

# Methodology

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We scraped Twitter for tweets in the United States from June 2014 to December 2015 containing at least one of 154 keywords. These keywords included both derogatory slurs as well as neutral language used to describe various groups: black people, Asian people, Hispanic/Latino people, Arab and Muslim people, Indians, Native Americans, white people, women, men, gays and lesbians, transgender people, the disabled, the overweight, little people, and evangelical Christians. The resulting corpus included approximately 12 million tweets and their associated locations. To avoid drawing conclusions from very small sample sizes, our analysis of patterns in selected categories of search terms omitted states with fewer than 30 uses of a given term over the time period studied.

The search terms used for each category included in our analysis were as follows:

**Black people:**

- Negative language: nigger, coon, dindu, jungle bunnies, porch monkey, spear chucker
- Neutral language: African American, black people, black person, black man, black men, black woman, black women

**Hispanic/Latino people:**

- Negative language: spic, wetback, beaner
- Neutral language: Hispanic, Latino, Latina, Latinx, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Spanish, Portuguese

**Women:**

- Negative language: bitch, cut, hag, bimbo, slut, twat
- Neutral language: woman, women, female

**Gay and lesbian people:**

- Negative language: fag, faggot, homo, dyke, sodomite, lesbo
- Neutral language: gay, lesbian

**Transgender people:**

- Negative language: tranny, trannies, shemale, chicks with dicks, man in a dress, men in dresses
- Neutral language: transgender, transsexual, trans person, trans people, trans woman, trans women, trans man, trans men, trans

**Intellectually disabled people:**

- Negative language: cripple, gimp, mongoloid, retard, spaz, sperg
- Neutral language: disabled, people with disabilities, differently able

**Overweight people:**

- Negative language: fattie, fatso, fatass, fat ass
- Neutral language: people of size, person of size, plus size

# Sources

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