**Project One – Homelessness**

CVJ 522 Spring 2015

GitHub Repo**:** https://github.com/mtgNic/CVJ522-Infographics

## Client

A prominent news publication such as The New York Times. The reader is expected to be somewhat educated and informed.

## Style

Serious and restrained: appropriate for print journalism. Color scheme will be muted and stylistic elements will be practical. The style should convey credibility and accuracy. The use of pictographs and illustrations will be minimal and should be used for clarity and information rather than aesthetics. The style with respect to typographic elements should be well organized, readable, and consistent throughout the work.

Tentatively, the format will be an 11x17 tabloid with six columns (1 pica gutter).

## Project Foci

Two subjects interest me with respect to homelessness: mental illness, and substance abuse. Though the two have some overlap, I will focus on the one that yields more substantial research/data for the production of a quality infographic.

As it regards mental illness, homelessness has been exacerbated by the failures of deinstitutionalization. In 1967, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act was passed in California, which veritably abolished involuntary hospitalization, with the exception of extreme cases. This lead to a mass discharge of mental patients, most of which would eventuate in homelessness. Independent from this legislation, there is still a correlation between homelessness and mental illness. It is worthy of further investigation on my part.

The second topic I intend to research is the link between homelessness and substance abuse. There is an obvious association between drug and alcohol abuse and homelessness, but the details will require research to unveil. I will be interested in the “story” behind this phenomenon; looking for data to substantiate a narrative that causally links homelessness and substance abuse.

The focal element of my project will depend largely on the amount of statistical and quantitave data available to produce a compelling infographic.

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## Questions to Answer

* What percent of homeless suffer from mental illness?

## Preliminary Research

The goal of research is to reveal strong data that supports an interesting story worthy of visualization. Preliminary research only aims to discover broad and general associations; further investigation will find exacting and credible data for visualization.

<http://www.salon.com/2013/09/29/ronald_reagans_shameful_legacy_violence_the_homeless_mental_illness/>

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/08/27/mental-health-homeless-series/14255283/>

<http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/publications/homelessness-health.aspx>

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/addiction.pdf>

<http://www.fed-soc.org/publications/detail/madness-deinstitutionalization-murder>

Homicide

<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbse&sid=31>

Deinstitutionalization: The Data Mythologized

<http://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/pdf/10.1176/ps.34.2.129>

## Core Stats

Rates of mental illness among people who are homeless in the United States are twice the rate found for the general population (Bassuk et al., 1998). [link](http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/publications/homelessness-health.aspx)

* Rate of homelessness over time
* Rate of institutionalization over time
* Rate of mental illness in homeless population over time

Since the Lanterman Petris Short Act was passed:

* How have homelessness rates been affected?
* How have crime/homicide rates been affected?
* How has the rate of institutionalization changed?
* How has the rate of mental illness among homeless population changed?