

Task 2

Fixes That Fail

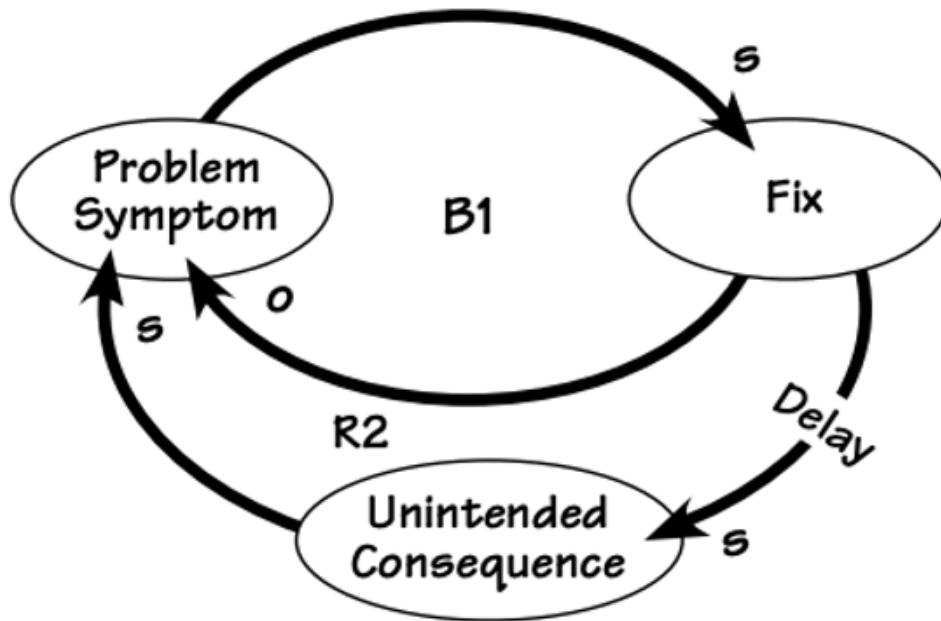


Image from [SYSTEMS ARCHETYPES I](#) by Daniel Kim

The homelessness case study in Middlesex County, Minnesota, exemplifies the "Fixes That Fail" archetype. The reliance on temporary shelters serves as a short-term fix with unintended consequences. The positive reinforcement loop, evident in this archetype, is showcased by the increased use of shelters, generating a false perception of problem resolution. Although the shelters supply immediate relief, they do not address the underlying causes of homelessness. This creates a self-reinforcing cycle, aligning with the "Fixes That Fail" system archetype, where inadequate solutions lead to a growing homelessness problem.

The positive reinforcement loop, illustrated by the increased use of shelters, perpetuates a misconception that the issue is adequately addressed, diminishing public awareness. Consequently, there is a reduction in public support for a more

comprehensive and permanent solution, such as an affordable housing program. This reduction in public support is indicated by the balancing loop, which obstructs the necessary funding for sustainable housing solutions, exacerbating the homelessness problem over time. The short-term fixes perpetuate misconceptions and hinder efforts to address the root causes of homelessness. A comprehensive, long-term solution is required to break the cycle, emphasizing education, awareness, and garnering public support.