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Overview of Social Listening Methods

Carrie Pierce, Director, Client Delivery
Epidemico, Inc.

Cardiac Safety Research Consortium • FDA White Oak Campus





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Perspective

Digital Disease Detection — Harnessing the Web for Public Health Surveillance

John S. Brownstein, Ph.D., Clark C. Freifeld, B.S., and Lawrence C. Madoff, M.D.

N Engl J Med 2009; 360:2153-2157 | [May 21, 2009](#) | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp0900702

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The Internet has become a critical medium for clinicians, public health practitioners, and laypeople seeking health information. Data about diseases and outbreaks are disseminated not only through online announcements by government agencies but also through informal channels, ranging from press reports to blogs to chat rooms to analyses of Web searches (see Digital Resources for

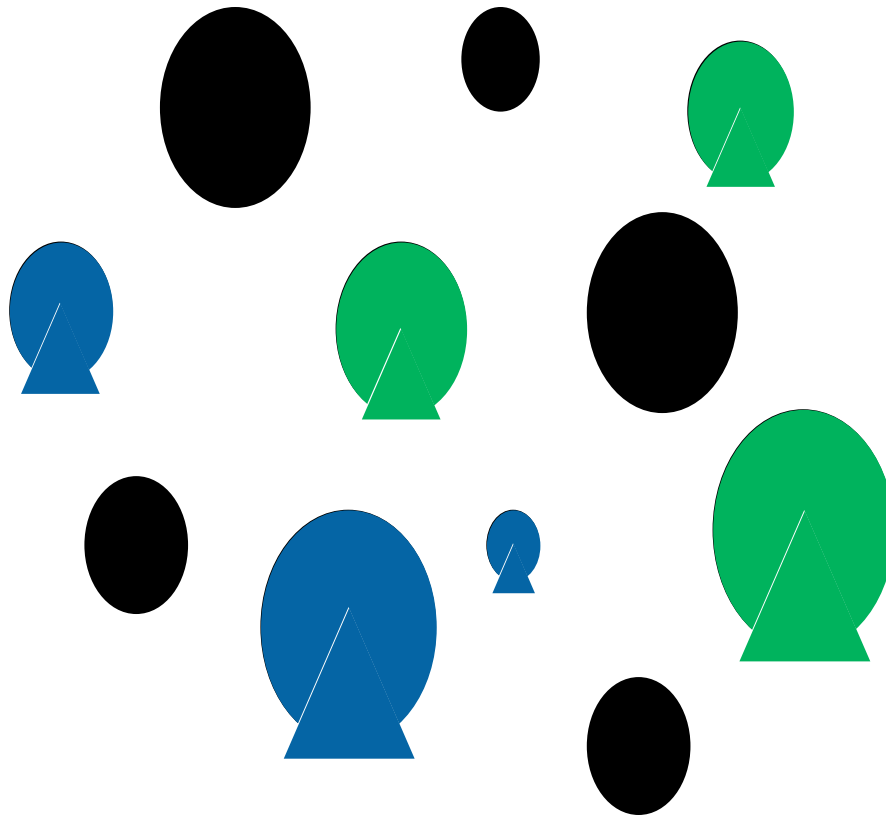
Machine Learning

vs.

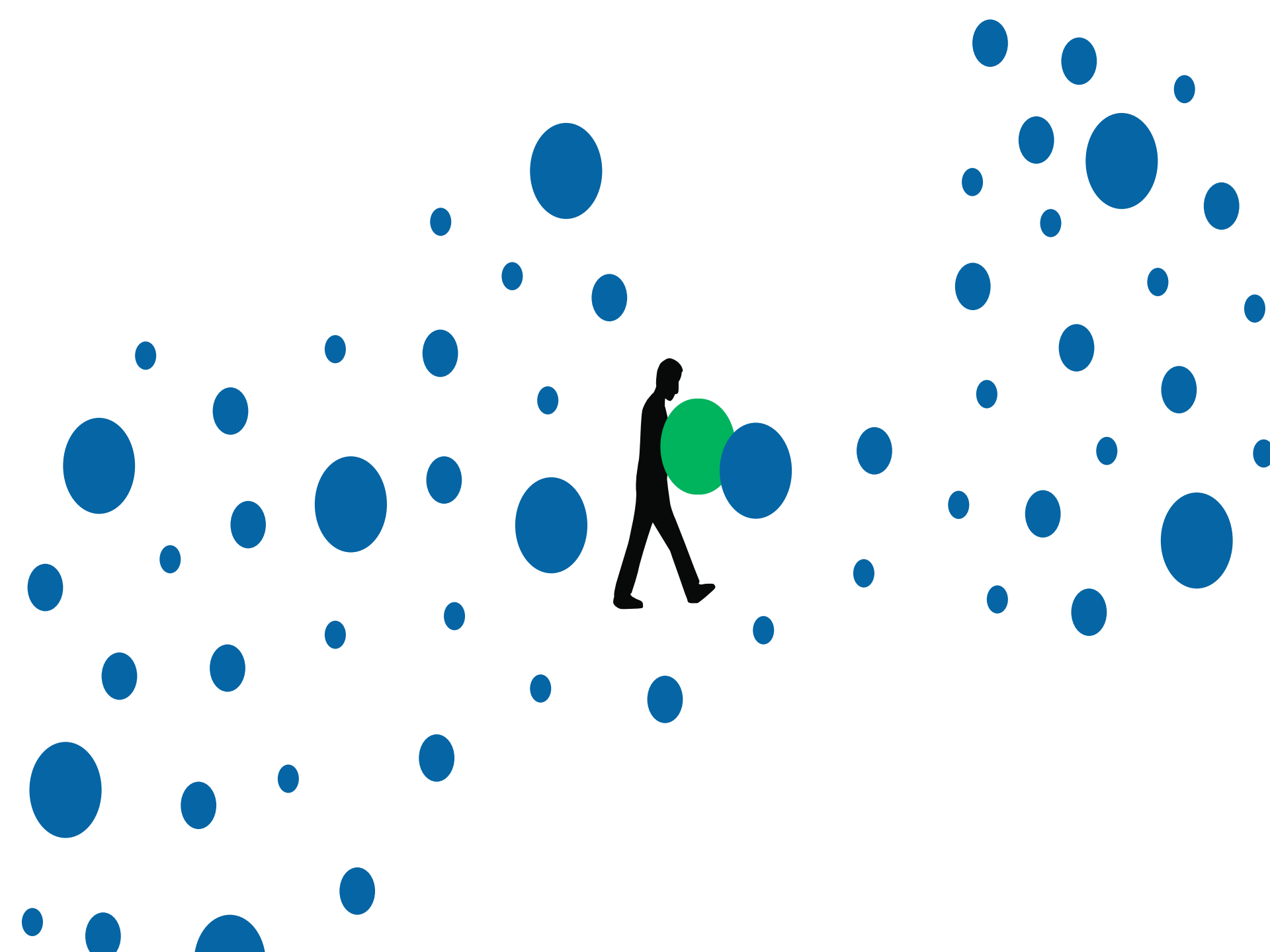
Natural Language Processing

Natural Language Processing

Extract the most important elements.

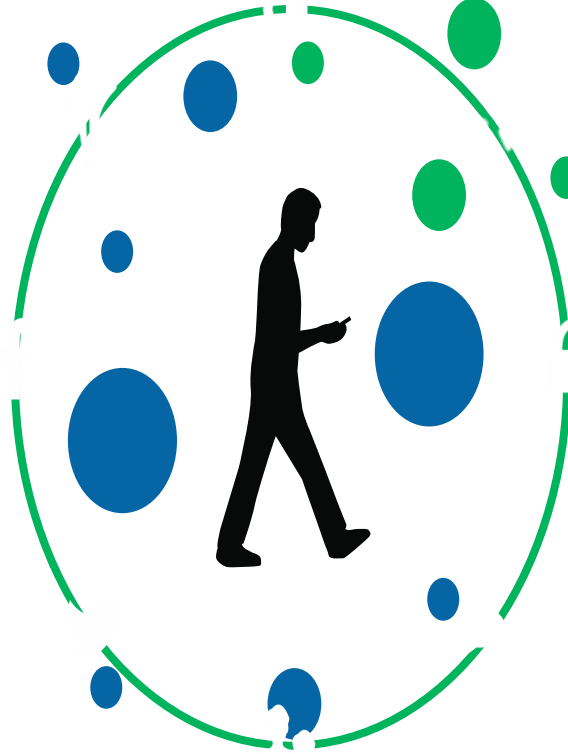


Data Processing



Acquire

Collect unstructured data from social media APIs, third-party authorized resellers, and automated scraping.



Process

Data are passed through a series of apps, emerging as meaningful bits of information.



geo-tag



de-identify



detect
benefits



detect
adverse
events



detect
sentiment



language
translation



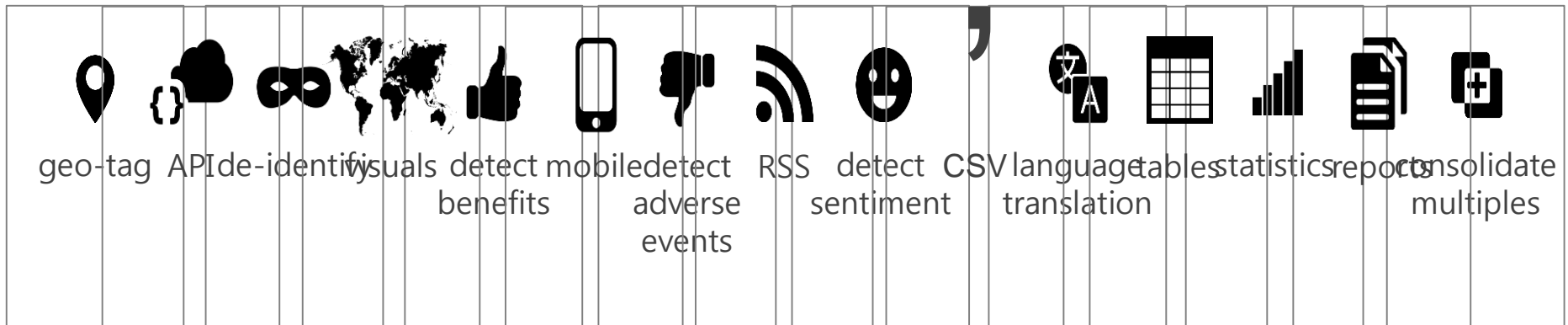
statistics



consolidate
multiples

Export

Relevant data are passed to another series of apps in preparation for human interpretation and analysis.

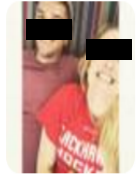


Export

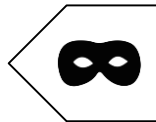
Relevant data are passed to another series of apps in preparation for human interpretation and analysis.



“Proto-AE”



S [redacted]
@[redacted]



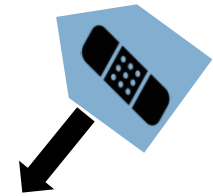
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Albuterol has me feeling all sorts of dizzy and weak this morning 🥵 😊



6:21 AM - 17 [redacted] 5



Asthenia
MedDRA: 10003549



Dizziness
MedDRA: 10013573

visual snow dont want to eat cross vision lost my appetite
apetite surpressed googley eyed no appetitey doublevision
blind appetite is nonexistent blurry
anore vision doble Spelling Typos
couldn't
st appetite lost th Emoticons ages
car
sin hambre Inven
cross eyed seeing weird colour stomach small changes in vis
lack of apetite never want to eat seeing weird color never h

visual snow dont want to eat cross vision lost my appetite
apetite surpressed googley eyed no appetitey doublevision
blind appetite is nonexistent blurry vision 🙄 miss feeling h
anorexic visión doble #notevenhungry blindness cant eat
ouldn't see making me eat like a mouse vision change blurry
st appetite lost their eyesight didn't get hungry seeing doub
can't eat killed my apetite googly eyed lost teh appetite

Visual impairment
MedDRA 10047571

Visual impairment
SNOMED 397540003

Decreased appetite
MedDRA 10061428

Loss of appetite
SNOMED 79890006

Classifier Performance

Albuterol has me feeling all sorts of dizzy and weak this morning 🤔

1. Tokenization

albuterol
albuterol has
albuterol has me
has me
has me feeling
feeling
feeling all
feeling all sorts
sorts
sorts of dizzy
dizzy
dizzy and weak
weak
weak this
weak this morning
morning
morning 🤔



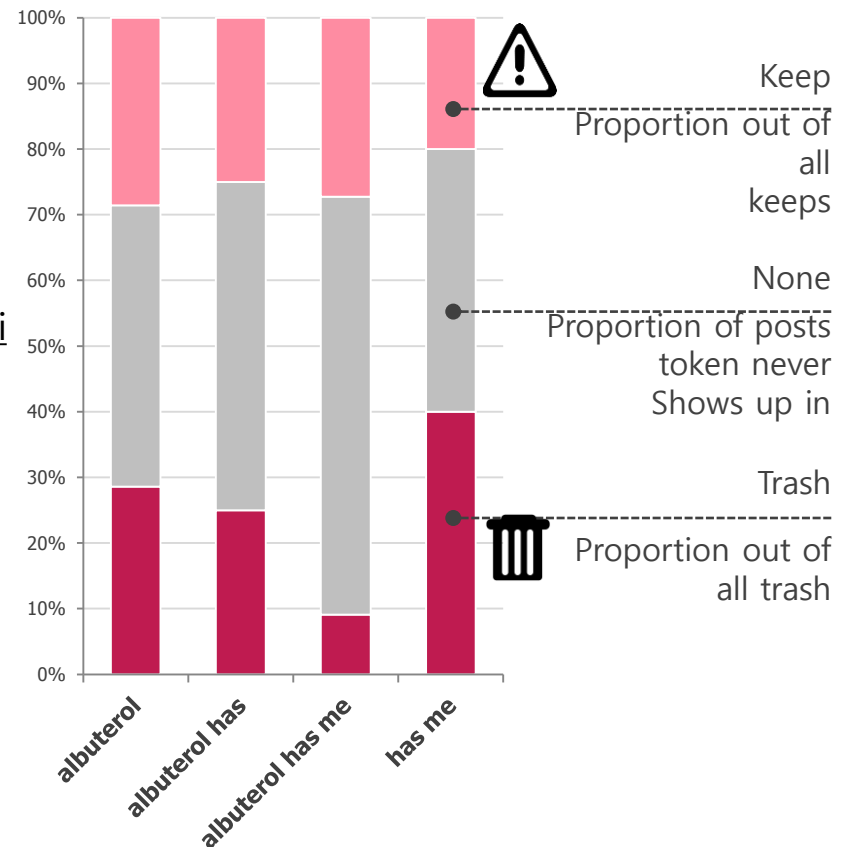
2. Score calculation

For each token "w"

$$b(w) = \frac{\text{(number of positives containi ng w)}}{\text{(total number of positives)}}$$

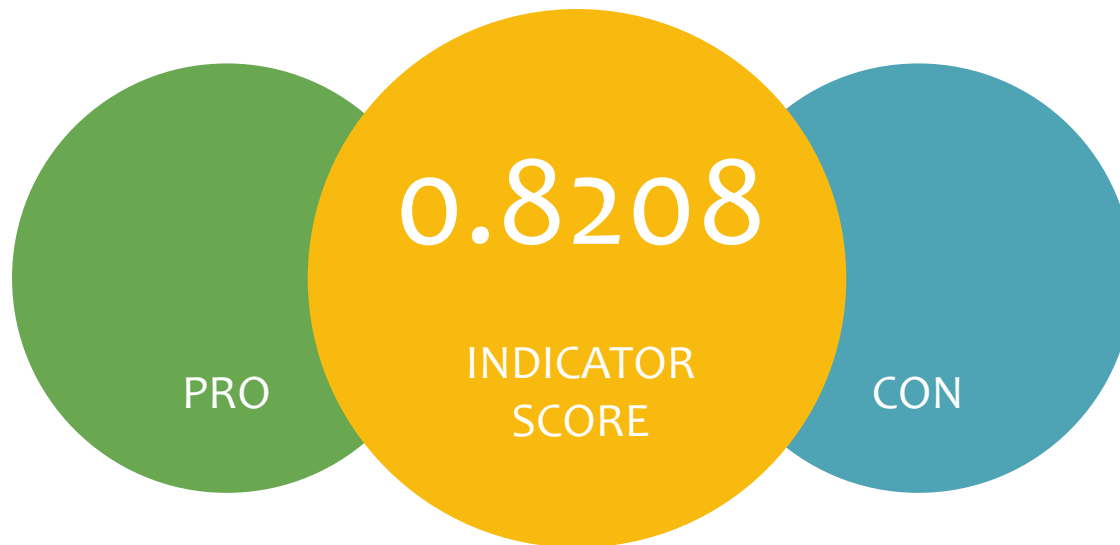
$$g(w) = \frac{\text{(number of negatives containi ng w)}}{\text{(total number of negatives)}}$$

$$p(w) = \frac{b(w)}{b(w) + g(w)}$$

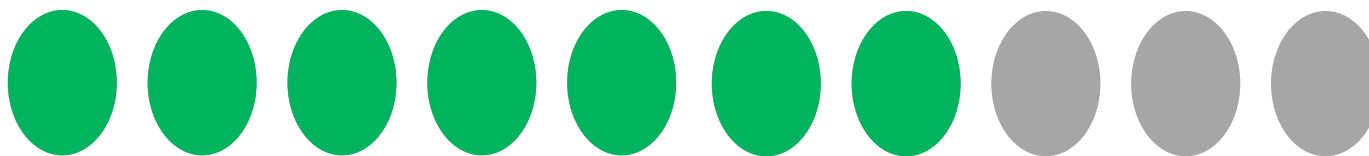


Classifier Performance

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Positive Predictive Value or Precision

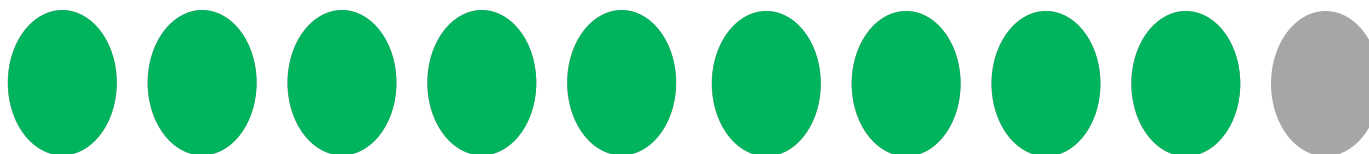


7 of **10** posts contain adverse event information (0.68).

Can increase to 100% with manual curation (may vary by product).

If the algorithm says it is a Proto-AE, then 7 out of 10 times is actually is.

Sensitivity or Recall



Automated tools identify **9** OF **10** adverse events
across all products, all time, all data sources (0.88).

The algorithm correctly identifies 9 out of 10 Proto-AEs from the pool of everything.

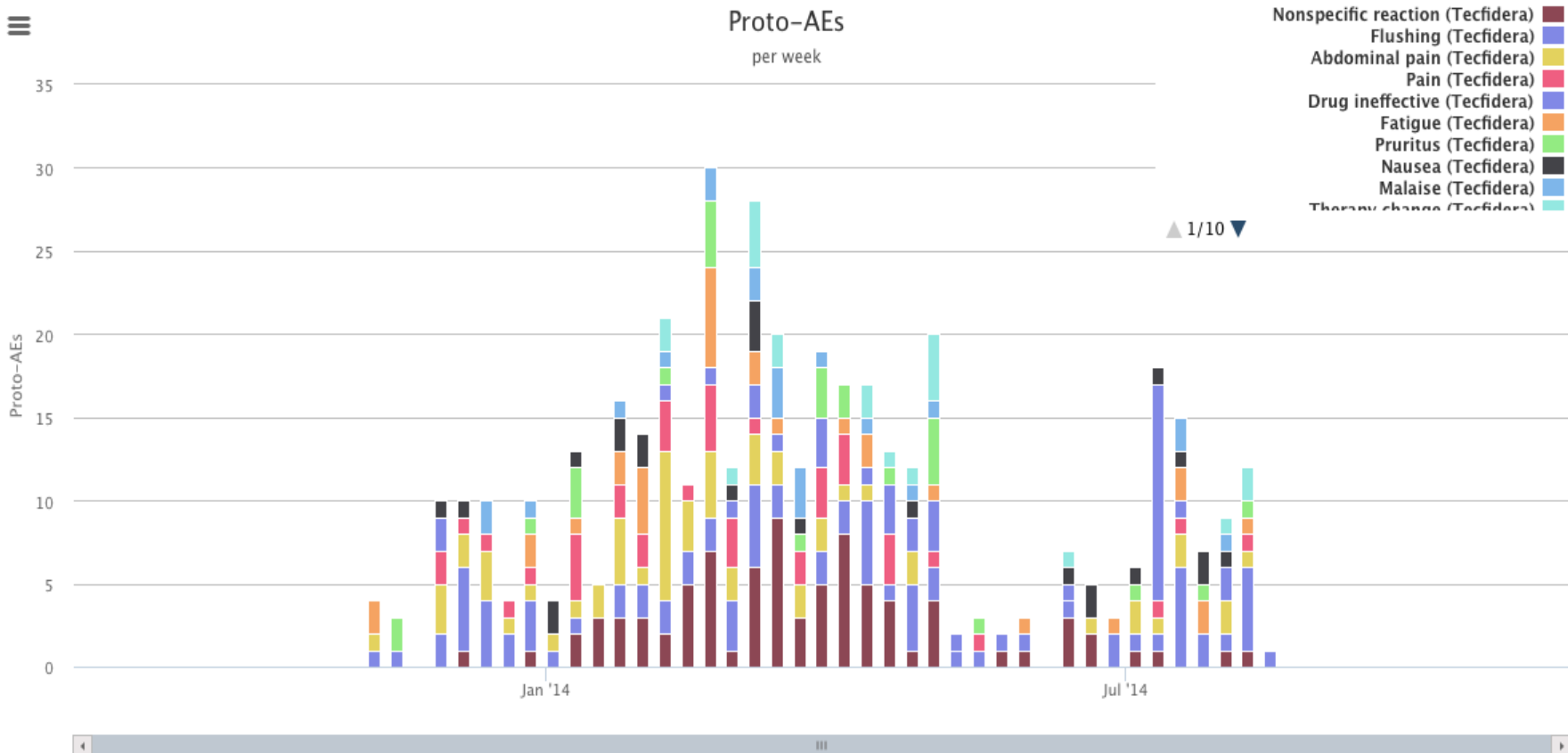
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Thank you!

demo.medwatcher.org
@epidemico
carrie@epidemico.com



Back Up Slides



Twitter Facebook Forums Export Contextualize Hide

Post or set filters » Date Indicator Actions

✓	Haven't checked in for a bit. Tecfidera is still causing stomach to not play nice. But hopeful this side effect will go away soon.	8/18/2014	0.7571	<input type="text"/>
✓	A week off Tecfidera and this weird shaky nerve thing happens with my hand...definitely weird. #MsSucks	8/5/2014	0.73364	<input type="text"/>
✓	To my #msfamily that takes Tecfidera , do any of y'all experience itching taking this medicine?	7/31/2014	0.76234	<input type="text"/>

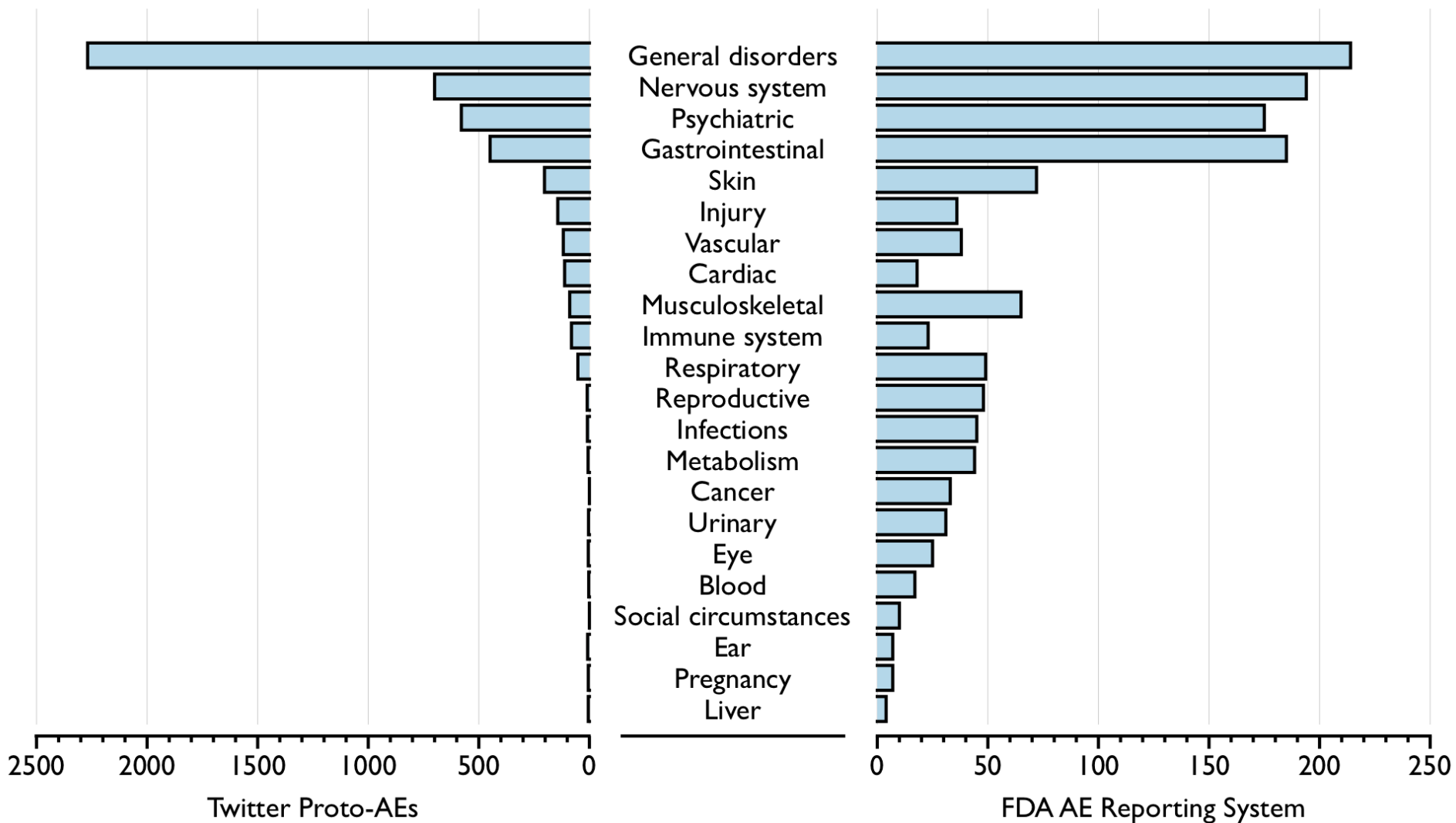
DIGITAL DRUG SAFETY SURVEILLANCE

- Co-authored with FDA
- Evaluate similarity between Twitter posts mentioning AEs and FAERS spontaneous data
- Collected and classified 6.9MM Twitter posts mentioning 23 products
- Served as validation study for system and patients' voice
- Groundwork (for) research in this area

Digital drug safety surveillance: monitoring pharmaceutical products in twitter.

Freifeld CC, Brownstein JS, Menone CM, Bao W, Filice R, Kass-Hout T, Dasgupta N. *Drug Safety*. 2014 May;37(5):343-50. doi: 10.1007/s40264-014-0155-x. PMID: 2477765

All Medical Products

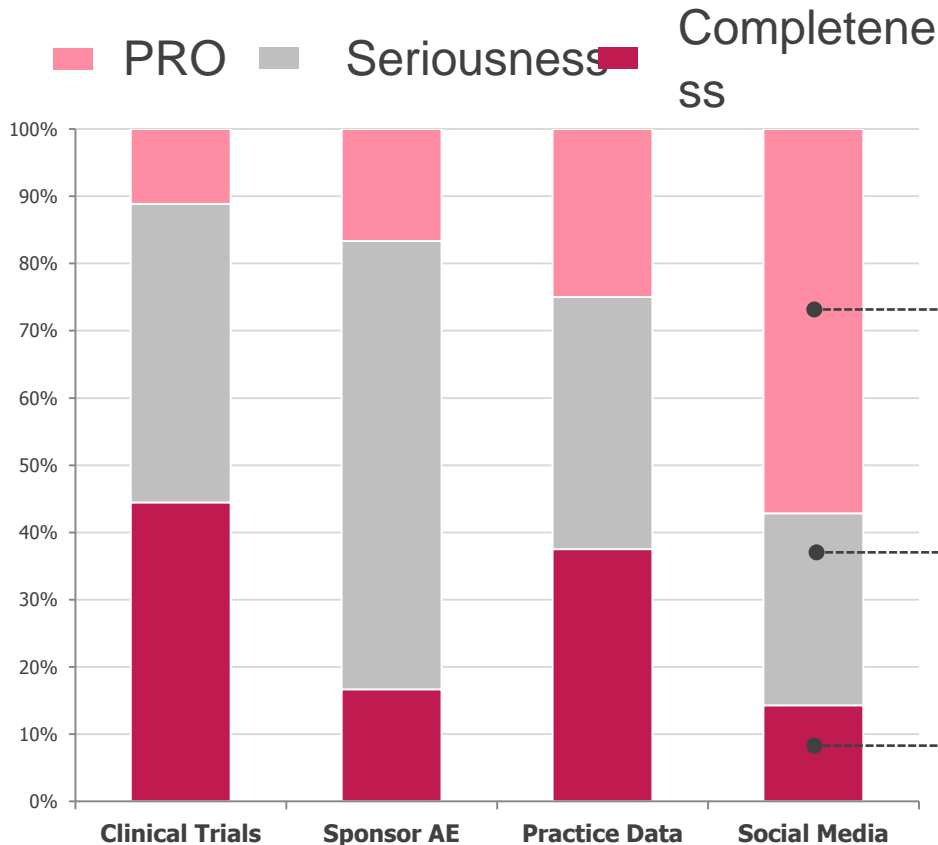


Rank-order concordance observed at the MedDRA SOC level between Twitter and FAERS data

WHAT WE KNOW

Each source of product safety information provides different perspectives on patient experience

Hypothetical data for illustrative purposes only.



Three Dimensions of Bias

1. Patient-Reported Outcomes

Social media can elucidate what patients experience most frequently.

2. Seriousness

Traditional PV focus on most serious of events may be less central in social media. Social media posts may be less

3. Completeness

Conversely, contain less sensitive identifying information than electronic health

MWS TOTALS

2016

63,000,000

Posts collected

Public posts from Facebook, Twitter
& patient forums, back to 2012

380,000

Manually classified

Curator inter-rater reliability 0.88

1,700,000

Proto-AEs

~2.8% of all product mentions

