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Title: Mind maps and network analysis to evaluate conceptualization of complex issues: A case example evaluating systems science workshops for childhood obesity prevention

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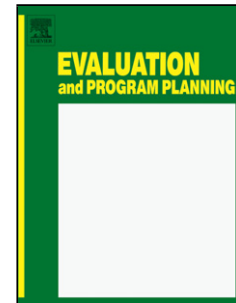
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**Highlights**

- Groups often come together to collaboratively solve complex problems, yet it remains challenging to evaluate changes in how individuals and groups think about complex issues.
- We introduce a flexible approach that uses mind maps to elicit conceptualization and network analysis to assess changes in both individual and group conceptualization.
- We use a case example to illustrate how we used the methods to evaluate adolescent's conceptual understanding of obesity before and after participating in a series of four systems thinking workshops.
- The method provided insight about changes in youths' conceptual understanding of obesity at multiple levels of detail and appeared to be sensitive to different facilitation techniques.
- The elicitation method is feasible to implement in practice and has potential to improve evidence about the impact of different group facilitation methods.

**Abstract**

Across disciplines, it is common practice to bring together groups to solve complex problems. Facilitators are often asked to help groups organize information about and better understand the problem in order to develop and prioritize solutions. However, despite existence of several methods to elicit and

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