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% | Nonbinary: <1% | Unknown/Various: 1%

RACE/ETHNICITY
Asian: 3% | Asian/White: <1% | Black: 26% | Black/Middle Eastern: <1% | Latinx: 6% | Middle Eastern: 1% | Native American: 3% | White: 46% | Unknown/multiple people: 15%

LOCATION
Davidson County: 63% | Middle Tennessee (outside Nashville): 13% | Tennessee (outside Middle Tennessee): 9% | Outside Tennessee: 9% | Unknown: 6%

Coverage Narrative
Key topics for the quarter included:

• Rutherford County’s juvenile court. In partnership with ProPublica, producer Meribah Knight published a yearlong investigation into a system that illegally arrested and detained youths in Rutherford County for years, and how the adults in charge are still in power. The story shed new light on a big local story and sparked nationwide interest, including calls for federal investigations. We will continue reporting on this topic in 2022.

• COVID-19 special session. The state legislature reconvened for two special sessions this quarter, including one that focused on limiting the government’s ability to implement COVID-19 restrictions. State politics reporter Blaise Gainey and health care reporter Blake Farmer covered the various new laws and their implications in the state, including a series of lawsuits over new rules regarding vaccine mandates.

• More natural disasters. Tornadoes ripped through Kentucky and parts of Middle Tennessee in mid-December, sending the newsroom into breaking news mode overnight. Our reporters went to Kingston Springs and southern Kentucky to cover the damage, and afterward, environmental reporter Caroline Eggers started producing enterprise stories about what we know and don’t know about the tornado outbreak.

• The rising cost of housing. The newsroom produced many stories this quarter on one of the most immediate issues facing many Nashvillians, thanks in part to Metro reporter Ambriehl Crutchfield making housing a focus of her beat. She and others reported stories on rising rent prices, tension and celebrations over new affordable housing, and a mobile home park that was sold to developers.
**Key Numbers**
In total, WPLN News created:

- **307** local stories with sound, including **27** features (3:30 or longer in length) and **33** superspots (1:45 to 2:30 in length).
- **39** national stories and appearances, **36** national newscasts
- We stopped tracking our statewide stories this past quarter. We hope to resume this in 2022.

**National features and appearances:**
1. [A Hispanic church in Tennessee is grieving the loss of its charismatic founder](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, Morning Edition, Oct. 8)
3. [A new museum in Nashville centers the artistry of Black musicians](https://www.npr.org) (Ambriehl, All Things Considered, Oct. 13)
5. [More nurses are quitting their jobs to try a lucrative stint as a traveling nurse](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, Morning Edition and Shots blog, Oct. 18)
6. [While COVID still rages, anti-vaccine activists will gather for a big conference](https://www.npr.org) (Paige, Morning Edition, Oct. 22)
7. [As constituents clamor for ivermectin, Republican politicians embrace their cause](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, Shots blog and Morning Edition, Nov. 4)
8. [NPR Music’s Listening Party for Snail Mail’s 'Valentine'](https://www.npr.org) (Paige, All Songs Considered, Nov. 7)
9. [Unemployment is unavailable to many who lose jobs over vaccination rules](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, Marketplace, Nov. 8)
10. [In Tennessee, special viewfinders open up a new world to people with colorblindness](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, Here & Now, Nov. 9)
11. [The ER charged him $6,589.77 for 6 stitches, a cost that led his wife to avoid the ER](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, All Things Considered, Nov. 19)
12. [Pervis Payne is taken off of death row](https://www.npr.org) (Samantha, Morning Edition, Nov. 26)
13. [Nashville’s police academy moves to attract a more diverse force](https://www.npr.org) (Samantha, Morning Edition, Dec. 1)
14. [Deadly tornado flattens Kentucky town](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, All Things Considered, Dec. 11)
15. [Rescue and recovery efforts continue in the South and Midwest after deadly storms](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, Weekend Edition, Dec. 12)
16. [The search continues for dozens more feared dead in Mayfield, Ky., after tornado](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, All Things Considered, Dec. 12)
17. [How corporate real estate investors affect tight housing markets](https://www.npr.org) (Ambriehl, Marketplace Morning Report, Dec. 15)
18. [This small team of Nashville citizen scientists is a lifeline during severe weather](https://www.npr.org) (Emily, Here & Now, Dec. 14)
19. [Hot property market puts Nashville record shop, and other small businesses, at risk](https://www.npr.org) (Paige, Marketplace, Dec. 17)
20. [What will a $10,000 gift mean for students at Meharry Medical College?](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, Marketplace, Dec. 22)
21. [What our family learned from our post-Thanksgiving coronavirus outbreak](https://www.npr.org) (Blake, Shots blog, Dec. 24)
22. Nashville’s downtown is still recovering a year after a bombing rocked the area (Damon, Marketplace Morning Report, Dec. 24)
23. Nashville’s new Black wind symphony aims to inspire a new generation of classical musicians (Paige, Here & Now, Dec. 24)
24. What’s the best way to navigate personal bankruptcy? (Blake, Marketplace Morning Report, Dec. 27)
25. Black-owned hospice seeks to bring greater ease in dying to Black families (Blake, Shots blog, Dec. 28)
26. Prepping for the omicron wave (Blake, All Things Considered, Dec. 30)

Appearances for Meribah’s Rutherford County story:
1. New report shows Rutherford County, Tennessee’s juvenile justice system has a staggering history of jailing children (MSNBC’s American Voices, Oct. 9)
2. ‘County with staggering history of detaining children’ revealed in shocking report (MSNBC’s The Reidout, Oct. 11)
3. Tennessee County Exposed for History of Jailing Black Children (Black News Channel, Oct. 11)
4. This county arrested and detained children more than anywhere else in Tennessee (All Things Considered, Oct. 12)
5. Adults Jailed Black Children for a Crime That Doesn't Exist (The Takeaway, Oct. 12)
6. Tennessee judge jailed minors on bogus charges following playground fights, cursing (PBS Newshour, Oct. 12)
8. One Tennessee county’s history of illegally jailing kids; Climate protests in D.C. (Here & Now, Oct. 15)
10. Al Sharpton’s Politics Nation (Oct. 16)
12. Ruthless County, Tennessee (Vox’s Today Explained, Oct. 25)
13. Ken Armstrong & Meribah Knight (Work In Progress with Sofia Bush, Dec. 7)
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: 48% | Male: 49% | Nonbinary: 1% | Other/multiple people: 2%

**RACE/ETHNICITY**
Asian: 2% | Asian/White: 1% | Black: 19% | Latinx: 3% | Middle Eastern: 3% | White: 66% | Unknown/multiple people: 6%

**LOCATION**
Davidson County: 56% | Middle Tennessee (outside Nashville): 18% | Tennessee (outside Middle Tennessee): 12% | Outside Tennessee: 13% | Unknown: 1%

Coverage Narrative
Key topics for the quarter included:

- **A deluge of health care news:** In health care, the newsroom balanced returning to priorities such as medical debt while also covering the deadly COVID delta surge. It was one of the station’s most productive periods for national health care pieces with a dozen broadcast nationally and many picked up by other media outlets, including stories about patient billing lawsuits and ECMO life support.

- **Waverly flooding:** In August, a massive flood killed almost two dozen people in Humphries County and left hundreds without homes. We sent reporters to cover the scene immediately afterward and have continued to go out there to keep track of the recovery process. WPLN’s Caroline Eggers and Damon Mitchell were the key reporters on this story; Damon also looked into the hesitation that some residents feel about the possibility of rebuilding in a flood-prone part of the county.

- **Behind The Blue Wall:** WPLN’s Samantha Max produced an investigation, in partnership with APM Reports, about how law enforcement treat their own. She took a year’s worth of reporting and created an hour long radio special that explores what’s been described as a toxic culture of misconduct and retaliation within the Metro Nashville Police Department, and the disciplinary system that has allowed that culture to thrive. We will continue to track the impact of this story.

Key Numbers
In total, WPLN News created:

- 323 local stories with sound, including 34 features (3:30 or longer in length) and 26 superspots (1:45 to 2:30 in length).
- 14 statewide stories, airing on WKYU, WUOT, WKNO, WKMS or WUTC
- 26 national stories and appearances, 48 national newscasts
National features and appearances:

14. From The Podium, High School Graduates Say What It Meant To Be The Class Of 2021 (Damon collected audio for this, All Things Considered, July 1)
16. As COVID Vaccinations Slow, Parts Of The U.S. Remain Far Behind 70% Goal (Blake, All Things Considered, July 5)
17. Former Nashville Police Officer Takes Manslaughter Plea Deal In 2018 Killing (Sam, Here & Now interview, July 6)
18. After Controversial Statue Is Toppled, Concerns Remain Over What Could Replace It (Paige, Here & Now, July 12)
19. Amid GOP Pressure, Tennessee Halts All Vaccine Outreach, Not Just For COVID-19, To Adolescents (Paige, All Things Considered, July 15)
21. What would rural health care from a discount retailer look like? (Blake, Marketplace Morning Report, July 19)
24. Student Laptops For Virtual Learning Are Also Helping Parents Learn English (Lexi, Aug. 2)
25. Medical debt is hitting hardest for people in the South (Blake, Marketplace Morning Report, Aug. 16)
26. COVID-19 Surge Overwhelms Large Medical Centers In Southern States (Blake, Morning Edition, Aug. 19)
28. 22 People Are Dead After Recording-Breaking Rain Hits Tennessee (Caroline, Morning Edition, Aug. 23)
29. Search And Rescue Efforts Continue Monday After Flooding In Middle Tennessee (Tony, Here & Now interview, Aug. 23)
30. At Least A Dozen People Missing, 22 Dead After Flooding In Tennessee (Caroline, All Things Considered, Aug. 23)
31. Watching Afghanistan Fall Reminds These Veterans Of Who They Left Behind (Paige, Morning Edition, Aug. 26)
32. A Syrian Refugee Family Rebuilds Home In Tennessee (Alexis, Here & Now, Aug. 30)
33. A Nashville ICU Nurse On Surge Of COVID-19 Patients: 'It Eats Away At Your Soul' (Blake, Here & Now, Sept. 1)
34. Across The COVID-Ravaged South, High-Level Life Support Is Difficult To Find (Blake, Morning Edition, Sept. 6)
35. High pay for traveling nurses a symptom and cause of staff shortages (Blake, Marketplace, Sept. 7)
36. Unvaccinated ICU Patients Regret Not Taking The Vaccine (Blake, Here & Now, Sept. 9)
37. How An Organ Donation Continued Despite The 9/11 Attacks (Blake, Here & Now, Sept. 10)
39. Nursing schools struggle to fill the void left by pandemic (Blake, Marketplace, Sept. 30)
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: 53% | Nonbinary: 1% | Other/multiple people: 1%

RACE/ETHNICITY
Asian: 1% | Black: 27% | Latinx: 3% | Middle Eastern: 4% | White: 57% | Unknown/multiple people: 7%

LOCATION
Davidson County: 65% | Middle Tennessee (outside Nashville): 13% | Tennessee (outside Middle Tennessee): 10% | Outside Tennessee: 11%

Coverage Narrative
Key topics for the quarter included:

• Vaccine expansion. As the coronavirus vaccine became more widely accessible this quarter, the next step was exploring who opting out of it, and why. Health care reporter Blake Farmer reported both on vaccine hesitancy in rural parts of the state and on targeted efforts to reach certain populations, including Muslims during the holiday of Ramadan, Kurdish-Americans after the death of a prominent community member, and soldiers at Fort Campbell. Because of the national interest in this topic, many of these stories aired nationally as well.

• Nashville’s budget and community power. The city’s budget process is often dry and hard to follow, but the past year has brought renewed interest in community input into finances. Metro reporter Ambriehl Crutchfield created a new community engagement platform, Nash In The Know, to solicit questions about the Metro government, and then she created several easy-to-consume explainers for the web and radio on how the process worked. She also looked at the role that race played in this year’s public discussions.

• Follow-ups on local racial equity demands. Around the anniversary of George Floyd’s death and the subsequent protests for racial equity, producer Alexis Marshall checked in on a dozen demands that activists made last year to see how much — if any — progress had been made. We also created a Race & Equity category page on our website to allow people to find all our reporting on the topic.

• The return to “normal.” The reopening of businesses and schools allowed many parts of local life to look similar to how they were before the pandemic — but it hasn’t been quite so simple. Enterprise reporter Damon Mitchell created sound-rich stories on how high school students adapted to going back in person, while arts, culture & music reporter Paige Pfleger looked at the struggles of music venues who knew they could reopen soon but weren’t quite sure how.
Key Numbers
In total, WPLN News created:

• 326 local stories with sound, including 37 features (3:30 or longer in length) and 29 superspots (1:45 to 2:30 in length).
• 11 statewide stories, airing on WKYU, WUOT, WKNO, WKMS or WUTC
• 29 national stories and appearances, 22 national newscasts

National features and appearances:
1. In Rural Tennessee, Conservatives Voice Vaccine Hesitancy (Blake, April 2, All Things Considered)
2. 'Mule Fest' Vs. 'Mule Day' — A Tennessee Town Is Taking Sides (Paige, April 5, All Things Considered)
3. How Joy Oladokun's Career Bloomed In An Uncertain Year (Jewly, April 7, NPR Music)
4. Why COVID vaccinations are lagging in Tennessee’s rural white and urban Latinx communities (Blake, April 8, PBS NewsHour)
5. Incarceration touches millions with loved ones behind bars. And it’s making many of them sick (Damon & Samantha, April 9, WHYY’s The Pulse)
6. Mental Health Takes Center Stage As Pandemic Devastates Nashville's Live Music Scene (Blake, April 14, NPR Music)
7. 'It's Not A Never Thing' — White, Rural Southerners Hesitant To Get COVID Vaccine (Blake, April 15, NPR’s Shots blog)
8. Pandemic lockdowns fueled domestic violence worldwide, report says (Natasha, April 16, Marketplace)
9. With All U.S. Adults Eligible, How Can More Be Convinced To Get Vaccinated? (Blake, April 19, Consider This)
10. What We're Learning From The U.S. Vaccine Rollout (Blake, April 20, On Point)
11. Open Up And Say... 'Huh?' : Nashville Venues Grapple With City's Lack Of Reopening Plan (Paige, April 21, NPR Music)
12. Police Officers In Nashville May Wear Religious Head Coverings (Samantha, April 25, Weekend Edition)
13. Nashville flooding renews federal push to tear down homes (Blake, April 29, Marketplace)
14. Nashville Nonprofit Shifts From Financial Help To Mental Health (Blake, May 2, All Things Considered)
15. A Prominent Loss Spurs Nashville Kurds To Get COVID-19 Vaccines (Blake, May 4, Here & Now)
16. For Kurdish Americans In Nashville, A Beloved Leader's Death Prompts Vaccine Push (Blake, May 4, NPR's Shots blog)
17. A flood-damaged Kurdish market begins to recover with community support (Alexis, May 12, Marketplace Morning Report)
18. Houses Of Worship Grapple With The Vaxxed And Unvaxxed Divide (Blake, May 14, Morning Edition)
20. Singer Allison Russell Shares Personal Saga Of Trauma And Triumph On 'Outside Child' (Jewly, May 26, All Things Considered)
21. 'It's Specifically Cruel': Multiple Anti-Trans Bills Considered In Tennessee (Kendall, May 27, All Things Considered)
22. Nashville music scene navigates reopening (Paige, May 31, Marketplace Morning Report)
24. Nashville works to diversify its city-appointed boards (Ambriehl, June 7, Marketplace Morning Report)
25. Southern Baptist Leaders Meet To Reckon With Issues Like Sexual Abuse In The Church (Blake, June 15, All Things Considered)
26. Southern Baptists Elect Moderate Ed Litton As New President (Blake, June 16, Here & Now)
27. Southern car plants are humming, but worker vaccinations have stalled (Blake, June 21, Marketplace)
28. As some states forego federal pandemic benefits, workers weigh their options (Blake, June 23, Marketplace Morning Report)
29. Composer turns to NFTs for “complete control” over her work (Paige, June 29, Marketplace Morning Report)
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%

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 WNXP 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](https://wpln.org/2021/01/5/mini-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](https://wpln.org/2021/01/9/mini-are-you-old-enough-to-get-vaccinated-in-tennessee-theyre-using-the-honor-system/) (Blake, Jan. 9, WATC & Shots blog)
3. [America’s Vaccine Plan: What’s Working — And What Isn’t](https://wpln.org/2021/01/11/mini-americas-vaccine-plan-whats-working-and-what-isnt/) (Blake, Jan. 11, Consider This)
4. [Logistical challenges just beginning for nation’s vaccination drive](https://wpln.org/2021/01/18/mini-logistical-challenges-just-beginning-for-nations-vaccination-drive/) (Blake, Jan. 18, Marketplace)
6. [Biden Administration: 'It Will Be Months' Before Widespread Vaccine Availability](https://wpln.org/2021/01/27/mini-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](https://wpln.org/2021/01/1/mini-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](https://wpln.org/2021/02/9/mini-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?](https://wpln.org/2021/02/9/mini-should-hospitals-prioritize-their-own-patients-for-covid-19-vaccinations/) (Blake, Feb. 9, Marketplace)
11. [In Nashville, An Effort To Strengthen Black Political Power](https://wpln.org/2021/02/15/mini-in-nashville-an-effort-to-strengthen-black-political-power/) (Ambriehl, Feb. 15, All Things Considered)
15. [A year after a deadly tornado in Tennessee, people weigh the decision to rebuild](https://wpln.org/2021/03/3/mini-a-year-after-a-deadly-tornado-in-tennessee-people-weigh-the-decision-to-rebuild/) (Blake, March 3, Marketplace)
17. [Rebuilding Historically Black North Nashville, 1 Year After Deadly Tornado](https://wpln.org/2021/03/3/mini-rebuilding-historically-black-north-nashville-1-year-after-deadly-tornado/) (Damon, March 3, Here & Now)
19. [Taking Our Best Shot](https://wpln.org/2021/03/5/mini-taking-our-best-shot/) (Blake, March 5, The Pulse)
20. [A Sister Gets Vaccinated As She Mourns Her Sister Lost To COVID-19](https://wpln.org/2021/03/9/mini-a-sister-gets-vaccinated-as-she-mourns-her-sister-lost-to-covid-19/) (Blake, March 9, Here & Now)
23. Nashville Sees Worst Flooding In Over A Decade. At 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)