

Story Behind the Curve

Story behind the curve and story behind the
gap

To analyze the FACTORS that affect the trendline

To inform the change ideas

To inform selection of STRATEGIES
(based on evidence & best practice)

RBA Practice: The Importance of Factors

Factors shape our theory of action

- If we take specific actions then we expect specific changes will happen.

Factors inform decision making

- We decide what to do “more of” and what to do “less of” or “do differently” in our actions.

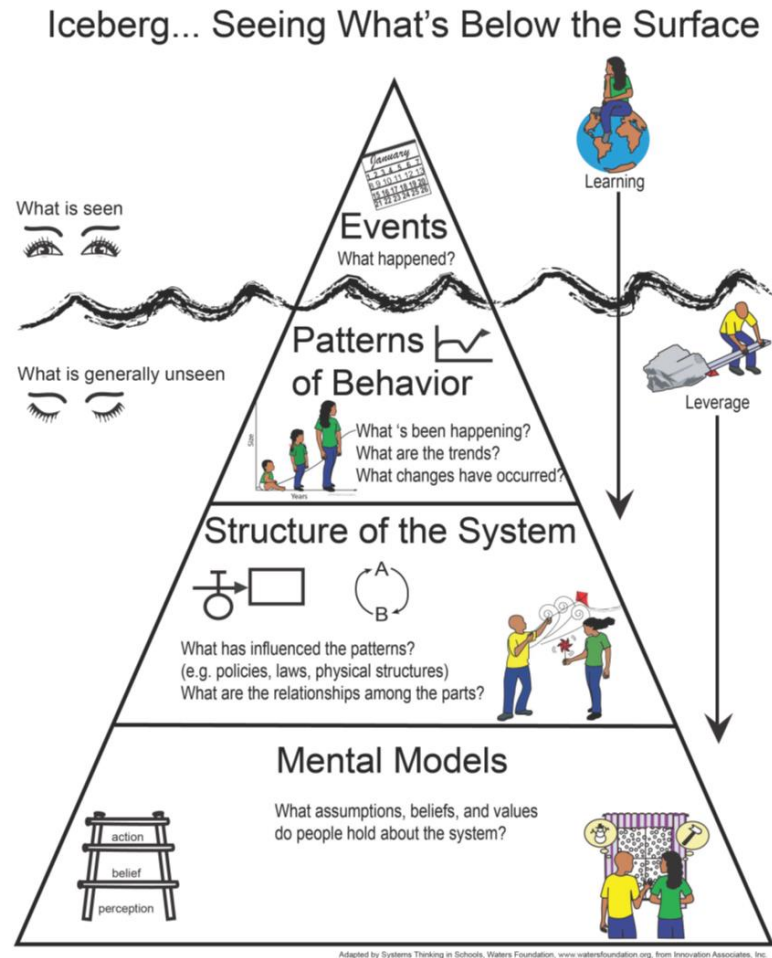
Digging Deep: The 5 Whys

- It’s important to get under “automatic explanation” and get to underlying factors.

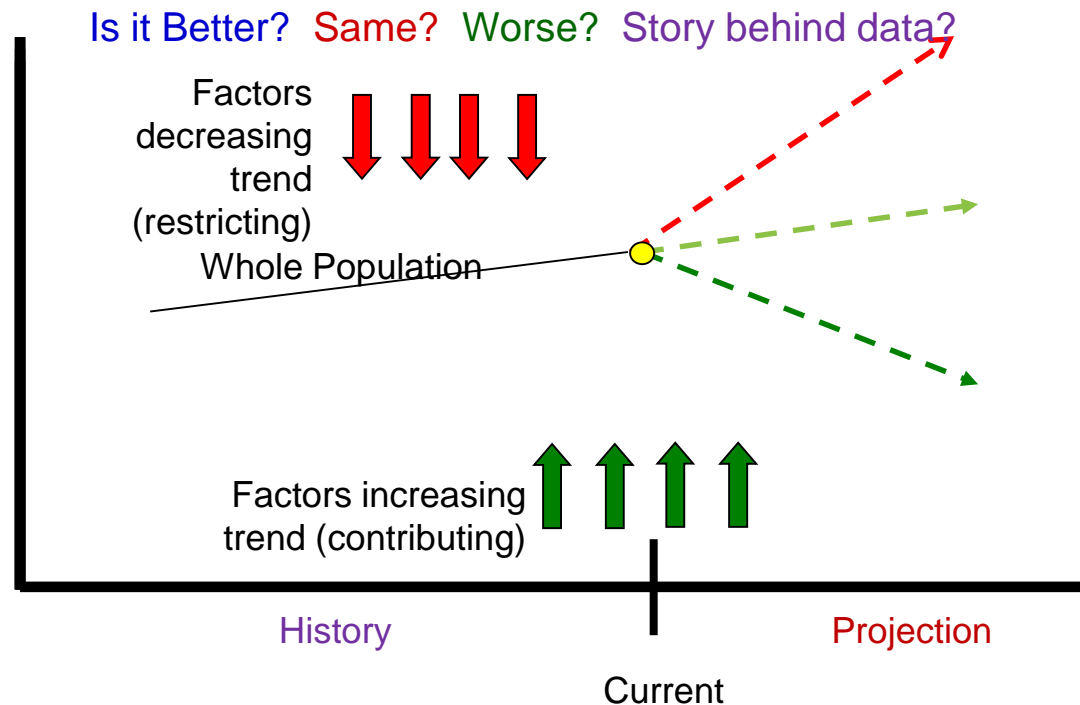
Keeping Systems Thinking in Mind

When doing a factor analysis, it is important to keep in mind all the factors that might be below the surface, what is often unseen.

Adapted by Systems Thinking in Schools, Waters Foundation, www.watersfoundation.org



Getting to the Story Behind the Data Through Factor Analysis



Steps of Factor Analysis

Complete an initial factor analysis using the steps below. Address both the whole population and targeted population curves.

1. Define the current state of the population for the result. Are things getting better or worse? How do you know?

2. Define what is contributing to the current state:

GAINS BEING MADE:

What's leading to the bright spot?

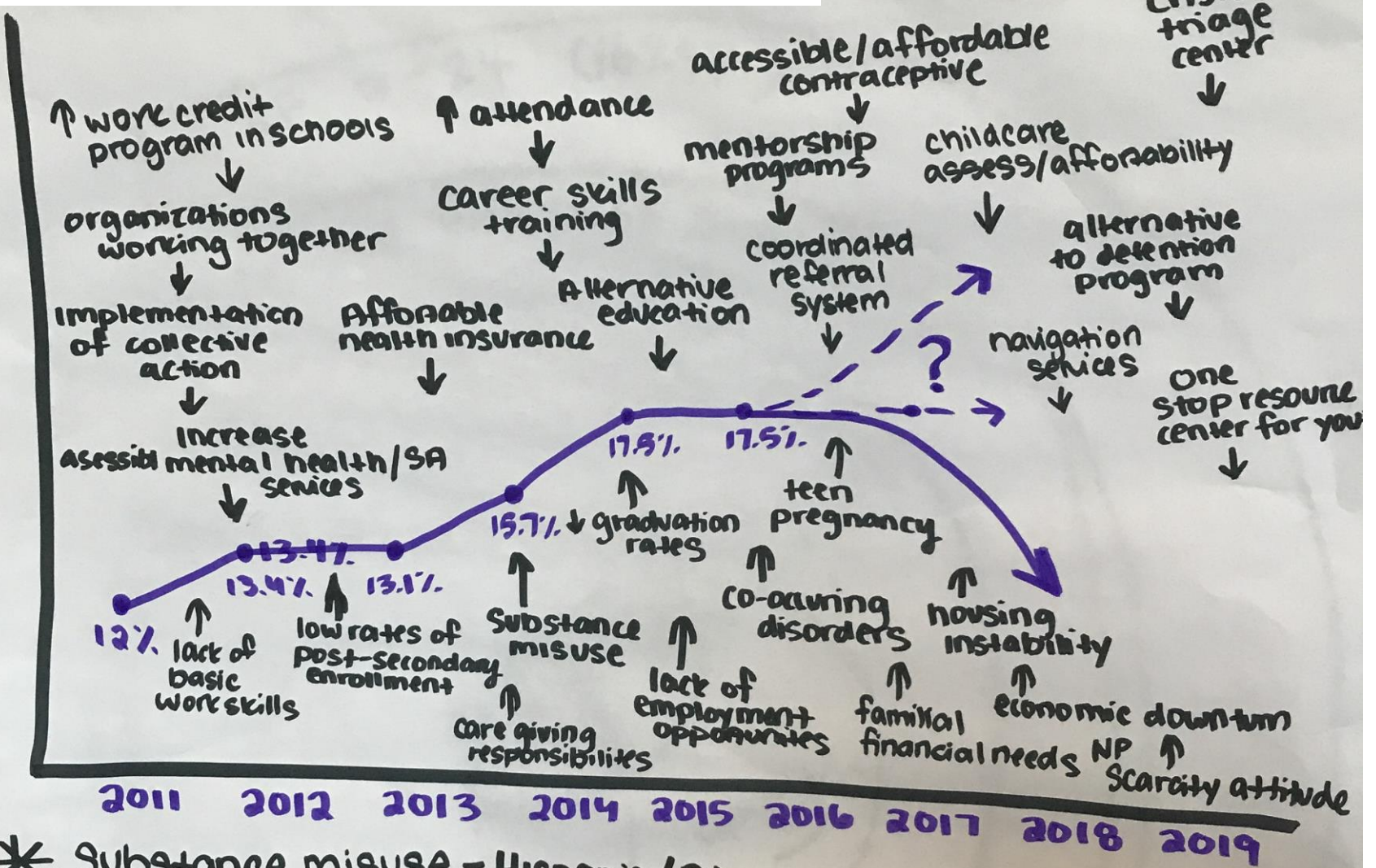
NO GAINS:

What's leading to the population losing ground?

3. 5 WHYS: Get to underlying root causes

- What is the underlying reason the problem or solution is occurring?
- What's helping to shape that underlying reason behind the problem or solution?
- Ask why **5 times** to understand the causal factors and the problem and solutions for the whole population.

Sample: % of Young People who are Disconnected



* Substance misuse - Hispanic/AI

* teen/young adult pregnant and parenting - Hispanic/AI female

Factor Analysis, Part 2

STEP 1: Review your factor analysis and refine it.

Ask:

- How do we know these are the contributing or restrictive factors? (Evidence vs. Mental Models)
- How differentiated is our understanding of targeted and universal factors?
- What disparities have we accounted for? What haven't we accounted for?

STEP 2: Pick a contributing factor for a subpopulation and drill down:

- How is this driving the trend? (Ask the "5 Whys" to get to root causes)
- Is it the same for the target population as the whole population? How does available research/data illuminate a different pathway for the target population?
- If this factor shifted, what impact would that have and how big a contribution would that make to turning the curve?

STEP 3: Pick a restrictive factor for a subpopulation and drill down:

- How is this driving the trend? (Why, why, why, root causes)
- Is it the same for the target population as the whole population? How does available research/data illuminate a different pathway for the target population?
- If this factor shifted, how big an impact would that have and what kind of contribution would that make?

STEP 4: Review your factors and ask yourself:

- What does available evidence (research, experience, network knowledge) tell us about what factors can be addressed?
- What are the 2 or 3 factors that, if shifted, would constructively disrupt systems, reduce disparities, make a big contribution to population level change and close gaps (or help us understand the way forward) in a powerful manner?

STEP 5: Review your factors and ask yourself:

Given what are emerging as your priority factors, what data development work will you need to do to validate the factors for the whole and targeted population?