

AI News Digest

06/15/2026 - 06/21/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES / POLICY

AI's Expanding Role in Crime Prediction and Healthcare

Recent advancements in artificial intelligence are reshaping both crime prediction and healthcare diagnostics. A new AI model has achieved 86.3% accuracy in predicting robberies across U.S. cities, showcasing the potential for AI in public safety. Meanwhile, researchers are leveraging AI to assist physicians in diagnosing rare genetic diseases, demonstrating its transformative impact on healthcare. These developments highlight the growing reliance on AI in critical societal functions, raising important ethical considerations.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ An AI model predicts robberies with 86.3% accuracy.
- ✓ AI is being used to diagnose rare genetic diseases in children.
- ✓ New benchmarks like LifeSciBench and TxBench-PP are enhancing AI evaluation.

IMPLICATIONS

- Increased reliance on AI for public safety could lead to ethical dilemmas.
- AI's role in healthcare may improve diagnostic accuracy but raises privacy concerns.
- The development of new benchmarks indicates a shift towards more comprehensive AI evaluations.

Key Metrics: 86.3% accuracy in robbery prediction model.; 750 expert-authored tasks in LifeSciBench.; 100 evaluation tasks in TherapeuticsBench Preclinical Pharmacology.

1. AI model predicts robberies across US cities with 86.3% accuracy

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Criminal Justice & Security Studies, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Crime Prediction Models, Social Pattern Analysis, Predictive Analytics

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Researchers have introduced an AI model that enhances crime prediction accuracy by integrating data on crime locations, timing, and broader social patterns. This model outperforms several existing methodologies in its predictive capabilities. The findings are detailed in the International Journal of Innovative Computing and Applications.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2026-06-ai-robberies-cities-accuracy.html>

2. Combining lessons from ants and birds to improve AI

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership, Biological Sciences, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Generative AI, Continuous Exploration, Swarm Intelligence Algorithms, Optimization Techniques

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Research at Missouri S&T, led by Dr. Donald Wunsch, explores the integration of principles from ant colonies and bird flocks to enhance artificial intelligence algorithms. Current AI systems often converge on satisfactory solutions prematurely, potentially overlooking superior alternatives. The study emphasizes the necessity of developing methods that encourage continuous exploration within AI algorithms, particularly in applications impacting health, safety, and economic factors, where the distinction between adequate and optimal solutions can be critical.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2026-06-combining-lessons-ants-birds-ai.html>

3. Introducing LifeSciBench

Category: Research
Departments: Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Public Health Sciences
Topics: Science & Research, Life Science Benchmarking, Evidence Interpretation, Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 5
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 5	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

LifeSciBench is a newly developed benchmark designed to evaluate the capabilities of AI systems in performing realistic life science research tasks, moving beyond traditional narrow evaluations. It encompasses 750 expert-authored tasks across seven workflows and biological domains, reflecting the complexities of real-world scientific work, such as evidence interpretation and decision-making under uncertainty. The tasks are structured to mimic requests from scientists, with detailed rubrics assessing the quality of AI-generated responses based on criteria established by practicing life scientists. This benchmark aims to provide a more comprehensive measure of AI's utility in life sciences, addressing the limitations of existing evaluations that often focus on isolated skills.

<https://openai.com/index/introducing-life-sci-bench>

4. Securing the future of AI agents

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Computer Science, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Political Science & Public Administration
Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, AI Threat Modelling, Model Alignment Techniques, Adaptive Security Measures

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 5
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Google has developed an AI Control Roadmap aimed at enhancing the security of internal AI systems as they become more capable yet potentially misaligned. This framework employs a "defense-in-depth" strategy that integrates traditional cybersecurity measures with advanced model alignment techniques, treating AI agents as potential insider threats. Key components include a novel threat-modelling framework based on the MITRE ATT&CK framework, continuous monitoring by trusted AI systems, and a structured approach to risk management through detection, prevention, and response. The roadmap emphasizes the need for adaptive security measures that evolve alongside advancements in AI capabilities.

<https://deepmind.google/blog/securing-the-future-of-ai-agents/>

5. Prompt: The AI Race Enters Its Sovereignty Phase

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, AI Sovereignty, Access Control Mechanisms, AI Infrastructure Visibility

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

This week, the AI discourse shifted from model size to control and access, exemplified by Anthropic's suspension of access to its Fable 5 and Mythos 5 models for foreign nationals due to U.S. national security concerns. The decision, prompted by fears of potential misuse of the models' safety controls, underscores a trend of treating advanced AI capabilities as critical infrastructure rather than mere software. Concurrently, an IBM study revealed that organizations prioritize AI sovereignty but struggle with visibility into their AI infrastructure, while U.K. lawmakers are advocating for a national digital sovereignty strategy. These developments indicate a transition in the AI landscape towards issues of access, control, and governance.

<https://aibusiness.com/generative-ai/prompt-ai-race-enters-sovereignty-phase>

6. Using AI to help physicians diagnose rare genetic diseases affecting children

Category: Research

Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Computer Science

Topics: Healthcare AI, AI-Assisted Diagnosis, Genomic Data Analysis, Evidence-Linked Hypotheses

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Researchers from Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard University, and OpenAI utilized the OpenAI o3 Deep Research model to analyze clinical and genomic data from 376 previously unsolved rare disease cases. The model generated evidence-linked hypotheses, leading to the establishment of diagnoses in 18 cases, representing a 4.8% increase in diagnostic yield after prior expert analysis. This study, published in NEJM AI, demonstrates the potential of AI-assisted workflows to facilitate the reanalysis of genetic data as scientific knowledge evolves, highlighting the importance of periodic expert review in uncovering previously overlooked diagnoses. The model served as a reasoning layer, connecting clinical features and genetic evidence to support human review rather than making clinical decisions independently.

<https://openai.com/index/diagnose-rare-childhood-diseases>

7. Benchmarking AI Agents on Small-Molecule Preclinical Pharmacology

Category: Research

Departments: Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Public Health Sciences

Topics: Healthcare AI, Small-Molecule Pharmacology, Mechanism-of-Action Reasoning, Translational Efficacy, Model Accuracy Challenges

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

The article presents TherapeuticsBench Preclinical Pharmacology (TxBench-PP), a benchmark designed to evaluate small-molecule preclinical pharmacology through realistic assay tasks rather than relying on memorized literature. The benchmark includes 100 evaluations across various drug discovery stages and therapeutic modalities, focusing on aspects such as mechanism-of-action reasoning and translational efficacy. The study assessed 16 model configurations, with the highest performance achieved by Claude Opus 4.8 + Pi at 59.3%. Analysis of failing trajectories revealed significant gaps in scientific judgment, highlighting challenges in model accuracy across different program stages, particularly in screening and hit prioritization.

<https://blog.latch.bio/p/benchmarking-ai-agents-on-small-molecule>

8. AI Now is Hiring a Senior Fellow, Global Programs

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, AI Sovereignty, Public Engagement in AI, Global AI Partnerships

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article announces the appointment of a Senior Fellow for Global Programs at AI Now, tasked with leading a research and policy agenda focused on the intersection of AI, industrial policy, and global political economy. This role aims to address the evolving discourse on "AI sovereignty," influenced by US industrial policies and the emergence of Chinese open-source models, while emphasizing the need for public interest in AI deployment and its societal impacts. The Senior Fellow will develop a workstream that connects US domestic and international AI policies, enhance public engagement in policy discussions, and expand AI Now's global partnerships, particularly outside the US and EU. Applications for the position are open until July 3, 2026.

<https://ainowinstitute.org/general/ai-now-is-hiring-a-senior-fellow-global-programs>

9. AI raises profound moral questions-for all of humanity to answer

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Automated Decision-Making, Moral Implications of AI, Fairness in AI Systems

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article discusses the ethical implications of using artificial intelligence in decision-making processes traditionally handled by humans, such as border security, mortgage approvals, and military targeting. It highlights the potential for AI to influence moral choices related to harm and fairness in critical areas. The author emphasizes the need for careful consideration of the consequences of delegating these decisions to automated systems, given their significant societal impact.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2026-06-ai-profound-moral-humanity.html>

10. Improving health intelligence in ChatGPT

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Nursing, Public Health Sciences

Topics: Healthcare AI, Health Communication Clarity, Factuality Issue Reduction, Contextual Understanding, GPT-5.5 Instant

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

The article discusses advancements in ChatGPT's health-related capabilities with the introduction of GPT-5.5 Instant, which shows significant improvements in recognizing urgent care needs, contextual understanding, and clarity in communication. Evaluations using HealthBench and comparisons with physician-written responses indicate that GPT-5.5 Instant performs at a level comparable to leading models, with higher ratings in accuracy and fewer failure modes than both older models and physician responses. Additionally, a 71% reduction in flagged factuality issues in health responses over the past two months highlights the model's enhanced reliability. These improvements are attributed to collaboration with a global network of physicians who help define and measure effective health communication.

<https://openai.com/index/improving-health-intelligence-in-chatgpt>