

The Public Health Foundation and the Driver Diagram Approach to Addressing Population Health

The Public Health Foundation (PHF), a private, non-profit, 501(c)3 organization based in Washington, DC, improves the public's health by strengthening the quality and performance of public health practice. Since 1970, PHF has developed effective resources, tools, information, and training for health agencies, organizations, and individuals to help improve performance and community health outcomes.

To create opportunities for public health and health care system alignment to improve community health (one of PHF's Strategic Goals), PHF has created a population health driver diagram framework. This framework is being used to articulate actions that can be taken by both sectors to address a specific community health challenge. Through initial piloting, PHF has demonstrated the value of the population health driver diagram for helping public health and health care organizations work collaboratively rather than competitively, offering far reaching potential for both sectors and the communities they serve.

A population health driver diagram framework has been used successfully by the public health and health care communities to identify and address primary and secondary drivers of a community health challenge. In 2012, PHF led development of a population health driver diagram to address a challenge being faced by communities – improve use of antibiotics. The [Public Health Antibiotic Stewardship Driver Diagram](#) was designed to achieve optimal antibiotic use by identifying primary and secondary drivers that both the public health and health care communities can address within a community. This population health driver diagram complements a similar hospital antibiotic stewardship driver diagram developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and can be used as a companion to the IHI Antibiotic Stewardship Driver Diagram to further foster interdisciplinary collaboration as a strategy for effectively addressing community health challenges.

Having successfully developed and piloted the [Public Health Antibiotic Stewardship Driver Diagram](#), PHF is enthusiastic about applying this interdisciplinary driver diagram framework to improving use of oral health care services.

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