

Appendix B: Coding Key

Each of the 51 cases in Appendix A was coded along the dimensions defined below. Categories within each dimension are mutually exclusive, and each case receives one code per dimension.

Agency Type

The organizational form of the lead agency that carried out the documented action. For multiagency operations, the code follows the lead agency named first in the cited source; federal, state, or partner agencies noted parenthetically do not change the code. Police Department denotes a municipal or county police force headed by an appointed chief or commissioner (41 cases). Sheriff's Office denotes a county agency headed by an elected sheriff (10 cases).

Jurisdiction (Detailed)

A descriptive characterization of the community where the documented action occurred, meaning the operating environment rather than the agency's nominal boundaries. Each code combines a settlement type with a size or character qualifier, as established by the cited source. Compound codes (e.g., Suburban/county) capture county agencies operating in metropolitan territory. Municipal denotes cities, qualified as major city, mid-size city, or small city; size tiers are informed judgments based on department scale and population rather than fixed population cutoffs. Suburban denotes suburban communities, qualified as county, small town, affluent town, or large city; a large-population city may be coded Suburban where it is a planned suburb within a metropolitan area, regardless of its census count. Rural denotes predominantly rural counties or areas, as characterized by the cited source.

Jurisdiction Class

Jurisdiction (detailed) collapsed into three mutually exclusive classes for the summary tallies: Municipal (34 cases), Suburban (13 cases), and Rural (4 cases). The leading term of the detailed descriptor determines the class. County sheriff's offices are classed by the character of the area where the documented action took place rather than by their status as county agencies; a sheriff's office is not automatically coded Rural. Where an operation spanned multiple settings, the code reflects the dominant setting described in the cited source.

Concern Category

The community concern that prompted the documented action, coded as the cited source characterized it. The category reflects the problem the community raised (i.e., the driver of the action), rather than the offenses ultimately charged. Drug activity/open-air markets covers complaints about drug sales, drug trafficking, or open-air drug markets, whether concentrated at a single address or spread across an area; cases are coded here even where the source adds a quality-of-life framing, because the named drug problem is the dominant concern. Gun/violent crime covers shootings, gun violence, and violent-crime concentrations, including mixed violence-and-disorder concerns where violence dominates the source's framing. Street racing/reckless driving covers organized vehicle events (e.g., street racing, takeovers, and sideshows), including the reckless driving associated with them. Illegal dirt bikes/ATVs covers off-road vehicles ridden illegally on public streets, kept separate from Street racing/reckless driving because the dominant concern is noise and nuisance rather than organized racing events. Retail theft covers theft from retailers, particularly organized retail crime affecting business communities. Property/agricultural/package theft covers property theft other than retail theft or burglary: package theft, catalytic-converter and metal theft, and theft of agricultural equipment, fuel, and copper wire. Burglary covers break-ins targeting homes or businesses, comprising one residential case and one small-business case. Quality of life/disorder covers disorder complexes without one dominant named crime, including downtown and entertainment-district safety, 311 quality-of-life complaints, and visible vice corridors; prostitution and human-trafficking corridor concerns are coded here because residents raised them as neighborhood disorder problems. Traffic/speeding covers ordinary speeding and reckless-driving complaints not tied to organized racing events. Threats/community safety covers a protective enforcement posture adopted in response to threats reported elsewhere, without a documented local crime increase. Community trust/engagement covers relationship- and trust-building itself as the stated concern, without a triggering offense. General/multi-issue patrol covers broad, multi-issue concerns with no single named offense, including general crime trends, rural response times, seasonal crime, and combined crime-and-traffic concerns.

Three conventions govern this dimension. Where a source names multiple concerns, the code follows the concern the source presents as the driver of the action (e.g., Case 32's concentrated gun violence and disorder is coded to Gun/violent crime). Vehicle-related complaints split three ways: organized events code to Street racing/reckless driving, off-road vehicles on streets code to Illegal dirt bikes/ATVs, and ordinary speeding codes to Traffic/speeding. Theft complaints likewise split three ways: theft from retailers codes to Retail theft, break-ins targeting homes or businesses code to Burglary, and other property theft codes to Property/agricultural/package theft.

Response Approach

The primary enforcement approach taken in response to the concern, coded from the tactics described in the cited source, with each case coded by its dominant tactic. Targeted investigation/warrant denotes an investigation of specific suspects or locations culminating in search or arrest warrants. Intelligence/technology-led denotes a response driven by intelligence or technology, such as ballistics matching (NIBIN), real-time crime centers, automated license plate readers or drones, or task-force intelligence. Hot-spot/focused deterrence denotes resources concentrated at identified high-harm locations, focused on the places and hours where an identified crime pattern clusters, or directed against identified drivers of violence. Problem-oriented/data-driven denotes conditions analyzed through data and addressed with a mix of enforcement and non-enforcement tools. Saturation/directed patrol denotes a broad, stepped-up enforcement presence, sweep, or directed patrol across an area. Community-oriented/reassurance denotes visibility, engagement, or relationship-building aimed primarily at restoring a sense of safety or trust. Three conventions govern operations that look similar on the surface. Mass-arrest sweep operations, in which those arrested are identified during the operation itself, are coded Saturation/directed patrol regardless of the investigative techniques employed, while the coordinated execution of arrest warrants against suspects identified or charged before the operation is coded Targeted investigation/warrant, even when carried out as a single large-scale action. Undercover vice operations are coded by structure. Operations built as investigative stings that develop cases against a defined offender class, such as traffickers who recruit undercover officers, are coded Targeted investigation/warrant, while high-volume solicitation sweeps that arrest participants encountered during the operation are coded Saturation/directed patrol. Short-duration retail operations are coded by targeting method. Operations deployed against identified locations or suspects, using retailer intelligence and prosecution follow-through, are coded Problem-oriented/data-driven, while zero-tolerance blitzes that arrest all offenders encountered are coded Saturation/directed patrol.

Evidence-Based Alignment

Whether the coded Response Approach aligns with the focused, evaluated strategies favored in the evidence-based policing literature. The code follows directly from the Response Approach. Focused/evidence-aligned comprises Targeted investigation/warrant, Intelligence/technology-led, Hot-spot/focused deterrence, and Problem-oriented/data-driven responses, which carry stronger empirical support in evaluation research. Broad/reactive comprises Saturation/directed patrol responses (i.e., high-visibility saturation or sweep tactics with weaker evidence of lasting effect). Community/reassurance comprises Community-oriented/reassurance responses aimed at perceived safety rather than at a measured crime increase.

Enforcement Year(s) and Report Year.

The enforcement year is the calendar year or years in which the documented action occurred, as established by the cited source, with multiyear operations carrying a year range. The report year is the calendar year in which the cited announcement or report was published; the recency convention below anchors to this field.

Reported Success Metric

The strongest measure of success claimed in the cited source for the enforcement action. Where multiple metric types appear in a source, the case is coded to the strongest under the hierarchy Measured outcomes, then Outputs only, then Reassurance/perception claim, then None reported. Measured outcomes requires a specific, falsifiable claim of a change in crime, harm, victimization, or response times attributed to the action, with a stated magnitude, count, or period; vague directional assertions without a magnitude or period do not qualify, and such cases are coded at the next-strongest metric present. Outputs only covers enforcement activity results reported in the cited source, such as arrests, citations, summonses, seizures, impounds, recovered property, or cases referred for prosecution, including anecdotal results and year-over-year comparisons of activity totals; where a source claims success and supports that claim with an enforcement result, even a single arrest or recovery, the case is coded here. Reassurance/perception claim covers success framed as a restored feeling of safety, visibility, trust, or reassurance, without an activity total or outcome claim. None reported covers sources that describe or announce the action without making any results claim, including pre-operational announcements and forward-looking program launches.

In Appendix A, *** is appended to None reported when the cited announcement carries a 2026 report year, which was too recent, as of the July 2026 coding date, for reported results to be expected. The absence of results in older cases is not explained by recency. The marker is an annotation rather than a fifth category, and tallies count marked and unmarked None reported cases together. Coding reflects the claim made in each case's cited Appendix A source only, not the operation's broader public record; outcome evidence that exists outside the cited announcement is treated as a textual finding in the study and is not coded here.

Source Type

The origin of the source cited for the case in Appendix A. Official agency release denotes a statement published by the agency itself or by the relevant government entity. News report quoting agency denotes a news report quoting or summarizing the agency's announcement.