QAnon Crimes Codebook

Version 1.2

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QAnon Crimes in the United States: A Comprehensive Dataset

Codebook Overview

This codebook details the inclusion criteria, collection procedures, and coding rules that are used to compile the QAnon Crime Maps and QAnon offender datasets maintained by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland.

Criteria for Inclusion:

- The individual must have radicalized, in whole or in part, in the United States.
- The individual must have espoused or currently espouse ideological motives related to the QAnon and/or PizzaGate conspiracy theories.
- The individual must have committed an ideologically motivated crime that resulted in his/her arrest, indictment, or death.
- There must be documented evidence to support a reasonable suspicion that the individual's crime(s) was related, in whole or in part, to their support for the QAnon and/or PizzaGate conspiracy theories.

QAnon Crime Maps: Crimes/Plots

1. Field Name: **Date of Offense/Arrest**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: Date that the criminal offense occurred. If the date of the crime is unknown, this field displays the date that the offender was arrested/indicted.

2. Field Name: **Location**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: City and State where the crime occurred. If the criminal act involved a plot that was disrupted by law enforcement before it could be carried out, this field reflects the location of the intended target. If the intended target was not a specific entity with an identifiable location, this field represents the location of arrest.

3. Field Name: **Description**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: Narrative summary of the criminal act.

4. Field Name: **Number of Offenders**
   Variable Type: Numeric
   Description: The number of offenders who participated in the criminal offense and were arrested, indicted, or died as a result of the incident.

5. Field Name: **Number Killed**
   Variable Type: Numeric
   Description: The number of victims who were killed in the incident. This number does not include perpetrator fatalities.

6. Field Name: **Number Wounded**
   Variable Type: Numeric
   Description: The number of victims who were injured in the incident. This number does not include perpetrator injuries.

7. Field Name: **Property Damage**
   Variable Type: Dichotomous
   Description: Did the incident result in damage to physical property? This includes property belonging to the perpetrator(s) of the crime.

8. Field Name: **Other Affiliations**
   Variable Type: Text

Description: The name of additional extremist groups or movements for which the perpetrator(s) of the crime was affiliated. Affiliation includes formal group membership and expressions of support for the group/movement.

9. Field Name: **Source 1 & 2**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: Full references for up to two sources that provide coverage of the crime/offender. Priority is given to court documents and those which establish the link between the crime and the offender's support for the QAnon and/or PizzaGate conspiracy theories.

QAnon Crime Maps: Capitol Defendants

1. Field Name: **Name**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: The full name(s) of the defendant or defendants from a specific city/state that have been charged for participating the Capitol breach of January 6, 2021.

2. Field Name: **Location**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: The city/state where the defendant or defendants were residing on January 6, 2021.

3. Field Name: **Charges**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: The full list of criminal offenses for which the defendant or defendants have been charged.

4. Field Name: **Outcome**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: The results of the criminal proceedings related to the defendant or defendants. This includes guilty pleas, convictions, acquittals, and sentences.

5. Field Name: **Notes**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: A short narrative detailing evidence of the defendant or defendants' support for the QAnon and/or PizzaGate conspiracy theories.

6. Field Name: **Other Affiliations**
   Variable Type: Text

Description: The names of additional extremist groups or movements for which the defendant or defendants were affiliated. Affiliation includes formal group membership and expressions of support for the group/movement.

7. Field Name: **Source 1 & 2**
   Variable Type: Text
   Description: Full references for up to two sources that provide coverage of the defendant or defendants. Priority is given to court documents, reliable sources, and those which establish the link between the crime and the offender's support for the QAnon and/or PizzaGate conspiracy theories.

QAnon Offender Data

1. Field Name: **Subject_ID**
   Variable Type: Numerical
   Source: PIRANA and PIRUS
   Description: Unique 4-digit or 5-digit numerical identifier for each individual in the dataset.

2. Field Name: **Individual_Name**
   Variable Type: Text
   Source: PIRANA and PIRUS
   Description: Name of the individual, with last name followed by first name and divided by a semi-colon. If there are numerous alternative spellings, use the most common name reported in sources. If the most common spelling is unclear, use the name as reported in official documents, or failing that, any major, reputable print news source.

3. Field Name: **Ideological_Activity_Description**
   Variable Type: Text
   Source: PIRANA
   Description: Provide a brief description of the circumstances surrounding the individual's first publicly known ideological extremist activity. Attempt to capture basic "what" and "how". For example: "In the Lackawanna Plot, a group of seven Yemeni-Americans are arrested for allegedly providing material support for al-Qaeda and running a terrorist cell in Buffalo. Cell members were influenced by a lecture given by the extremist imam Juma al-Dosari in 2001." If the individual is involved in multiple plots, describe them sequentially (separated by a semi-colon), in chronological order

4. Field Name: **Loc_Plot_State/Loc_Plot_City**
   Variable Type: Text
   Source: PIRANA
   Description: Enter the U.S. state and city or foreign country where the first publically known extremist plot/activity was centered. This could include where the person was arrested, where

he/she did most of his/her training, or where the individual intended to attack. In essence, it records the location most commonly associated in the media with the individual plot/activity. The state name and city name should be listed in separate cells but paired together (e.g., Illinois | Chicago). If there are multiple locales, list up to three. A different variable will capture where the individual radicalized. If unknown, list -99.

5. Field Name: **Date_Exposure**
   Variable Type: Date
   Source: PIRANA
   Description: Enter the date (using the format MM/DD/YYYY) when the individual's activity/plot first came to public attention. This is usually the time of incident or arrest, or earliest mention of individual in sources, so long as these are related to the plot/radicalization of the individual.

6. Field Name: **Year_Exposure**
   Variable Type: Date
   Source: PIRANA
   Description: Enter the year (using the format YYYY) when the individual's activity/plot first came to public attention. This is usually the time of incident or arrest, or earliest mention of individual in sources, so long as these are related to the plot/radicalization of the individual.

7. Field Name: **Plot_Target**
   Type: Categorical, Multiple Entry
   Source: Global Terrorism Database
   Description: If the individual's first publically known extremist activity included a violent plot, enter the target type or intended target type of the plot. Select up to three target types, putting the corresponding numbers in ascending order. If unknown, list -99. If there is no violent plot or no specific plot target, list -88.

   1 = Businesses
   2 = Government (general)
   3 = Police
   4 = Military
   5 = Abortion related
   6 = Airports & aircraft
   7 = Government (diplomatic)
   8 = Educational institution
   9 = Food or water supply
   10 = Journalists & media
   11 = Maritime (includes ports and maritime facilities)
   12 = Non-governmental organization
   13 = Other (e.g., ambulances, firefighters)

14 = Private citizens & property

15 = Religious figures/institutions

16 = Telecommunication

17 = Terrorists/non-state militia

18 = Tourists

19 = Transportation

20 = Utilities

-99 = Unknown

-88 = Not Applicable (i.e., no plot)

8. Field Name: **Plot_Target_Description**

Variable Type: Text

Source: PIRUS

Description: Describe the target(s) or intended target(s) of the violent plot mentioned in **Plot_Target** with as much detail as possible. Enter -99 if unknown. Enter -88 if there is no violent plot or plot target.

9. Field Name: **Violent**

Variable Type: Dichotomous

Source: PIRUS

Description: Did the individual actively participate in ideologically motivated operations/actions that resulted in casualties/injuries or clearly intended to result in casualties/injuries (but failed), or were they charged with conspiracy to kill or injure but were interdicted in the plotting phase? Examples of violent operations/plots include murder, assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, bombing, and arson (but not if they purposely avoid human causalities). Examples of nonviolent ideologically motivated operations/actions include property destruction/vandalism, illegal protest, armed standoffs that were defused without injury, receiving "terrorist" training but not acting on it, inciting others to violence but no direct action themselves, threatening violent actions without operational progress toward a plot, possession of illegal weapons without operational plans for violence, and "paper terrorism" tactics (e.g. filing false liens, tax fraud, etc.). If you are unsure whether an action should be considered violent or non-violent, ask your supervisor.

0 = No

1 = Yes

10. Field Name: **Extent_Plot**

Variable Type: Ordinal

Source: PIRUS

Description: If the individual's extremist activity involved a violent plot, to what extent did the plot progress? I.e., how far did the planning and execution proceed? Select the highest value

for which there is convincing evidence in the sources available. For example, if you know that individuals discussed a plot but do know if they attempted to acquire materials, enter 1.

    0 = No plot
    1 = Nebulous plot (general ideas only, threats made to targets in the absence of an planning or preparation)
    2 = Attempted acquisition of materials for plot
    3 = Acquisition and possession of materials for plot
    4 = Attempted and failed execution of plot
    5 = Successful execution of plot
    -99 = Unknown

11. Field Name: **Internet_Radicalization**
Variable Type: Ordinal
Source: PIRANA
Description: What role did the Internet play in the individual's radicalization? If you know the Internet played a role but not the extent to which it played a role, then select 1 for "Internet played a role but was not the primary means of radicalization."

    0 = No known role of the Internet in individual's radicalization
    1 = Internet played a role but was not the primary means of radicalization (e.g. internet resources were used to reaffirm or advance pre-existing radical beliefs)
    2 = Internet was the primary means of radicalization for the individual (e.g. initial exposure to ideology and subsequent radicalization occurred online)
    -99 = Unknown
    -88 = Not Applicable (radicalization occurred before 1995)

12. Field Name: **Loc_Habitation_State/Loc_Habitation_City**
Variable Type: Text
Source: PIRANA
Description: Enter the US state and city where the individual spent most of their time residing in the United States. The state name and city name should be listed in separate cells but paired together (e.g., Illinois | Chicago). If there are multiple locales, list up to three. A different variable will capture where the individual radicalized. If unknown, list -99.

13. Field Name: **Loc_Rad_State/Loc_Rad_City**
Variable Type: Text
Source: PIRANA

Description: Enter the American state/province and city where the individual adopted extremist beliefs. If preceding variable (**Itinerant**) is "Yes", then this should reflect the last state the individual is known to have resided in prior to his/her extremist activity associated with their date of exposure. The state name and city name should be listed in separate cells but paired together (e.g., Illinois | Chicago). If there are multiple locales, list up to three. If unknown, list -99. Note: In most cases, this location is the same as where the individual resided. If the beginning and most significant/largest portion of the individual's radicalization occurred outside the United States, he/she does not belong in the dataset. If you discover this to be the case, contact your supervisor.

14. Field Name: **Rad_Duration**
    Variable Type: Ordinal
    Source: PIRUS
    Description: What was the duration of time between the individual's first evidence of radicalization (either radicalization of beliefs or radicalization of behaviors, whichever occurs first) and their public exposure (when the plot/threat first came to public attention)? Enter the minimum amount of time of which you are sure. For example, if a source first indicates radicalization occurred in 2002 and the plot also occurred in 2002, enter 1, even if you think the radicalization might have occurred earlier. If, however, there is a report of the individual attending an extremist group meeting in 1995 and the plot occurred in 2002, enter 3.

    1 = Short (less than a year)
    2 = Medium (between one and five years)
    3 = Long (more than five years)
    -99 = Unknown
    -88 = Not Applicable (there was no plot/threat)

15. Field Name: **Age**
    Variable Type: Numerical
    Source: PIRANA
    Description: What was the age of the individual at the date of exposure (usually time of incident or arrest)? If sources list multiple ages, use the age reported in the most recent reliable source. If unknown, list -99.

16. Field Name: **Marital_Status**
    Variable Type: Categorical
    Source: PIRANA
    Description: What was the individual's marital status at the date of exposure?

    1 = Single (never married)
    2 = Married (religious or civil marriage qualifies)

3 = Divorced or Separated

4 = Widowed

-99 = Unknown

17. Field Name: **Children**

    Variable Type: Numerical

    Source: PIRANA

    Description: Enter the number of children the individual had at date of exposure. If unknown, list -99. If you know the individual had children but are unsure how many, then enter the minimum number you are confident about. For example, a source might say, "In 1993, Jane Doe moved to Los Angeles to live with her son, John." In this case, you would enter "1" for one child, even though the text does not indicate whether John is Jane's only son. Similarly, if a source says the subject had "children," enter 2, even though they may have had more than two children.

18. Field Name: **Gender**

    Variable Type: Dichotomous

    Description: What is the individual's gender?

    1 = Female

    2 = Male

    -99 = Unknown

19. Field Name: **Education**

    Variable Type: Categorical

    Source: PIRUS (adapted from PIRANA)

    Description: What was the highest level of education completed by the date of exposure? Select the highest level for which you are confident. For example, if the source says only "John Doe attended high school in Prince Georges County, Maryland", then you should select "3=High School Diploma" even though the source does not state that John Doe did not attend college. An exception to this rule is when the source says something like "John Doe enrolled in the University of Maryland in 1999" but does not specify whether he graduated, then you should assume "5=College Degree." Only enter that the individual was a dropout if sources indicate the person dropped out of the relevant educational level; for example, if sources state an individual attended college, but say nothing about whether the individual dropped out, enter 5, for "College degree."

    1 = Did not attempt high school

    2 = Some High school

    3 = High school diploma

    4 = Some College

5 = College degree

6 = Some Vocational school

7 = Vocational school degree

8 = Some Master's school

9 = Master's degree

10 = Some Doctoral/Professional degree

11 = Doctoral/Professional degree

-99 = Unknown

20. Field Name: **Employment_Status**

Variable Type: Categorical

Source: NCTC (Q. C6)

Description: What was the subject's employment status at the time of exposure? Note: if you cannot determine whether an individual was looking for work or not looking for work while unemployed, assume 3. Additionally, if you do not know whether an individual was employed or self-employed, assume 1=Employed.

1 = Employed

2 = Self-employed

3 = Unemployed, looking for work

4 = Unemployed, not looking for work

5 = Student

6 = Retired

-99 = Unknown

21. Field Name: **Work_History**

Variable Type: Ordinal

Source: PIRUS

Description: What is the individual's work history? If a source indicates an individual was employed but does not include enough information to determine whether he/she was underemployed, serially employed, or regularly employed, then enter 4=Regularly Employed. If the individual did not establish a work history (e.g., they were a student or a minor at the time of exposure), enter -88 for N/A.

1 = Long-term Unemployed

2 = Underemployed (i.e. less than full-time)

3 = Serially Employed (i.e. jumped from job to job)

4 = Regularly Employed (i.e. held the same job for a long period or followed an upward and/or conventional career path in the given profession)

-99 = Unknown

-88 = N/A (the individual did not establish a work history)

22. Field Name: **Military**
Variable Type: Categorical
Source: PIRUS (Adapted from NCTC (Qs.D2, D6, D8))
Description: Was the individual ever in the US military? If you know the individual was in the US military but not whether he/she was active or inactive at the time of radicalization, enter "1=Yes, inactive at time of radicalization, unknown deployment.

   0 = No
   1 = Yes, inactive at time of radicalization, unknown deployment
   2 = Yes, inactive at time of radicalization, never deployed
   3 = Yes, inactive at time of radicalization but previously deployed
   4 = Yes, active at time of radicalization, unknown if ever deployed
   5 = Yes, active at time of radicalization but never deployed to an active combat zone
   6 = Yes, active at time of radicalization and had been deployed to an active combat zone
   -99 = Unknown

23. Field Name: **Psychological**
Variable Type: Dichotomous
Source: PIRUS
Description: Is there evidence presented in the sources that the individual had a history of mental illness? If the source indicates "yes" but does not indicate whether by popular speculation or professional diagnosis, assume "1=Yes, according to public/popular speculation". (Note, cognitive impairments - such as traumatic brain injuries, age-related declines, low IQs, or other intellectual disabilities - are NOT psychological conditions. Furthermore, for the purposes of this coding, ADHD and minor, undiagnosed claims of anxiety do NOT qualify.) If there is no information, assume 0 for No.

   0 = No
   1 = Yes, according to public/popular speculation
   2 = Yes, professionally diagnosed

24. Field Name: **Alcohol_Drug**
Variable Type: Dichotomous
Source: PIRUS
Description: Is there evidence presented in the sources that the individual had a history of alcohol or drug abuse? Occasional consumption of alcohol does not qualify as abuse. Indicators of abuse may include attendance at AA meetings (or comparable meetings for other substances), relationship troubles stemming from alcohol or drug abuse, prior arrests and sanctions for alcohol or drug abuse, and poor performance at work or in other aspects of life as a result of alcohol or drug consumption. If there is no information, assume 0 for No.

0 = No
1 = Yes

25. Field Name: **Previous_Criminal_Activity**
Variable Type: Ordinal
Source: PIRANA
Description: Prior to their radicalization, does the individual have a history of involvement in non-ideologically motivated criminal activities? If you know the individual has a non-ideological criminal history but have no information about the nature of his/her past criminal activity, assume "1=Previous (non-violent) minor criminal activity".

    0 = No previous criminal activity
    1 = Previous (non-violent) minor criminal activity (e.g., convicted of a misdemeanor crime)
    2 = Previous (non-violent) serious criminal activity (e.g., convicted of a felony crime)
    3 = Previous violent crime
    -99 = Unknown

26. Field Name: **Trauma**
Variable Type: Categorical
Source: PIRUS (Adapted from NCTC (Q. F3) [Changed response categories]
Description: Prior to radicalization, was subject ever exposed to any traumatic event in which he/she witnessed an event or events that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of others, where his/her response involved intense fear, helplessness, or horror? Provide additional details in **Mindset_Text**. Examples of traumatic experiences will vary from case to case. When coding this variable, pay most attention to how the individual expressed he or she was psychologically affected by the event, and not necessarily to the severity of the event itself.

    0 = No
    1 = Yes, but timing vis-à-vis radicalization is unknown
    2 = Yes, but a long time before radicalization
    3 = Yes, shortly before radicalization
    -99 = Unknown