Section 1: Keep Track of the Research Process
SEARCHES:
Search #1 – Local News
Search Term: "Homelessness in Boulder"
Database: Google
Why: Get general information on the status of homelessness issue in Boulder, Colorado
Result: BOULDER REPORTING LAB: This article is about the rise of homelessness in Boulder County. States in headline it rises to more than 800 people, the highest it's been since 2017. In January of 2023, volunteers counted 839 homeless people living in. This is confirmation that homelessness is rising in the Denver metro region. Count inclusive of people living in shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered people sleeping outside and was led by Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (an organization designated by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) Some variability in the data, varies based on weather and volunteer turnout (in 2021 there is no count of unsheltered people because of Covid-19). Previous high before 2023 was in 2020, 689 homeless people were counted in Boulder. Jamie Rife noted in news release in mid-July that people are beginning to feel the effect of economic fallout of Covid-19 as covid-19 funding to prevent homelessness is coming to an end, households are struggling to pay rent, paired with inflation and increased cost of housing. 399 people of the 839 reported experiencing homelessness for less than one year and for the first time, 243 were unsheltered (in 2022 count of unsheltered homeless people was 82). Note the count doesn't report its [Boulder County] data by city or town; in City of Boulder, officials estimate about 450 homeless people.
What's Next? See if 2024 count has been released and if there is more information specific to the City of Boulder, not all of Boulder County.

Search #2 – Local News
Search Term: Homelessness "Boulder City" AND removal program
Database: Google
Why: Want to see if Boulder City has taken on any programs to address the homelessness issue and what the result of the program was.
Result: BOULDER REPORTING LAB: This article talks about Boulder City Council considering creating a "safe outdoor space" (otherwise known as sanctioned campground). In these spaces, homeless people could be legally allowed to rest and access basic amenities like bathrooms and showers. Spaces tested in other cities, including Denver (in response to rising homeless numbers) and designed to be a temporary shelter option. Councilmembers Tara Winer and Bob Yates were opposed to the creation of the safe space; Tara Winer preferred to spend the money on other housing options (sober living home or transitional housing for convicts coming out of jail), also expressing the city should focus on day services center. Bob Yates expressed he was a "hard no" on sanctioned campgrounds but "in favor of safe indoor spaces". Pay for outdoor space might require cuts to existing programs. States council will discuss this issue again soon, possibly need to find a different article that talks about the results of an already implemented

program. Jumps to speaking about April 2021, when Boulder City decided against creating a sanctioned encampment and supported an 18-month encampment removal pilot program. Says the removal program has since been extended and the city plans to spend more than $3 million on the program this year. The cost to build a site that sleeps 30 people would be $1.5 Million - $3.2 Million in 1st year (ongoing operate costs would be $1.5 Million per year
What's Next? Research the 18-month encampment removal program mentioned above.

Search #3 – Local News
Search Term: "homeless strategy" Boulder CO
Database: Google
Why: Wanted to start gathering information on previous and current homeless strategies launched by Boulder City. Previous information/searches have been general context of the issue and causes, but now I want to see what solutions they tried and the results of said solutions.
Result: THE OWL: This article was the third result of the search term. It's an opinionated article, but they linked some good articles. It begins by giving some information on national homelessness rates and causes, and then transitions into Boulder County. States The Boulder Shelter found housing for 108 people last year (article was published in 2022, so 2021). Mentions how Boulder City spent nearly $4 Million on Homelessness last year and their homeless strategy implemented in 2017. After talking about results of that, which are from the homeless strategy link so I will cite it from original article, they explain the requirements to receive help. One being staying sober which limits many homeless people as drug abuse is an issue within the community. Another limitation to receiving help is the shelter is only available to locals form Longmont to Boulder, anyone else will be turned away. States "Failure to meet shelter's expectations even if you're accepted will result in expulsion and a ban from the shelter's resources". Shelter also has limited capacity of 160 people (good point to compare with the count of homeless people in Boulder City). The Boulder shelter is unique in the way "that it is not a permanent shelter for its residents but is a housing-focused shelter. It helps people with one condition: they will be long-term resident of the county and want to be rehabilitated". Transitions into speaking about homelessness and crime rates, stating that although there hasn't been much correlation between the two, Boulder Police's crime data in 2020 shows "out of the 490 serious offenders over the past year, 36" were unhoused people". City spent $170,000 last year (2021?) to remove 250 homeless encampments and their remnants, including drugs, propane tanks, and hypodermic needles. Mentions public is concerned about the lack of recourses provided to a city struggling with addiction. States because of these issues, Safer Boulder was created; a group whose goal was to "advocate for public safety". Safer Boulder created a petition that has got over 9,000+ signatures to create a 'safer Boulder'.
What's Next? Find any recent programs/initiatives taken on by Boulder City to address homelessness issue.

Search #4 – Local News
Search Term: N/A, Linked in article from above.
Database: Google

Why: Gathering context and fact checking some important organizations/initiatives that were linked as sources in the article above in case I want to quote them (so if I use it, it wouldn't be a tertiary source, but a secondary) or for general better understanding.

Result: This article on the homeless strategy implemented in 2017. States the strategy "expands pathways to permanent housing and increases access to programs and services." Results, since its launch in 2017, has shown over 1,100 exits from homelessness as of September 2021. Mentions a systems partnership that worked on this strategy that was created from a collaboration between the City of Boulder, the City of Longmont and Boulder County, called Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC). Main aspect of this source was the Housing First Approach. Stating it will make a difference for people experiencing homelessness by focusing on the main issue of housing, "Evidence suggests that getting individuals into housing as quickly as possible results in the best outcomes for people experiencing homelessness as well as the communities around them."

Search #5 – National News

Search term: national news unsheltered people

Database: Google News

Why: Gathering national news on the topic

Result: KOMO News: This article about homelessness in Seattle. After plunging temperatures, shelter operators offered additional beds. In King County, shelter providers maintain 5,300 emergency shelter beds during the year. Nonprofits added at least 90 additional beds in Seattle and 25 beds in Bellevue because of the cold weather concerns. States another helpful addition for that winter was a donation made by Fred Meyer, who gave the nonprofit ministry an all-wheel-drive van to aid the delivery of critical supplies at encampments that are hard to reach, especially in snow or mud, estimated to reach 100 encampments every week. Tim Emerson with We Heart Seattle makes rounds at a homeless camp, frequently checking up on the people in them regularly, checks if anyone needs to go into treatments or needs Narcan (for overdosing), or if anyone is suffering from hypothermia. Staffing levels affect the capacity / ability of a shelter to bring more people indoors.

What's Next? Gather information of a national level that highlights a not-so-positive side of the homelessness issue for balance.

Search #6 – National News

Search term: homelessness issue

Database: Google News

Why: Find another perspective more about the issue of homelessness worldwide for balance in my research.

Results: THE OBSEREVR: This article about homelessness in San Francisco. Homelessness has been an issue in San Francisco since 1970's and 80's, only grown overtime. One cause is the increasing cost of living. One resident (note this is the authors friend, source may not be credible) paid $800 dollars a month for rent, within months landlord increased it by $600. City has created 7,000 permanent housing units over the past 15 years. Proposes a portion could be used to help the homeless and can invest in localized shelters to isolate the communities for the

unsheltered. Also proposes to reform current laws against public encampments. States Las Vegas adopted stricter laws against public encampments and opened more shelters, showing improvements in recent years; Berkeley did the opposite by planning to convert a historically large homeless encampment, People's Park, into student dormitories and affordable housing. Author titles this approach as playing "Whac-A-Mole" with the homeless crisis will not solve the issue, proposing the city should utilize its current resources to "bring the homeless population into zones where they can be helped, it can invest in social programs to create a system that brings homeless people into temporary housing, provides entry-level jobs and helps them find living opportunities in surrounding areas".

What's Next? Find hard data on homelessness in America and locally in Boulder, or search for another national news article because this source isn't looking well for citing facts.

Search #7 – Scholarly Research / Data
Search Term: homelessness America issue?
Database: Google Scholar
Why: Wanted to find very credible data and facts to use during podcast.
Results: Link to this pdf. Some important data/statistics mentioned throughout the study:

Table 2 Economic characteristics of homeless persons (Source: Sixty local and national empirical studies of homeless persons. See Appendix.)

	Mean (standard deviation)	Range	Number of studies
Mean monthly income	$174.00 (96.17)	$25–$337	15
Median monthly income	$103.57 (110.02)	$0–$400	14
Percent unemployed	81% (15)	25–100%	42
Percent receiving general assistance	20% (12)	4–55%	26
Percent receiving SSI	10% (7)	2–38%	31
Percent receiving AFDC	8% (7)	1–25%	15

-

Table 3 Personal vulnerabilities of homeless persons (Source: Sixty local and national empirical studies of homeless persons. See Appendix.)

	Mean (standard deviation)	Range	Number of studies
% ever in psychiatric hospital	24% (16)	10–100%	40
% ever with detox experience	29% (15)	4–76%	22
% ever with prison experience (felony)	18% (13)	4–49%	20
% ever with jail experience (misdemeanor)	32% (18)	11–82%	18
% ever with either jail or prison experience or both	41% (18)	8–82%	26
% disabled	25% (18)	3–63%	18
% in bad health	38% (11)	19–66%	20
% with current mental illness	33% (23)	4–100%	22
% with alcohol addiction	27% (15)	3–71%	27
% with no friends	36% (22)	2–87%	14
% with no kin in contact	31% (9)	12–50%	18

-
- "National estimates of the number of homeless persons range from 250,000 to 3,000,000 people, and local estimates also show a wide range".
- "…there is a strong disagreement over root cause of the current presence and continual growth of homelessness across the United States". Causes may be: housing shortages, acute poverty, physical and emotional disabilities, joblessness, economic structural change, capitalism, changes in family structure, or an ungenerous welfare state.
- Recommends 3-tiered approach to providing housing for the homeless:
  - Tier 1:
    - Composed of emergency shelters, including those that provide overnight housing and that provide shelter during daytime.
    - This approach is criticized because it's a temporary solution, often of poor quality (providing unsafe environment)
  - Tier 2:
    - Transitional housing. Allows stays of longer durations than emergency housing, usually 6 months to one year, and usually provides array of support services. Goal is to aid homeless people in making the transition to permanent housing.
    - No research has systematically examined the impact of this approach. These programs are criticized for potentially deinstitutionalizing homeless persons, creating "service dependent ghettos".
  - Tier 3:
    - Permanent housing for homeless people.
    - This approach is what most commenters want to address the issue, but it gets the least activity as homelessness is usually treated as a short-term

housing problem because developing long-term, low-income housing is "confounded by the decreased availability of construction and rent subsidies, large building acquisition and rehabilitation costs, the high costs of developing new low-income housing and high interest rates."

What's Next? Try to find one more scholarly article that has a closer range in numbers of homelessness across America, the above article provided a lot of information though.

Search #8 – Scholarly Research
Search Term: "homelessness numbers" America
Database: KU Libraries
Why: Get statistics on homelessness
Result: This article "By The Numbers: America's Homelessness Problem", published in 2019.
- 550,000 people are homeless in the U.S.
  - 350,000 being sheltered (low-income people residing in emergency shelters or transitional housing) and 200,000 unsheltered (individuals living on sidewalks, in cars, or abandoned buildings).
- National rate of homelessness is 17 people per 10,000.
- Boston, Massachusetts has the highest rate of sheltered homelessness at 99.1 people per 10,000. San Francisco has the most unsheltered homelessness at 59.8 people per 10,000.
- 47% of the nation's unsheltered homeless people are found in California.

Unit 7: Local News
I. Other terminology:
    i. Unsheltered
    ii. Houseless
    iii. Unhoused
    iv. Housing insecurity
II. Local News Outlets in Boulder:
    i. Boulder Reporting Lab
        c. Search 1 (article) and search 2 (article)
    ii. The Owl
        c. Search 3 (article)
    iii. Daily Camera
        c. Used for information collected when putting together the chronology of this issue. Article 1 from April 2021, article 2 from Oct 2020, article 3 from October 2021. Had to pay for a subscription to the publication, so I included screenshots of the information I used in the chronology section.
    iv. Boulder Beat
        c. Again, used for chronology section.
        d. Article 1 from December 2022, article 2 from June 2022, article 3 from September 2023.
III. Chronology of this issue:

I. 1980:
   a. Boulder Beat states "Boulder has prohibited sleeping with a blanket or shelter and other "activities of daily living," known as the camping ban, since 1980".
II. 2017:
   a. (OCTOBER) Homeless Strategy implemented by Boulder City through a Housing First Model.
III. 2019:
   a. (MARCH) Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC) 1st Annual report
   b. Improvements claimed:

> The first full year of HSBC implementation saw many notable successes. For example, a total of 383 individuals received assistance and transitioned out of the shelter system, including 188 who moved into Permanent Supportive Housing. Additionally, 66 new rental assistance vouchers became available to make housing more affordable for people involved with HSBC, and 82 housing units are being added to the affordable housing stock. HSBC staff also led a number of collaborative grant writing efforts with one leading to a $2.4 Million award for Permanent Supportive Housing services from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (Department of Health and Human Services).

      i.
   c. Annual Homeless Mortality Almost Triples. According to Boulder Beat News, "Boulder averaged 10 deaths each year between 1011 and 2018. Since 2019, the number has not dipped below 20".

Annual homeless mortality – unhoused at time of death
2019: 29
2020: 32
2021: 22
2022: 31

      i.
IV. 2020:
   a. Safer Boulder made petition. Petitions Boulder City Council, City Manager, and Police Chief to fully enforce urban camping ban, step up use of the Homeless Outreach Team, increase police patrols, better protection, and hear public concerns.
   b. Boulder Count 2020. 689 Total Homeless
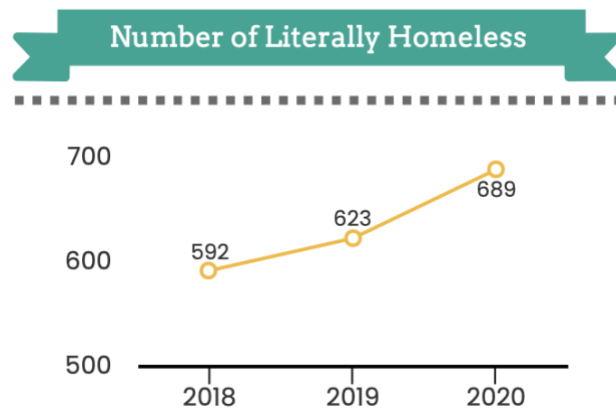
      i.

V.   2021:
   a.   (APRIL) According to Boulder Reporting Lab, Boulder decided against creating a sanctioned encampment, rather supported an 18-month encampment removal pilot program that has since been extended. Stating that "This year, the city plans to spend more than $3 Million on the program".
   b.   Removal program is costly, removes homeless from camping in public areas.
         i.   DailyCamera:

> Boulder City Council on Tuesday largely supported a plan to spend $2.7 million over 18 months on initiatives the city says will serve as tools to enforce its urban camping ban.

         ii.

> The Council also agreed to spend some $1.5 million on an additional six-member police unit to assist with these efforts, though the idea was not unanimously supported. In an unofficial 6-3 vote, Councilmembers Aaron Brockett, Rachel Friend and Adam Swetlik were the dissenting votes.
>
> "I'm looking for new solutions," Swetlik said. "Additional police isn't a new solution. … If we're going to spend $1.5 million on it, I would much rather take that money and try to balance the equation between enforcement and additional services."

         iii.
         iv.   Boulder Beat further breaks down the budget for the removal strategy:

Camp removal strategy – costs and budget

$2,861,588 budgeted
$1,928,762 projected and actual expenditures, 2021-2022
$1,026,163 left to be spent

Camp removal (internal cleanup team)
2021-2022 projected and actual expenditures: $752,032
(39% of total expenditures)
Budgeted: $605,000 budgeted (21% of total budget)
$53,695 in costs overruns

Downtown ambassadors
Total expenditures: $911,902 (47.3%)
City expenditures: $586,000 (30.4%)
Budgeted: $868,000
– $343,902 from Downtown Boulder Partnership
– $586,000 from city budget
$43,902 in extra costs, covered by DBP

Urban park rangers
Expenditures: $158,271 (8.2%)
Budgeted: $186,000 (6.5%)
$27,729 unspent so far

Police unit
Expenditures: $450,458 (23.4%)
Budgeted: $1,502,588 (52.5%)
$1,052,130 left to be spent

    1.

c. (JULY): City passed another ordinance that made it a crime to set up/use a tent for shelter or storage on public property (tents banned from any city-owned spaces).
d. (OCTOBER):
    i. Jessica Aldama found dead with her stillborn child on outskirts of Boulder; Daily Camera reports:

> Boulder police found what appeared to be a dead newborn infant with a dead woman earlier this month.
>
> On Oct. 11, police responded to an open space area near 5847 Arapahoe Ave. at 5:30 p.m. and found the body of a woman, who was later identified as Jessica Aldama, 33, of Colorado.

        1.
    ii. 5 weeks prior she was issued a ticket in Boulder for possession of a tent and a camping violation, front of ticket issued:

1.

VI. 2022:
   a. (MARCH) Concerns that Anti-homeless polices are unconstitutional rise.
   b. (MAY/JUNE):
      i. American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Colorado files lawsuit against Boulder City and Police.
      ii. Removal Strategy is not giving results the city thought it would. Boulder Beat News reports, "Now a year out, the approach is not fully implemented. Only two of six police officers have been hired to the dedicated 'encampment cleanup team' as the department struggles with more than two dozen vacancies. Rangers meant to patrol urban parks began their work this month.".
      iii. Median House price in Boulder raises to over $1 Million.
VII. 2023:
   a. (MARCH) Building Home is launched. Denver7 News states, "Building Home is a three-year project that aims to provide support to roughly 50 people who are newly housed through services like peer support, daytime services and housing retention".
   b. (MAY) City responds to May 2022 ALCU Lawsuit. Boulder Reporting Lab states the city responded "denying allegations of civil rights violations". They proposed the "safe outdoor space" solution from Search #4.
   c. Homeless Solutions for Boulder County awarded $6.5M
   d. Homeless Solutions for Boulder County exits Veterans out from homelessness.
   e. (JUNE) "In the last year (June '22 to June '23) Boulder County has placed 197 people into permanent housing, accounting for the majority (64%) of "exits" from homelessness. While not all outcomes are tracked, 75% of people housed through programs at Bridge House and Boulder Shelter for the Homeless are still housed" according to Boulder Beat News.
   f. (JULY) Petition for Safe Zone 4 Kids. Allowing the city to prohibit the possession of tents or propane tanks on public property so that "any such items located

within 500 feet of a school would be "subject to prioritized removal" according to [Boulder Reporting Lab](#).

IV. Take notes on potential interviewees' contact information.
    i. Jamie Rife, Executive Director at the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative
        c. jamie.rife@mdhi.org
    ii. Tara Winer, Boulder City Council Member
        c. winert@bouldercolorado.gov

Unit 8: National Context

I. National News Sources Used:
    a. [KOMO News](#): A commercial AM radio station licensed to Seattle, Washington. Owned by Lotus Communication. Local affiliate for ABC News Radio and identifies itself as "Northwest News Radio". Used this [article](#) for information on homelessness in Seattle.
    b. [The Observer](#): A student-run, tri-weekly print and online newspaper serving Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, and Holy Cross. Founding in 1966. Funded by advertising revenue and a subscription fee paid by students at the institutions. Editorially independent from the administrations of those institutions. Has editorial policy, in pursuit of trying to report news as accurately and objectively as possible. [Article](#) used for context of San Francisco's homeless issue.

II. Potential Interviews:
    a. Tim Emerson, We Heart Seattle Program Director
        i. info@weheartseattle.org

Unit 9: Scholarly Research

I. Google Scholar – Got this [study](#) with research on homelessness throughout the years, mainly since 1980. Also includes information about the approaches to solving homelessness, discussing their requirements and criticizations. NOTE: I was able to access this article the first time I ran across it (which is how I was able to get the screen shots used in my search) but when I went to access it again, I hit a paywall of $32.

II. KU Libraries – Found an [article](#) from this database with good data to use as statistics or facts. Used for Data.

Unit 10: Data

I. Graph:

Number of Homeless People per 10,000 People

Washington 103.3, Boston 101.8, New York City 101.5, San Fransisco 94.3, Santa Rosa 59.8
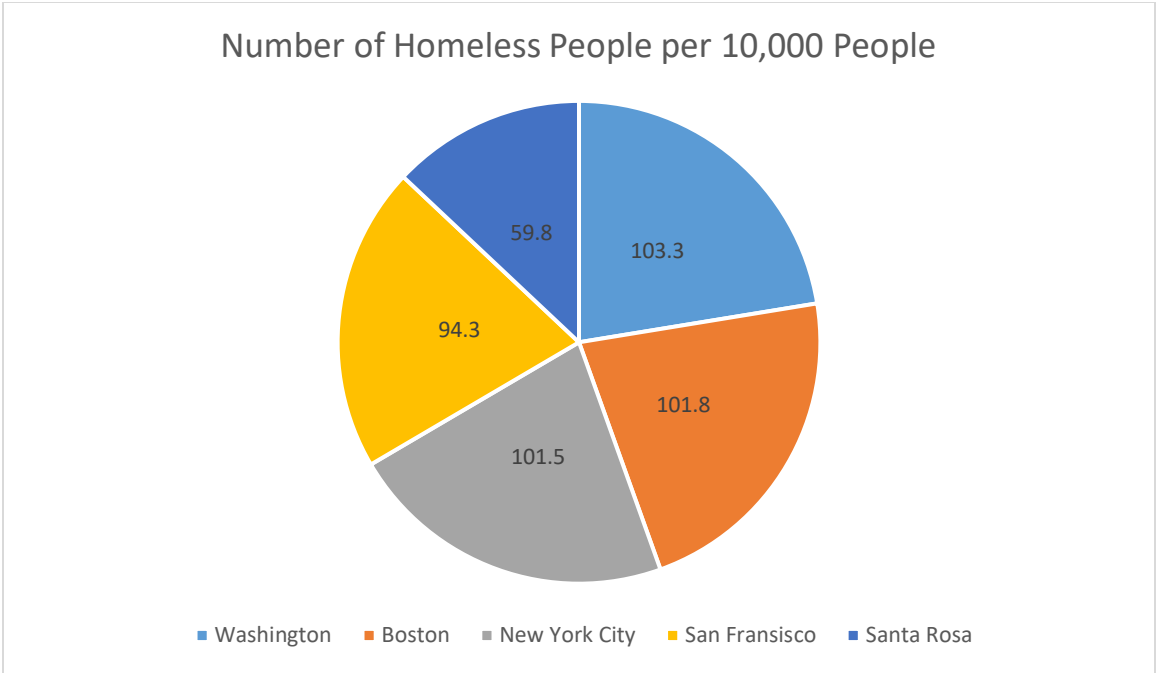
a.

Section 2: Evaluate Sources for Use in the Episode Plan:

(I have a ton of sources so I will be evaluating the ones that most frequently pop up in my information collection)

I. Boulder Reporting Lab: One of the multiple articles used from same source

Cue	Evidence	Contributes to (+) or diminishes (-) the source's credibility
Primary/secondary	Secondary – Is an article about Homelessness in Boulder County. Some quotes included, but not direct ones, from news releases or press conferences.	+
Publisher	Boulder Reporting Lab – Independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, digitally native news organization. Initial funding (lasted till August 2023) provided by The Google News Initiative's Local Experiments Project. GNI and any future/past funders have zero involvement or influence in editorial decisions. A part of Village's Media's Publisher Services Program. Donations go to funding the journalism.	+
Author	John Herrick – Senior reporter or BRL. Covers housing, transportation, policing and local government. Previously covered the state Capitol for The Colorado Independent and Environmental	+

	policy for VTDigger.org. Invested in stories about people, power, and fairness.	
Date	July 26,2023 – Very Recent, good for use of the article (current homeless count in Boulder)	+
Sources	Multiple links embedded in article. Sourced Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, weather.gov, and data from the Colorado Judicial Branch	+
Ads	Yes, but only 2. Seeing as how they are a nonprofit; it makes sense how they may need a little bit of funding to be from advertising revenue.	+/-

Synthesis statement: Overall, this source is credible, as it is a nonprofit news organization with transparent funding, an experienced author, recent publication, and proper citations of multiple credible sources.

II.   The Owl: Article Used

Cue	Evidence	Contributes to (+) or diminishes (-) the source's credibility
Primary/secondary	Secondary – No direct quotes, it is journalistic article. At times sources facts from other news articles, leading to tertiary information.	-
Publisher	The Owl – A student-run newspaper out of Boulder High. Unsigned editorial represents the opinion of the majority of The Owl staff. Advertising rates listed in the About Us page, $200 for a full page, $100 for half page, etc..	-
Title	"The Homeless in Boulder" – Not 'clickbaity', but also very bland/lack of information	+/-
Author	Saisree Kumar – Features & Insights Editor of The Owl. Senior in High School, writing articles since the age of 10. Has written content on Immigration, policing, volleyball, Netflix, road crashes.	-
Date	January 7,2022 – A little outdated, but not bad for gathering information on context of homeless in Boulder	+ / -
Sources	This is the main reason I wanted to use this article. The author linked multiple great sources like Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, Daily Camera, Bouldercolorado.gov, and Boulder Beat News. I used those articles independently from this one, but this article led me to the others.	+
Images	1, her own image of an encampment in Boulder	+

Cue	Evidence	Contributes to (+) or diminishes (-) the source's credibility
Ads	No	+

Synthesis statement: Overall, this source is not highly credible due to its secondary and tertiary information, student-run nature, and outdated publication date, but it is somewhat redeemed by the inclusion of well-linked sources and original images, this article aided me in finding better articles (the ones it sourced).

III.   Boulder Beat: One of multiple article used

Cue	Evidence	Contributes to (+) or diminishes (-) the source's credibility
Primary/secondary	Primary – includes direct quotes, one from Head of Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. Secondary source for other information (facts the article stated from a different source).	+
Publisher	Boulder Beat – Launched by Shay Castle in 2019, after she had written for Colorado Sun and New York Times. Goal of providing data-driven and accessible content that breaks down barriers for participation in local government. She also spent 6.5 years at Boulder Daily Camera. She covers business and government	+
Author	Shay Castle. Information about her above	+
Sources	Doesn't have embedded links, but sources Boulder County Coroner (annual report) and local law enforcement, and other homelessness agencies.	- (as links weren't provided)
Content	Short, easy to read passages that provide for a clear understanding of the intent of the article and the content discussed. Multiple facts and quotes throughout.	+
Ads	No	+
Images	2 images, both by Shay Castle	+

Synthesis statement: Overall, this source is credible for use, given its primary sourcing, experienced publisher and author, transparent intentions, clear content, and use of reputable sources despite the absence of embedded links.

Section 3: Episode Plan

Segment 1: Chronology of the local issue (first 20 minutes
-    In this segment, we will delve into the local issue of homelessness in Boulder, Colorado, tracing its development and its current status.

Summary of Local Issue Development:
- **1980:** Boulder implemented a camping ban, which prohibited sleeping with a blanket or shelter, effectively criminalizing homelessness. This legislation marked an early response to the homelessness issue in the city.
- **2017:** The city adopted a Homeless Strategy through a [Housing First Model](#). This strategy aimed to address homelessness by prioritizing the provision of permanent housing as quickly as possible.
- **2019:** Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC) released its [1ˢᵗ Annual report](#). The report provided insights into the progress made in the first year, stating "A total of 383 individuals received assistance and transitioned out of the shelter system, including 188 who moved into Permanent Supportive Housing". Although, issue was still at large. Annual Homeless Mortality Almost Triples. According to [Boulder Beat News](#), "Boulder averaged 10 deaths each year between 1011 and 2018. Since 2019, the number has not dipped below 20".
- **2020:** Safer Boulder [petitioned](#) the city council for stricter enforcement of the urban camping ban, including increased police patrols and better protection for the community. This marked an escalation in the efforts to manage the homelessness issue.
- **2021:** According to [Boulder Reporting Lab](#), Boulder decided against creating a sanctioned encampment, rather supported an 18-month encampment removal pilot program that has since been extended. Stating that "This year, the city plans to spend more than $3 Million on the program". This initiative was costly and aimed at removing homeless individuals from camping in public areas. [Jessica Aldama found dead](#) with her stillborn child on outskirts of Boulder. 5 Weeks prior she was issued a ticket in Boulder for possession of a tent and a camping violation.
- **2022:** The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Colorado [files lawsuit](#) against Boulder City and Police regarding homelessness policies. The lawsuit challenged the constitutionality of certain measures taken against the homeless population.
- **2023:** "Building Home" was launched, a project aiming to provide support to approximately 50 newly housed individuals. This initiative represented a new approach to address homelessness in the city. Boulder City [responds](#) to May 2022 ALCU Lawsuit. [Boulder Reporting Lab](#) states the city responded, "denying allegations of civil rights violations". Then proposed the "safe outdoor space" solution. Petition for Safe Zone 4 Kids. Allowing the city to prohibit the possession of tents or propane tanks on public property so that "any such items located within 500 feet of a school would be "subject to prioritized removal" states [Boulder Reporting Lab](#).

Potential Local Interviewees:
- **Tara Winer, Boulder City Council Member:** Tara can provide insights into the city's decision-making processes and how local policies have evolved over the years. You can contact her via email at winert@bouldercolorado.gov.
- **Jamie Rife, Executive Director at the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative:** Jamie can offer valuable information about the broader context of homelessness in the Denver metro region and how it connects to Boulder's situation. You can reach out to Jamie at jamie.rife@mdhi.org.

Segment 2: National context (second 20 minutes)"
  - In this segment, we will explore the national context of homelessness and how similar issues have played out in different parts of the United States.

Summary of National Context:
  - **Homelessness is a longstanding issue in various cities across the United States**, and it has only grown over time. High housing costs and economic challenges have contributed to this ongoing crisis.
  - **Different cities have adopted diverse strategies** to address homelessness. For example, Las Vegas adopted stricter laws against public encampments and invested in more shelters, showing improvements in recent years. In contrast, Berkeley planned to convert a large homeless encampment into student dormitories and affordable housing.
  - **The challenge of addressing homelessness persists on a national scale**, with different places adopting various approaches, sometimes with mixed results. The issue remains multifaceted, with no one-size-fits-all solution. One solution that has shown to improve this issue, is the help of the community. [In Seattle](), after plunging temperatures, shelter operators offered additional beds during the winter. Donations are extremely valuable too, like Fred Meyer's donation of an all-wheel-drive van that will help reach over 100 encampments every week to deliver critical supplies. A member of the community, Tim Emerson, checks up on the homeless camps regularly, seeing if anyone needs to go into treatments, needs Narcan for overdoses, or is getting hypothermia.

Potential National Interviewees:
  - **Tim Emerson, We Heart Seattle Program Director:** Tim can provide insights into the strategies and programs implemented in Seattle to address homelessness. His experience with We Heart Seattle offers a unique perspective on local efforts. You can contact Tim at info@weheartseattle.org.

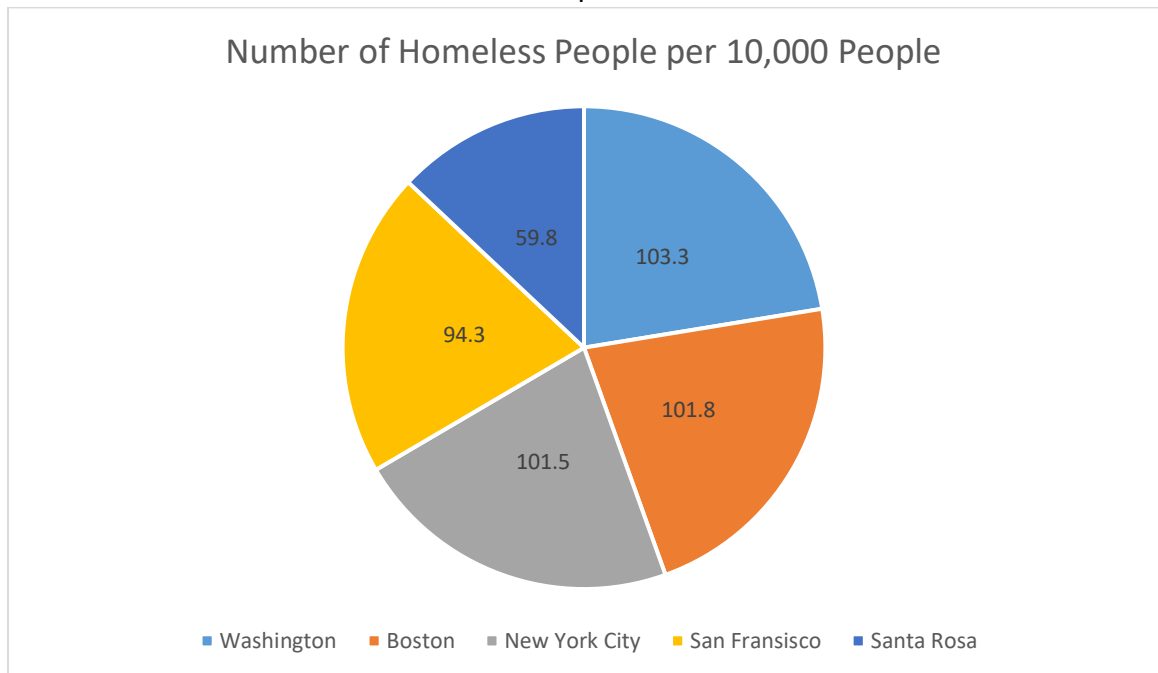**Segment 3: Scholarly research and data (last 20 minutes)**
  - In this segment, we will discuss the scholarly research on homelessness and its implications for the local issue in Boulder.

Summary of Scholarly Research and Data:
  - **Homelessness remains a complex issue in the United States**, with varying estimates ranging from 250,000 to 3,000,000 people. [Henry Khederian]() stated that "550,000 people are homeless in the U.S" in his article "By The Numbers: America's Homelessness Problem". The wide range of estimates reflects the complexity of the problem.
  - **The root causes of homelessness are disputed**, with factors including housing shortages, acute poverty, physical and emotional disabilities, joblessness, economic structural changes, capitalism, changes in family structure, and an ungenerous welfare state all being considered as potential contributors.
  - **Scholarly research suggests a three-tiered approach to providing housing for the homeless**: Tier 1 includes emergency shelters, Tier 2 involves transitional housing, and Tier 3 focuses on permanent housing. However, each of these tiers has its own set of challenges and [criticisms]().

Data:

The average national rate of homelessness is 17 people per 10,000. Below is a graph of the 5 cities with the largest number of homeless people per 10,000. Information from the article "By The Numbers: America's Homelessness Problem", published in 2019.

Number of Homeless People per 10,000 People

59.8
103.3
94.3
101.8
101.5

■ Washington ■ Boston ■ New York City ■ San Fransisco ■ Santa Rosa

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- **Interpretation:** the data illustrates that these major cities were grappling with homelessness rates well above the national average in 2019. It underscores the regional disparities and challenges in addressing homelessness across the United States. These statistics call for targeted and effective policies to combat homelessness and provide support to those in need.