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Footnotes

ⁱ According to the NCIC (2019), the sexes of the remaining number of missing persons were unknown ($n=111$; 0.02%).

ⁱⁱ Importantly, the phenomenon of media distortion of factual news has been exacerbated in the Digital Age. According to the Pew Research Center (Matsa & Shearer, 2018), nearly half of all adults in the United States routinely get news from social media platforms, even though a majority of people have concerns about the accuracy of these sources. Most social media users admit that news coverage on social media does not improve their understanding of current events (Matsa & Shearer, 2018).

ⁱⁱⁱ The stories about missing males found in this sample were “false positives” because our search terms were female-focused. In order to do a comparison between genders, the researchers would need to use male-focused search terms in the same newspapers across the same four years. While we believe a comparison in news coverage across male and female missing person’s stories is an important academic endeavor, this type of analysis is outside of the purview of the current study.

^{iv} It is potentially problematic to determine someone’s race based on a photograph, as Americans are increasingly mixed race (Tsui, 2018). With that said, skin tones vary for White, Black, and Latinx people (Wilkinson, Garand, & Dunaway, 2015). In the few cases in which a photograph was the primary tool used to establish race, both authors agreed about the coding.

^v The NCIC (2019) data include Hispanic people in the White category. For this reason, the researchers included Hispanic females in the White count.

^{vi} According to the NCIC (2019), the race of the remaining 19,556 (3.19%) missing persons is unknown.

^{vii} We did not code mentions of sexual assault as salaciousness because sexual assault takes place without consent. Descriptions of consensual sexual activities (e.g., sleeping with multiple partners, having extramarital affairs) were coded as salacious.

^{viii} For example, consider the risk of homelessness that sex offenders face as a function of stringent residence restrictions. Not only does homelessness make it quite difficult for law enforcement to track sex offenders effectively (Cherry, 2019), but homelessness produces stressors to the offender that may actually trigger additional offending (Levenson, 2008).

Appendix A

- 1) Law & Order Public Safety. (2010, January 14). *St. Louis Post – Dispatch*, p. A3.
- 2) Body found in Illinois park is that of missing woman. (2010, February 8). *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, p. A5.
- 3) Prado, P. (2010, March 4). World news: Quake jolts Chile's President-Elect from his agenda. *The Wall Street Journal*, p. A15.
- 4) Cart, J. (2010, March 8). Man accused of kidnapping girl. *Los Angeles Times*, p. AA4.
- 5) Jones, C. (2010, March 22). Missing Mill Valley girl found dead in the ocean. *San Francisco Chronicle*, p. C1.
- 6) Hardy, D. (2010, April 5). 5 arrested in Trenton gang rape of 7-year-old. *Philadelphia Inquirer*, p. B3.
- 7) Urbina, I., & Cooper, M. (2010, April 7). Deaths at mine raising issues about safety. *New York Times*, p. A1.
- 8) Notebook – Pro football. (2010, May 7). *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, p. C8.
- 9) Nation and world digest. (2010, May 20). *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, p. A7.
- 10) Local digest. (2010, June 2). *The Washington Post*, p. C1.
- 11) Blevins, J. (2010, June 11). Rafting guide arrested in rescue; Clear Creek's sheriff says the man interfered with efforts to reach a stranded teen girl. *Denver Post*, p. A1.
- 12) News in brief. (2010, June 23). *Philadelphia Inquirer*, p. B2.
- 13) Grossman, A. (2010, June 28). City news: Woman missing after fall into Harlem River. *The Wall Street Journal*, p. A25.
- 14) Luo, M., & Robbins, L. (2010, July 8). Barge strikes a tourist boat in Philadelphia. *New York Times*, p. A14.
- 15) Rivera, R., Baker, A., & Roberts, R. (2010, July 12). A few blocks, 4 Years, 52,000 police stops. *New York Times*, p. A1.
- 16) Nation/world. (2010, August 1). *Chicago Tribune*, p. 10.
- 17) 1,000 words: Atrani, Italy. (2010, September 11). *Los Angeles Times*, p. A2.
- 18) Morris, M., Spink, J., Davis, J., Hunt, A., Fox, P. (2010, October 13). Community news. *The Atlanta Journal–Constitution*, p. B3.
- 19) Hollinshed, D., & Byers, C. (2010, October 22). Student is arrested in girl's beating; Victim is found lying on ground after police officer notices shoe along roadway; Public safety. *St. Louis Post – Dispatch*, p. A2.
- 20) News in brief. (2010, November 11). *Philadelphia Inquirer*, p. B2.
- 21) U.S. news: U.S. watch. (2010, November 19). *The Wall Street Journal*, p. A4.
- 22) Late briefing; New York; Searchers find bodies on beach. (2010, December 14). *Los Angeles Times*, p. AA2.
- 23) Ross, B. (2011, January 27). Texas man inspired after his own tragedy to help others, like the Reeds, find missing loved ones. *The Times-Picayune*, p. A1.
- 24) City news: Greater New York watch. (2011, April 13). *The Wall Street Journal*, p. A21.
- 25) Nation/world. (2011, April 14). *Chicago Tribune*, p. 10.
- 26) Cimilluca, D., & Sonne, P. (2011, July 7). Corporate News: BSKyB Approval Could Be Delayed. *The Wall Street Journal*, p. B3.
- 27) News in brief. (2011, July 21). *Philadelphia Inquirer*, p. B2.
- 28) Cimilluca, D. (2011, July 29). Murdoch to remain BSKyB Chairman. *The Wall Street Journal*, p. B3.
- 29) Sernoffsky, E. (2017, January 24). Bay Area can dry out in calm after storms. *San Francisco Chronicle*, p. C1.
- 30) Schroering, H. (2017, March 23). After Facebook Live attack, girl is again being victimized. *Chicago Tribune*, p. 4.
- 31) Stein, P. (2017, April 8). In D.C., a longtime sanctuary for teens. *The Washington Post*, p. B4.
- 32) McKnight, L. (2017, May 28). Accused child porn maker got previous life sentence slashed. *The Times-Picayune*, p. B4.
- 33) Marrazzo, A. (2017, July 8). Man gets 7 years for kidnapping girl. *Chicago Tribune*, p. 3.
- 34) Newall, M. (2017, September 3). At march, putting grief into action – Marching for those lost to addiction. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, p. B1.
- 35) Myers, A.L. (2017, November 12). Las Vegas shooting victims still searching for their heroes. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, p. A14.
- 36) Moran, R. (2017, November 23). Remains of two fire victims found - Four residents had been reported missing after Barclay Friends fire in West Chester. *Philadelphia Inquirer*, p. B4.
- 37) Foreman, L. (2018, February 15). Southwest Atlanta - 'Find My Friend s' app leads boyfriend to woman's body - Technology points police to woods near charter school. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, p. B2.
- 38) Brasch, B. (2018, March 15). Cobb County – Man shoots self as cops close in. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, p. B4.
- 39) Associated Press. (2018, November 13). Death toll climbs from California fires. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, p. A1.
- 40) Egelko, B. (2018, November 22). Metro. *San Francisco Chronicle*, p. C1.
- 41) Olson, Y.S. (2018, November 5). 1 dead, 1 missing in group lake swim. *Chicago Tribune*, p. 3.
- 42) Craig, T. (2018, November 16). After deadliest fire in California history, search for human remains begins. *The Washington Post*, p. A8.

Appendix B

Codes and Descriptive Statistics for all Variables Over Time Periods

Variables	Code	Time 1 (2010-2011)		Time 2 (2017-2018)	
		N = 76		N = 118	
		N	%	N	%
<i>Race (Story Text Only)</i>					
White	0	5	6.6	8	6.8
Black	1	0	0	10	8.5
Other Races	2	7	9.2	12	10.2
Race Not Specified	3	64	84.2	88	74.6
<i>Race (Based on Story Text and/or Google Search)</i>					
White	0	58	76.3	74	62.7
Black	1	9	11.8	29	24.6
Other Races	2	9	11.8	15	12.7
<i>Age Categories</i>					
Child (0-12)	0	20	26.3	24	20.3
Teenager (13-17)	1	9	11.8	16	13.6
Adult (18-29)	2	17	22.4	30	25.4
Older Adult (30+)	3	16	21.1	27	22.9
Age Not Specified	4	14	18.4	21	17.8
<i>Job Status</i>					
Job Not Stated	0	59	77.6	87	73.7
Lawful Job	1	13	17.1	30	25.4
Sex Worker	2	4	5.3	1	0.8
<i>Socioeconomic Status</i>					
Wealthy	0	1	1.3	6	5.1
Middle Class	1	0	0	2	1.7
Poor	2	2	2.6	8	6.8
Not Specified	3	73	96.1	102	86.4
<i>Mom</i>					
No/Not Stated	0	65	85.5	88	74.6
Yes	1	11	14.5	30	25.4
<i>Sexuality/Salaciousness</i>					
No	0	70	92.1	113	95.8
Yes	1	6	7.9	5	4.2
<i>Innocence</i>					
No	0	70	92.1	108	91.5
Yes	1	6	7.9	10	8.5
<i>Conventional Beauty</i>					
No	0	71	93.4	112	94.9
Yes	1	5	6.6	6	5.1
<i>Safety Status</i>					
Still Missing	0	39	51.3	42	35.6
Found Alive	1	12	15.8	19	16.1
Found Dead	2	25	32.9	57	48.3
<i>Suspect Status</i>					
Not Mentioned	0	44	57.9	55	46.6
Mentioned	1	32	41.1	63	53.4
<i>Region</i>					
West	0	16	21.1	35	29.7
Midwest	1	27	35.5	27	22.9
Northeast	2	19	25	25	21.2
South	3	14	18.4	31	26.3

Appendix C

Chi-Square Analyses & Fisher’s Exact Tests (2-Sided)* with Dummy-Coded Variables

Variables	Time 1 (2010 – 2011)				Time 2 (2017 – 2018)			
	N = 76				N = 118			
	χ^2	DF	P-Value	Phi (Φ)	χ^2	DF	P-Value	Phi (Φ)
White / Child Aged 0 – 12	5.242	1	.030	.263			N/S	
Black / Child Aged 0 – 12			N/S		4.747	1	.029	.201
Black / Legitimate Job			.041				N/S	
“Other” Race / Mom			N/S				.011	
“Other” Race / Suspect Mentioned			N/S		4.931	1	.026	-.204
“Other” Race / Aged 30+			N/S				.021	
Child Aged 0 -12 / Innocence			.038				N/S	
Child Aged 0 – 12 / Mom			N/S		4.641	1	.031	-.198
Teenager 13 – 17 / Suspect Mentioned			N/S		5.733	1	.016	.221
Adult 18-29 / Salaciousness			.000				N/S	
Adult 18-29 / Sex Worker			.002				N/S	
Older Adult (30+) / Mom			.009		21.140	1	.000	.423
Older Adult (30+) / Suspect Mentioned	4.535	1	.033	-.244			N/S	
Older Adult (30+) / Described as Found Alive			.000				N/S	
Legitimate Job / Innocence			N/S (.059)				N/S (.062)	
Legitimate Job / Suspect Mentioned			N/S		4.460	1	.035	.194
Sex Worker / Salaciousness			.000				.042	
West / Adult 18-29			.039				N/S	
West / Innocence			N/S				.032	
Midwest / Mom			N/S (.085)				N/S	
Midwest / Salaciousness			N/S (.083)				N/S	
Midwest / Described as Still Missing	6.086	1	.014	.283			N/S	
Midwest / Described as Found Dead	3.921	1	.048	-.227			N/S	
Midwest / Child Aged 0 – 12	4.494	1	.034	.243			N/S	
Midwest / Adult 18 -29	8.401	1	.004	-.332			N/S	
Midwest / Suspect Mentioned			N/S		5.659	1	.017	-.219
Northeast / Sex Worker			.046				N/S	
Northeast / Described as Still Missing	12.798	1	.000	-.410			N/S	
Northeast / Described as Found Dead	19.094	1	.000	.501			N/S	
Northeast / Aged 30+			N/S		6.409	1	.011	-.233
South / Mom			.004				N/S	
South / Aged 30+			N/S		5.970	1	.015	.225
South / Described as Found Alive			.007				N/S	

* When reporting results from Fisher’s Exact Tests, only p-values are included (Simon, 2000).