

# Mapping tools for community journalism



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JOURNALISM  
+ DESIGN



# Agenda

- Modeling chaos mapping
- Stakeholder mapping + mind mapping
- Wrap-up and next workshop





# Initial brainstorm: "Capturing"

jobs

housing  
costs

access to  
education

pride

incarceration

feelings  
of fear

amount  
of shelter  
space

evictions

safety

gentrification

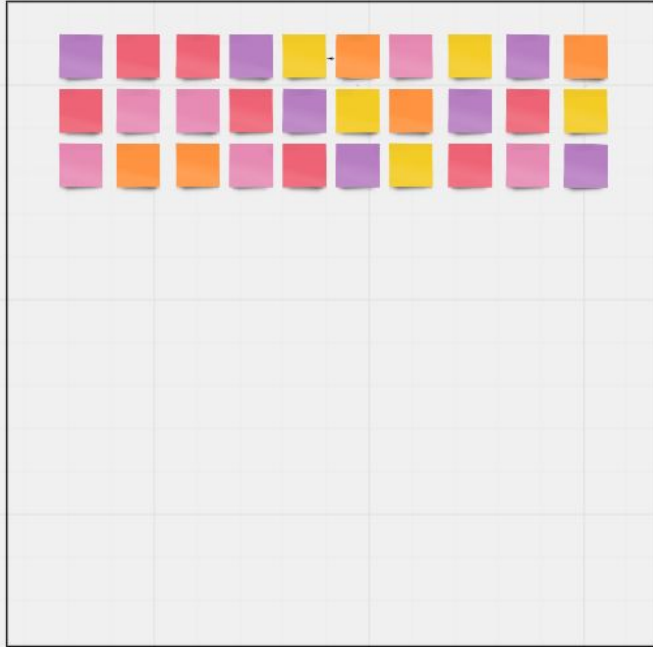
overworked  
caseworkers

mental  
health



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# Initial brainstorm: "Capturing"

What are the elements at play in your local information system? What factors affect how it functions?



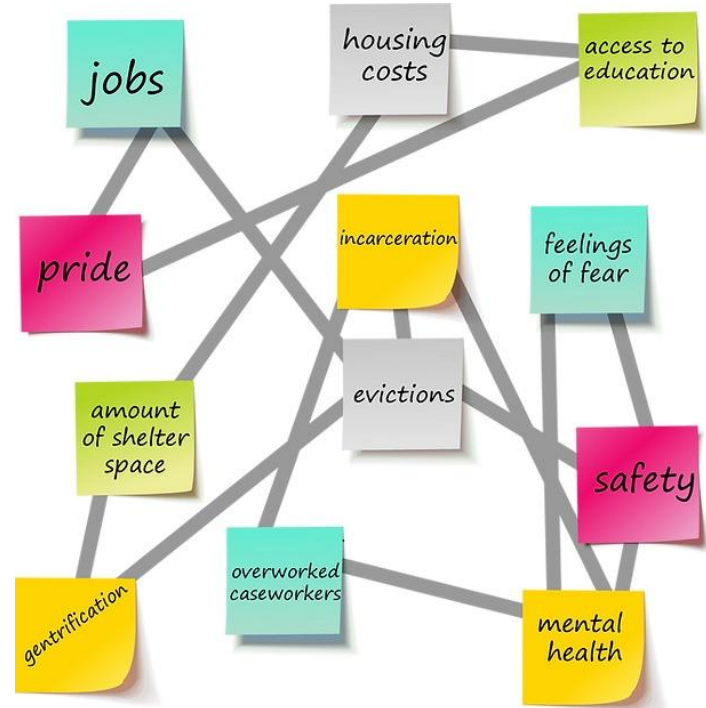


# Sharing + organizing: "Clustering"

Everyone shares their notes on the "wall," one at a time. Group similar notes as you go.



**What connections  
do you see?**





# Debriefing our chaos map

- What connections stand out?
- What's surprising?
- What missing?
- What assumptions are baked in here?





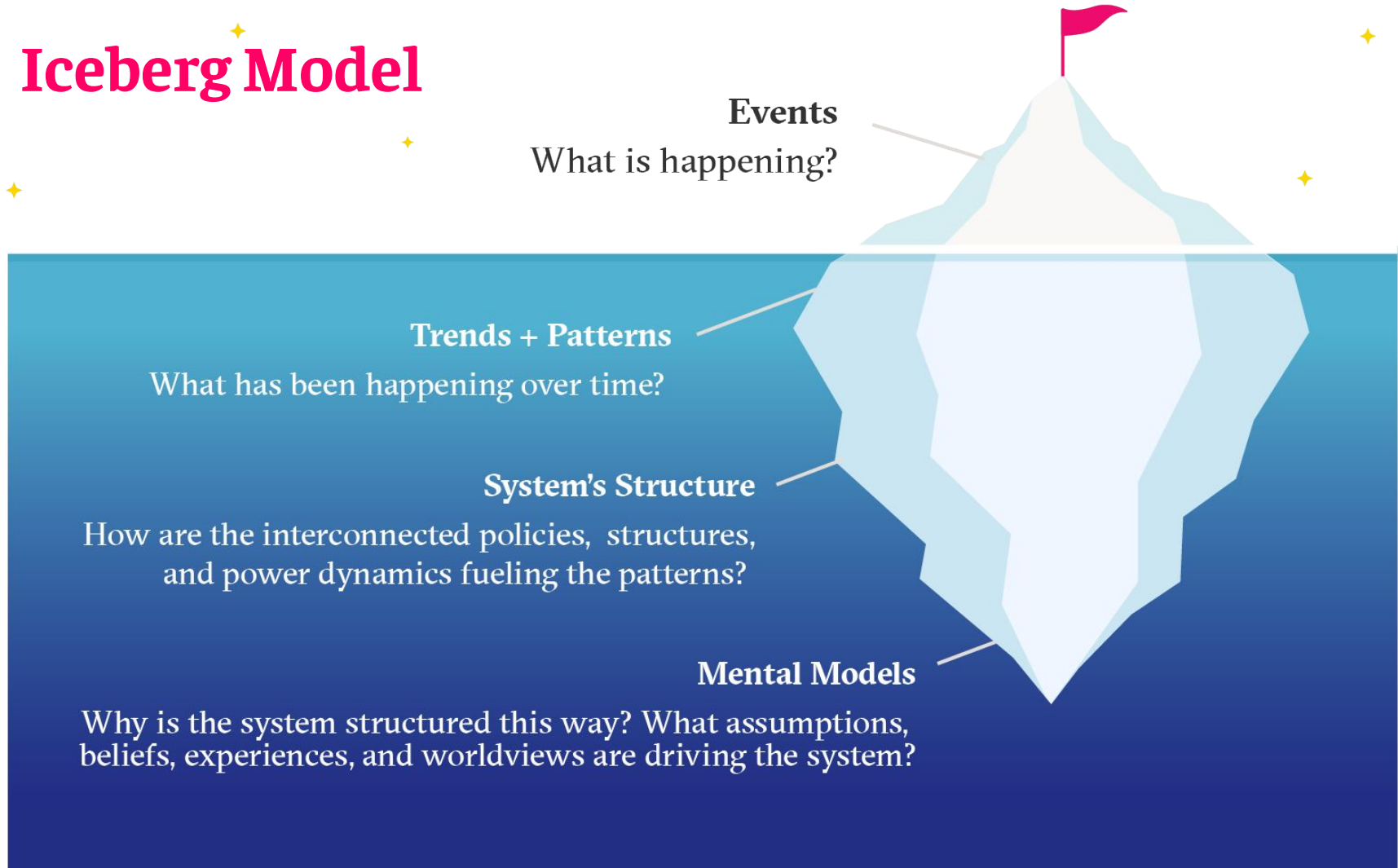
# Iceberg Model

**Events**  
What is happening?

**Trends + Patterns**  
What has been happening over time?

**System's Structure**  
How are the interconnected policies, structures, and power dynamics fueling the patterns?

**Mental Models**  
Why is the system structured this way? What assumptions, beliefs, experiences, and worldviews are driving the system?





# Mapping your stakeholders

family  
court  
expert

judges who  
set child  
support  
orders

non-custodial  
parents

grandparents

taxpayers

local  
non-profit  
supporting  
families

Department  
of Social  
Services

Office of  
the Public  
Defender





# Debriefing stakeholder maps

- Where do we have strong relationships?
- Where can we build relationships?
- Whose perspectives are typically excluded or marginalized?
- Whose needs and perspectives do we need to center and elevate?





# Mind-mapping and storyboarding

Create visual "mind maps" to look for new ideas + connections. Draw storyboards with feedback from others.



**SYSTEMS SLIDES FOR REFERENCE**





# Systems thinking for journalists

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## Systems Thinking For Journalists



*Garrick Wong, Renaissance Journalism*

Journalism has the power to shape how we see the world.  
What if we could better explain our most entrenched problems?  
What if we could illuminate effective opportunities for change?

A practice called systems thinking can help.





How can journalists better equip constituents with information they need to understand how systems work and how to change them?

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Photo by Garrick Wong, Renaissance Journalism





# Systems thinking can help you ...

- Ask a different set of questions
- Learn from and collaborate with a diverse set of stakeholders
- Understand and communicate complexity
- Orient your reporting toward health, equity and possibility





**A system** is a set of interconnected + dynamic parts that together form a whole with a function or purpose.

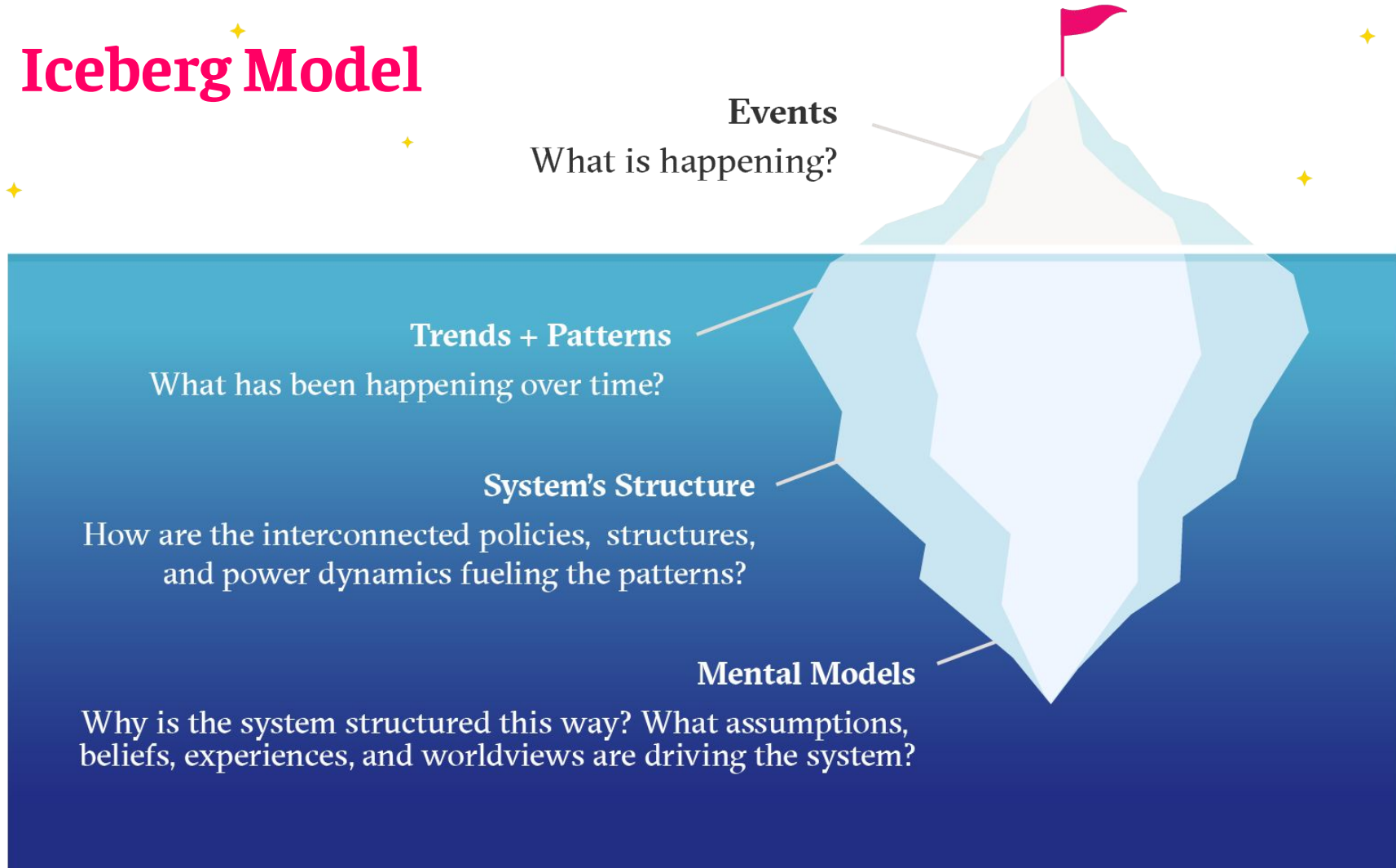


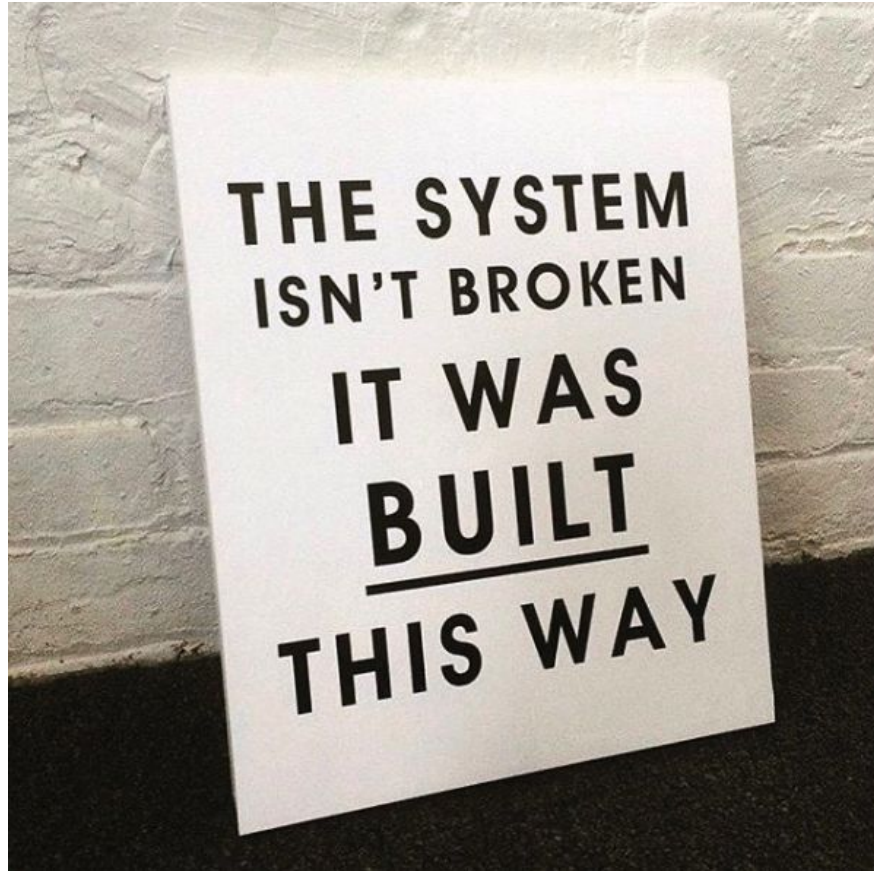


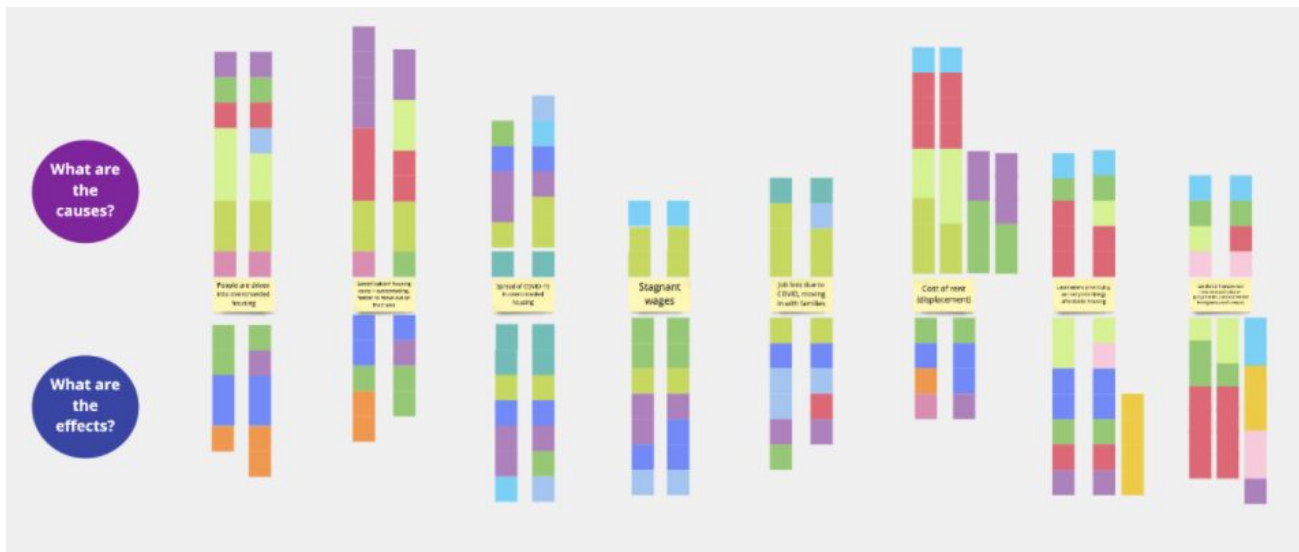
**Systems thinking** is a set of tools and framework for understanding complex issues and opportunities to change them.



# Iceberg Model







A peek at how we organized our research into overcrowding's impact on health using a virtual whiteboard with plenty of digital post-its.

## How systems thinking is guiding El Tímpano's reporting on health & overcrowded housing

From icebergs to feedback loops, El Tímpano intern Sonya Lustig details how we're working to understand this largely invisible crisis



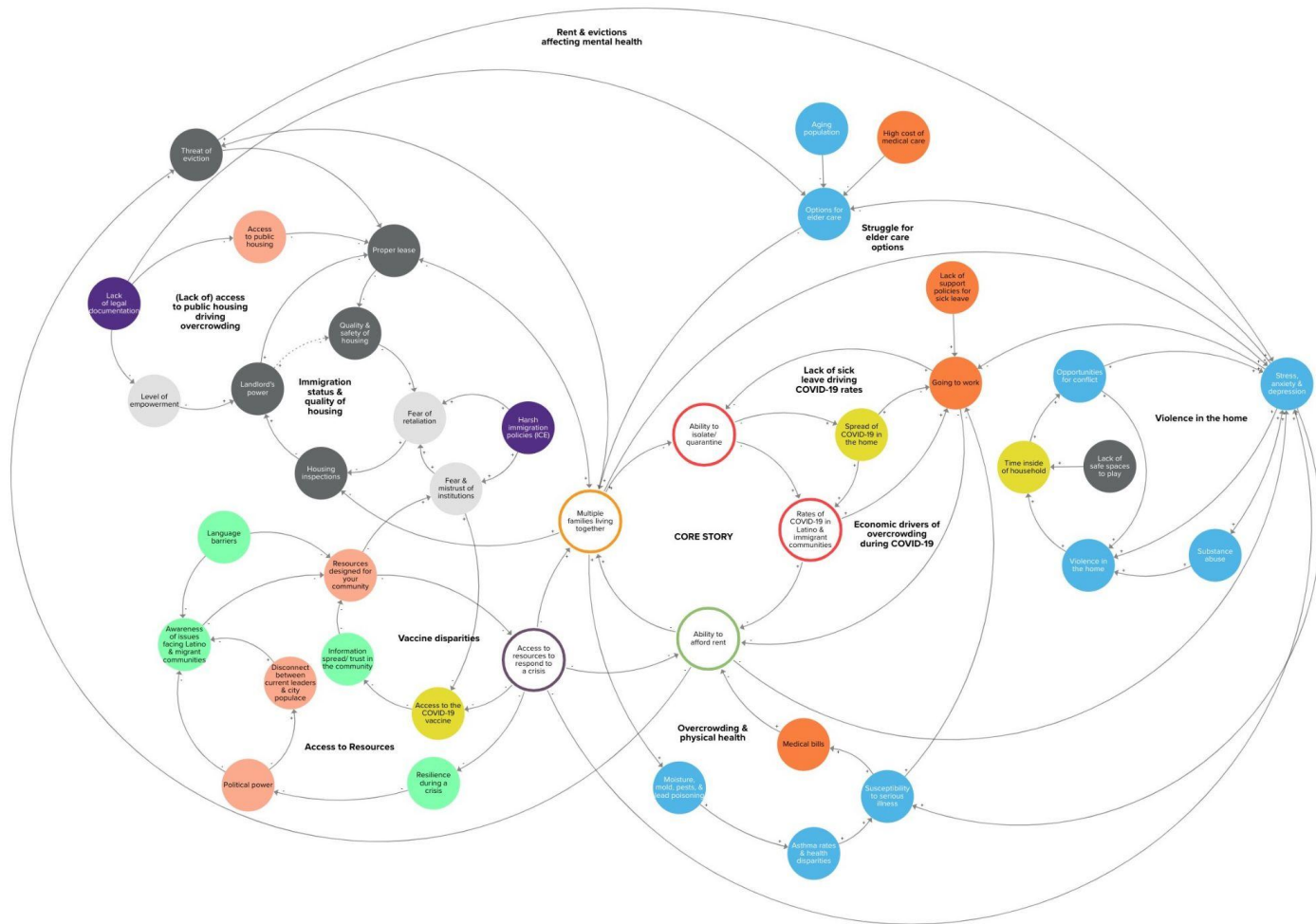
Madeleine Bair

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Apr 26 · 7 min read







# The Immigrant Renters the Eviction Moratorium Didn't Protect



By Ericka Cruz Guevarra, Adhiti Bandlamudi, Alan Montecillo Sep 29 Save Article



Protesters rally in front of Santa Clara County Superior Court in San Jose on Jan. 27, 2021, demanding stronger state eviction protections. (Beth LaBerge/KQED)

## HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

# Oakland immigrants face illegal evictions and barriers to rent relief

Despite COVID-19 tenant protections and assistance programs, immigrant renters are vulnerable to threats and displacement.



by Héctor Alejandro Arzate  
May 27, 2021



Luis and Maria Vazquez with their children at their home in East Oakland. Credit: Amir Aziz







# Let's map a system!

- Access to affordable housing
- Educational equity in K-12
- Your own topic?





# Part one: Develop a framing question

What's an overarching question that summarizes what you want to learn about how the system operates?





## Part one: Capture + cluster

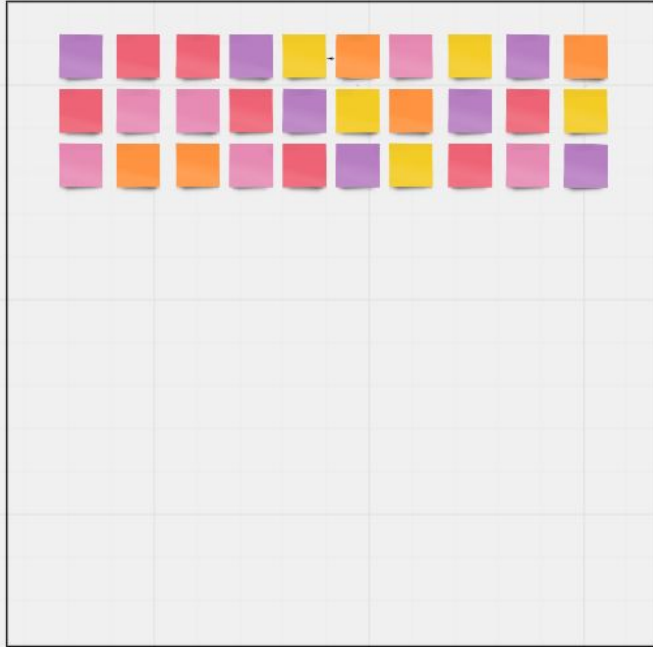
What factors affect how your system works? What are the elements in the system around the issue you're covering?






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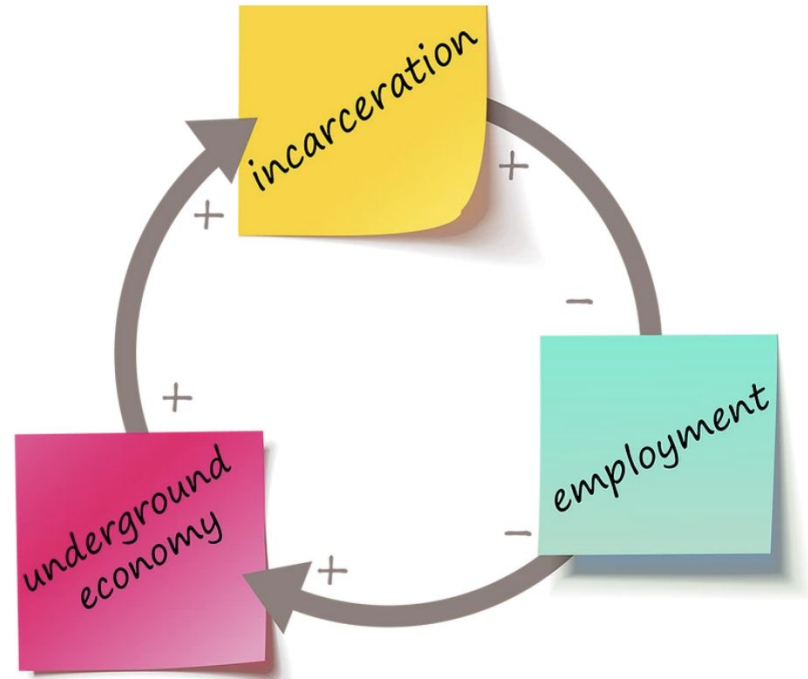
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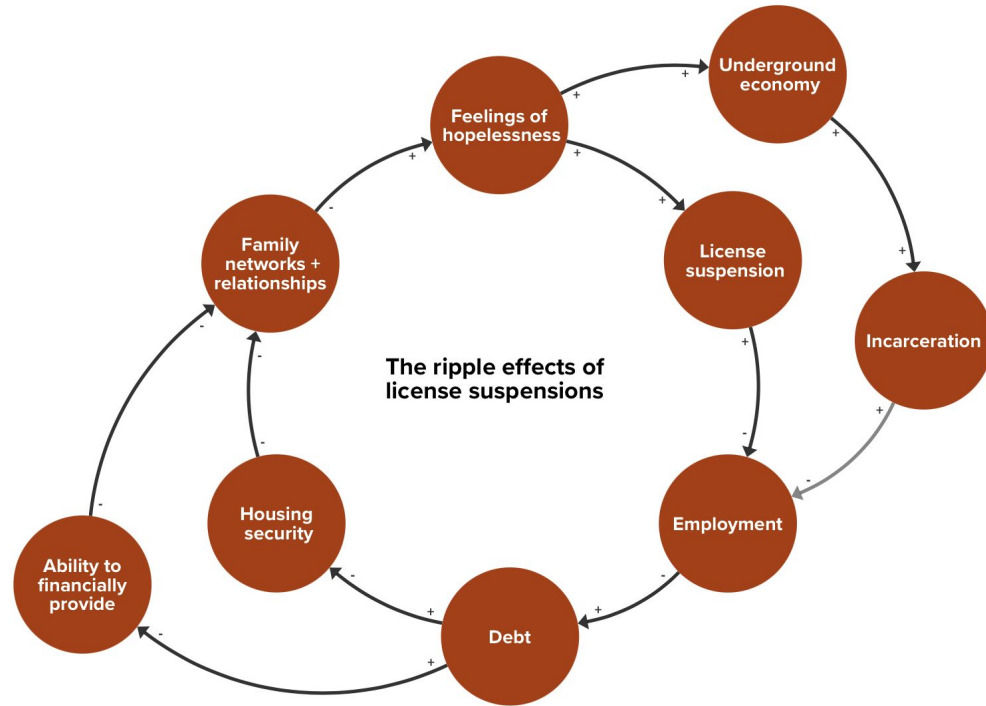




**Feedback loops** are a series of forces that connect to one another in a reinforcing, cyclical way.

They are the foundations of many systems and dictate how they function.









# Directions

- Pick an element you brainstormed that feels key to your system.
- Ask, “what does it lead to?” You can pick another element from your workspace, or come up with a new one.
- Keep doing this until you’ve cycled back to the first force.

**Try and keep your loop to 3-6 forces.**







# Feedback loop debrief

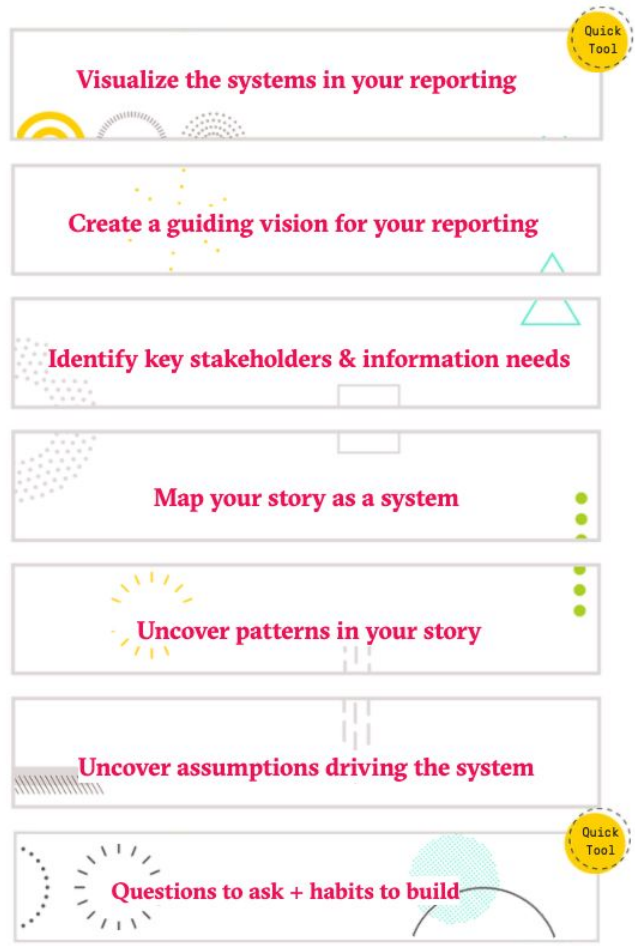
- What was challenging?
- Did any of your loops offer ideas for stories or ways to frame coverage?





**Go deeper: Create connected loops**





# Get in touch

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