A. As a software developer at the SFPO, I can make a scraping script that checks to ensure that the policy numbers are valid by scraping the Airbnb website and writing a regular expression for matching. If they aren’t, then they can be flagged as cases for review/follow-up. Exempt and private cases can also be flagged as a lower priority for follow-up.

B. I think one research question that could be interesting is which states/counties/regions have a higher number of housing insecurity. With this data, I think that these organizations are able to home in on these specific areas and hopefully work on addressing the issue. Perhaps from this, they are able to delve deeper into the cause such as racial/ethnic disparity or education and whether these regions are more likely to deal with a larger number of these issues.

C. According to the Web Scraping Wiki page, the Feist Publications v. Rural Telephone Service court ruling determined that “the duplication of facts is allowable” in the context of copywriting and copywriting infringement. In the specific context of web scraping, I think this statement still stands in many ways. When it comes to scraping websites for purposes such as research or to prevent discrimination and encourage accountability within public websites and larger corporations, it should not be prohibited. This is because it is ultimately a benefit to us. Web scraping for other reasons should not be condoned because it can be used for more sinister reasons and be an invasion of personal privacy.

D. I think two guidelines to consider when using public data is first to consider WHY the data was collected in the first place. Was it for positive reasons? Many times, people collect the personal data of people to sell and gain profit or to benefit a corporation and in this case, it isn’t ethical. Another thing to consider is what kind of information it is. As stated before, collecting the personal information of others is simply not a good thing, and should not be done in the first place. We must ensure the data isn’t outwardly invading the personal privacy of people!