

1 Problem

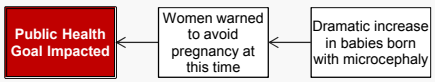
What	Problem(s)	Dramatic increase in babies born with microcephaly
When	Date	Ongoing
	Different, unusual, unique	Increase in cases of Zika virus
Where	Facility, site	Brazil
	Task being performed	Pregnancy, birth

Impact to the Goals

Patient Safety	Dramatic increase in babies born with microcephaly
Public health	Women warned to avoid pregnancy at this time
Environmental	Presence of mosquitos carrying Zika virus in region
Patient Services	Additional long term care required
Labor/ Time	Investigation required

2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.



Basic Cause-and-Effect

Health officials are still working to understand exactly what caused the increase in microcephalic babies, but many believe Zika virus is contributing to the problem. Latin America reported their first Zika virus cases in 2014 and the spread of Zika virus matches the timing of the increase in microcephaly cases. Additionally, many mothers of babies with microcephaly report having symptoms associated with Zika virus early in their pregnancies.

For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.

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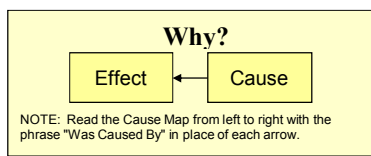
Cause Mapping is a Root Cause Analysis method that captures basic cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.

CAUSE MAPPING
 Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis

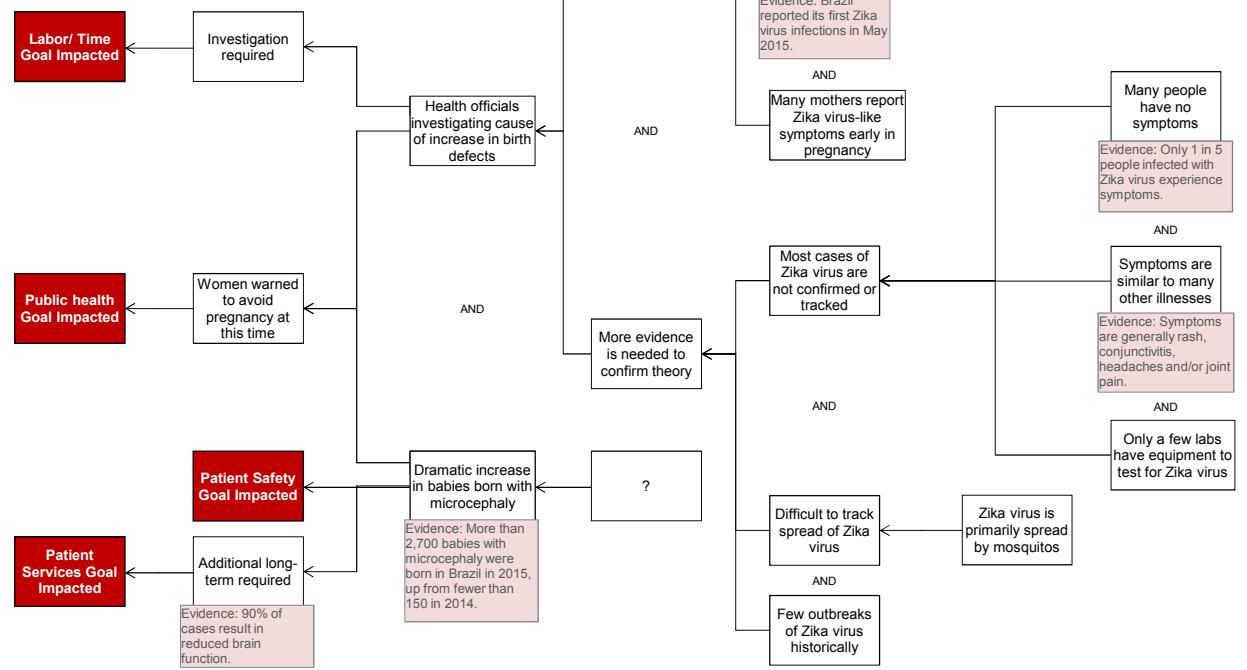
Step 1 Problem What's the Problem?

Step 2 Analysis Why did it happen?

Step 3 Solutions What will be done?



More Detailed Cause Map - Add detail as information becomes available.



ZIKA VIRUS LINKED TO BIRTH DEFECT

Cause Map

Brazil warns women to avoid pregnancy as more than 2,700 babies are born with microcephaly in 2015

In 2014, fewer than 150 babies were born with microcephaly in Brazil, but the number dramatically increased in 2015 with more than 2,700 cases. Microcephaly is a neurological disorder where the growth of the head is stunted with reduced brain function in 90 percent of cases. Infants with microcephaly often have reduced life spans and require significant long-term care. The spike in microcephaly is so alarming that some doctors and health officials are encouraging women in the regions with a high concentration of microcephaly cases to avoid becoming pregnant at this time.

