

List of examples: [Local news stories about FBI crime data](#)

Courtesy of [Jill Castellano & Michelle Billman](#)

Last updated on [Aug. 17, 2026](#)

Accessing and interpreting FBI crime data can be challenging. The Marshall Project has identified a handful of strong news stories as examples to potentially emulate in your own community. We're providing these examples as part of our [toolkit for journalists](#) on how to understand FBI crime data.

Story: [Year after year, most Texas police departments report zero hate crimes. Here's why.](#)

Outlet: [The Texas Tribune](#)

Date: Dec. 14, 2023

What we like: This story examines what factors determine whether a crime is a hate crime, how departments can categorize similar crimes in different ways, and how training is not mandatory. The reporters look at FBI crime data over decades and center the story with a compelling, human narrative.

Story: [The inside story of how State College police underreported 100s of rapes](#)

Outlet: [Spotlight PA](#)

Date: Jan. 6, 2026

What we like: This story holds a local agency accountable for incorrect crime data reporting to the FBI. It's also relatively brief and includes a few key takeaways, so it's easy to understand.

Story: [Crime is down, FBI says, but politicians still choose statistics to fit their narratives](#)

Outlet: [West Virginia Watch](#), which is part of States Newsroom

Date: Oct. 7, 2024

What we like: This story explores limitations and differences across federal crime data sources and explains how not all crimes are reported to police. The reporter also flags that COVID has complicated NIBRS data.

Story: [Nevada's rising murder rate spawns political attacks, despite broad declines in crime](#)

Outlet: [The Nevada Independent](#)

Date: Oct. 10, 2021

What we like: This story fact-checks several political ads and statements and discusses multiple, specific categories of crime rather than just referring to "violent crime." The reporter points out that some kinds of crime are on the decline and that there could be many reasons for the state's increasing murder rate.