

WPLN (90.3 FM) / WTML / WHRS
2021 1st Quarterly Report
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Source Diversity Numbers

Reporters ask sources to self-identify their gender, race/ethnicity, where they live/work, and other demographic and professional information that's relevant to the story. Our goal for 2021 is that 45% of sources are women each quarter and 35% are people of color.

GENDER

Female: 45% | Male: 54% | Other/unknown: 1%

RACE/ETHNICITY

Asian: 1% | Black: 25% | Latinx: 3% | Middle Eastern: 1% | White: 65% | White/Asian: 1% | Unknown: 4%

LOCATION

Davidson County: 67% | Middle Tennessee (outside Nashville): 16% | Tennessee (outside Middle Tennessee): 14% | Outside Tennessee: 4%

OPTIONAL DESIGNATIONS

Expert: 5% | Officials: 48%

Coverage Narrative

Key topics for the quarter included:

- **The aftermath of the Christmas Day bombing.** In January 2020, as the city was reeling from a damaging explosion in downtown Nashville, many people started to ask the question: "How did this happen?" We dug into whether the police made critical errors in preventing the attack and how AT&T's infrastructure allowed such a massive power outage to happen.
- **Tornado anniversary package, "The Disaster Year."** In a newsroom-wide effort, led by editor Tony Gonzalez, we tracked the physical and psychological rebuilding of the region one year after tornadoes caused widespread damage. (Of course, the year since that disaster has been anything but healing.) The digital package included an interactive map, photos and a dozen stories about Middle Tennessee's "disaster year."
- **Spotlighting Black art & culture:** January brought the opening of the National Museum of African-American Music, a long-awaited institution that's infusing Black culture into a historically white Lower Broadway. WPLN's Metro reporter Ambriehl Crutchfield explored the meaning of location in her story about the first Black-owned restaurants to open in the same development, and our partnership with sister station WXP brought profiles of groundbreaking artists like Joy Olakudan, Yola and Allison Russell.

- **The legislative session.** The legislature reconvened in January and started introducing a slew of anti-LGBT legislation, which has become one of the focus areas of our coverage. We connected these proposals to a nationwide effort to reframe the conversation around LGBT rights. We also followed the governor-backed "constitutional carry" measures.
- **Vaccine rollout.** The big national story with a huge local impact was the increasing availability of COVID-19 vaccines. Our reporting strived to be a basic source of information on how to access the vaccines, while also holding state and local governments accountable for their commitment to prioritize equity in their rollout. Health care reporter Blake Farmer's reporting also was relied upon by the national networks as they tried to make sense of how the rollout was different across the country.

Key Numbers

In total, WPLN News created:

- **341** local stories with sound, including **53** features (3:30 or longer in length) and **26** superspots (1:45 to 2:30 in length).
- **26** statewide stories, airing on WKYU, WUOT, WKNO, WKMS or WUTC
- **24** national stories and appearances, **37** national newscasts

National features and appearances:

1. [States Struggle To Administer Their Doses Of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (Blake, Jan. 5, Morning Edition)
2. [Are You Old Enough To Get Vaccinated? In Tennessee, They're Using The Honor System](#) (Blake, Jan. 9, WATC & Shots blog)
3. [America's Vaccine Plan: What's Working — And What Isn't](#) (Blake, Jan. 11, Consider This)
4. [Logistical challenges just beginning for nation's vaccination drive](#) (Blake, Jan. 18, Marketplace)
5. [Nashville Resilience Tested As City Rebuilds After Bombing](#) (Damon, Jan. 24, Weekend Edition)
6. [Biden Administration: 'It Will Be Months' Before Widespread Vaccine Availability](#) (Blake, Jan. 27, Consider This)
7. [Last-minute COVID vaccine appointments raise questions about equity](#) (Blake, Feb. 1, Marketplace Morning Report)
8. [Training program drives more women to become auto mechanics](#) (Damon, Feb. 9, Marketplace Morning Report)
9. [Should hospitals prioritize their own patients for COVID-19 vaccinations?](#) (Blake, Feb. 9, Marketplace)
10. [Biden Administration Recruits Community Clinics To Help Solve Vaccine Inequities](#) (Blake, Feb. 11, Morning Edition & Shots blog)
11. [In Nashville, An Effort To Strengthen Black Political Power](#) (Ambriebl, Feb. 15, All Things Considered)

12. [African American music museum joins Nashville's downtown lineup](#) (Colleen, Feb. 15, Marketplace)
13. [With All Eyes On Country Music, Will Black Nashville Get The Reckoning It Deserves?](#) (Jewly & Andrea Williams, Feb. 19, NPR Music)
14. [Questions Abound In Nashville Christmas Day Bombing Case](#) (Samantha, Feb. 25, Here & Now)
15. [A year after a deadly tornado in Tennessee, people weigh the decision to rebuild](#) (Blake, March 3, Marketplace)
16. ['Life's A Vapor, A Very Fragile Thing': Grief And Rebuilding A Year After Tornadoes](#) (Tasha, March 3, All Things Considered)
17. [Rebuilding Historically Black North Nashville, 1 Year After Deadly Tornado](#) (Damon, March 3, Here & Now)
18. [Accidentally Trashed, Thawed Or Expired: Reports Of COVID-19 Vaccine 'Spoilage'](#) (Blake, March 4, All Things Considered / Shots blog)
19. [Taking Our Best Shot](#) (Blake, March 5, The Pulse)
20. [A Sister Gets Vaccinated As She Mourns Her Sister Lost To COVID-19](#) (Blake, March 9, Here & Now)
21. [Nashville's iconic Lower Broadway gets its first Black-owned businesses](#) (Ambriehl, March 10, Marketplace Morning Report)
22. [Near-Record Levels Of Rainfall Cause Deadly Flooding In Nashville](#) (Nina, March 29, Here & Now)
23. [Nashville Sees Worst Flooding In Over A Decade. A Least 4 People Dead](#) (Samantha, March 29, Morning Edition)
24. [Should Masking Last Beyond The Pandemic? Flu And Colds Are Down, Spurring A Debate](#) (Blake, March 31, Morning Edition)