar to Weight Watchers But follow-up reports proved keeping the weight off for 5 years or 10 years poses a far more daunting challenge. The data are perfectly clear, says David Levitsky, Ph.D., professor of nutrition at Cornell University. When people complete their dietary care, they get most of the weight back within a year. The reason for it is complex, Levitsky says, and has to do with losing motivation when weight stops falling away, getting bored or complexent about your new diet, and a host of other factors. But don't throw in the towel. There are ways to improve your odds of losing weight and keeping the weight off the long haul: Finding strength in Numbers Weight Watchers, like many commercial diet programs, involves community support groups and member meetings, which the European study concluded was a major factor for weight loss success. The Weight Watchers group met with other members three times each month, while physician-advised groups on average only one visit with a doctor or nurse a month, the study says. The drop-off was more than 60 per cent among those in the UK, where access to health workers was hardest. A Marywood University study also found that those who received group therapy while dieting lost 17 percent more weight-a difference of about 4 pounds-compared to individuals who followed the same diet but did not meet with support groups during the six-month study period. The more times a person meets the provider, the more effectively the program, Levitsky says. Diet Alone won't cut it Everyone needs to incorporate daily physical activity into their lives to be successful in the long run, Willett says. That's because exercise not only helps you lose weight, but also improves your motivation and leads to the type of broader lifestyle changes-like improving diet and becoming more active that are needed to keep the weight off. A Harvard School of Public Health review of 25 weight loss studies ranging from 3 months to 2 years found Dieters who also exercised lost 50 percent more weight-an average of 4 more pounds-than those who changed only their eating habits. The dieters who exercised were also more than twice as likely to have kept the weight off after two years. If you get started on a new diet, incorporate a routine of high intensity resistance training to get the most weight loss benefit. A Penn State University study found adding resistance training to your diet increases fat loss by 35 percent. But be clear: At some point the amount of weight you lose will of the taper off, and that's when you need to focus on maintaining your new, lower weight. To do that, you need to practice a consistent workout routine and combine it with a low-calorie, high-protein diet, says another Penn State study. Make health - not one Goals Most Dieters become fixated on the image in the mirror or the number on the bathroom scale. But ultimately, dieting should be about improving your health, and weight isn't as important as eating right and exercising, according to a recent study by Canadian researchers. After 14 years of tracking the eating and exercise habits of 6,000 obese individuals, the Canadian team found that those who ate the recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables and exercised regularly showed no increased risk of heart disease compared to the rest of the population. They were also less likely to experience massive weight fluctuations, the study says. Focusing on one aspect of your health will naturally increase the attention you give to other aspects of health, Levitsky says. Meaning, if you are focused on eating properly for health reasons, you will be more likely to exercise and practice other healthy habits that prevent weight gain. In fact, a British study found that focusing on the health benefits of weight loss helped motivate people to stick to healthier diets and active lifestyles. To keep your heart healthy, regardless of your weight, be sure to eat lots of fruits and vegetables, the Canadian study explains. And aim for at least 15 minutes of exercise each day. A new study from Taiwanese researchers found that 15 minutes of daily physical activity reduces your risk of death by 14 percent and tacks of three years to your life. More from MensHealth.com: The 15 best recipes for weight loss This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. 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