**Project One – Homelessness**

CVJ 522 Spring 2015

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

## 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.

## Sources

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