

# Building Resilient Healthcare

## A Case-Based Complexity Approach to Policy Making and Evaluation for Smarter Decision Making

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# Is healthcare a system?

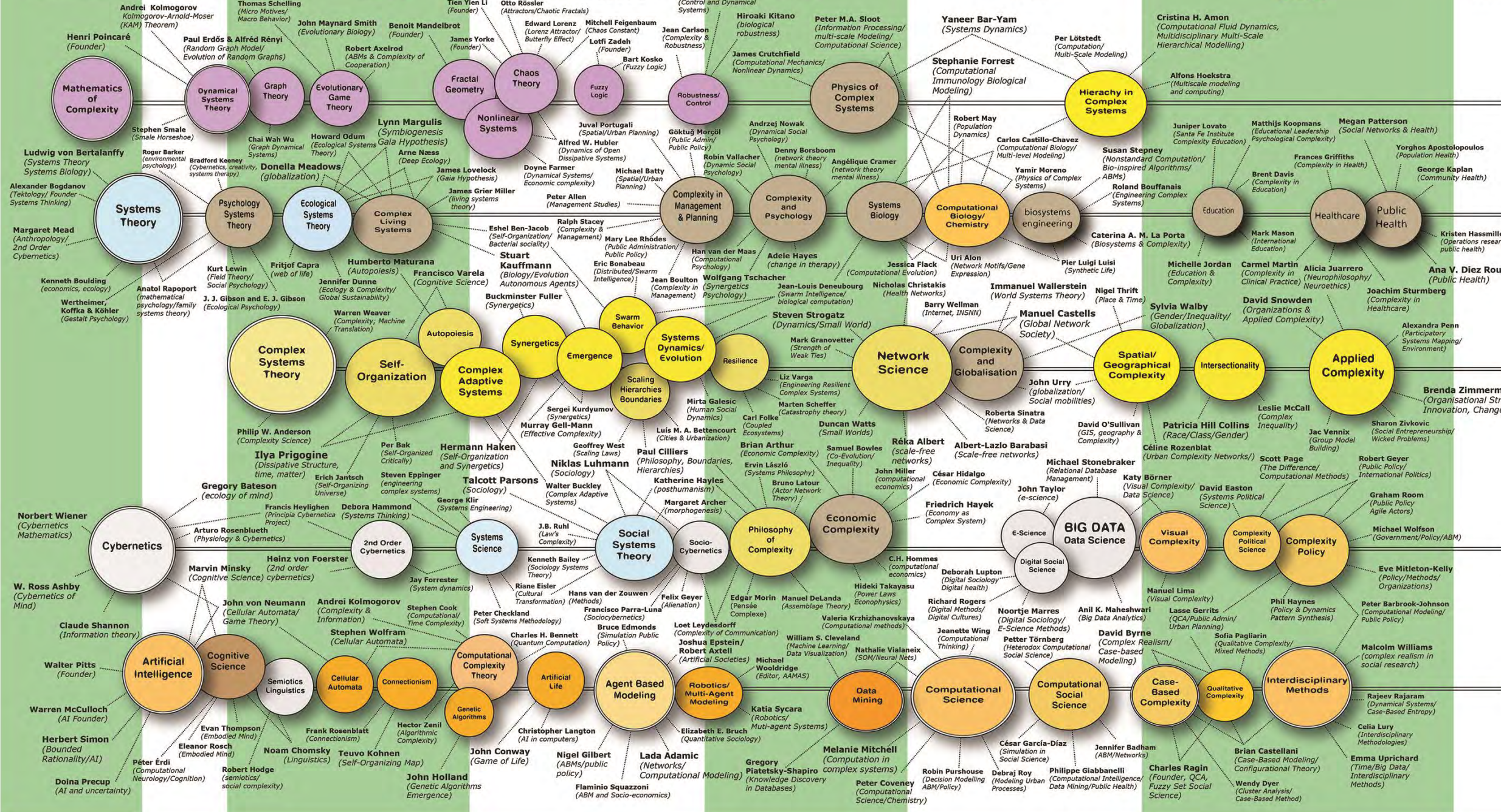
- We talk about healthcare, particularly in Japan and the UK, as a system.
- But what does that mean to call it a system?
- What type of system is it?
  - Metaphorical, but not really a system?
  - Complicated?
  - Complex?



# Is healthcare a system?

- If healthcare is a complex system, how does that inform our understanding of resilience?
- **Complexity matters**
- The Japanese and UK healthcare systems may have similarities, but they are different. Differences matter.
- They are positioned in different geospatial settings, political climates, economic conditions, cultural arrangements.
- All of which help to identify the **types of resilience** they require.





## **Introduction to Healthcare Systems**

- Healthcare systems are complex socio-ecological systems.
- Like ecosystems, healthcare involves interconnected processes.
- Analyzing healthcare resilience is critical in improving system stability and adaptability.
- Feedback loops exist between public health, care delivery, and policy responses.
- Healthcare systems self-regulate through feedback mechanisms (e.g., patient care protocols, triage).
- Example: Hospital capacity management during crises.
- Systems are coupled with their socio-ecological systems, from urban metropolitan areas to local ecological systems.

## **Decision-Making and Adaptive Governance in Healthcare**

- Adaptive governance in healthcare involves flexible policies and system-level adjustments.
- Key areas: crisis management, resource allocation, and response to emerging health threats.
- Building resilient healthcare systems requires forward-thinking policies and responsive governance.

# Using case-based complexity

- How to use Case-based Complexity for Policy Making and Evaluation for Smarter Decision Making



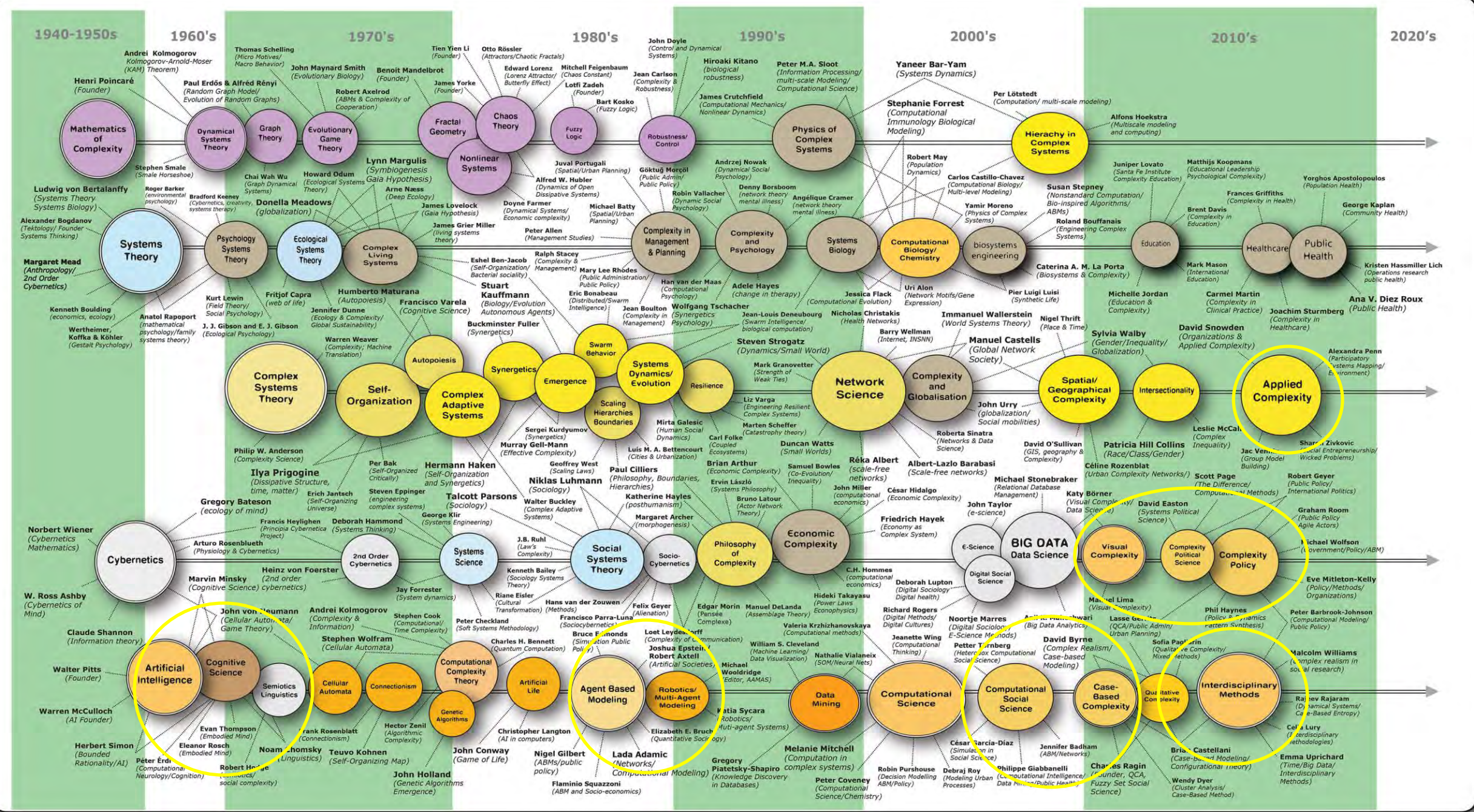
## The Field of Case-Based Complexity

*Case-based complexity* is a suite of interdisciplinary methods first advanced by David Byrne and colleagues as an improvement on the conventions of case-based qualitative configurational analysis (QCA).

Case-based complexity is an established field of study, particularly in public health, sociology, policy studies, political science, governance, urban planning and public administration.

Case-based complexity is grounded on Byrne's novel insight that cases meet the definitional critique of complex systems.

An excellent introduction to this methodology is Byrne and Ragin's *Sage handbook of case-based methods*.



Case-based complexity is anchored in **four core epistemological arguments**:

1. Cases are the methodological equivalent of complex systems – that is, they are emergent, self-organizing, nonlinear, dynamic, etc – and therefore should be studied as such.
2. The case and its trajectory across time/space are the focus of study, not the individual variables or attributes of which it is comprised.
3. Cases and their trajectories are best treated as composites (profiles), comprised of an interdependent, interconnected sets of causal conditions, factors or attributes.
4. The wider social contexts/systems in which cases are situated needs to be considered.

## CASE-BASED COMPLEXITY AND CAUSALITY

CASE-BASED COMPLEXITY pushes the researcher to engage in three distinct ways of thinking about complex social causality that are, in combination, theoretically innovative.

**The first**, and perhaps most original, is *causal asymmetry*: the idea that the configuration of causal conditions that lead to some outcome may be very different from the configuration of conditions that leads to the absence of that outcome.

For example, the causal conditions that account for high performing, healthcare systems can differ from those that explain the absence of high performance in economically deprived healthcare systems.

## CASE-BASED MODELLING AS CONFIGURATIONAL THINKING

The second is that of the pair of *equifinality* and *multifinality*.

Equifinality concerns those instances where different configurations of conditions co-occur with similar outcomes.

Multifinality is the opposite of equifinality. It expresses that similar configurations of causal conditions can co-occur with the outcomes.





# COMPLEX-IT

Run Online or Download for R-Studio



WEB  
VERSION



DOWNLOAD  
VERSION

<https://www.complex-it-data.org/>



### Build Your Model

1. Build database and import your cases

2. Cluster your cases

### Confirm & Explore Your Model

3. Use AI to confirm your cluster solution

4. Compare and visualize your results

### Run Scenario Simulations

5. Simulate your scenarios, policies, and interventions

### Run Data-forecasting/classification

6. Use AI to predict the cluster membership of new cases

### Systems Mapping Tab

7. Using Systems Mapping To Explore Cluster Variables

### Export Your Results

8. Generate your report

Help

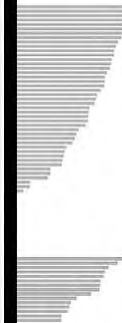
Select the number of clusters

3

Do you want to set a seed for reproducible results?

Fuel.poverty	Social.Isolation	Get.NHS.Health.check
10.091	45.233	32.759
11.614	48.155	30.53
10.646	45.562	37.842
10.567	45.854	34.402

$(x = km@uclusters, dist = dissM)$   
 3 clusters  $C_j$   
 $j: n_j | ave_{i \in C_j} s_i$



1 : 57 | 0.41

2 : 22 | 0.41

# COMPLEX-IT

## Team

As a team we are committed to advancing a **case-based complexity approach** to research, policy and practice in an effort to advance the study of social complexity and to support decision making. We each bring to the team a wide range of methodological and programming expertise and are proud of the truly transdisciplinary and international makeup of our work.



Brian Castellani  
Durham Research Methods Centre  
Durham University



Corey Schimpf  
Department of Engineering Education  
University at Buffalo, SUNY



Peter Barbrook-Johnson  
School of Geography and the Environment  
Oxford University



Michael Ball  
Computer Services  
Kent State University, Ashtabula



Christopher Caden  
Durham Research Methods Centre  
Durham University

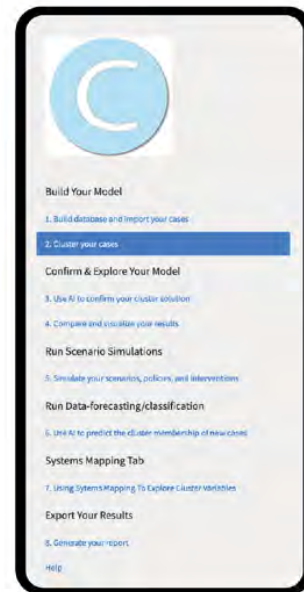




COMPLEX-IT is a case-based, mixed-methods platform for applied social inquiry to complex data/systems, designed to increase non-expert access to the tools of computational social science.

Presently, the platform is comprised of a bespoke suite of techniques, including:

1. cluster analysis
2. artificial intelligence
3. data visualization
4. data forecasting
5. case-based systems mapping
6. case-based scenario simulation

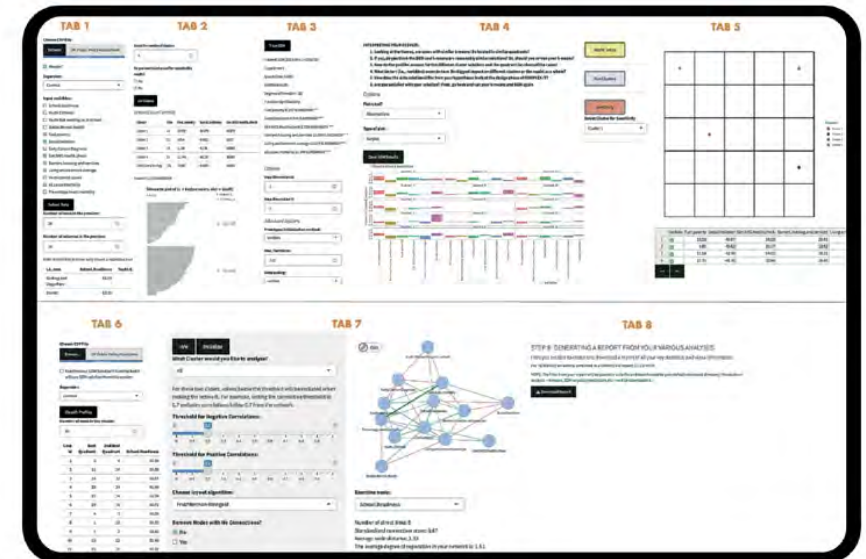


## How COMPLEX-IT Works

COMPLEX-IT is a tab-driven interface.

Tab 1 allows you to import and organize your data. Tab 8 generates a downloadable final report, complete with EXCEL files, statistical results, and graphs. Tabs 2 through 7 offer you a suite of computational methods designed for a *case-based complexity* approach to data exploration, modelling, forecasting and simulation.

- TAB 2 - Cluster Analysis
- TAB 3 - Machine Learning
- TAB 4 - Data Visualization
- TAB 5 - Scenario Simulation
- TAB 6 - Data forecasting
- TAB 7 - Systems Mapping



COMPLEX-IT supports applied social inquiry through a design-based emphasis on learning about the complex data/system under study. It does by

(a) identifying and forecasting major and minor clusters/trends

(b) visualizing their complex causality

(c) mapping and simulating scenarios for potential interventions.

COMPLEX-IT is that it is accessible through the web or can be run locally and is powered by R and the Shiny web framework and includes written and video tutorials.



- Import Your Cases and Map Your Theory
- Build, Confirm and Explore Your Model
- Run Scenario Simulations
- Forecast New Data
- Explore Systems Map
- Export Your Results
- Help

### STEP 1: IMPORT YOUR DATABASE AND MAP YOUR THEORY

Here you will upload your data. You can also create a conceptual systems map with of your data with PRSM.

For TUTORIALS on preparing and importing your data for COMPLEX-IT and using the PRSM systems mapping tab [CLICK HERE](#)

Your data must be in the form of a csv file. For more on creating csv files [CLICK HERE](#)

#### Import Your Data

##### Choose CSV File

Header?

Separator:

Comma

##### Input variables:

- First.Time.in.Justice.System
- Teens.16.to.17.not.in.education..employ
- Percentage.of.people.in.employment
- First.time.offenders.per.10k.population

##### Subset Data

Note: Even if the preview only shows a restricted number of observations, the map will be based on the full dataset.

Show 10 entries

LA_area	First.Time.in.Justice.System	Teens.16.to.17.not.in.education..employed.or.training	Percentage.of.people.in.employment
Barnet	127.1236	1.7114	73
Bath and North East Somerset	80.8136	8.1428	80.7
Bexley	225.651	3.2998	76
Birmingham	267.0717	8.464	65.7
Blackburn with Darwen	78.8721	3.7755	65.3
Blackpool	280.1345	8.9058	72.6
Bolton	120.5525	5.5533	67.7
Bradford	237.9332	6.6118	70
Bristol	211.3268	6.8194	75.7
Bromley	152.6566	2.0225	78

Showing 1 to 10 of 100 entries

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 ... 10 Next

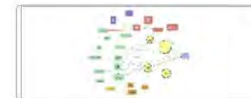
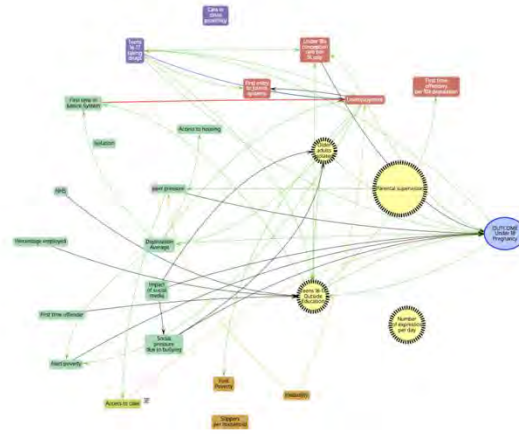
#### Create a Conceptual Systems Map of Your Data

### Participatory System Mapper 2.3.3

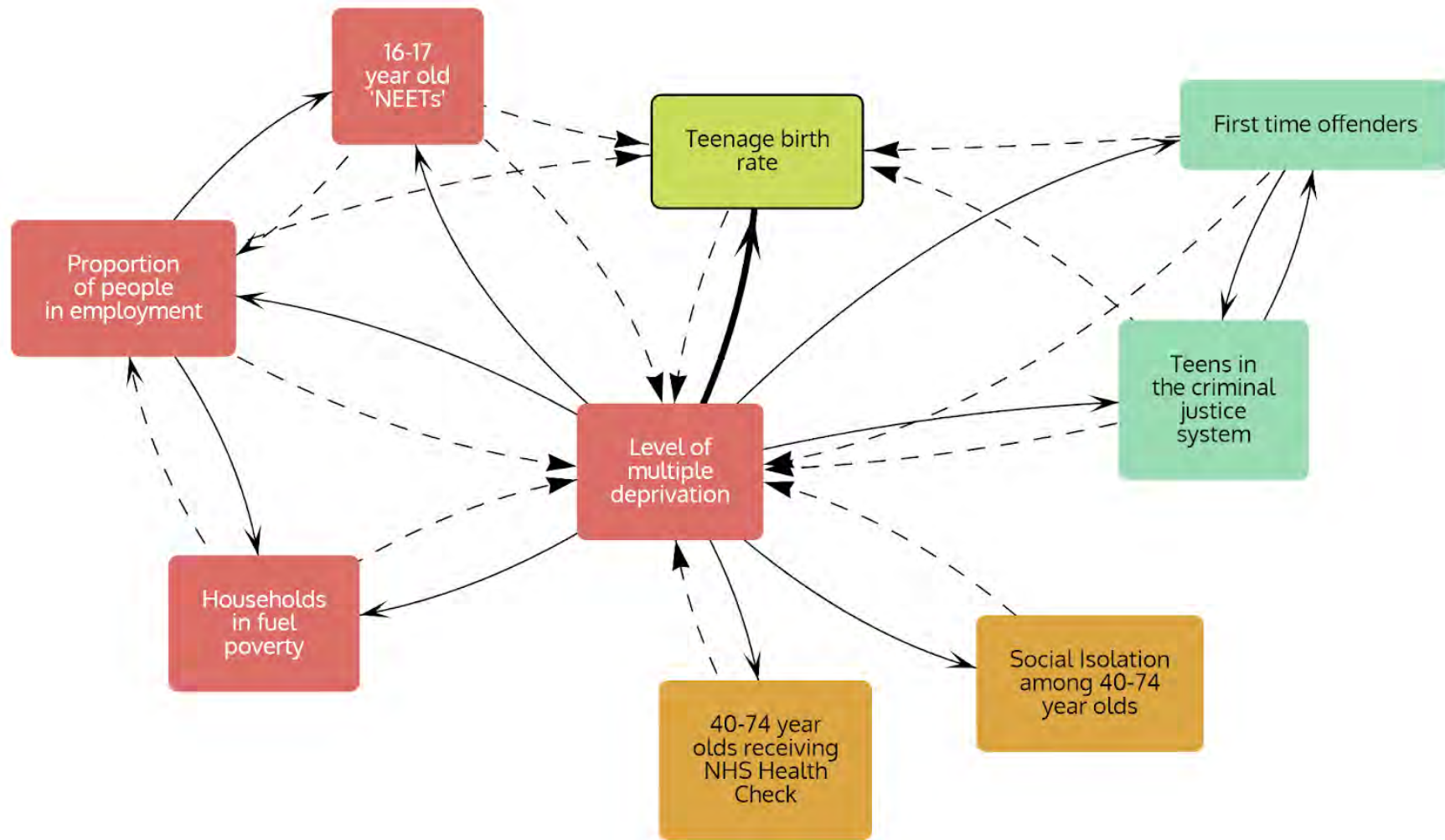
Factors on early pregnancy amongst teens

- + Add factor
- Add link
- ↺ Undo
- ↻ Redo
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- 👤 Share
- 📁 Open
- ↓ Save
- 🔍 Search
- 🔗 Help
- ⚙ Settings

UA



Zoom - +





- Import Your Cases and Map Your Theory
- Build, Confirm and Explore Your Model
  - >> Cluster Your Cases
  - >> Use AI to Confirm Clusters
  - >> Compare and Visualise Your Results
- Run Scenario Simulations
- Forecast New Data
- Explore Systems Map
- Export Your Results
- Help

Run the data to explore different cluster solutions in the systems map.

Get Clusters

Info

Select the number of clusters

4

Do you want to set a seed for reproducible results?

Yes

No

Users can explore different cluster solutions based on the insights from Step 2 of CBSM around different causal flows.

## STEP 2: CLUSTER YOUR CASES USING K-MEANS

Here we will use cluster analysis to group your cases based on their different configurations of factors

K-Means Clusters **Additional Statistics**

Show 10 entries

Cluster	Size	First.Time.in.Justice.System
Cluster 1	22	226.72
Cluster 2	14	302.317
Cluster 3	22	91.231
Cluster 4	42	159.769
Total Size & Var Avg	100	179.377

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

Users can explore the cluster configurations from the systems map to think through what causal flows might account for different clusters of cases.

The Silhouette plot is a visually useful tool to help users determine how well their cluster solution fits the cases. For those interested in more in-depth statistics, COMPLEX-IT collects results in the background, which can be downloaded in the **Export Your Results** tab.



Kmeans Cluster Centroids

Additional Statistics

Pseudo F: 104.701887650778

Silhouette plot of (x = km@uclusters, dist = dissM)

n = 100

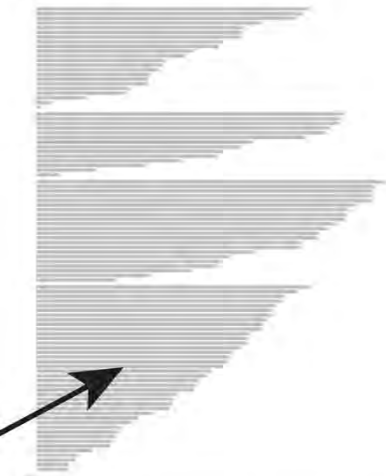
4 clusters  $C_j$   
| :  $n_j$  | ave $_{i \in C_j} s_i$

1 : 22 | 0.27

2 : 14 | 0.37

3 : 22 | 0.47

4 : 42 | 0.27



Average silhouette width : 0.33



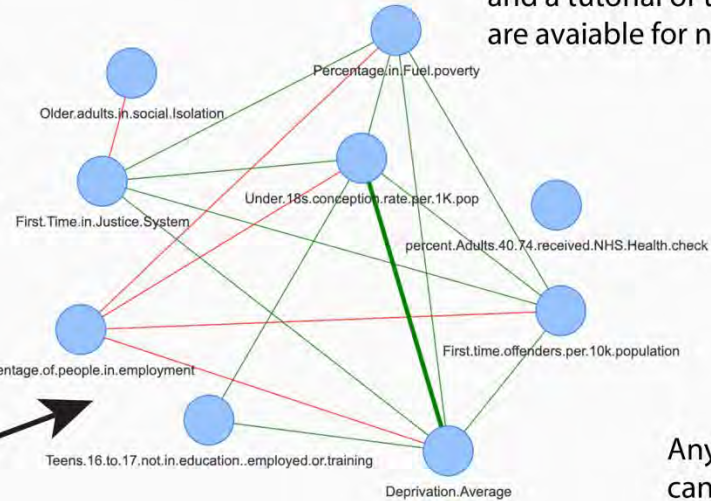
- Import Your Cases and Map Your Theory <
- Build, Confirm and Explore Your Model <
- Run Scenario Simulations <
- Forecast New Data <
- Explore Systems Map <
- >> Use Systems Mapping to Explore Cluster Variables
- Export Your Results <
- Help <

### STEP 7: USING SYSTEMS MAPPING TO EXPLORE CLUSTER VARIABLES

Here we will use Systems Mapping to visually explore the configuration of variables you used to cluster your data. The map is generated using the **zero-order correlations** amongst your variables.



The network map can be edited to add factors, links, levers and barriers to change, and so forth.



Additional information and a tutorial of the tab are available for new users.

Initialise Network

Info

Guided Tour of Inputs

**Examine node:**

First.Time.in.Justice.System

Number of direct links: 5  
Standardised connection score: 0.62  
Average node distance: 1.29  
The average degree of separation in your network is: 1.46  
The maximum distance (diameter) of your network is: 3

**Node Size:**

25

A visualisation of the systems map for comparison with the original created in Step 1 of CBSM.

Any factor (node) in the network can be chosen for basic network statistics such as # of links, etc.

The systems map can be visualised for the total map, as shown here, and then for each individual cluster. This is the most important part of process, as it allows for a case-based analysis of the systems map.

What Cluster would you like to analyse?

All

For these two sliders, values below the threshold will be excluded when making the network. For example, setting the correlation threshold to 0.7 excludes correlations below 0.7 from the network.

**Threshold for Negative Correlations:**

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1

**Threshold for Positive Correlations:**

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1

Choose layout algorithm:

Random

Remove Nodes with No Connections?

No  Yes

Advanced Options

Show / Hide

Ego Network

Show / Hide

Shortest Paths

Show / Hide

Edge Weights Options

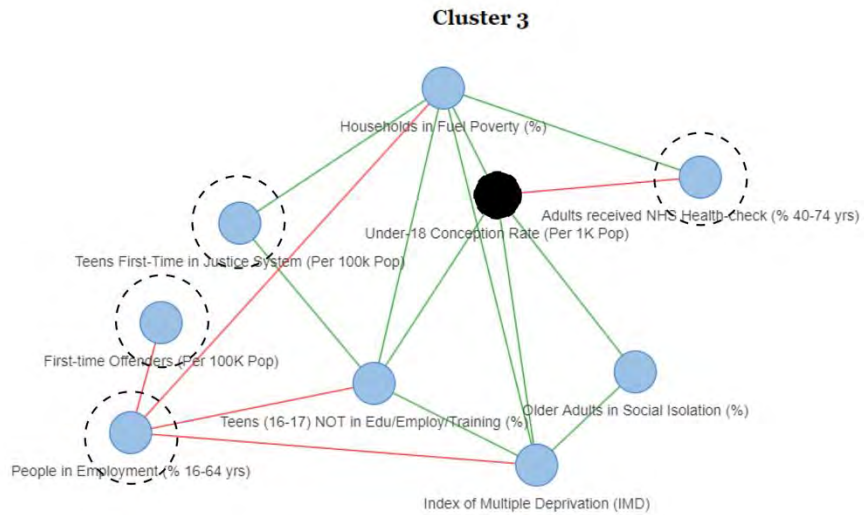
Show / Hide

Export Options

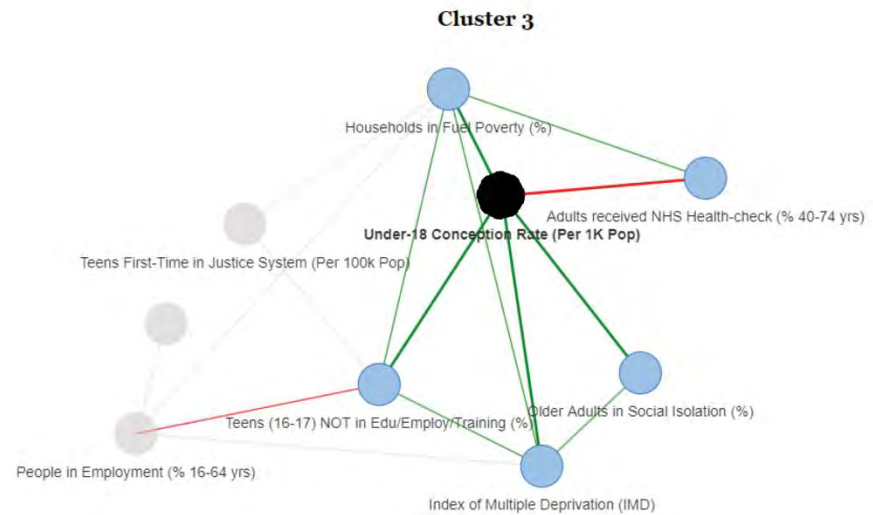
Show / Hide

The threshold levels for negative and positive correlations amongst the factors can be varied to explore different levels of causal flows in a map/network. The default is set to a .20 correlation coefficient.

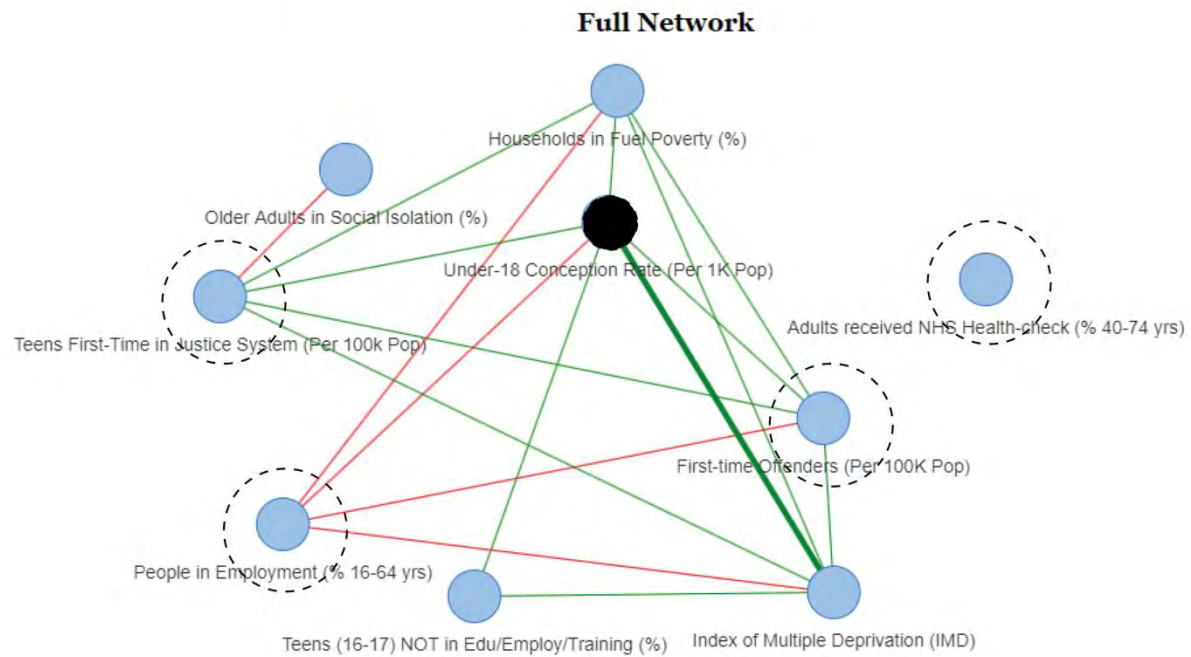
There are a series of advanced network analysis options, such as layout type, path analyses, ego network analyses, etc.

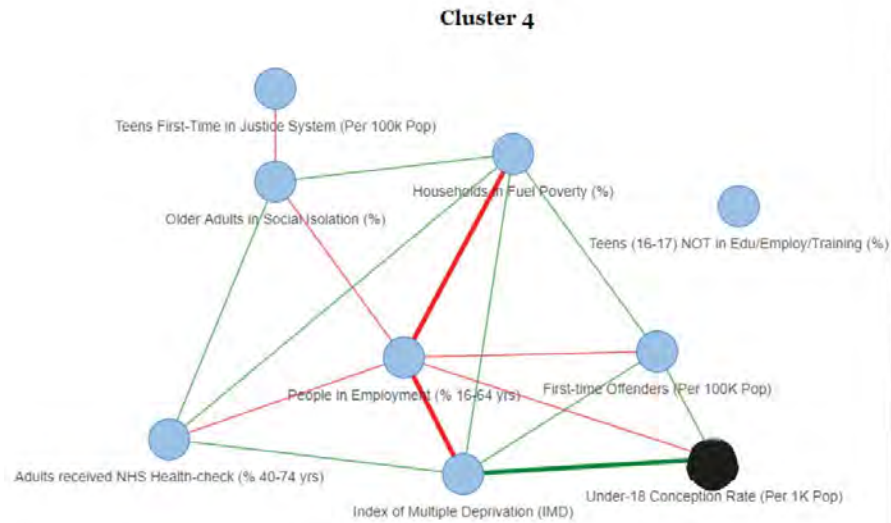
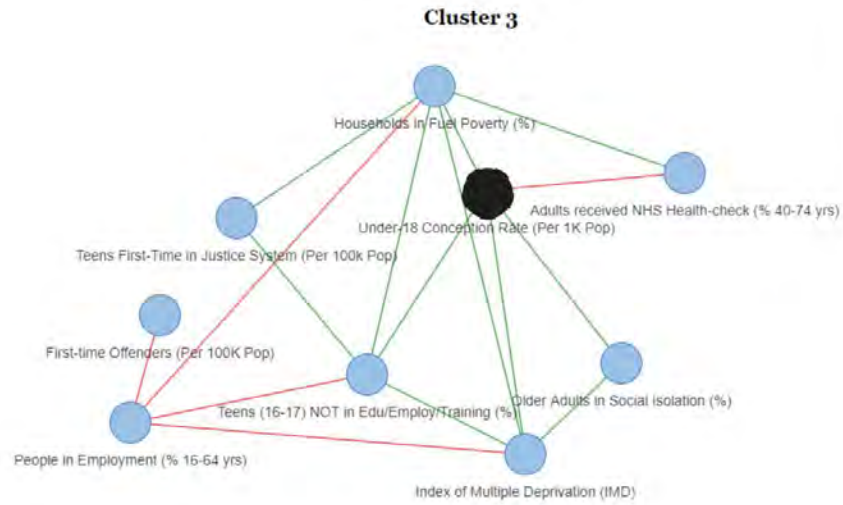


Cluster 3 Systems Map with all links shown

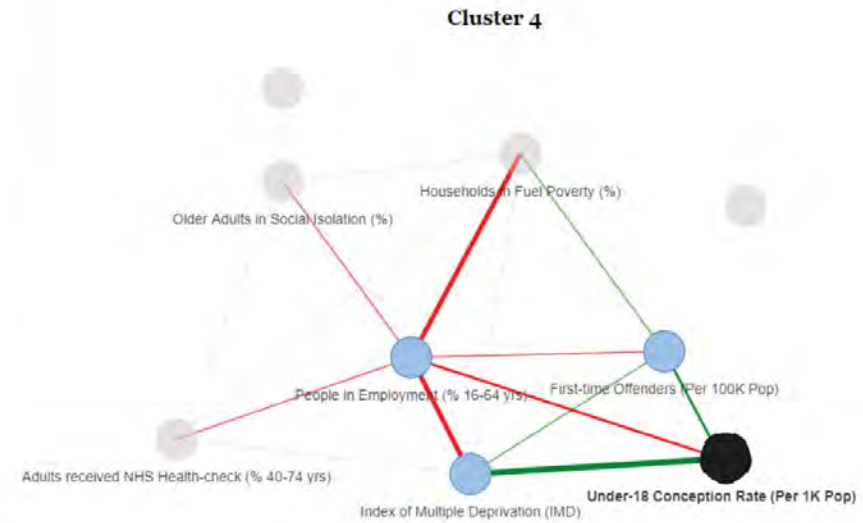
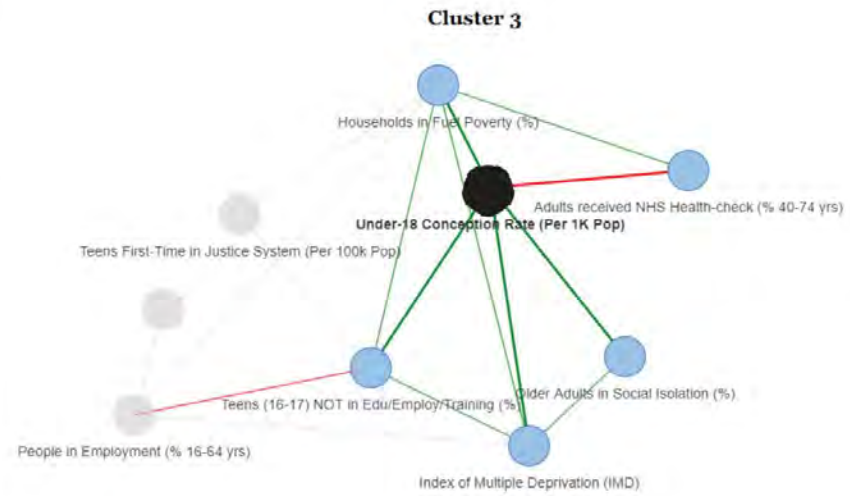


Cluster 3 Systems Map with only first degree links highlighted





Cluster 3 and 4, the complete network shown for their respective sub-maps.



Cluster 3 and 4, highlighting the most important links to teenage pregnancy rates.