

Police Social Media Disparities Coding Manual

This coding manual describes how to code the images pulled from different police department/sheriff offices social media feeds to investigate whether racial disparities exist.

Updated as of 11/3/2021

Codes

human: does the image depict a person?

- 0 — no
- 1 — yes
- 2 — police sketch

human_count: number of humans

*If it is the same person in multiple images, the count would be one.

*If multiple people are depicted in the same post, create a new line at the bottom of the spreadsheet and code for traits for each new person. Note “ADDED” in the comments section.

type: what type of image is depicted

- 1 — mugshot
- 2 — surveillance image
- 3 — missing persons

*Some missing persons images look similar to mugshots. Consult the text of the tweet to determine if it is a missing persons alert.

race: visually what race does the person depicted appear to be

- 1 — white, not Hispanic or Latino
- 2 — Black
- 3 — Hispanic or Latinx
- 4 — Asian or Pacific Islander
- 5 — Native American
- 6 — unidentifiable

*An unidentifiable image is one in which visually it is impossible to see the race of the person. The image may be dark or blurry or otherwise obstruct the view of the person depicted.

race_confidence: how confident are you that the race you selected is accurate.

- 0 — unconfident
- 1 — somewhat unconfident
- 2 — confident

gender: visually what gender does the person depicted present as

- 1 — male
- 2 — female

3 — unidentifiable

*An unidentifiable image is one in which visually it is impossible to see the gender of the person. The image may be dark or blurry or otherwise obstruct the view of the person depicted.

*For the purposes of this project only binary male and female genders are used.

gender_confidence: how confident are you that the gender you selected is accurate

0 — unconfident

1 — somewhat unconfident

2 — confident

comments: please elaborate here on anything unusual or worth noting about the image

- If the image appears to be a repeat image, note “REPEAT” here
- If the image appears to be a located image, note “LOCATED” here
- If multiple people are depicted in the same post, create a new line at the bottom of the spreadsheet and code for traits for each new person. Note “ADDED” in the comments section.
- Separate multiple comments by commas.