

Everything in context: Open data content strategy

May 9, 2017



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nicole.fenton@gsa.gov

18F is a civic consultancy for the government, inside the government, working with agencies to rapidly deploy tools and services that are easy to use, cost efficient, and reusable.

Content

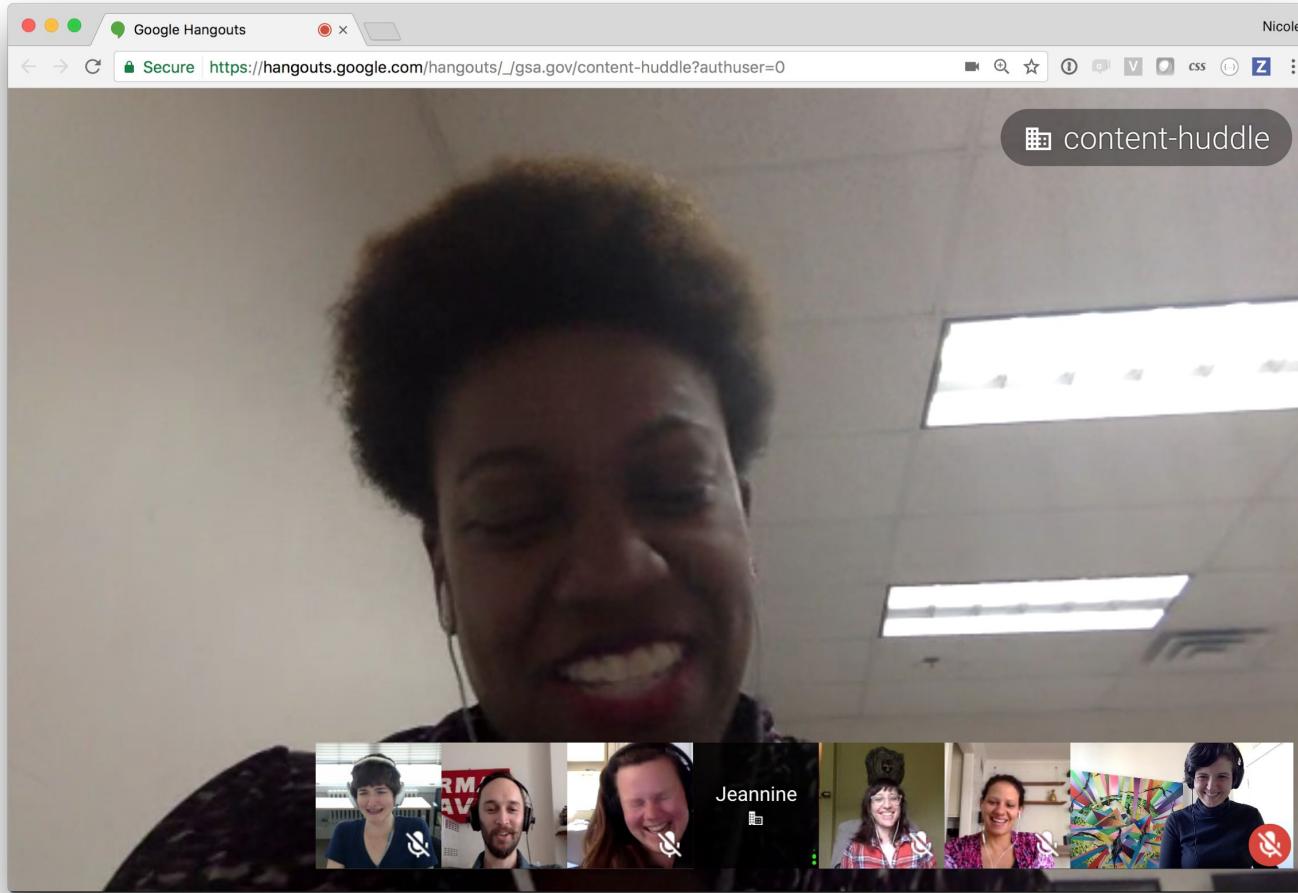
is

the user experience

**Users need words
to navigate your
service. Involve
content designers
from the start.**



GOV.UK



A screenshot of a web browser window showing the 18F Content Guide. The window has a dark blue header bar with the title "18F Content Guide - Introduct" and a "Secure" lock icon. The URL "https://pages.18f.gov/content-guide/" is visible in the address bar. The main content area has a white background. At the top left is the "18F Content Guide" logo in large white letters. To its right is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the word "Search". Below the logo is a subtitle "How to plan, write, and manage content at 18F." In the center of the page is a section titled "Introduction" in bold black text. Underneath it are two links: "How to use this guide" and "Resources". Below this is another section titled "Our approach" in bold black text. It contains a sub-section "Tips and standards for developing user-centered content." followed by two columns of links: "Content principles", "Address the user", and "Avoid duplication" on the left; and "Be concise", "Use plain language", and "Structure the content" on the right. Further down is a section titled "Our style" in bold black text. It contains a sub-section "Grammar, spelling, and mechanics." followed by two columns of links: "Abbreviations and acronyms", "Active voice", "Capitalization", and "Conscious style" on the left; and "Numbers and percentages", "Punctuation", "Specific words and phrases", and "Voice and tone" on the right.

18F Content Guide

How to plan, write, and manage content at 18F.

Introduction

[How to use this guide](#) [Resources](#)

Our approach

Tips and standards for developing user-centered content.

Content principles	Be concise
Address the user	Use plain language
Avoid duplication	Structure the content

Our style

Grammar, spelling, and mechanics.

Abbreviations and acronyms	Numbers and percentages
Active voice	Punctuation
Capitalization	Specific words and phrases
Conscious style	Voice and tone

Interloping in the open data world

**Open data is data that anyone can
access, use, and share.**

What is open data all about? 

Secure https://govex.jhu.edu/question/what-is-open-data-all-about-is-it-the-same-as-freedom-of-informationpublic-records-requirements/  

GovEx

Q&A

Open Data

Performance Analytics

Areas of Interest

Courses


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What is open data all about? Is it the same as freedom of information/ public records requirements?

1 ANSWER

Open data refers to the practice of making electronic data records accessible in whole or in part to the public. While freedom of information requests represent reactive disclosure, open data programs provide proactive disclosure - making information available without it being requested. By monitoring the reactive process to identify frequent requests for the same or similar information, and prioritizing that data for release, you can ultimately reduce the workload. However, it is highly unlikely that an open data program will completely replace the full range of public records requests you receive.

At GovEx, we believe the following elements are key to open data:

- Open data is online. Governments proactively provide open data through the internet, giving the public the ability to find and use open data without waiting for a response or approval.
- Open data is free. Governments do not require payment from anyone to obtain open data.
- Open data is non-proprietary. Governments do not require data consumers to have specific software programs in order to use open data.
- Open data is unrestricted. Governments do not restrict the use, interpretation, or redistribution of open data through copyright or other terms of use.
- Open data is machine-processable. Governments do not require data consumers to scrape data out of "locked-up" formats like PDFs in order to use it, instead using data formats like CSV, JSON, or XML.

For more information about open data, refer to the GovEx guide "[Getting Started with Open Data](#)

W3C Working Draft

W3C Publishing Open Government

Secure https://www.w3.org/TR/gov-data/

Publishing Open Government Data

W3C Working Draft 8 September 2009

This version:
<http://www.w3.org/TR/2009/WD-gov-data-20090908/>

Latest version:
<http://www.w3.org/TR/gov-data/>

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Please refer to the [glossary](#) for this document.

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Abstract

Every day, governments and government agencies publish more data on the Internet. Sharing this data enables greater transparency; delivers more efficient public services; and encourages greater public and commercial use and re-use of government information. Some governments have even created catalogs or portals (such as [data.gov](#)) to make it easy for the public to find and use this data.

Although the reasons may vary, the logistics and practicalities of opening government data are the same. To help governments open and share their data, the W3C eGov Interest Group has developed the following guidelines. These straightforward steps emphasize standards and methodologies to encourage publication of government data, allowing the public to use this data in new and innovative ways.

Status of this Document

This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. Other documents may supersede this document. A list of current W3C publications and the latest

Open Data Policy Guidelines

Secure https://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/



SUNLIGHT FOUNDATION

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Federal Local International Open Data Guidelines Policy Success

OPEN DATA POLICY GUIDELINES

Download as [PDF](#) or [ODT](#)

Other Languages: [español](#)

Previous Versions: [2013](#), [2012](#)

What Data Should Be Public

1. Proactively release government information online
2. Reference and build on existing public accountability and access policies
3. Build on the values, goals and mission of the community and government
4. Create a public, comprehensive list of all information holdings

The Sunlight Foundation created this living set of open data guidelines to address: what data should be public, how to make data public, and how to implement policy.

The provisions are not ranked in order of priority and do not address every question one should consider when preparing a policy, but are a guide to answer the question of what an open data policy can and should do in striving to create a government data ecosystem where open data is the default. Setting the default to open means that the government and parties acting on its behalf will make public information available proactively and that they'll put that information within reach of the public (online), without barriers for its reuse and consumption. Setting the default to open is about living up to the potential of our information, about looking at comprehensive information management and making determinations that fall in the public interest.

• What Data Should Be Public

1 Proactively Release Government Information Online

See examples

Most government information disclosure laws and systems currently in place, including right-to-know, freedom of information and public records laws, are vehicles for reactive



The Sunlight Foundation is a nonpartisan nonprofit that advocates for open government globally and uses technology to make government more accountable to all.

Donate

We need your help to make our government more transparent. Support the Sunlight Foundation today!

donate

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL how-to.usopendata.org/en/latest/. The page title is "How to Open Data". The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with several sections and sub-sections, such as "Home", "The Basics of Open Data", "Data Repositories", "Licensing Your Data", and "CKAN Installation and Configuration". The main content area features a large heading "How to Open Data" followed by a subtitle: "A practical guide to opening data, for government employees whose job it is to make that happen." Below this is a section titled "Introduction" with the text: "Maybe you're excited to open your data, maybe you're just checking off a box, maybe somebody is making you do this. But it's a thing that has to happen. This is for you." There is also a "Status" section, a "License" section (noted as being published under the Creative Commons Zero 1.0 Universal license), and a note at the bottom stating "Built with MkDocs using a theme provided by Read the Docs." A "Next" button is visible in the bottom right corner of the main content area.

How to Open Data

Docs » Home [Edit on GitHub](#)

Home

How to Open Data

Introduction

Status

License

The Basics of Open Data

Introduction

Why Publish Open Data?

Inventorying Your Data

Data Repositories

Licensing Your Data

Publishing Spreadsheets as Data

API versus Bulk Data

Assessing Openness

CKAN Installation and Configuration

Terms of Service

Working with PDFs

What Agencies Should Publish

Introduction

Core Datasets

All Agencies

By Agency

Agriculture

[Read the Docs](#)

How to Open Data

A practical guide to opening data, for government employees whose job it is to make that happen.

Introduction

Maybe you're excited to open your data, maybe you're just checking off a box, maybe somebody is making you do this. But it's a thing that has to happen. This is for you.

Status

This is a book in the process of being written, in some areas skeletal in its contents. See [the GitHub repository](#) to see what needs to be done and to lend a hand.

License

Published under [the Creative Commons Zero 1.0 Universal license](#).

Next

Built with [MkDocs](#) using a theme provided by [Read the Docs](#).

The Open Data Handbook

opendatahandbook.org

OPEN DATA HANDBOOK

OPEN KNOWLEDGE INTERNATIONAL

OPEN DATA HANDBOOK

Guides, case studies and resources for government & civil society
on the "what, why & how" of open data.

Open Data Guide

This guide discusses the legal, social and technical aspects of open data. It can be used by anyone but is especially designed for those seeking to open up data. It discusses why to go open, what open is, and the how to 'open' data.

[Start Reading](#)

Value Stories

Use cases, stories and case studies highlighting the social and economic value, the impact and the varied applications of open data from cities and countries across the globe.

[Value Stories](#)

Resource Library

A curated collection of open data resources, including articles, longer publications, how to guides, presentations and videos, produced by the global open data community.

[Open Data Resources](#)

OPEN KNOWLEDGE INTERNATIONAL

SUPPORTED BY:

SHUTTLEWORTH FUNDING THE WORLD BANK OpenData

Related Projects: OpenGovernmentData.org | The DataHub | DataPortals.org | OpenSpending.org | SchoolOfData.org | OpenDefinition.org | Introducing Open Data

Contribute Terms of use Privacy policy OPEN CONTENT

Heart Chat Bell

Nicole Fenton on Twitter: "Open data content strategy is a thing, right?"

Twitter, Inc. [US] https://twitter.com/nicoleslaw/status/778416476483162112

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Nicole Fenton @nicoleslaw

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Open data content strategy is a thing, right?

RETWEET 1 LIKES 18

7:12 PM - 20 Sep 2016

Kristina Halvorson @halvorson · 20 Sep 2016
Replying to @nicoleslaw
can you please make it one

Andrew Maier @andrewmaier · 20 Sep 2016
Replying to @nicoleslaw
You could give a lightning talk about it and make it a thing :)

Mx Healthy Democracy @thebestsophist · 20 Sep 2016
Replying to @nicoleslaw
yes plz

julia edna @julia_edna · 20 Sep 2016
Replying to @nicoleslaw
it should!

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Project Open Data - Project Open Data

Secure https://project-open-data.cio.gov

Project Open Data Edit this Page Definitions Guidance Discuss

PROJECT OPEN DATA

Open Data Policy – Managing Information as an Asset

1. Background

Data is a valuable national resource and a strategic asset to the U.S. Government, its partners, and the public. Managing this data as an asset and making it available, discoverable, and usable – [in a word, open](#) – not only strengthens our democracy and promotes efficiency and effectiveness in government, but also has the potential to create economic opportunity and improve citizens' quality of life.

For example, when the U.S. Government released weather and GPS data to the public, it fueled an industry that today is valued at tens of billions of dollars per year. Now, weather and mapping tools are ubiquitous and help everyday Americans [navigate their lives](#).

The ultimate value of data can often not be predicted. That's why the U.S. Government released a [policy](#) that instructs agencies to manage their data, and information more generally, as an asset from the start and, wherever possible, release it to the public in a way that makes it open, discoverable, and usable.

The White House developed Project Open Data – this collection of code, tools, and case studies – to help agencies adopt the Open Data Policy and unlock the potential of government data. Project Open Data will evolve over time as a community resource to facilitate broader adoption of open data practices in government. Anyone – government employees, contractors, developers, the general public – can view and contribute. Learn more about [Project Open Data Governance](#) and dive right in and help to build a better world through the power of open data.

2. Definitions

This section is a list of definitions and principles used to guide the project.

[2-1 Open Data Principles](#) - The set of open data principles.

[2-2 Standards, Specifications, and Formats](#) - Standards, specifications, and formats supporting open data objectives.

[2-3 Open Data Glossary](#) - The glossary of open data terms.

[2-4 Project Open Data Metadata Schema](#) - The schema used to describe datasets, APIs, and published data at agency.gov/data.

U.S. Open Data Principles

Public
Accessible
Described
Reusable
Complete
Timely
Managed

U.S. Open Data Principles

Public Accessible **Described** Reusable Complete Timely Managed

“Open data are described fully so that consumers of the data have sufficient information to understand their strengths, weaknesses, analytical limitations, security requirements, as well as how to process them. This involves the use of robust, granular metadata (i.e., fields or elements that describe data), thorough documentation of data elements, data dictionaries, and, if applicable, additional descriptions of the purpose of the collection, the population of interest, the characteristics of the sample, and the method of data collection.”

NYC Open Data Law

“Each data set on the single web portal shall include a plain language data dictionary... Such data dictionary shall provide a description for each column heading used within the data set and shall include a description of any acronym, technical term, unit of measure, range of possible values, relationship between or among columns within the data set, frequency of updates to the data set, and other information or description that can provide context to the data, such as the method of collection, a history of modifications to the data set format, data or methods of collection, or any other contextual information that the agency providing the data deems relevant or the technical standards manual requires.”

“Without context and documentation, it’s not really open data.”

—RYAN SIBLEY

FBI crime data

The big picture

In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting*, publishing, and archiving the nation's crime data.

***Participation is voluntary.**

FBI — Crime in the U.S. 2015

Secure https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u-s/2015/crime-in-the-u-s.-2015

MORE ▾

FBI: UCR

Home • Crime in the U.S. • 2015 • Crime in the U.S. 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE • FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION • CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

 2015 CRIME in the UNITED STATES

Criminal Justice Information Services Division Feedback | Contact Us | Data Quality Guidelines | UCR Home

About Crime in the U.S. (CIUS)

By offense, by region, by state, by local agency

Offenses Known to Law Enforcement	Persons Arrested	Police Employee Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Violent Crime▶ Property Crime▶ Clearances (offenses "closed" by arrest or exceptional means.)▶ Go to Offense Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Expanded Offense Data▶ Homicides▶ Trends▶ Rates▶ Weapons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes data about the age, gender, and race of arrestees for 28 separate offenses including murder▶ Go to Arrest Tables
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes data about sworn officers and civilian employees▶ Go to Police Employee Tables

▶ Caution Against Ranking

Additional Reports

▶ Federal Crime Data

The second report from the UCR Program looking at Federal Crime reporting. This year's report includes 2015 data from FBI and ATF cases as well as traditional offense information from other federal agencies.

▶ Human Trafficking

Report from the UCR Program's Human Trafficking data collection. The content includes general information about human trafficking as well as data provided by agencies that reported human trafficking offenses in 2015.

▶ Cargo Theft

Report from the UCR Program's Cargo Theft data collection. The content includes general information about cargo theft as well as data provided by agencies that reported cargo theft incidents in 2015.

About the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program

A history of the UCR Program and an overview of what UCR can provide

Read more

A message from the Director of the FBI

Read more

Download files from this publication

Access a compressed file with all of the spreadsheets and PDFs in this publication

Go to previous editions of CIUS

Visit the UCR publications page

A summary of crime in the Nation in 2015

Go to an overview of this publication

An addendum about changes to the rape data

The offense definition of rape,

FBI — Table 1

Secure https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u-s/2015/crime-in-the-u-s-2015/tables/table-1

MORE ≡

FBI: UCR

Home • Crime in the U.S. • 2015 • Crime in the U.S. 2015 • Tables • Table 1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE • FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION • CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

 **2015** CRIME in the UNITED STATES

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[Home](#) | [Offenses Known to Law Enforcement](#) | [Violent Crime](#) | [Property Crime](#) | [Clearances](#) | [Persons Arrested](#) | [Police Employee Data](#)

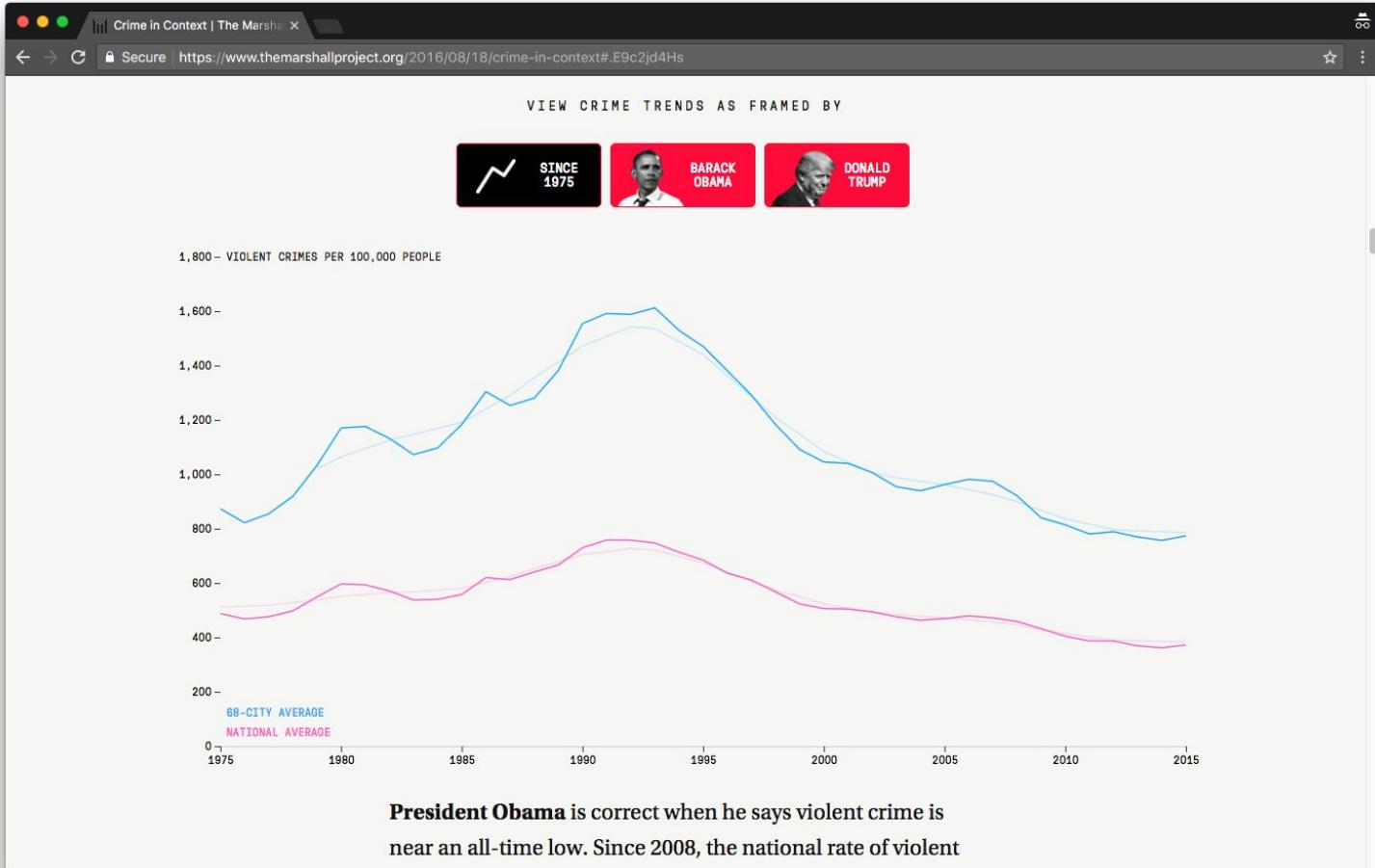
Table 1

Crime in the United States
by Volume and Rate per 100,000 Inhabitants, 1996–2015

Overview Data Declaration Download Excel (Table 1) Download Excel (Table 1A)

Table 1

Year	Population ¹	Violent crime ²	Violent crime rate	Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter rate	Rape (revised definition) ³	Rape (revised definition) rate ³	Rape (legacy definition) ⁴	Rape (legacy definition) rate ⁴	Robbery	Robbery rate	Aggravated assault
1996	265,228,572	1,688,540	636.6	19,645	7.4			96,252	36.3	535,594	201.9	1,037
1997	267,783,607	1,636,096	611.0	18,208	6.8			96,153	35.9	498,534	186.2	1,023
1998	270,248,003	1,533,887	567.6	16,974	6.3			93,144	34.5	447,186	165.5	976
1999	272,690,813	1,426,044	523.0	15,522	5.7			89,411	32.8	409,371	150.1	911
2000	281,421,906	1,425,486	506.5	15,586	5.5			90,178	32.0	408,016	145.0	911
2001 ⁵	285,317,559	1,439,480	504.5	16,037	5.6			90,863	31.8	423,557	148.5	909



Why is the greatest nation in the world shockingly bad at recording crime data?

tv.fusion.net/story/302325/fbi-crime-data-reporting/

FUSION TV

AP

THE NAKED TRUTH

WHY IS THE GREATEST NATION IN THE WORLD SHOCKINGLY BAD AT RECORDING CRIME DATA?

BY ALICE BRENNAN 6/23/16 12:58 PM

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S Calls for service data are the best way to analyze crime why don't cities.html



CRIME MURDER, THEFT, AND OTHER WICKEDNESS. MARCH 15 2016 10:38 AM

Slate

≡

Numbers Racket

There's great crime data for nearly every city in the United States. Why is nobody using it?

By Jeff Asher



Commonly used crime statistics are imprecise, slow, and prone to manipulation.

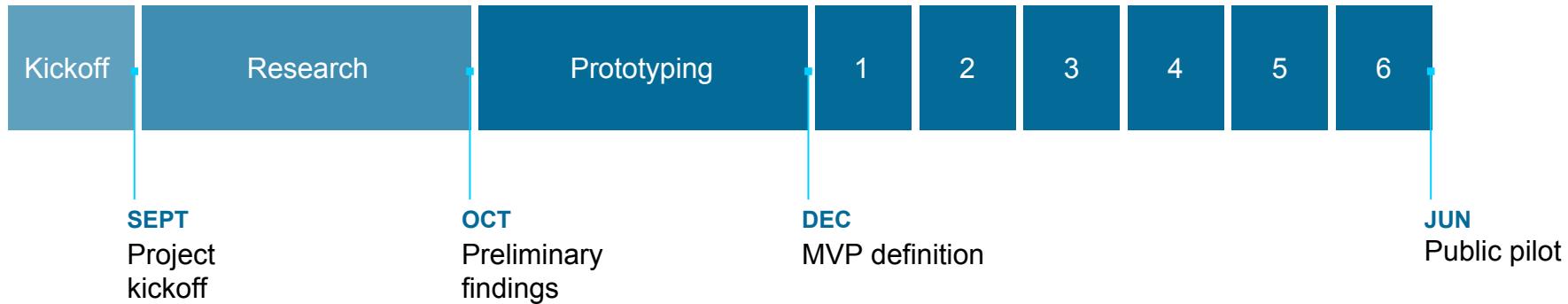
ferguson/Thinkstock



“We need more transparency and accountability in law enforcement. We also need better, more informed conversations about crime and policing in this country. To get there, we are improving the way this nation collects, analyzes, and uses crime statistics and data about law enforcement’s use of force.”

—DIRECTOR COMEY

Project plan



Content design activities

Interviews

Content audit

Comparative analysis

Strategic writing exercises

Wireframes

Navigation testing

Content mapping

Content development for MVP

Content workshop

Content testing

Editing and ongoing refinements

CDE Site + Content Map - Google Sheets

Secure https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gRN0bjp-2D9OdXtsA53lZsM6inUjBBEzRYK2gbwgGtM/edit#gid=908372027

nicole.fenton@gsa.gov

Comments Share

Data Element

	A	B	C		D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Data Element	Chart Group	Chart Name		Violent Crime	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Property Crime	Arson	Burglary	Cargo Theft	Larceny Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Hate Crime
2	BA		Bias Motivation		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
3	9		Location Type		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	10		Number of Premises Entered		-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	
5	11		Method of Entry		-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	
6	13		Weapon or Force Involved		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
7	15	Property	Property Type		-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	16		Property Value		-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	25	Victim	Type of Victim		-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	
10	25A	Officer	Officer Activity or Circumstance		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11	25B	Officer	Officer Assignment		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
12	26	Victim Demographics	Age		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
13	27	Victim Demographics	Sex		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
14	28	Victim Demographics	Race		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
15	29	Victim Demographics	Ethnicity		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
16	30	Victim Demographics	Resident Status		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
17	31		Circumstance		-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	
18	33	Victim	Injuries		-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	
19	35	Victim	Relationship to Offender		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
20	37	Offender Demographics	Age		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	38	Offender Demographics	Sex		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	39	Offender Demographics	Race		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	39A	Offender Demographics	Ethnicity		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24																
25																
26																
27																
28																
29																

Key findings

“Explaining what people are looking at is important. You need to provide sufficient context, without telling people how they should interpret the data.”

**“It would be helpful to [have]
supporting definitions behind this
content so we can make sure we
understand the characteristics and
limitations of the data.”**

“A lot of times I’ll just start playing with the data and if I have questions, I’ll come back to the terms and definitions to fill in the gaps.”

“What’s missing can be just as interesting as what’s there.”

User Insights · 18F/crime-data-explorer

GitHub, Inc. [US] https://github.com/18F/crime-data-explorer/wiki/User-Insights

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18F / crime-data-explorer Watch 5 Star 0 Fork 1

Code Issues 48 Pull requests 0 Projects 0 Wiki Pulse Graphs

User Insights

Nicole Fenton edited this page 15 days ago · 1 revision

Working draft of assumptions and insights about this project from our interviews with users.

Pages 14

Key quotes

- "Say: this is the best data we have."
- "Most people want to play through with the filters, not get the CSV from GitHub."
- "What's missing can be just as interesting as what's there."
- "Granularity! When it doubt, offer as much as possible."
- "The old journalism motto: sunshine is the best disinfectant."

Needs

- Allow people to download the data
 - Filter by county, state, agency, and range of time
 - Export the data in a delimited file format (such as CSV, XLS)
 - Enable matching with other datasets (ORI number)
 - Offer an API

Product Direction

- MVP Vision
- Datasets
- Data Filters
- Experience Principles
- Content Guide

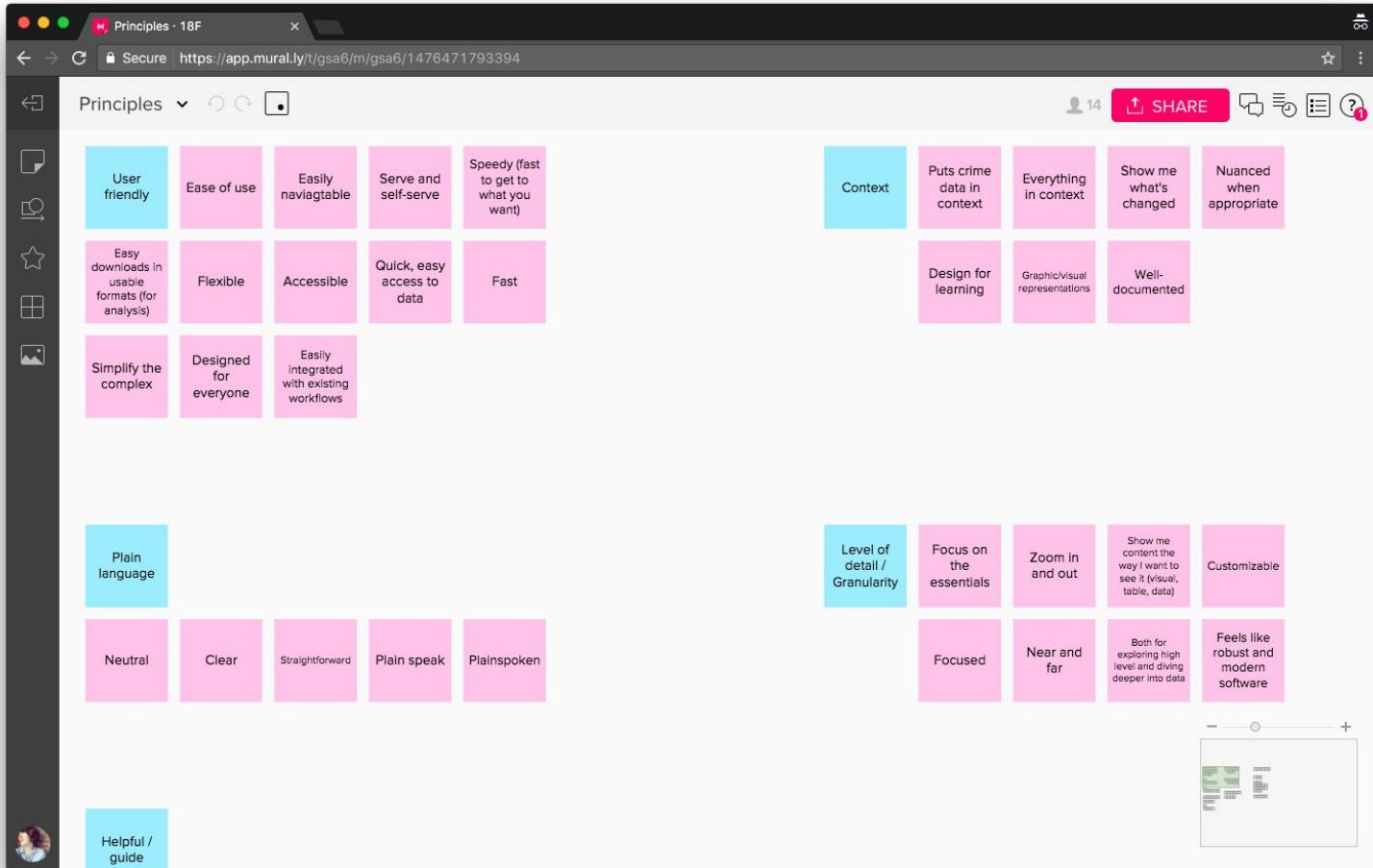
Research

Discovery

- Research Plan
- Stakeholder Insights
- User Insights
- Open Data Insights
- Further Reading

Prototyping

Crime 1. Crime Trends



Design principles

Show me the way and let me explore
Put everything in context
Make it relevant to me
Let me participate

Content direction

Voice

**Approachable
Straightforward
Engaged
Informative
Honest**

Plain language

Keep it conversational

Instead of:	Use:
persons	people
the data are	the data is; the datasets are
and/or	or
ethnic origin	ethnicity
LEAs	law enforcement agencies
utilize	use

Content Guide · 18F/crime-data-explorer · GitHub

Nicole Fenton edited this page 11 days ago · 1 revision

Content Guide

Follow the [AP Stylebook](#) unless otherwise noted here.

Voice

Voice is what makes all of your communications sound like they came from the same place. The Crime Data Explorer should sound like the people behind the data at CJIS:

- Approachable
- Conversational
- Engaged
- Informative
- Honest

Style guidelines

Acronyms and abbreviations

- Spell out abbreviations on the first mention, except the `FBI`, which is acceptable on its own.
- If an acronym is only used once or twice on a page, or is very short, avoid using it.

Capitalization

- Use title case for page titles, `h1`s, chart headings, and crime labels.
- Use sentence case for other titles, headings, and subheadings (`h2 - h4`).
- Unless starting a sentence, do not capitalize “the” before a proper noun (for example:

Pages 14

Product Direction

- MVP Vision
- Datasets
- Data Filters
- Experience Principles
- Content Guide

Research

Discovery

- Research Plan
- Stakeholder Insights
- User Insights
- Open Data Insights
- Further Reading

Prototyping

- Sprint 1: Crime Trends
- Sprint 2: National, State, and Local Data
- Sprint 3: NIBRS Snapshot

Clone this wiki locally

<https://github.com/18F/crime-data-explorer>

Clone in Desktop

Context in plain view
A sentence for every chart
Plain language definitions
Helpful documentation
Clear path to ask questions

An official website of the United States government

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Crime Data Explorer

Home Explorer About Downloads & Documentation

National, state, and local crime data

The FBI collects and publishes Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data on an annual basis.

Over 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country voluntarily participate in the program by submitting data through a state UCR program or directly to the FBI. This open data project is part of our ongoing efforts to improve the accuracy and timeliness of the nation's crime statistics.

Explore by location and type of crime

Tennessee

All Violent Crime

View results

Key features

- Plain language**
- Dynamic page elements**
- People-friendly robotext**
- Glossary**
- Links to federal and state-level resources**
- Interactive API documentation**

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“NOTE: The relationship categories of husband and wife include both common-law and ex-spouses. The categories of mother, father, sister, brother, son, and daughter include stepparents, stepchildren, and stepsiblings. The category of acquaintance includes homosexual relationships and the composite category of other known to victim.”

Caveat for change from "homosexual relationship" #183

Closed nicoleslaw opened this issue on Jan 30 · 4 comments

nicoleslaw commented on Jan 30

This existing caveat needs to change post-2016:

https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u-s/2013/crime-in-the-u-s-2013/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement-expanded-homicide/expanded_homicide_data_table_10_murder_circumstances_by_relationship_2013.xls

The relationship categories of husband and wife include both common-law and ex-spouses. The categories of mother, father, sister, brother, son, and daughter include stepparents, stepchildren, and stepsiblings. The category of acquaintance includes homosexual relationships and the composite category of other known to victim.

nicoleslaw added the **type: content** label on Jan 30

nicoleslaw self-assigned this on Jan 30

nicoleslaw commented on Jan 31

Per FBI:

NO, it means in our data codes we have acquaintance, homosexual relationship (which should not be used), and other known to victim, those codes are added together in the publication. We are just telling them, of the codes we collect, here is what is added together for publication. I'm not positive we have definitions for each code.

The homosexual relationship is no longer used as of 2016; however, this code WAS used prior. In the scenario you describe below... now it would be reported as "spouse" if married or

New Issue

Assignees
nicoleslaw

Labels
type: content

Projects
None yet

Milestone
No milestone

1 participant

A screenshot of a Slack application window. On the left is a sidebar with various icons and lists: 'TTS' with a dropdown menu, a USA map icon, 'All Unreads' (361), 'All Threads' (362), 'STARRED' (363), and a '+' button; 'CHANNELS (812)' with '# lgbtqqiaap' highlighted in green; and 'DIRECT MESSAGES'. The main area shows a channel named '#lgbtqqiaap' with a description 'A channel for anyone...'. A message from Nicole Fenton (NYC, she) at 12:49 PM reads: 'Hello, circling back on this thread: <https://gsa-tts.slack.com/archives/lgbtqqiaap/p1485467009000067> – I wanted to share a draft of the new language here. I would greatly appreciate your feedback. I am particularly unsure about mixing same-sex and same-gender as the FBI formally only refers to Sex in the program.' Below it, another message from Nicole Fenton at 12:50 PM adds: 'Hi—I am working on a project with FBI crime data and the relationship definitions are pretty bad especially around #lgbtqqiaap people. I want to ask the FBI a question, but I would like to ask if anyone who is gay would be willing to proofread it first.' This message was posted in #lgbtqqiaap on Jan 26th at 4:43 PM. A snippet from Nicole's message is expanded, showing three numbered points: 1. Until 2016, the FBI recorded all same-gender couples as acquaintances under the 'Homosexual Relationship' label. This category is no longer in use. 2. After same-gender marriage was [upheld as a constitutional right in 2015](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-556_3204.pdf) (https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-556_3204.pdf), the FBI started collecting crimes against same-gender partners as 'Spouse' (if married) or 'Boyfriend or Girlfriend' (if not married). At the bottom is a message input field with a '+' button and a smiley face icon.

Crime Data Explorer

Secure https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/explorer/homicide

About the data

The FBI collects crime data through the [Uniform Crime Reporting \(UCR\) Program](#).

How these crimes are counted

As a general rule, any death caused by injuries received in a fight, argument, assault, or commission of a crime is classified as murder or nonnegligent manslaughter. The FBI counts one homicide offense for each victim of murder or nonnegligent manslaughter. Accidental deaths, traffic fatalities, suicides, negligent manslaughters, justifiable homicides, and attempted murders are not included.

Avoid rankings or comparisons

Since crime is a sociological phenomenon influenced by a variety of factors, the FBI discourages ranking locations or making comparisons as a way of measuring law enforcement effectiveness. Some of this data may not be comparable to previous years because of differing levels of participation over time.

Victim's relationship to offender

Until 2016, the FBI recorded all same-sex couples as acquaintances under the "Homosexual Relationship" label. This category is no longer in use. After same-sex marriage was upheld as a constitutional right in 2015, the FBI started collecting data about crimes against same-sex partners as "Spouse" (if married) or "Boyfriend or Girlfriend" (if not married).

Further reading

- | [FBI: Uniform Crime Reporting Publications](#)
- | [Bureau of Justice Statistics: Homicide](#)
- | [The Nation's Two Measures of Homicide](#)
- | [Homicide Trends in the United States](#)

Key features

Plain language

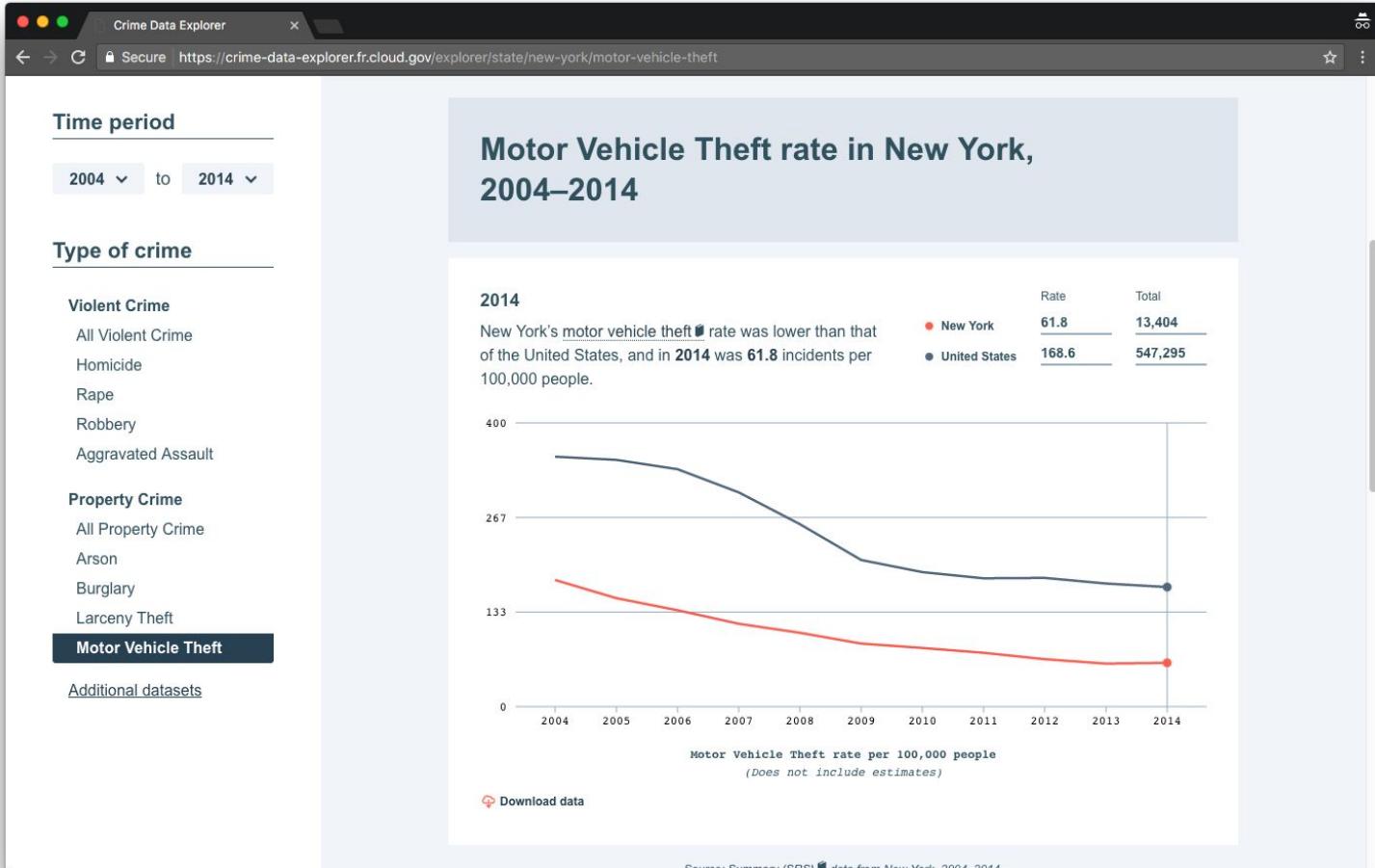
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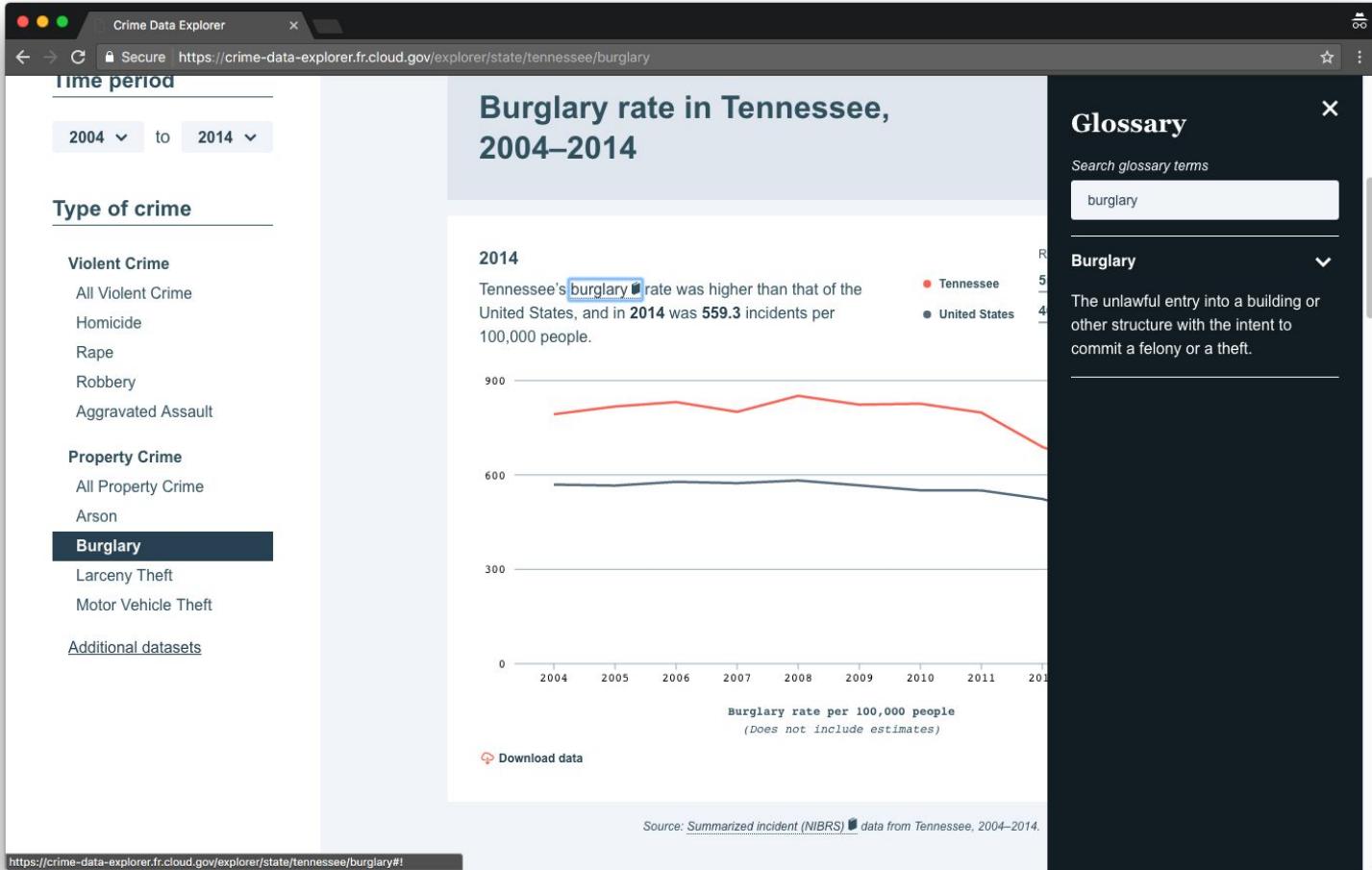
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Crime Data Explorer

Secure https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/explorer/state/tennessee/burglary

About the data

The FBI collects crime data through the [Uniform Crime Reporting \(UCR\) Program](#).

How these crimes are counted

Burglary is the unlawful entry into a building or structure to commit a felony or theft. The FBI has three subclassifications for burglary: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry. Structures include apartments, barns, trailers or houseboats when used as a permanent dwelling, office buildings, railroad cars (but not automobiles), stables, ships, and vessels.

Hotel rule

When a number of hotel rooms, motel rooms, or self-storage units are burglarized, the building manager is more likely to report the offenses to the police than individual tenants. In these cases, the law enforcement agency should report a single burglary incident to the FBI and include the number of premises that were entered.

Avoid rankings or comparisons

Since crime is a sociological phenomenon influenced by a variety of factors, the FBI discourages ranking locations or making comparisons as a way of measuring law enforcement effectiveness. Some of this data may not be comparable to previous years because of differing levels of participation over time.

Further reading

- | FBI: Uniform Crime Reporting Publications
- | Bureau of Justice Statistics: Burglary
- | Special Report: Household Burglary, 1994–2011

Next steps

**More granular data
Public pilot
Better API documentation
Additional datasets**

TL;DR

Remember your strengths
Assume there's a wealth of history
Get in the mud
Show what's possible
Test your assumptions

**Content design is
service design.**

Thank you.



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