

Homelessness- related Problems in Boulder, Colorado

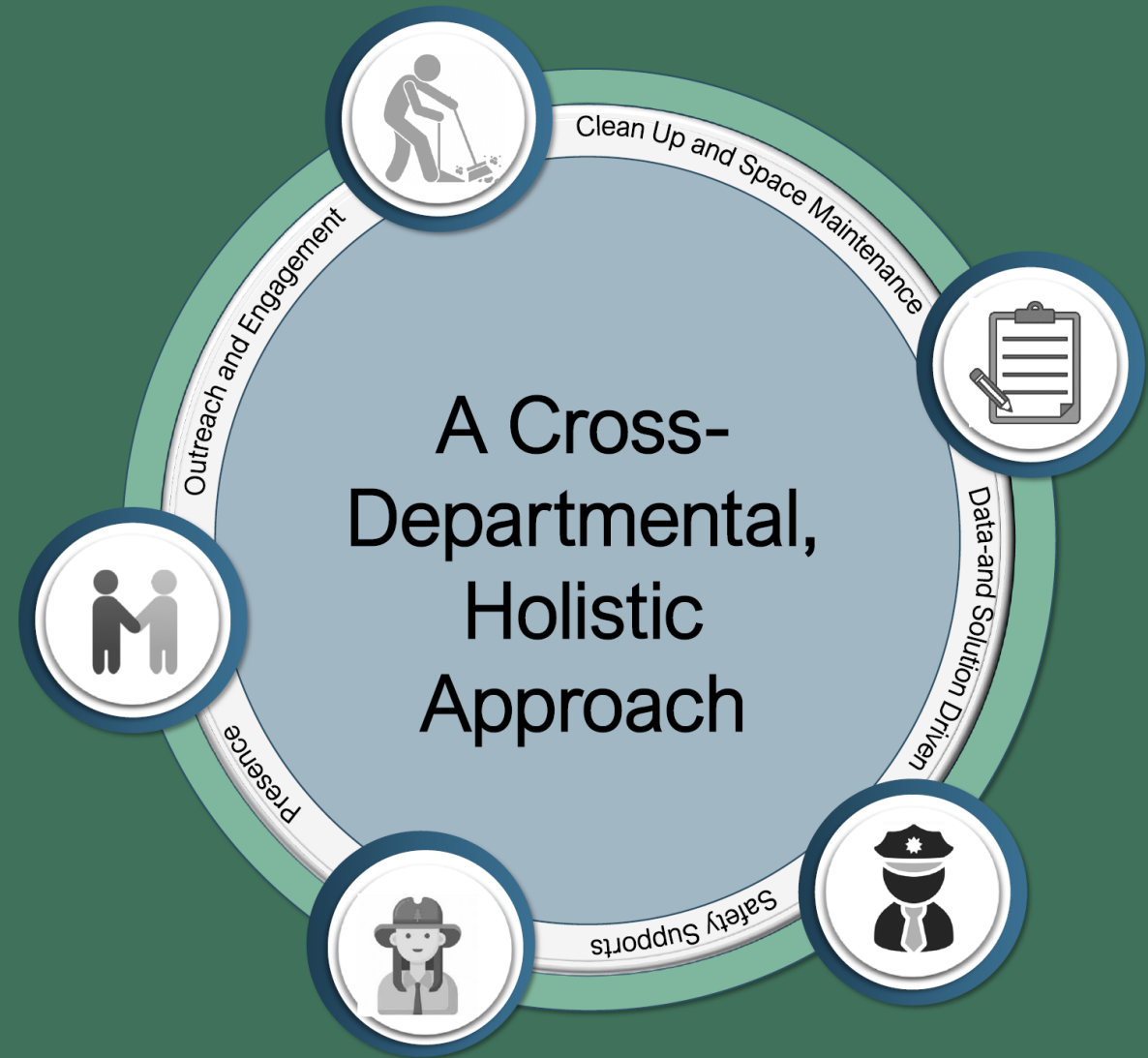
Daniel Reinhard Ph.D.,
Julie Wartell M.A.,
Officer R. Maynard,
Boulder Police Chief Maris Herold



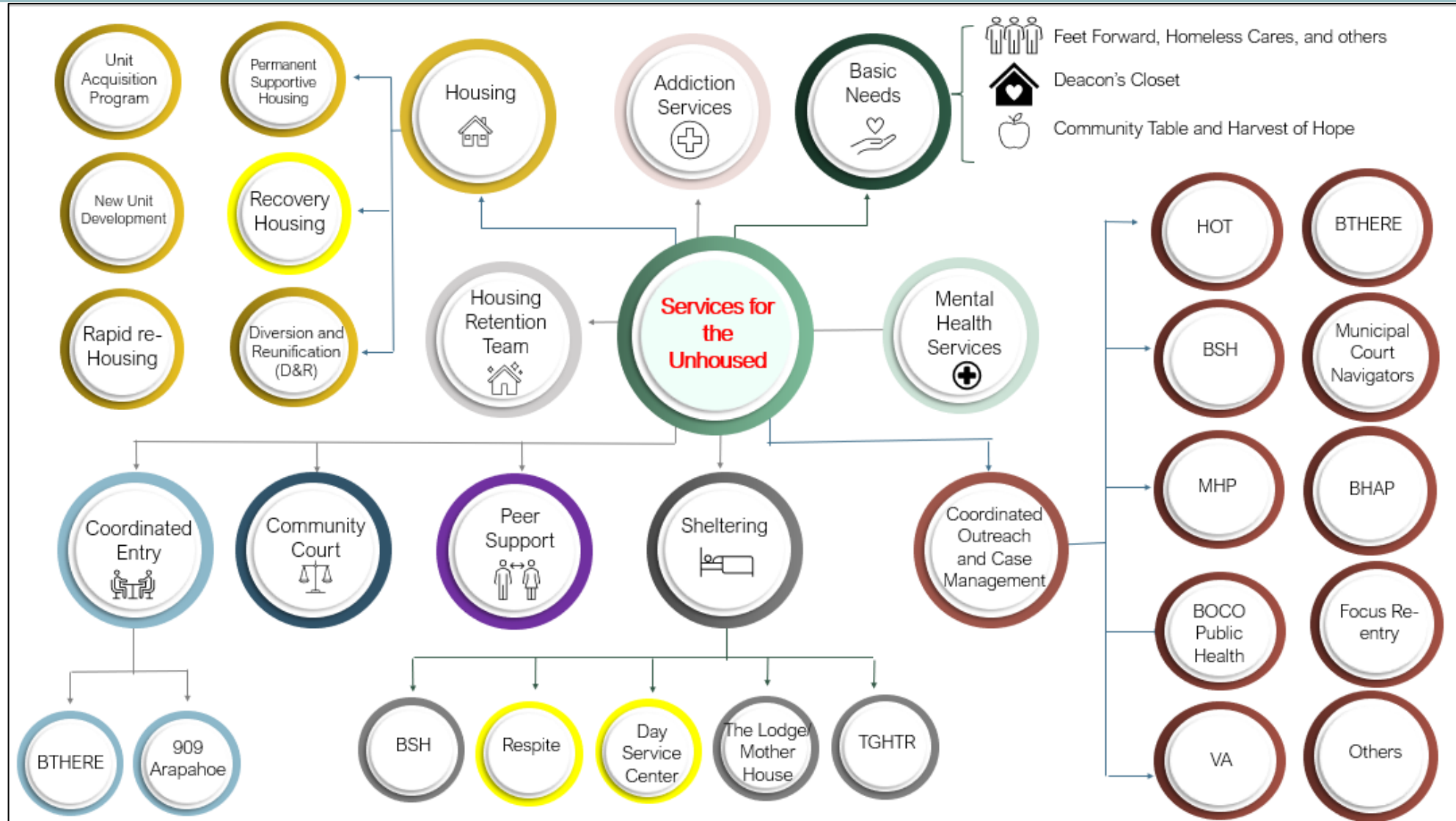
*Problem Oriented Policing
Conference, August 2023*

Challenging Problem - Holistic Response

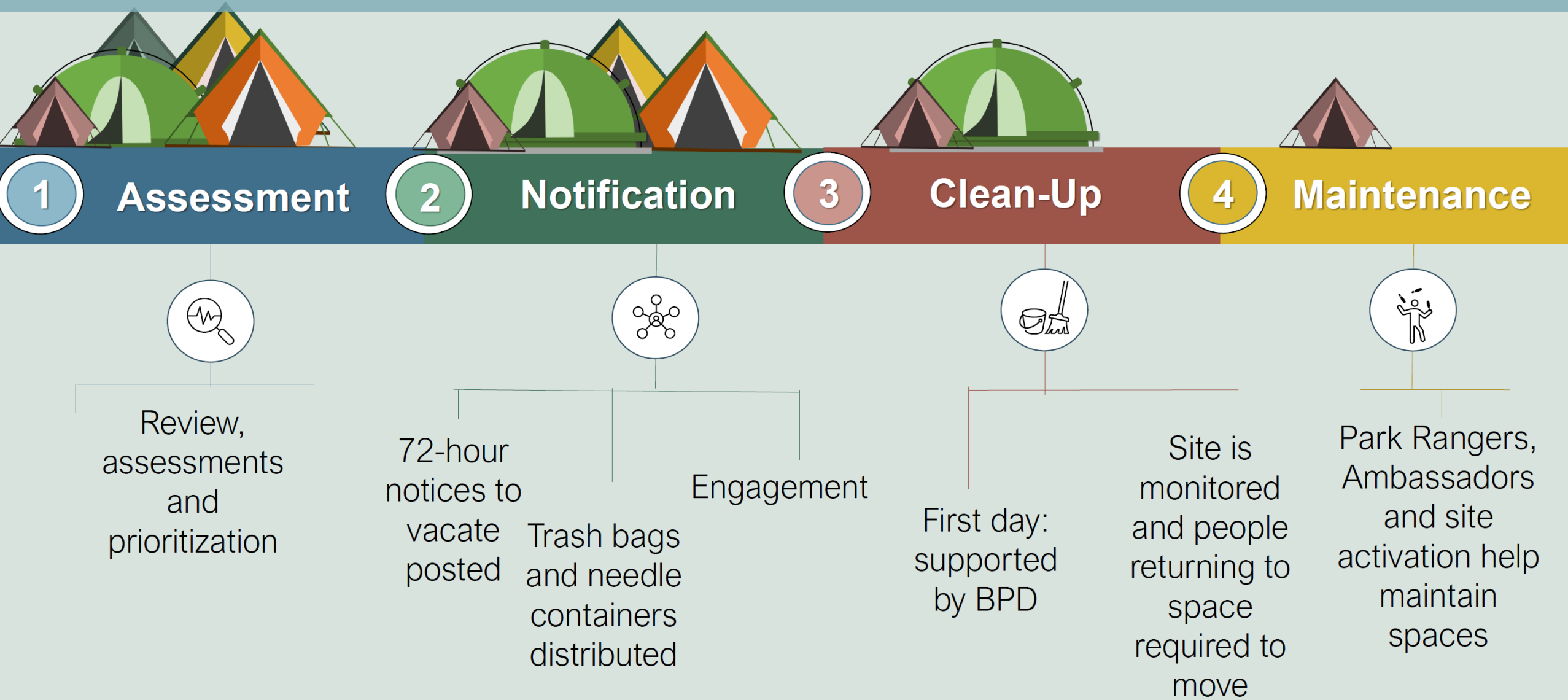
- Profound issue in many cities
- Central to public safety topics
- Multi-agency approach
- Successes in-spite of challenges



Holistic Response



Safe and Managed Public Spaces (SAMPS)



Not just processes - People

Service:
Homeless
Outreach Officers

Courtesy
Transports

Housing and
Services
Connections

Connecting
persons with
medical
services

Enforcement:
Encampment
Clean-Up Officers

Camp
Notifications
and Clean-Ups

Facilitating
Outreach Efforts

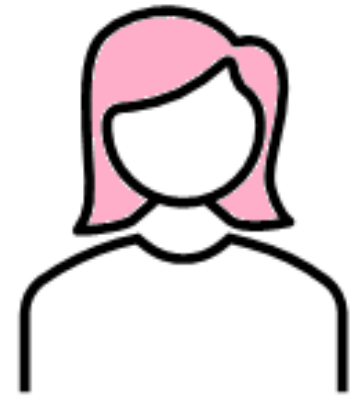
Community
Education and
Awareness

Assessment:
Research
and
Analysis

Smart Policing
Initiative Grant

Data Collection
Efforts

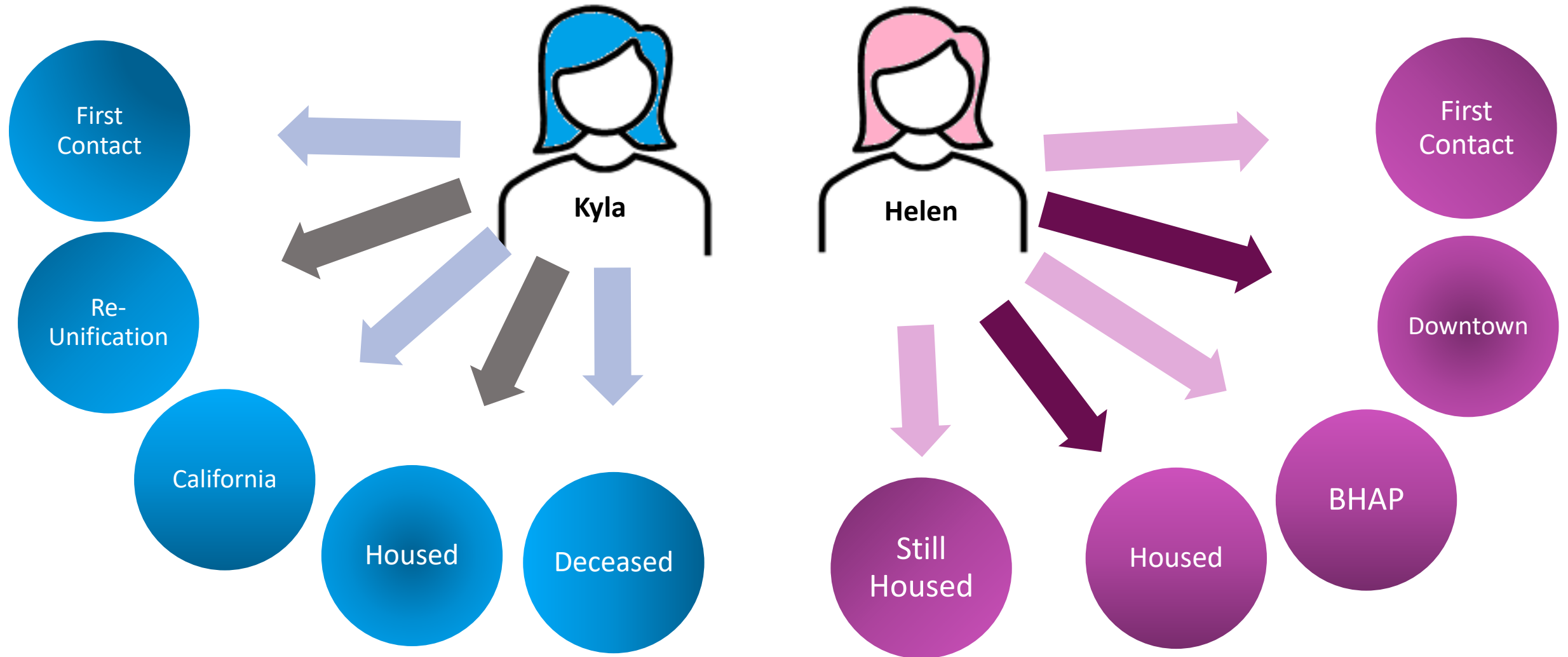
Facilitating
Citywide
Information
Sharing



Kyla	Helen
Chronically Unhoused	Chronically Unhoused
Known to HOT, Providers	Known to HOT, Providers
46 years old	40 years old
30 BPD Reports	49 BPD Reports
History of Drug Use	History of Drug Use

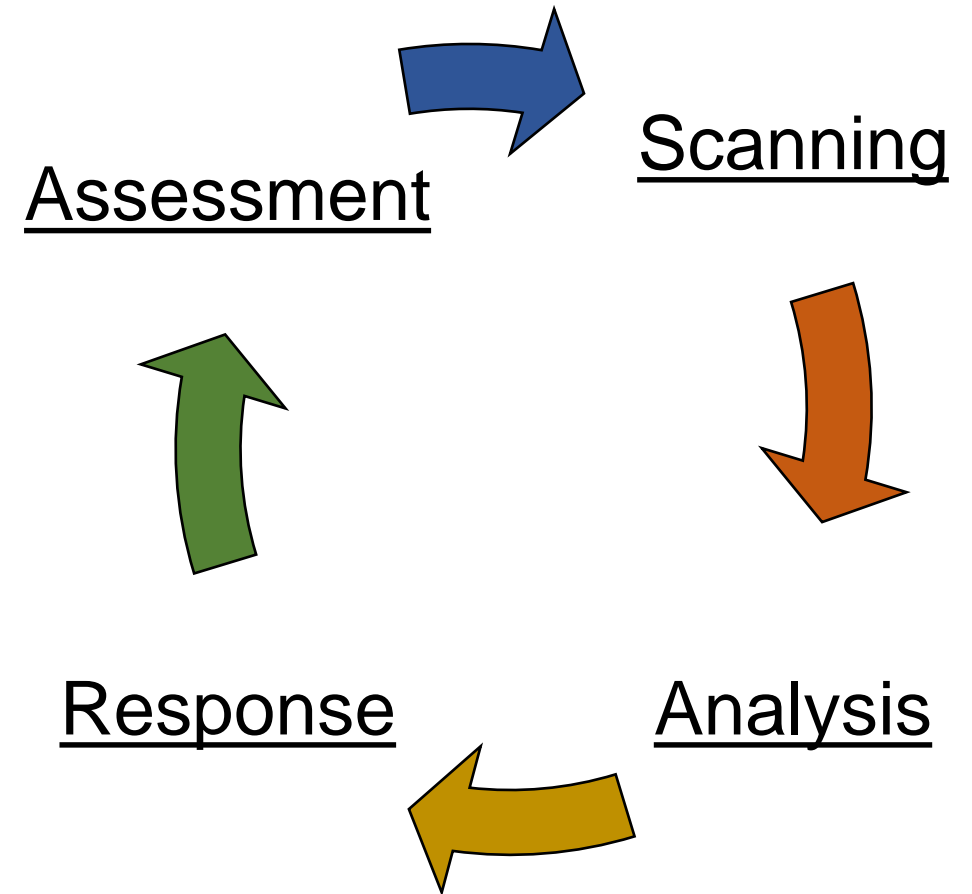


Challenges and Successes



Smart Policing Initiative

- BJA Grant to Boulder PD
- Use POP/SARA to reduce the harms of homeless encampments
- Coordinated effort: multiple city departments and other stakeholder agencies
- Advisory Board
- Research/Advisory Team – not just to evaluate!



Scanning: Defining the Problem

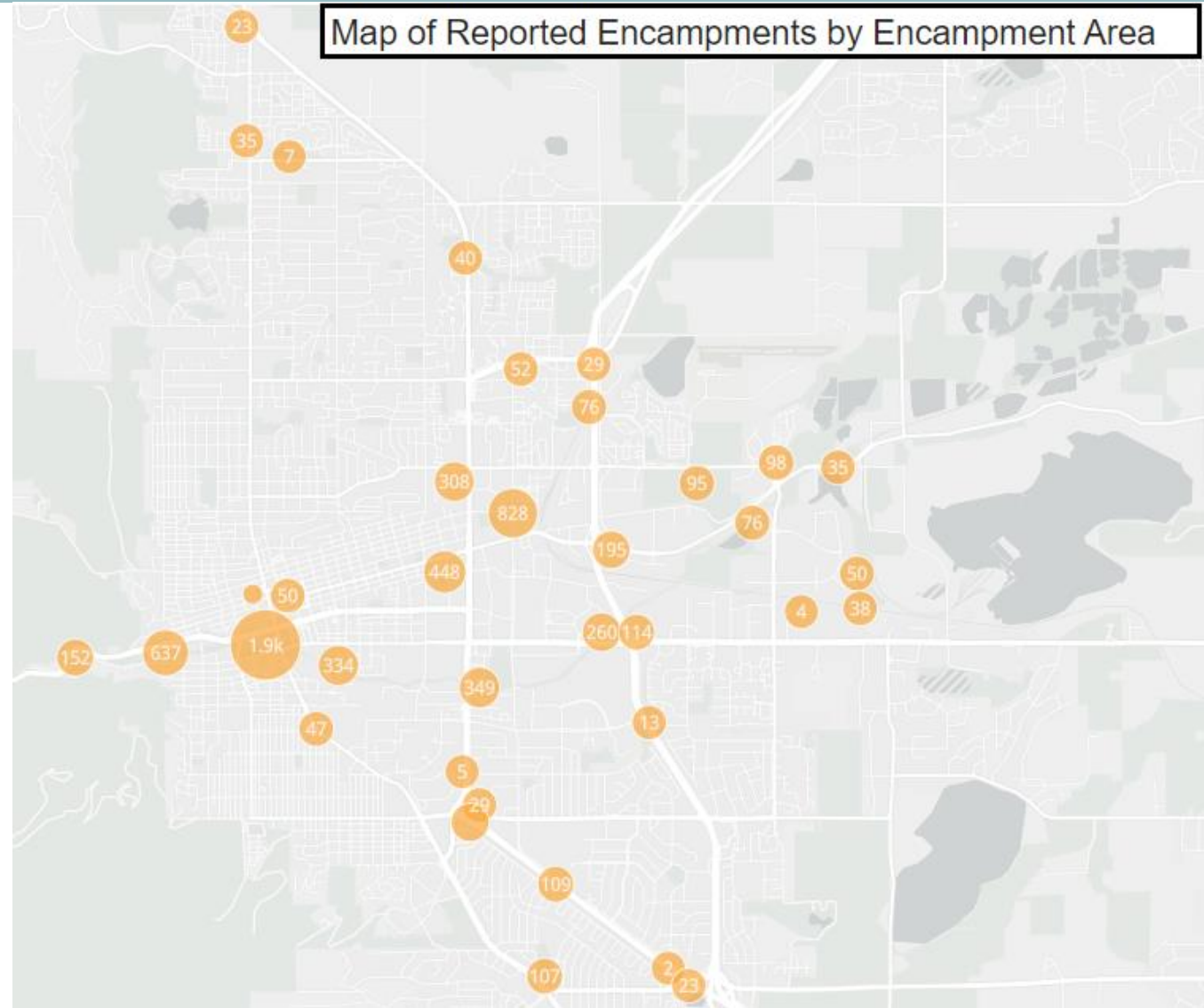
Disparate data systems

Same people, contacting
different agencies

Same locations, different
agencies handling

Harms to both persons and
places

Map of Reported Encampments by Encampment Area



Scanning: Defining the Problem

- What are the harms?
- Where are the biggest harms?
- Who is being harmed?
- What data exist to help us understand the problem?

Police

- Camping Tickets
- Camping notifications
- RMS unhoused designation
- Unattended deaths

Public Space Team

- Inspection surveys
- Notification surveys
- Clean-up surveys

Housing & Human Services

- Coordinated Entry screenings
- BTHRE outreach contacts
- High Utilizers

OTHER

- Inquire Boulder
- OSMP & UPR contacts / tickets
- Muni Court tickets / surveys
- EMS calls
- Downtown Partnership Ambassador



Analysis: Understanding the Problem



Individual
Harms

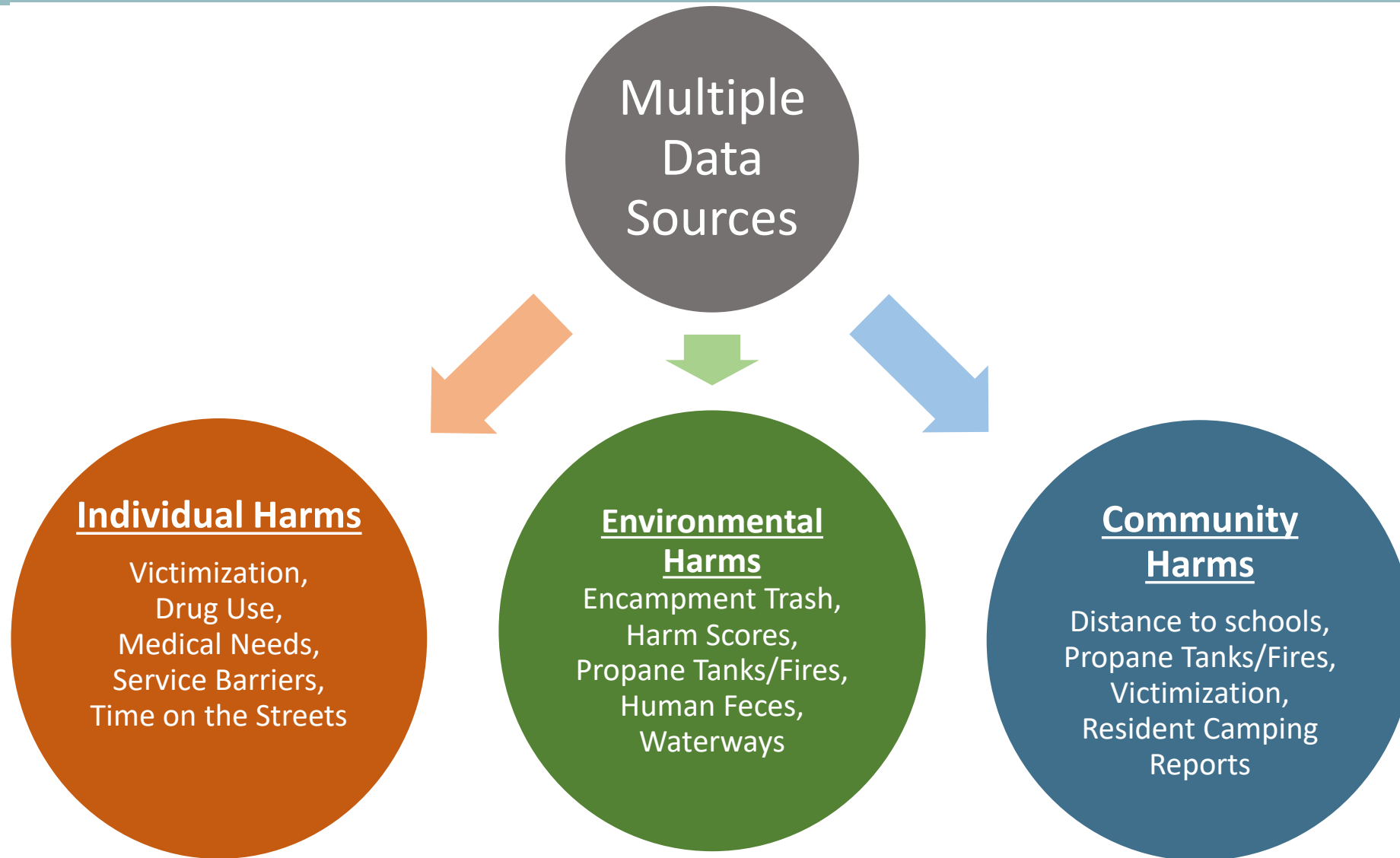


Environmental
Harms



Community
Harms

Analysis: Understanding the Problem



Analysis: Understanding the Problem

Inquire
Boulder
Reports



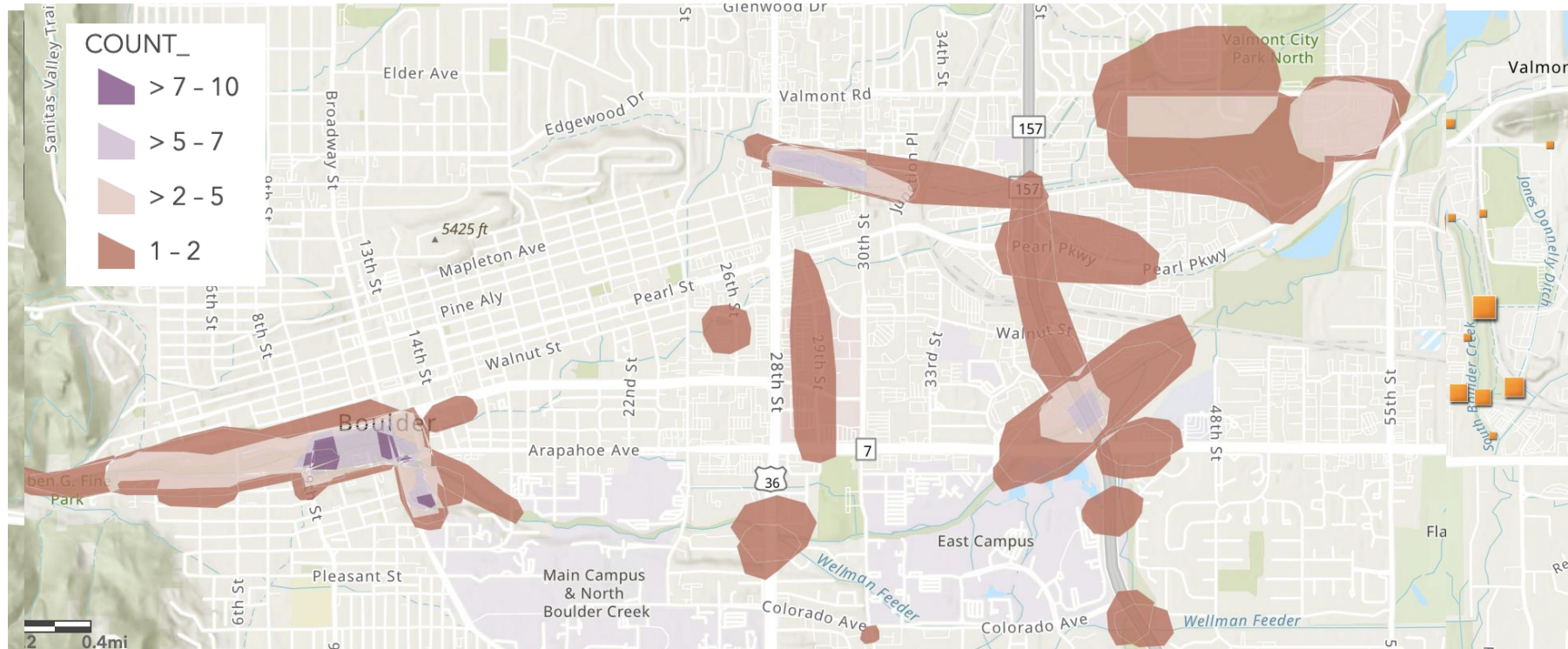
SAMPS
Inspections



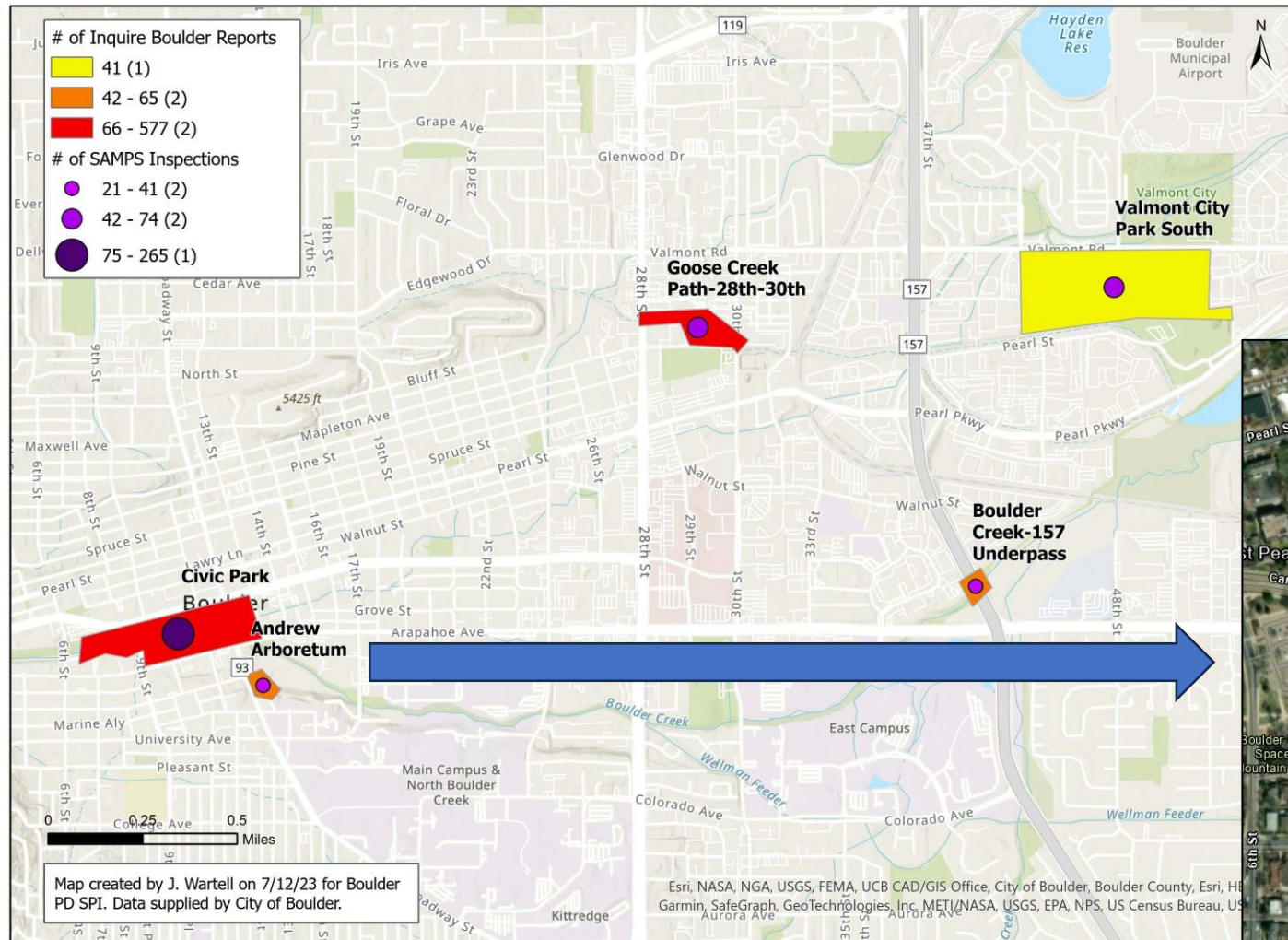
Stakeholder
Input



Top
Locations



Analysis: Understanding the Problem



Top Encampment Areas



Analysis: Understanding the Problem

Encampment Reviews

- Stakeholders discuss encampment area



- Additional data & intelligence for a better understanding of each area

Surveys

- Unhoused individuals

- Challenges

- Location choices

- Unsheltered history



After the Encampment Reviews

Response

- Custom strategies for each area
- Created by coordinated stakeholder effort
- Implemented with minimizing harms



Assessment

- Track the process
- Evaluate the impact through multiple measures
- Goal is to reduce the harms

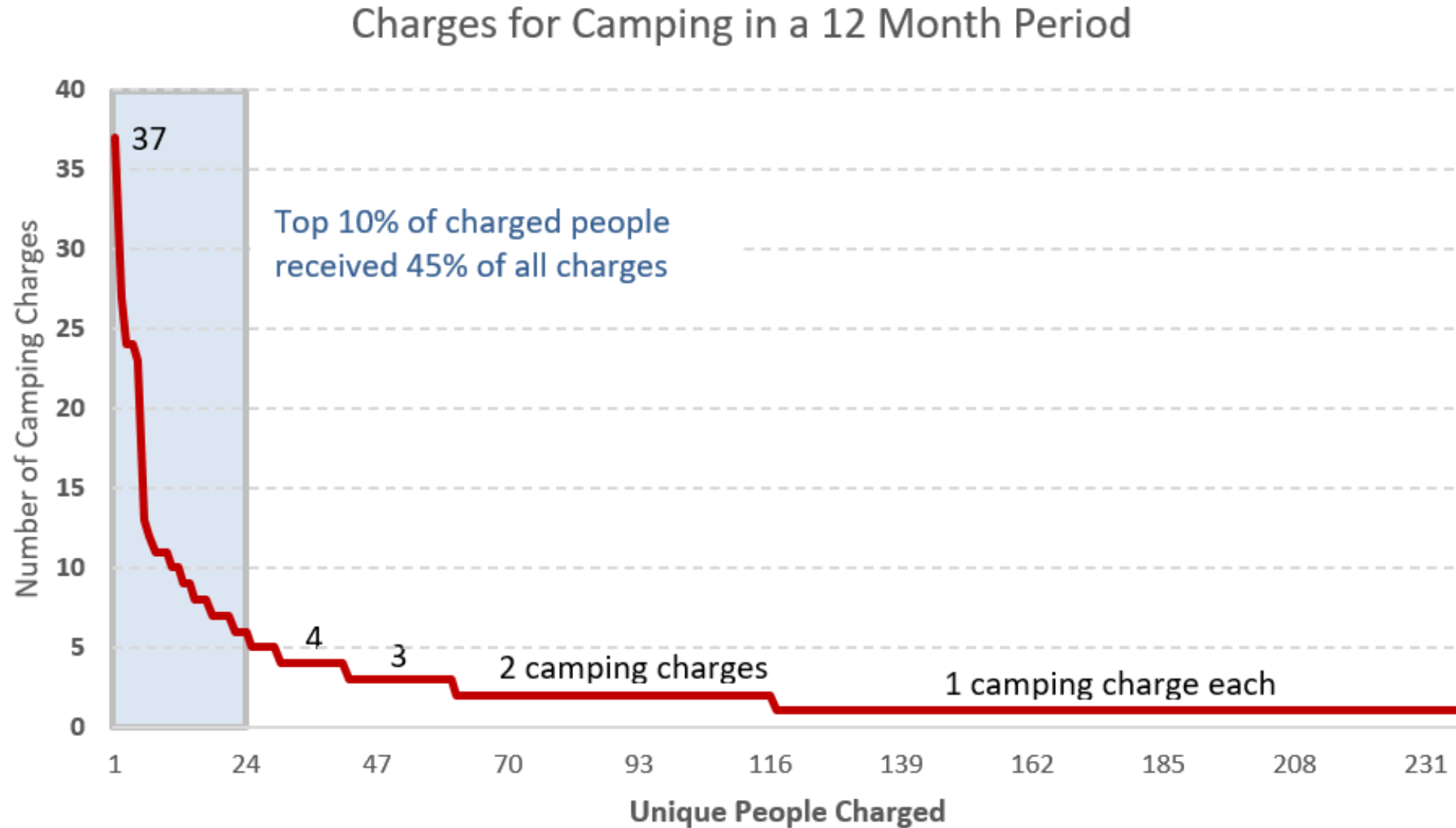


Nature and Frequency of Contacts

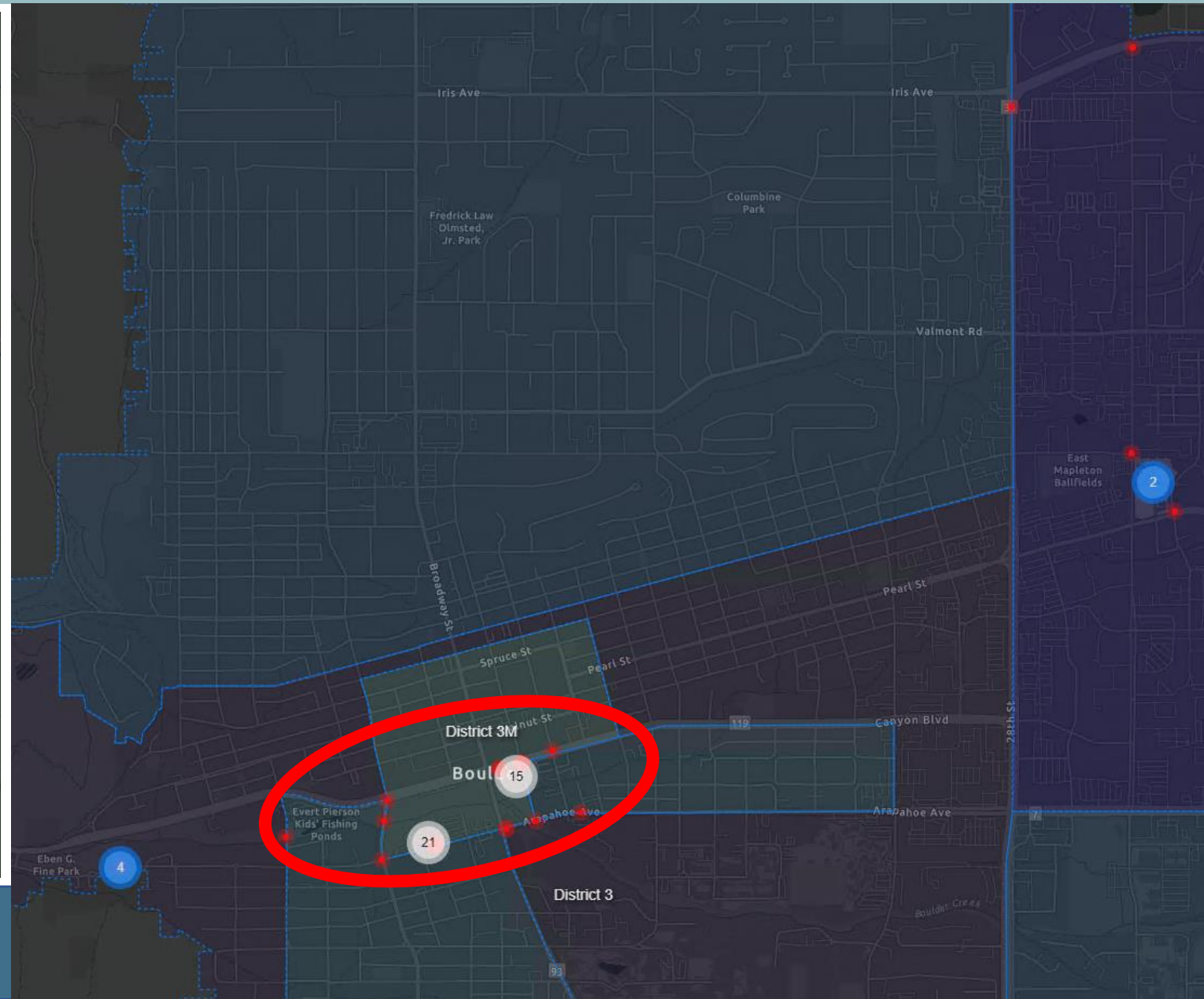
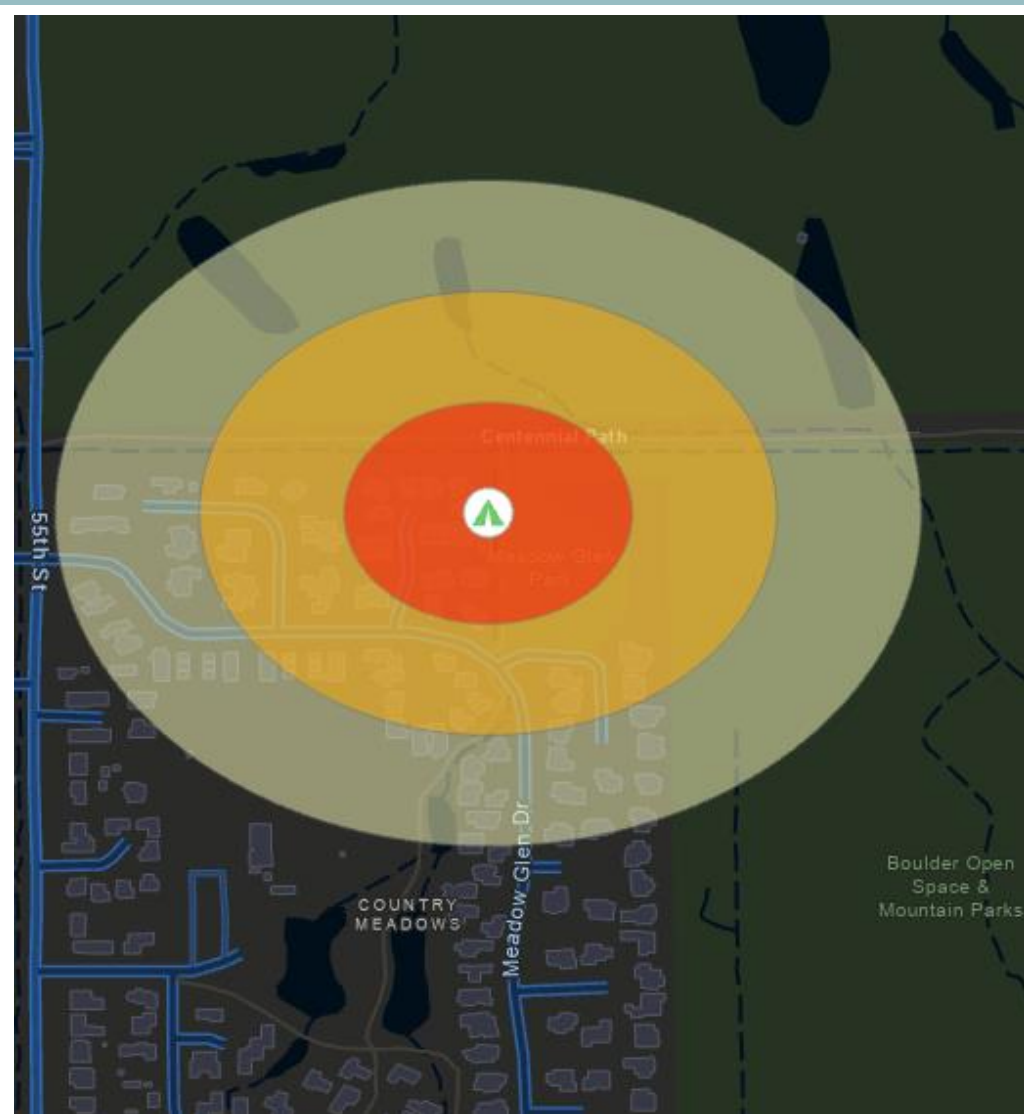
- Most contacts resident initiated
- Few contacts officer self-initiated
- Trespassing, welfare check, harassment
- Unpredictable situations



Many contacts with few people



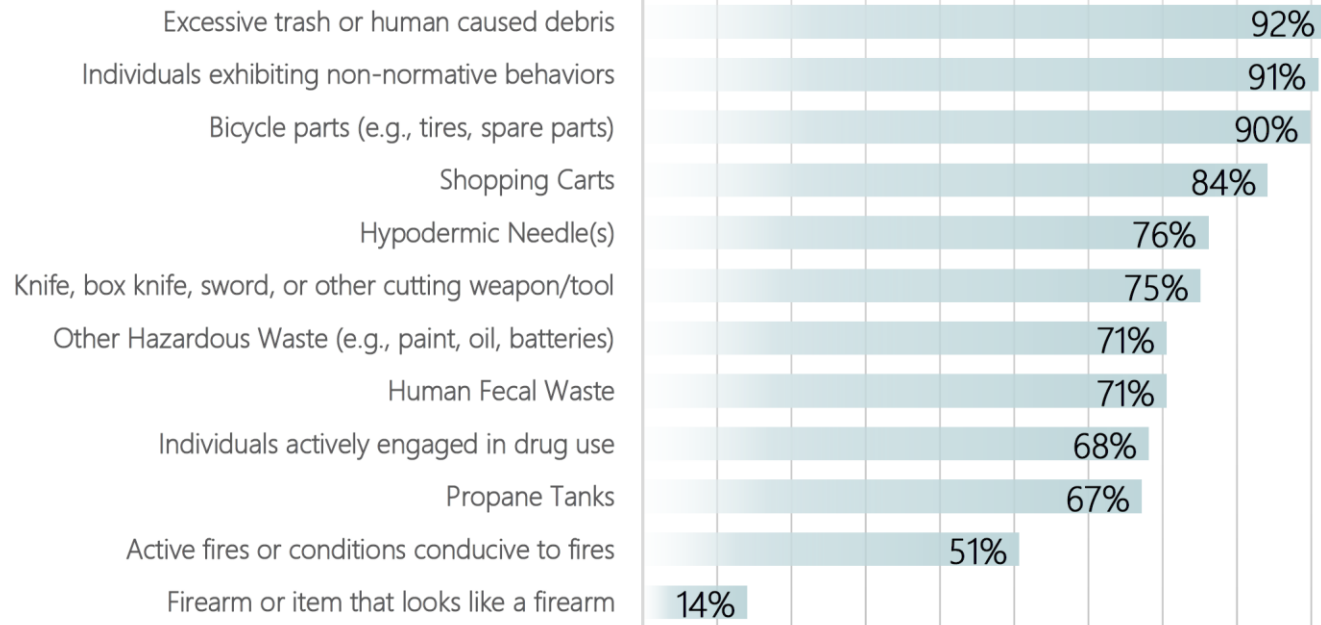
Safety Concerns at Homeless Encampments



City of Boulder
Police

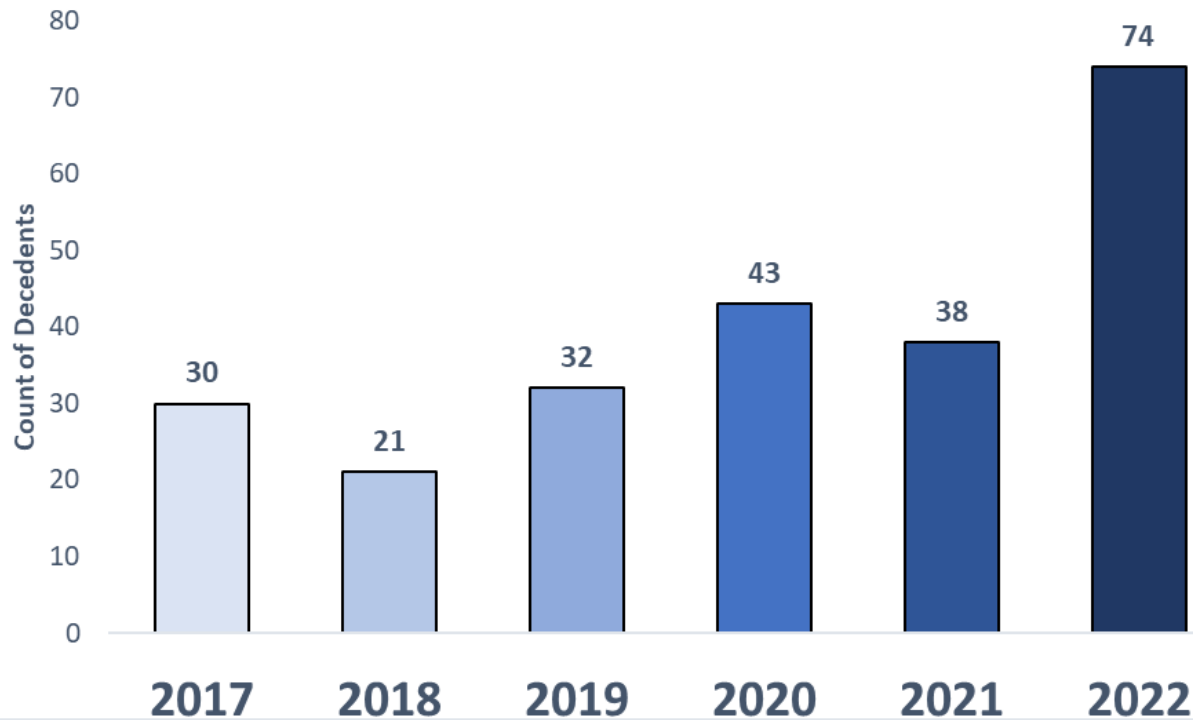
Safety Concerns at Encampments

SURVEYED POLICE EMPLOYEES OFTEN/ALWAYS SEE...



Devastating Substance Use

Boulder County: Annual Drug Related DEATHS



A Colorado Library Closed Because of Meth Contamination

[nytimes.com/2023/01/04/us/boulder-colorado-meth-library.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/04/us/boulder-colorado-meth-library.html)

Derrick Bryson Taylor, Amanda Holpuch, Christine Hauser

January 4, 2023

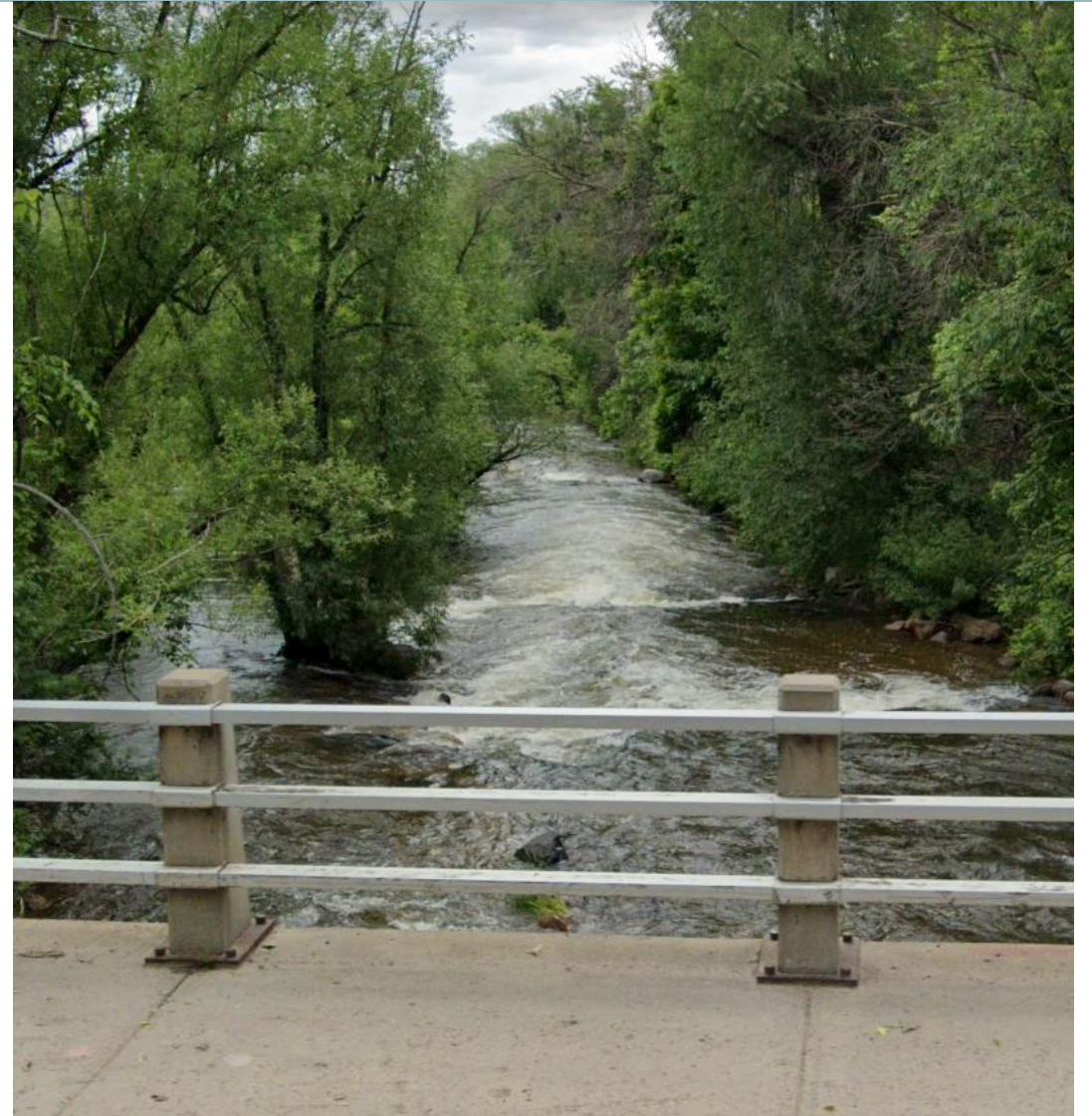
5 fentanyl overdoses reported in Boulder within 36-hour period: new pill to blame?

[denvergazette.com/news/fentanyl/5-fentanyl-overdoses-in-boulder-in-2-days/article_1c7a23aa-da4a-11ed-85f1-4fb7f661bedd.html](https://www.denvergazette.com/news/fentanyl/5-fentanyl-overdoses-in-boulder-in-2-days/article_1c7a23aa-da4a-11ed-85f1-4fb7f661bedd.html)

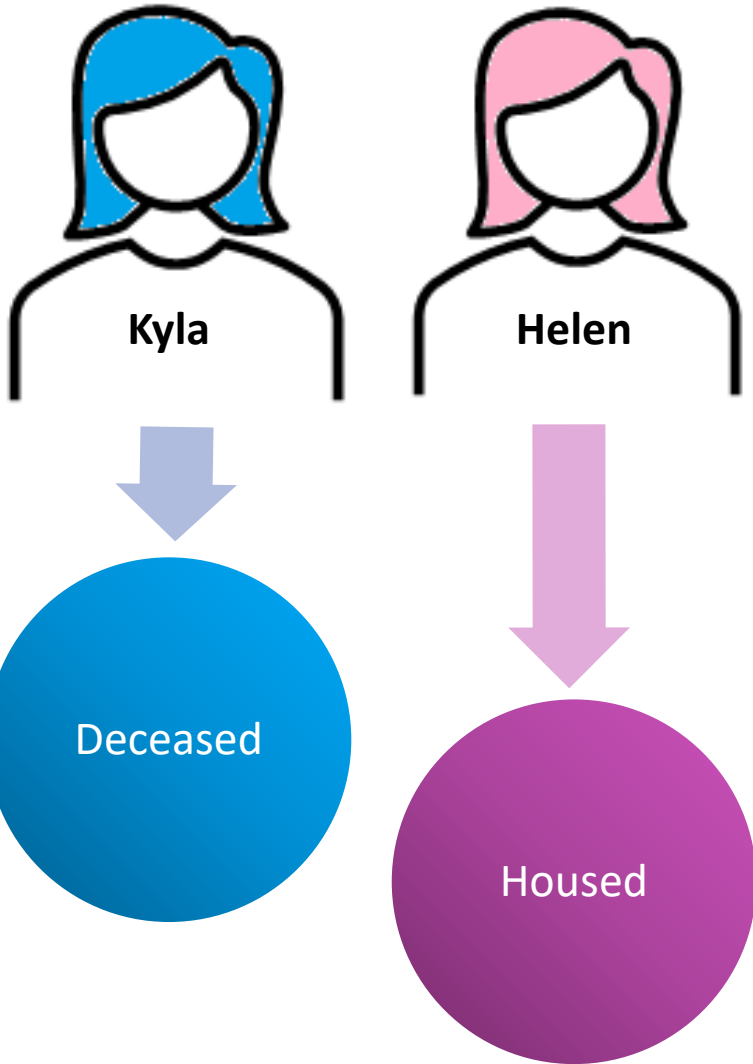
Carol McKinley



Problems are Real and Complicated



Conclusions



- The problems with homelessness and encampments are real and complicated
- Problem-solving partnerships possible
- Evidence-based solutions constructive



Questions & Comments

Daniel Reinhard

reinhardd@bouldercolorado.gov

Julie Wartell

julie.wartell@gmail.com

Ofc. Maynard

maynardr@bouldercolorado.gov

Chief Herold

heroldm@bouldercolorado.gov

