**Introduction**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2025), there are 36.8 million people in the United States living at or below the poverty level. Poverty and homelessness are problems that require a comprehensive solution to solve. However, when viewed through a political lens, there are groups of people who view poor and homeless individuals as being in their predicament by making unwise decisions and have no one to blame but themselves for their situation. This study will data mine posts from the poverty subreddit on the social media Reddit. These posts will be processed and have natural language processing (NLP) techniques applied to determine each posts sentiment using Valence Aware Dictionary and sEntiment Reasoner (VADER). VADER no only provides a sentiment score of negative, neutral, and positive, it also indicates the intensity of the sentiment (nltk.org, 2025).