

Camping and the Homeless

Municipal Court Data and Insights

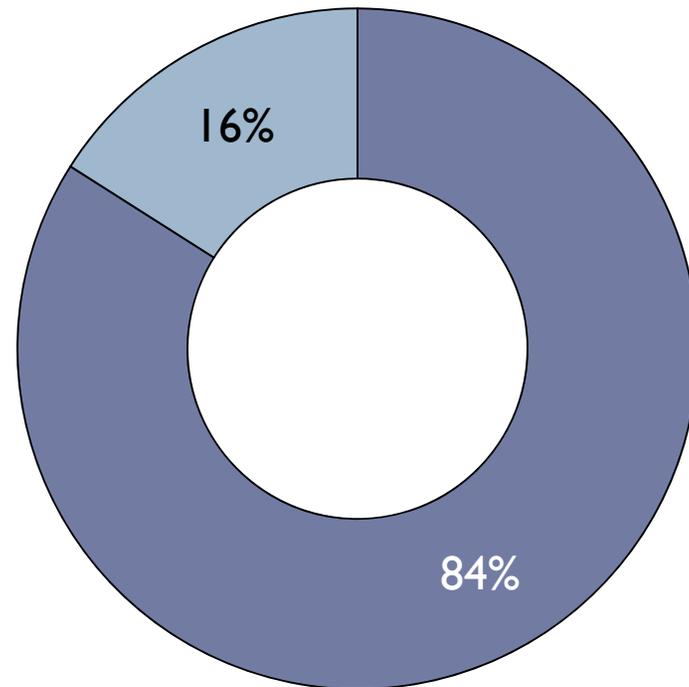
Overview

- Highlights and discussion of Camping data provided in Hotline report March 3, 2016
 - Additional information regarding Boulder's homeless generally
 - Perceived and observed barriers to housing, employment
 - Solutions: A Starting Point
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Camping Citation Data

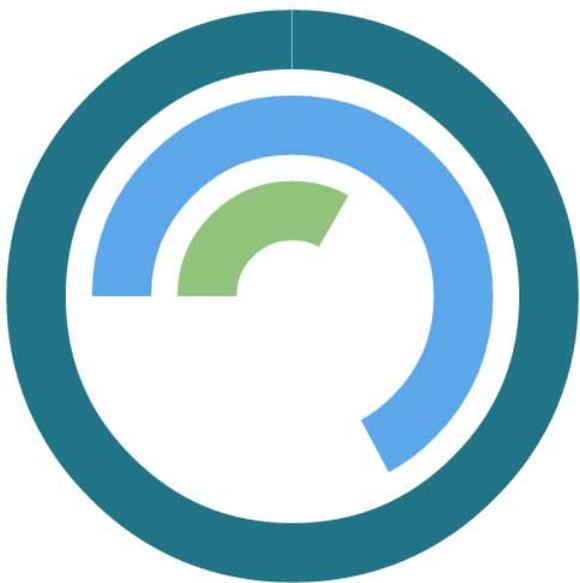
- 3253 Camping citations issued from Jan 1, 2009 through Dec 31, 2015
- On average, 84% of the citations were issued for Camping only
- The remaining citations had additional charges, typically “Possession or Consumption of Alcohol in Public” or “Trespass”

■ Camping only ■ Camping plus



67%

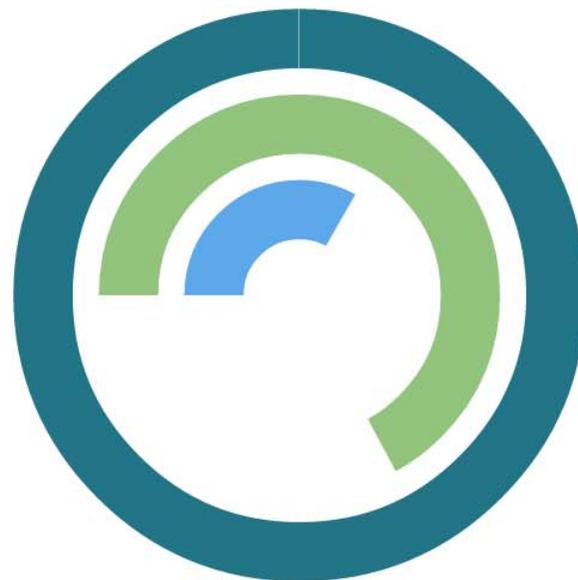
commit 1 violation



■ All cases ■ % with one case only ■ % with multiple cases

67%

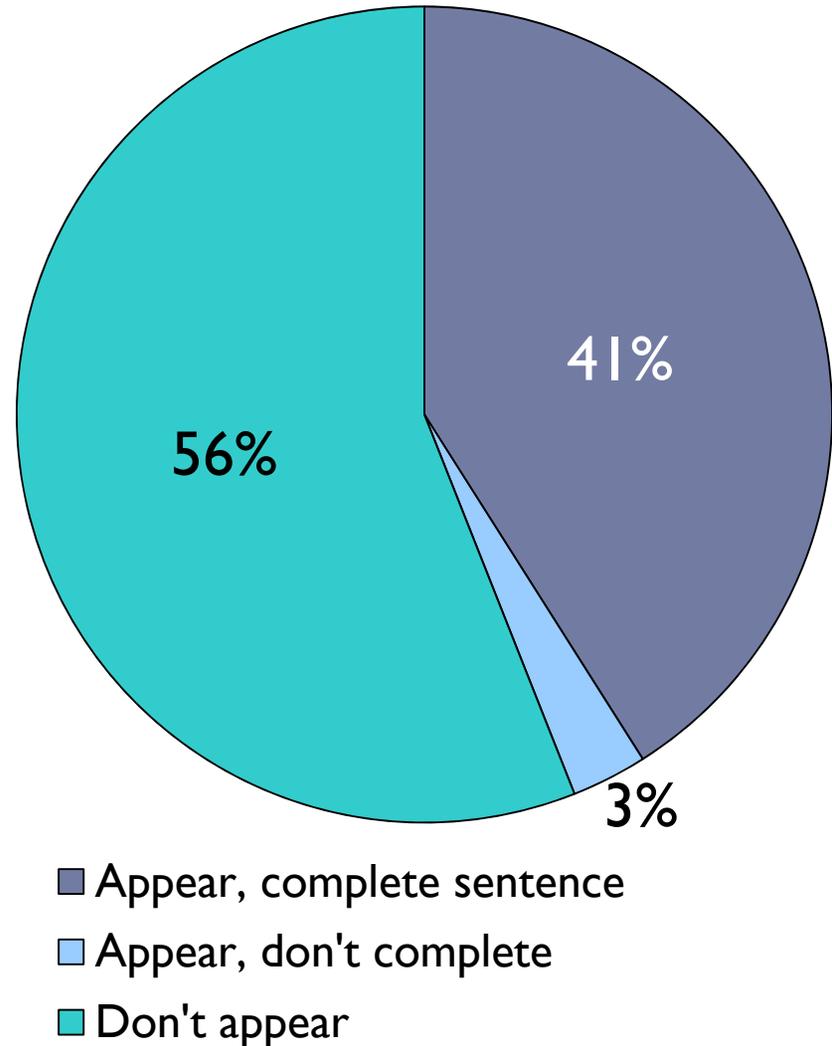
cases committed by repeat offenders



■ All cases ■ % multiple offenders ■ % single offenders

Camping Court Appearance Rates

- 44% of violators appear for court
 - Typical sentence following guilty plea or verdict is community service, which is often suspended upon completing a referral to services
- 59% of violators fail to appear for court (FTA) at some point
 - Arrest warrants are issued for the FTA
 - Grace period before warrant is ≈ 7 days
 - Warrants are active only in Boulder County



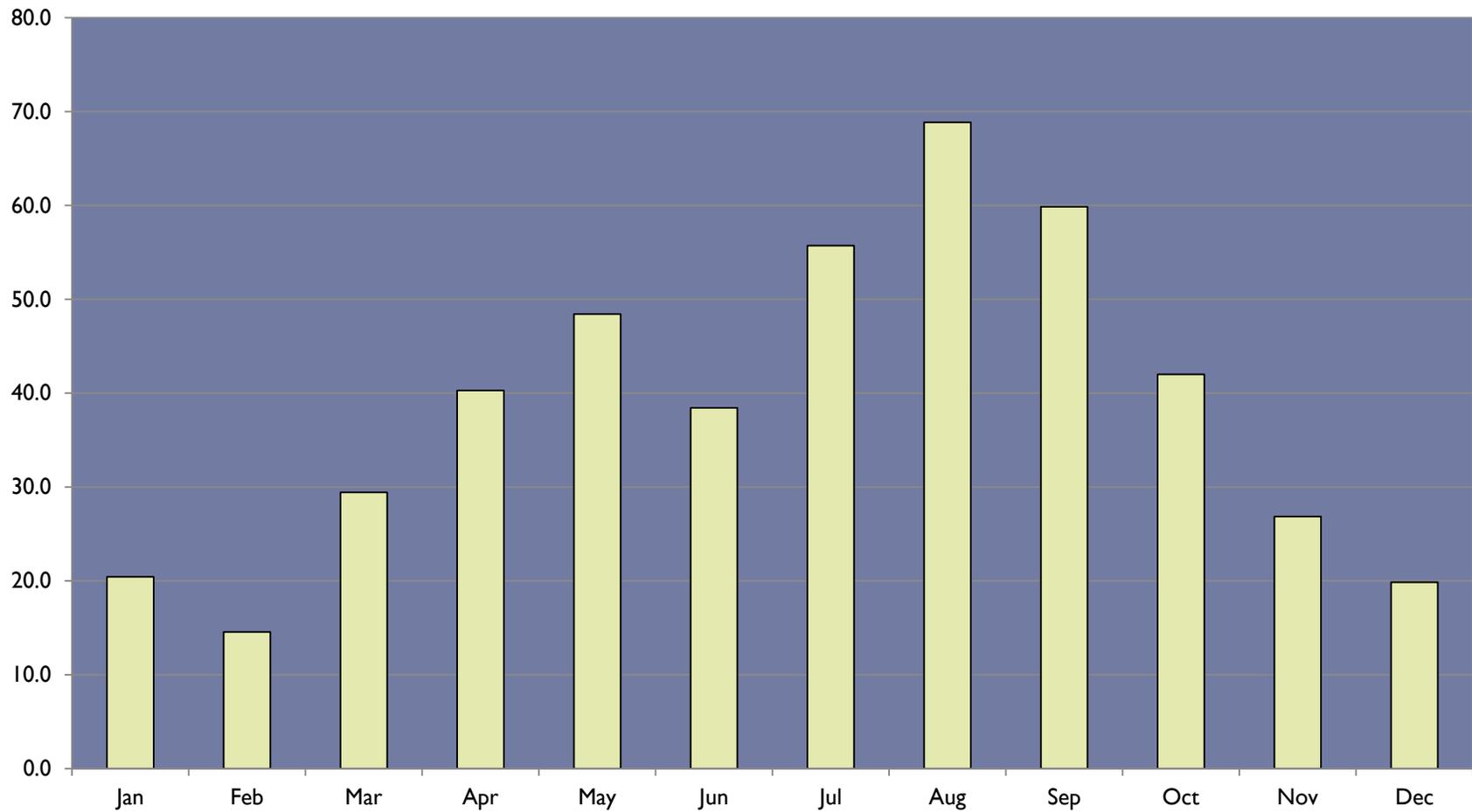
Camping Sentences



■ Complete sentence (41%) ■ Don't complete; jail (3%) ■ FTA; jail sentence (24%) ■ FTA; no sentence (32%)

Camping: Seasonal Variations

Average # of Violations by Month 2009-2015



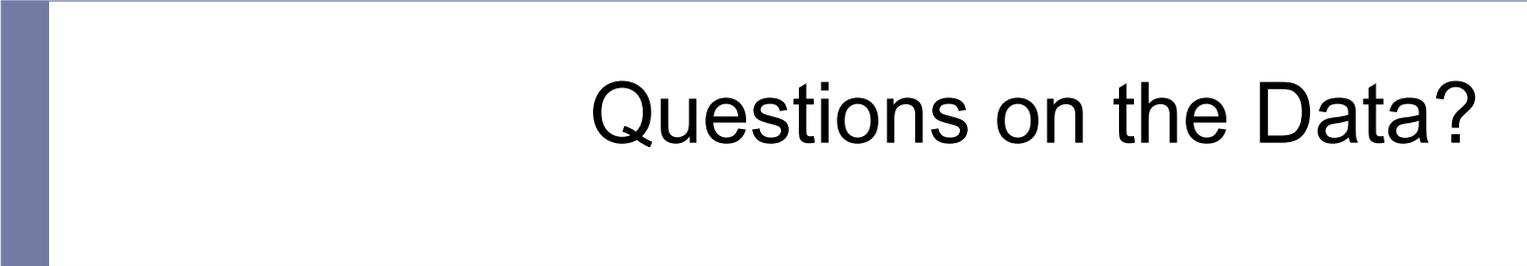
The Many Faces of Homelessness in Boulder

- >Young adults, many formerly in foster care
- >People who periodically visit from nearby
- >Chronically homeless Boulder residents
- >People with mental health challenges
- >People with substance abuse issues
- >People traveling through Boulder
- >People with physical disabilities



What the Data Suggests About Boulder's Homeless

- There is a base level population of chronically homeless Boulder residents
 - Current emergency shelter services address the needs of some of this population from October 1 – April 30
 - Boulder's chronically homeless resort to Camping more often when emergency shelter services are closed
 - Boulder's unhoused population swells during the summer, which increases the number of Camping violations
 - **MANY** of the non-resident campers leave the area soon after receiving a Camping citation
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Questions on the Data?



Homeless Violations



Impact on Employment, Housing

“Name”	Total Muni Cases	Total Camping Cases	Offered Housing?	Employable?
A	116	29	Y	Disabled
Q	71	0	Y	Disabled
T	59	27	Y	Disabled
D	47	0	Y	Y
S	46	12	Y	Disabled
P	42	9	Y	Y
U	29	5	Y	Y
H	28	5	Y	Y
W	27	5	Y	Y
V	23	2	Y	Disabled
F	22	5	Y	Disabled
L	18	13	Y	Disabled/Retired
B	18	8	Y	Y
C	16	9	Y	Y
R	11	0	Y	Disabled/Retired
N	9	0	Y	Disabled/Retired
O	8	1	Y	Disabled
M	7	7	Y	Y
K	4	4	Y	Y
E	3	1	Y	Y

Observed Barriers to Housing the Homeless

Short-term:

- Year-round emergency shelter capacity
- Disinterest by homeless in accessing available resources

Long-term (obtaining & maintaining housing):

- Availability of **affordable** housing
- Inability to use a voucher to “lease up”
- Lack of sufficient supportive services (e.g., Lee Hill)
- Felony record, especially sex offense
- Prior eviction from public housing
- Lack of rental history
- Age (older is better)
- Smoker

Strategies/Solutions

To reduce jail sentences for Camping

- ❑ Police use diversion in lieu of citation
- ❑ Violators perform community service hours to divert from court
- ❑ Informally done in the past by OSMP rangers, BPD
- ❑ Requires some minimal infrastructure

To move qualified people into housing

- ❑ Municipal Court Navigator to assist with:
 - ❑ Application(s) for housing, services
 - ❑ “Leasing up” when a voucher is awarded
 - ❑ Case planning pre- and post-placement



Questions?



Discussion