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Using Causal Loop Diagrams (CLDs) to inform the development of Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs)

Avila-Palencia, I. (2023). Using Causal Loop Diagrams (CLDs) to inform the development of Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs). *European Journal of Public Health*, 33(Supplement_2).
<https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.451>

Published in:
European Journal of Public Health

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Queen's University Belfast - Research Portal:
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Abstract citation ID: ckad160.451
Using Causal Loop Diagrams (CLDs) to inform the development of Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs)

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Complex systems-based approaches, like causal loop diagrams (CLDs), are increasingly being used in population health studies. Traditionally, directed acyclic graphs (DAGs) have been frequently used in causal inference methods in population health studies to define analysis plans and identify potential biases. The use of those two methodologies has been suggested to be incompatible due to DAGs being apparently unsuitable for modelling systems containing feedback loops, a common feature of complex systems. In this presentation we will detail the steps and decisions that a research team could follow to translate a CLD into a series of DAGs.