BLACK CODES
Black Youth & the New Jim Code

By Clarence Okoh
Clarence Okoh (he/him) is a civil rights attorney and Just Tech Fellow who works at the intersection of race, technology, and the law. His project explores the role of carceral technologies in driving school pushout for Black and brown youth and how these technologies enable systemic rights abuses. Using a mixture of legal tools and qualitative research methods, his project foregrounds the visions of Black and brown youth seeking to build abolitionist futures.
"WHAT FUTURE(S) IS TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING FOR BLACK YOUTH?"
POLICE SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

- 38% shares student data with law enforcement
- 36% uses predictive policing
- 33% employs facial recognition

Source: Center for Democracy and Technology, Survey Research on Student Parent and Teacher Experiences, September 2023
POLICE SURVEILLANCE TECH IN SCHOOLS

School surveillance is more prevalent in disadvantaged communities. This largely follows preexisting trends in school pushout and youth criminalization where students of color and students with disabilities experience disparate impacts.

Source: Center for Democracy and Technology, Survey Research on Student Parent and Teacher Experiences, September 2023
IMPACT OF SCHOOL SURVEILLANCE ON STUDENTS

- Expands the School-to-Prison Pipeline
- Exposes students and families to immigration enforcement, family policing & other harms
- Creates a more hostile learning environment that diminishes academic & social outcomes
- Violates students' civil rights, human rights & digital rights
- Chilling Effect on Student Speech
CASE STUDY: PASCO COUNTY
**Sheriff's Youth Database**

**Database Example:**
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RDdwVC0-nX9vZrq7L2lQFNG6qlo9hzUKCHPS8P2evmY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RDdwVC0-nX9vZrq7L2lQFNG6qlo9hzUKCHPS8P2evmY/edit?usp=sharing)

**Criteria:** See Pdf
TAKEAWAYS

- Algorithmic Technologies are Redlining the Future, Erasing Past Civil Rights Victories, and Engineering Second-Class Citizenship for Black People Today
- Center the Experience of Black Youth in AI Policy Development and Governance #LiberationByDesign
- Policymakers and Private Industry Must Divest from Surveillance & Invest in Black Futures
- We Must Build a Movement for Black Futures to End the New Jim Code
THANK YOU

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