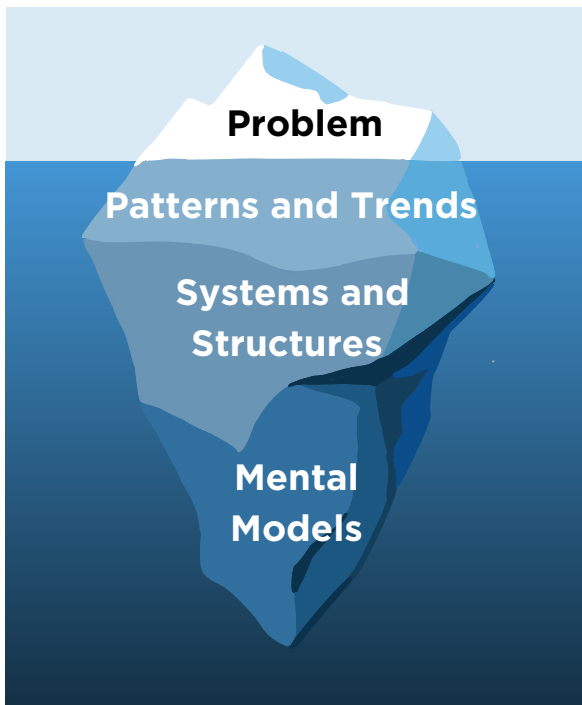




# Iceberg Model



## PHASE II. INVESTIGATE



An important piece of the solutionary process is understanding why problems continue to occur and how these problems and events interact with each other. To better understand the problem you are working to solve, it is helpful to use SYSTEMS THINKING.

The Iceberg Model is a great tool for understanding the systems that are helping to sustain the problem you are working on. Like an iceberg, what is visible is just a small part of the problem. In order to think about real solutions to a problem, we need to think about what is going on below the surface. Effective solutions will address root and systemic causes closer to the bottom of the iceberg. However, these are often the hardest to implement.

<b>Problem</b>	(Tip of the iceberg) Describe the problem. How does the problem impact people, animals and/or the environment?
<b>Trends and Patterns</b>	What has been happening over time that keeps the problem in place? What are the trends and behaviors that keep this problem going? Who benefits and who is harmed by the problem staying as is?
<b>Systems and Structures</b>	What systems and structures produce the patterns that keep the problem in place?
<b>Mental Models</b>	What mindsets, values, beliefs, or assumptions perpetuate the systems that cause the problem?