

Under Investigation

Social Media Use by Law Enforcement



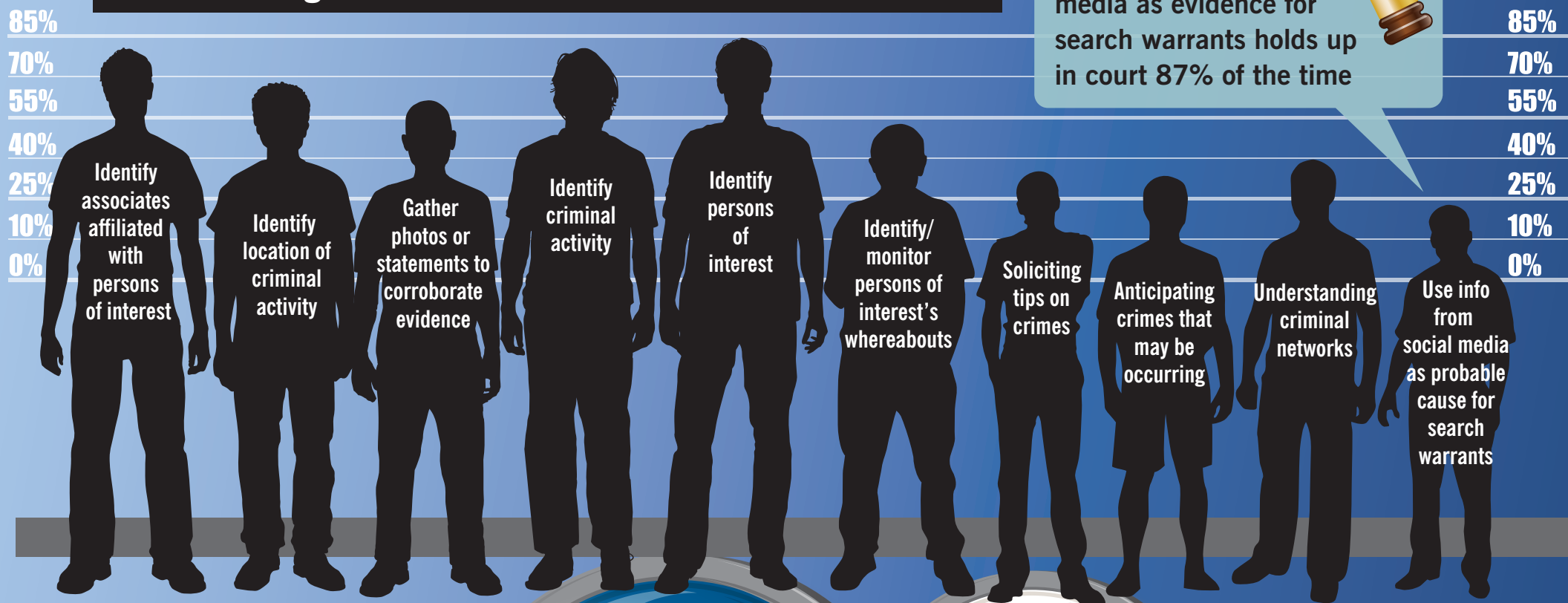
Missing Persons Report

4 out of 5 officers use social media for investigative purposes. Other uses include community outreach, soliciting crime tips, notifying the public and recruitment.

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

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What Investigative Activities Are Done Via Social Media?



When challenged, social media as evidence for search warrants holds up in court 87% of the time

Which Social Media Sites Are Used for Investigations at Least Monthly?



Stop Right There

Why isn't social media used in investigations?

Training Day

How do law enforcement professionals learn to use social media?

Self-trained by getting on and navigating social media sites

Brought knowledge from personal use

Working with a colleague who uses social media

With information from the general media or online

At a seminar or conference that was dedicated to social media

Training given at agency

80% of law enforcement professionals are self-taught when it comes to using social media for investigations

2/3 believe social media helps solve crimes more quickly

Be on the Lookout:

83% of current users expect to use social media more over the next year

74% of non-users intend to start using social media over the next year

Who Is Using Social Media for Investigative Purposes?



Federal: 81%



State: 71%



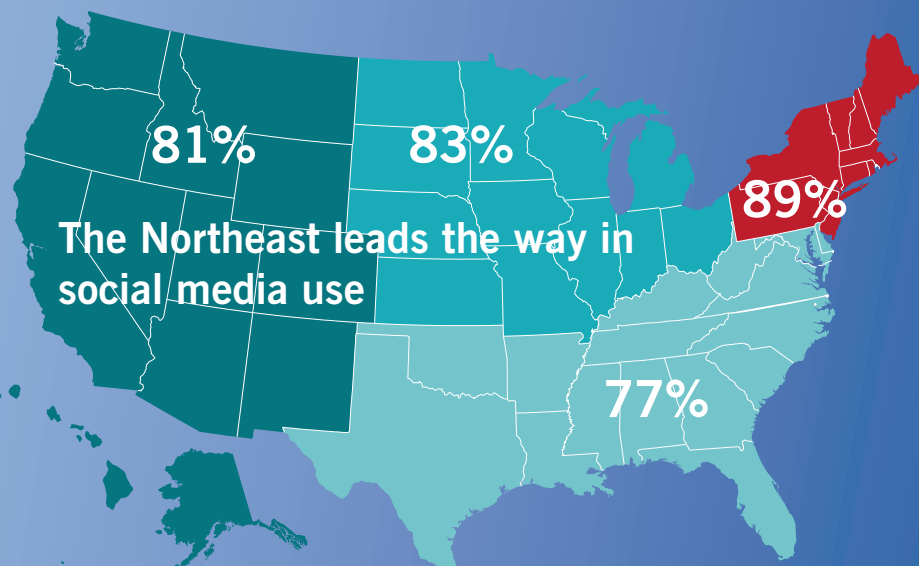
Local: 82%



Rank & File: 79%



Supervisory: 85%



The Northeast leads the way in social media use

Agencies serving smaller populations and with fewer sworn personnel use social media more often

86% usage in cities under 50K

76% usage in cities 51-100K

78% usage in cities over 100K

True Crime Stories

Social media is a valuable tool because you are able to see the activities of a target in his comfortable stage. Targets brag and post illicit valuable information in reference to travel, hobbies, places visited, functions, appointments, circle of friends, family members, relationships, actions, etc.

A terroristic threat involving high school students was discovered. An investigation that included Facebook revealed a student intent on harming others. The student was in the process of acquiring weapons. It's my belief we avoided a "Columbine" type of scenario.