

**WPLN (90.3 FM) / WTML / WHRS**  
**2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report**  
**Posted to the Public File on July xx, 2022**

**Source Diversity Numbers**

Reporters ask sources to self-identify their gender, race/ethnicity and other demographic and professional information that's relevant to the story.

In the first quarter of 2022, 514 sources were heard during our newscasts. Our goals for newscasts in 2022 are that at least 50% of sources are female or nonbinary each quarter and at least 40% are people of color. Here is how they broke down demographically.

**GENDER IDENTITY**

Female: 48% | Male: 51% | Nonbinary: 4% | Unknown/various: 1%

**RACIAL IDENTITY**

Asian: 5% | Black/African American: 24% | Latino/Hispanic: 5% | Middle Eastern/North African: 3% | Native American/Alaska Native: <1% | White Non-Hispanic: 55% | More than one race: <1% | Unknown: 7%

**LOCATION**

Davidson County: 61% | Middle Tennessee (outside Nashville): 13% | Tennessee (outside Middle Tennessee): 14% | Outside Tennessee: 12% | Unknown: 0%

Meanwhile, 328 sources appeared on our midday show, *This Is Nashville*. Our goal for the show is that at least 70% of our sources are people of color.

**GENDER IDENTITY**

Cis Female: 44% | Cis Male: 36% | Prefer not to say: 2% | Trans male: >1%

**RACIAL IDENTITY**

Asian: 5% (Goal: 8%) | Black/African American: 36% (35%) | Latino/Hispanic: 9% (30%) | Middle Eastern/North African: 7% (5%) | Native American/Alaska Native: 2% (1%) | White Non-Hispanic: 41% (30%)

**Coverage Narrative**

Key topics for the quarter included:

- **The recovery in Waverly:** The newsroom continued to cover the aftermath of devastating floods in Waverly. Highlights included an intimate look at graduates of Waverly High School, who have come of age amid a time of tragedy. Coverage of natural disasters and climate change will continue to be a focus area for WPLN News, especially with our environmental beat.
- **A lack of support for affordable housing:** WPLN's Ambriehl Crutchfield reported out a three-part series called "Displaced" on the Riverchase housing complex near downtown Nashville. Riverchase was allowed to deteriorate in plain sight — it sits next to one of the most traveled corridors in Middle Tennessee — even though the city was aware of multiple health hazards, including vermin infestations, damaged ceilings and electrical problems. The complex is now being torn down to make way for a higher value, mixed-use development, leaving its current residents with few resources to find new housing despite city and nonprofit pledges to help. "Displaced" exposed holes

in the oversight system, many of which are rooted in flaws in federal housing law, and conveyed the difficulty of finding affordable housing in a hot Sunbelt city.

- ***This Is Nashville:*** Our daily, hourlong show recently finished up its fourth month on the air. Highlights this quarter include breaking-news shows dedicated to the Dobbs ruling and Southern Baptist Convention's report on sexual abuse, a deep dive into sexism in country music and interviews with an expert on harm reduction and the husband of a recently deceased, beloved local activist.
- **The Tennessee legislative session:** Lawmakers wrapped up a busy legislative session in late April. WPLN's Blaise Gainey reported on key legislation, including measures dealing with transgender students, public school libraries, sentencing, homelessness and pipeline regulation.
- **Abortion:** WPLN News was a leader in the Southeast in covering the impact of the Supreme Court's ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health. We asked listeners to share their reproductive health experiences, an approach that led to three features, including a national story on a pair of sisters who made different choices on abortion and another national feature that explored the potential consequences of overturning Roe v. Wade for women who experience miscarriages and dangerous pregnancies. We also developed a detailed explainer of how Tennessee law has been changed by Dobbs — and how it hasn't — to help people understand their reproductive health options post-Roe.
- **Illustrated explainer on Dobbs:** Knowing that demand for information on the impact of the Dobbs ruling would reach far beyond our core radio and web site audiences, we commissioned a professional illustrator to help us explain in a comic form. We also produced a Spanish-language version to tap into Middle Tennessee's growing but underserved Latino community. This series has been widely spread on Instagram — with eight times more shares than usual, double the number of people reached (8,300) and three times as many likes.
- **Highlighting BIPOC and LGBT-centered stories:** We continued to feature our reporting that centers BIPOC people on social media, particularly on Instagram and TikTok. Reporting more on BIPOC communities aligns with our overall station goals of diversity and inclusion, and we have found that this reporting does exceptionally well on social media — both with our existing and goal audience. We've also recently noticed how well LGBT-centered stories do on social. We also produced more videos to highlight the behind-the-scenes of reporting, which often shows the reporters and the sources of our stories very human ways, and it highlights the wide variety of people we have on staff and who we talk to.
- **More "news you can use" on digital:** We leaned into guides and listicles, as a way of serving our audience with community-focused content that would be difficult to deliver over the air. We used Instagram's new Guide feature to walk people through the restaurants at The Wash, connecting it to an on-air piece by WPLN's Alexis Marshall about the restaurant incubation space. For both Juneteenth and Pride week, we created graphic sets for Instagram that listed the dozens of events in Middle Tennessee. We also included more variety in our visuals — interactive maps of all the events listed, tweets and Instagram posts that link to the sources, and in-house illustrations — to explain concepts in as easily digestible a way for our audience.

- **Award-winning journalism:** WPLN News received several high honors for its work. Senior reporter Meribah Knight was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing for her collaboration with Ken Armstrong of ProPublica. Samantha Max received the Daniel Schorr Journalism Prize, which recognizes the finest work by a public radio reporter under 35. WPLN News received three Public Media Journalism Association awards, including a First Place for News Feature. And the station won four regional Murrow Awards, including Overall Excellence.

## Key Numbers

In total, WPLN News created:

- **394** local stories with sound, including **45** features (3:30 or longer in length) and **36** superspots (1:45 to 2:30 in length).
- **22** national stories and appearances, **19** national newscasts

## National features and appearances:

1. [Knoxville and Paris make plans for Beauford Delaney's art to get its due](#) (Ambriehl Crutchfield, NPR, April 5)
2. [A Tennessee woman's search for housing after a \\$500 rent hike](#) (Ambriehl Crutchfield, Marketplace, April 7)
3. [A Shortfall of ECMO Treatment Cost Lives During the Delta Surge](#) (Blake Farmer, KHN, April 7)
4. [COVID hot spots are pointing the way for future health care development plans](#) (Blake Farmer, Marketplace, April 11)
5. [Mall-to-medicine transitions make health care more convenient for suburban patients](#) (Blake Farmer, Marketplace, April 13)
6. [For Black entrepreneurs in Nashville, a pop-up market brings new opportunity](#) (Ambriehl Crutchfield, Marketplace, April 14)
7. [Tennessee debates bill that would keep thousands of people imprisoned for much longer](#) (Samantha Max, NPR, April 18)
8. [The unhoused population in Tennessee is facing new restrictions around sleeping](#) (Samantha Max, NPR, April 22)
9. [Guilty verdict for Tennessee nurse in case involving medical error has other nurses worried](#) (Blake Farmer, Marketplace, April 26)
10. [Tennessee professor returns to work, two years after government accused him of being a spy for China](#) (Marianna Bacallao, Here & Now, May 2)
11. [Few eligible families have sought federal payment of COVID funeral expenses](#) (Blake Farmer, NPR, May 9)
12. [The closing of a Nashville Piggly Wiggly leaves some with few shopping options](#) (Juliana Kim, Marketplace, May 12)
13. [Tennessee OB-GYNs are concerned that abortion ban could complicate care for miscarriages](#) (Blake Farmer, Here & Now, May 26)
14. [Former Southern Baptist Church members blame all-male leadership](#) (Blake Farmer, NPR, May 28)
15. [To fill clinical roles, hospitals offer nonmedical staff training and opportunity](#) (Blake Farmer, Marketplace, June 2)
16. [A high school senior reflects on her community's resilience after a devastating flood](#) (Damon Mitchell, NPR, June 5)
17. [As small music venues close in Nashville, some see erosion of Music City's culture](#) (Paige Pflieger, Marketplace, June 10)
18. [Southern Baptists respond to the widespread silencing of sexual abuse victims](#) (Blake Farmer, NPR, June 15)
19. [Southern Baptists vote to fight sexual abuse and elect a leader eager for change](#) (Blake Farmer, NPR.org, June 15)
20. [More schools are offering courses related to Asian Americans](#) (Juliana Kim, NPR, June 16)
21. [Two sisters got pregnant young. Their choices and their secrets shaped their lives](#) (Paige Pflieger, NPR, June 23)

22. [Churchgoers' opinions are mixed about the Supreme Court's abortion ruling](#) (Blake Farmer, NPR, June 27)