Colin Quinn
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How can policymakers improve the system of Facial Recognition and Racial Bias to help support and improve everyday lives?

There have been 6 confirmed cases of improper facial recognition analysis, one being Robert Williams of Detroit, Michigan being wrongfully arrested in front of his home and being hekd under arrest for over 30 hours. He was arrested on the suspicion of stealin thousands of dollars worth of watches and he was matched due to the crime from grainy camera footage and an expired driver's licesnse(Sanford 1). Policymakers can improve the fairness and accuracy of facial recognition systems by increasing data diversity, enforcing independent audits, and establishing clear accountability standards that protect civil rights. What is facial recognition technology? Facial technology is using a database full of information that it's been fed and trained with to recognize facial features to piece together possible crimes; "Facial recognition technology identifies or verifies a person by analyzing unique features of the human face. Using artificial intelligence and deep learning algorithms, it detects a face, extracts key landmarks (such as eyes, jawline, or nose), and converts them into a digital template, or representation(Innovatics 1)." The government employs Facial Recognition Technology into many facets of society today such as: fraud prevention, missing persons, identity matching. It's also integrated into everyday life such as facial recognition in your cell phone. How can policymakers improve the system of Facial Recognition and Racial Bias to help support and improve everyday lives?

False facial recognition has led to false arrests, wrongful surveilence and racial discrimination. Having a facial recognition system in place gives the authorities permission to

have you on surveillance. Claims have been made that the surveillance is "unconstitutional" and that it violates everything the country was built and founded on. You are not asked for consent to be tracked everywhere you go. A tool like this may even discourage people from living their lives. The surveillance could discourage protests and target vulnerable groups and prevent free speach. There have been 6 confirmed cases of improper facial recognition analysis.

Facial recognition was implemented in London of January 2024, "Last month, the Met said it had made more than 1,000 arrests since January 2024 using the technology, including alleged paedophiles, rapists and violent robbers, of which 773 had led to a charge or a caution. It said since January 2025, there had been 457 arrests and seven false alerts(Jessup 11)."

The current Facial Recognition system lacks accuracy and the policymakers are lacking accountability. "In the landmark 2018 "Gender Shades" project, an intersectional approach was applied to appraise three gender classification algorithms, including those developed by IBM and Microsoft. Subjects were grouped into four categories: darker-skinned females, darker-skinned males, lighter-skinned females, and lighter-skinned males. All three algorithms performed the worst on darker-skinned females, with error rates up to 34% higher than for lighter-skinned males(Najibi 11)." Allowing police forces and government systems knowing what we know about accuracy and how there are misinterpreatations within the system, yet we still roll it out and allow people to use it. Using a racist tool in a country full of racial injustices sounds like a step in the wrong direction.

The policing system along with all facial recognition needs improvement with discrimination, data diversity can be improved to be all ages, genders, and races. Independent government audits could help improve facial recognition systems, in order to hold the system accountable. Forcing the system to be more accountable is a step in the right direction for all

Americans. In a country where everyone is born with the same rights and are all going through their lives on similar paths; people deserve the right to walk freely and not worry about constant racial injustices.

The common counter argument would just be not to look at the small number of false arrests and look at the amount of successful recognition, but this is not how to improve with anything in life. If I want to be a better basketball player. I'm not looking at all the shots I made and all the good things I did. I look at all the things that didn't go well and how my mistakes can be turned ro successes. Building the system, improving on past mistakes and failures and constantly improving the system to prevent racial bias is the way policymakers should be looking at it. According to evaluation data from January 22, 2024 done by International Security and Expo, "each of the top 100 algorithms are over 99.5% accurate across Black male, white male, Black female and white female demographics. For the top 60 algorithms, accuracy of the highest performing demographic versus the lowest among these varies only between 99.7% and 99.85%. Unexpectedly, white male is the lowest performing of the four demographic groups for the top 60 algorithms(Parker 158). My reaction to this study would be more positive than anything about the capabilities of Facial Recognition. This study is done much after a lot of the cases of racial bias. There were 6 reported cases, three of them being from 2020, two from 2023 and one from 2025.

Facial recognition technology has shown clear racial bias, leading to false arrests, wrongful surveillance, and violations of civil rights. These issues stem from data and algorithmic bias, as systems trained mostly on lighter-skinned faces often misidentify people of color, with studies showing error rates up to 34% higher for darker-skinned women. To create a fairer and

more ethical system, diverse data, independent government audits, and stronger accountability

are essential to prevent technology from reinforcing discrimination in modern policing.