

Systems Integration Toolkit

Technical workforce skills and evidence-based strategies are not necessarily sufficient to move the needle on maternal and child health outcomes; contextual factors such as challenging political environments, lack of leadership support, funding insufficiency, staff turnover, and historically inequitable programs and outcomes also influence Title V's ability to have an impact.

These systems thinking and mapping tools provide opportunities to see your work in the context of the 'big picture' and strengthen collaboration within agencies and across sectors.

If you want to...	Consider....	To help you...
Develop a shared understanding and decide on key target points for action	Causal Loop Diagramming	Identify leverage points that help shift the entire system and not simply treat the "symptom" of the problem. Have a facilitated conversation to share "mental models" and hypothesize as a group what's driving trends over time.
	Concept Mapping	Elicit stakeholders' opinions about a focal question, and to process this information to identify themes and priorities.
Understand the network of stakeholders that are needed for an initiative	Networking Mapping	Visually display connections between individuals or organizations in a system.
	Balance of Petals	Visualize the stakeholders needed for an initiative, what they need to contribute, and what value they receive in return. Through this exercise, teams discover which stakeholders are imbalanced in terms of what they give/get from a project.
See the 'big picture' system you are trying to change	5 R's	See the system in which you are working by using this conversation guide to prompt for what success looks like (results), roles, resources to support change, and rules and relationships that must be understood or changed to improve outcomes.
	Process Flow Diagramming	Create a map of a current process and use it to help redesign and improve the process, to create a new process, or to document the role of people/organizations to clarify who does what in the process.
	Behavior Over Time Graphs	Share perspectives about what is causing trends over time and move closer to developing a shared understanding of the challenge.
Understand the services or resources available to meet a common goal	Whole System Mapping	Inventory programs, services, or resources within the system you want to strengthen.
	Asset Mapping	Map and analyze information about assets in a community or state to meet a common health goal.
Understand how stakeholders think about a system /their role in the system	System Support Map	Do a deep dive mapping exercise to depict an individual's responsibilities, needs, resources, and wishes. It can be used to support meeting MCH consumers' needs, setting your team up for success, or defining and strengthening a system of individuals.

Where to start?

- ✓ Check out the System Mapping 5-minute Video Series: <https://www.mchnavigator.org/transformation/systems-integration-resources.php#>
- ✓ Reach out to the Systems Integration team at jcohen@amchp.org or klich@unc.edu