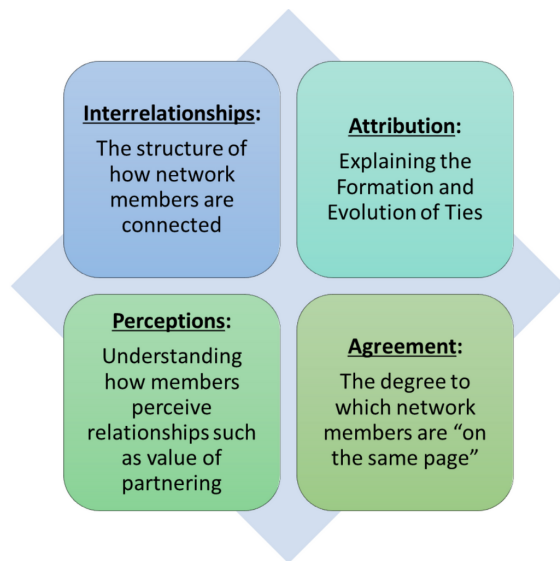




Brief: Network Evaluation Framework

The PARTNER Network Evaluation Framework was developed through the application of social network analysis (SNA) methods to the research and evaluation of over 150 community networks. While the Framework continues to be enhanced as our team learns from ongoing projects, it currently includes four primary areas of measurement. These areas are built into all PARTNER research and evaluation designs, are foundational in the PARTNER Survey, and are used to guide the analysis and assessments.

Put into practice, all four of these dimensions help us understand networks, assess the strength of networks, and provide data to inform network leadership. Here's a short overview of each area of measurement:



Interrelationships: The intensity, quality, and content of the relationships among network members tells us about the structure and strength of the network.

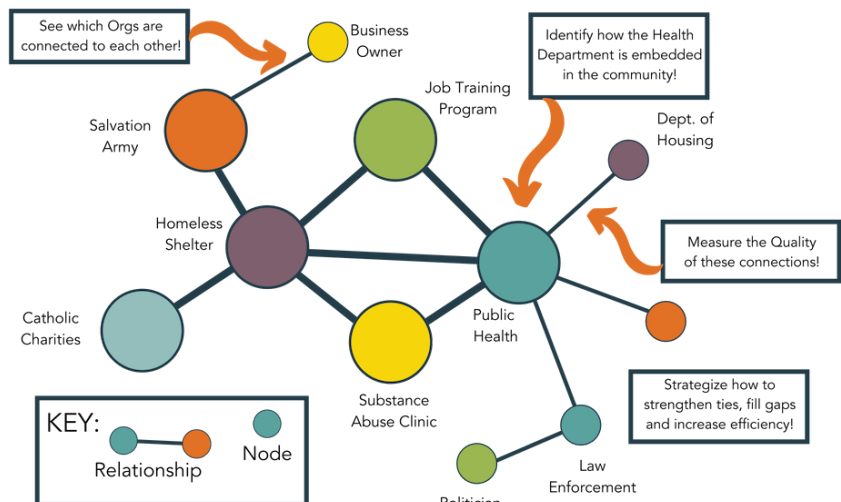
Attribution: Many networks are facilitated and organized by a primary organization, sometimes called a Lead Organization, a Network Administrative Organization, or a Backbone organization. Others are governed by a group of organizations. Regardless, using SNL methods allows us to determine how the growth and development of relationships in a network are started and fostered over time, and if that growth can be attributed to certain entities.

Doing a Social Network Analysis can be hard. PARTNER was developed to make it easy and intuitive to collect and analyze network data. Accessible tools, good measures, and support to interpret and translate to practice.

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NETWORK EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Perceptions: An important piece of information for any network leader to understand are the perceptions that members have of one another, as well as perceptions of the network itself. Using the SNA methods, we can learn about the perceptions network members have of one another in terms of the value of the partnership (measured as power/influence, resource contribution, and time commitment) and trust (measured as mission congruence, reliability, and communication).

Agreement: The extent to which members of a network agree on the way the network is functioning is crucial information for a network leader. Indicators of a well-functioning network include whether a network is or is not achieving its outcomes, and how well the outcomes were achieved.

Using SNA methods in evaluation, like we do in our Network Evaluation Framework, is different from other types of evaluation that are narrowly focused on impacts, behavior change and outcomes. SNA lets us more systematically and accurately understand how systems outcomes (see image below) – like network interrelationships, attribution, perceptions and agreement can lead to individual and population outcomes.

To learn more about the PARTNER evaluation framework, social network analysis and more, visit www.visiblenetworklabs.com

