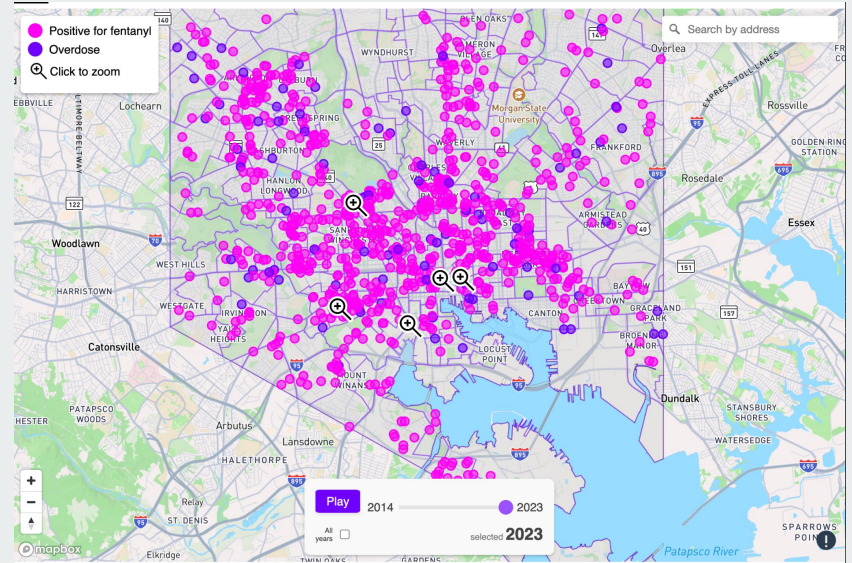




# The Baltimore Banner Data Journalism

How we use data to tell stories.

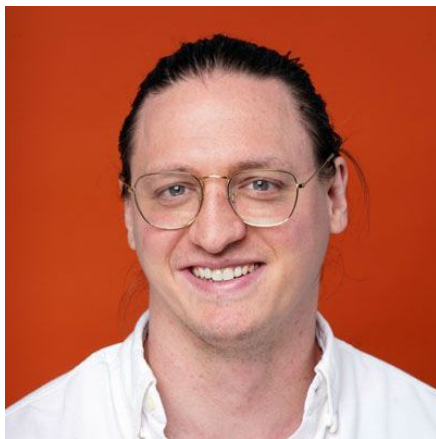




## The Banner Data Team



**Greg Morton**  
Data Reporter



**Nick Thieme**  
Data Reporter



**Ramsey Archibald**  
Data Reporter

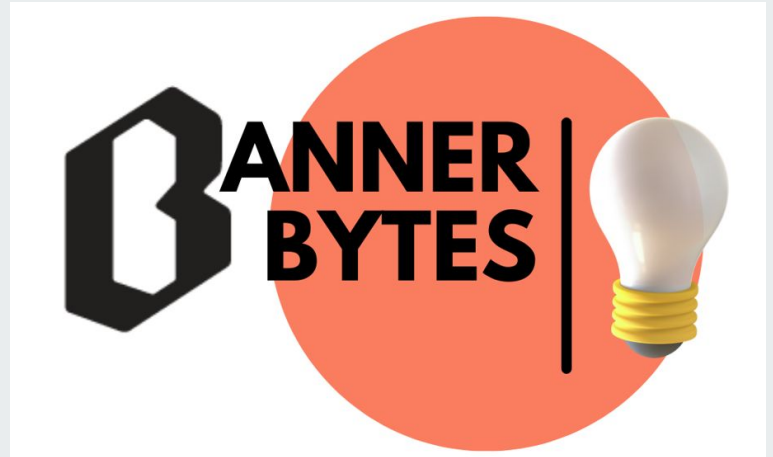


**Adriana Navarro**  
Data Intern



## What does a data journalist do?

- Primarily talks to data.
- When talking to people, they talk about data.
- Analyzes data at scale using complex technical tools.
- Acquires data from public sources, sometimes by brute force.



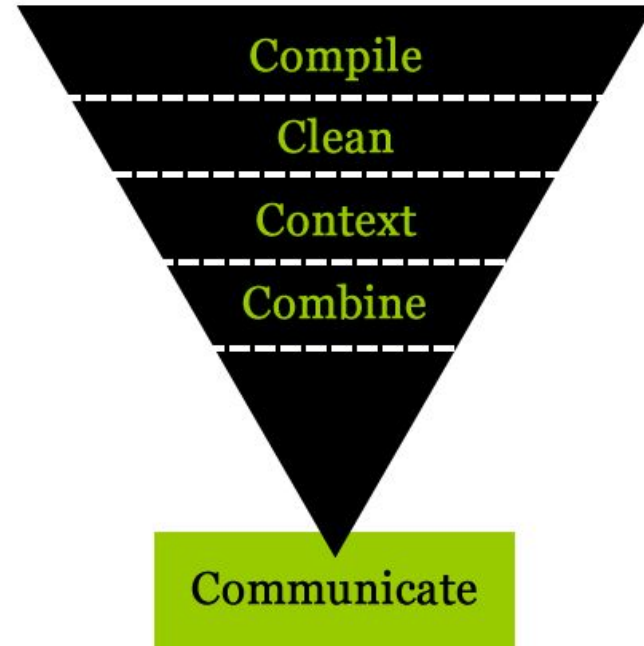


## The Process

- But this one leaves out character, which, seriously, it starts with a C and everything

### The Inverted Pyramid of Data Journalism

Paul Bradshaw, [OnlineJournalismBlog.com](http://OnlineJournalismBlog.com)



# How can data make a story better?



Sharnae Hunt watches as haulers put her belongings back onto a truck after she was wrongfully evicted at Tall Pines Apartments in Glen Burnie on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022. (Jessica Gallagher/The Baltimore Banner)

- Data can find new stories and make existing stories strong
- Provides empirical, verifiable Information that adds power to anecdotes
- Provides a roadmap to characters and places that make for powerful narratives



# Sometimes the story can be simple

## Auto thefts are surging, May saw nearly 1,000 thefts

Baltimore has typically had between 200 and 300 car thefts each month. BPD recorded 960 vehicles were stolen in May.

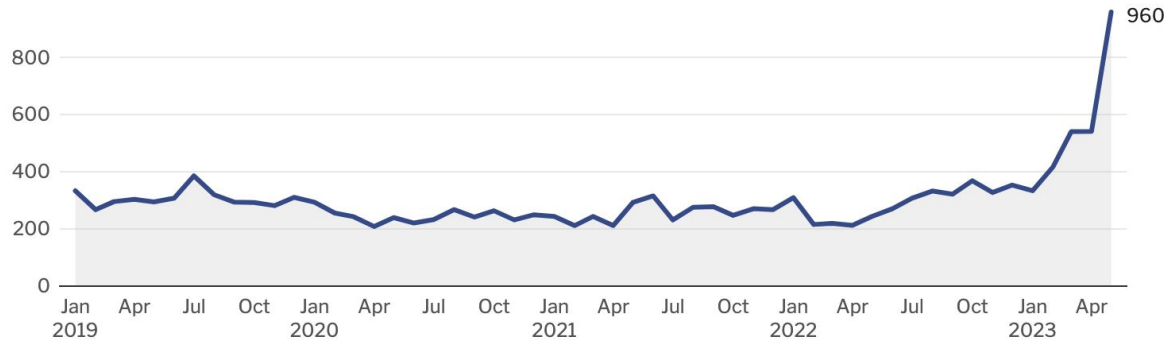


Chart: Ryan Little • Source: [Part 1 Crime Database](#)



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## Other times they can be much more complex



### **Car theft rates have tripled in Baltimore. We visited the hardest-hit neighborhood.**

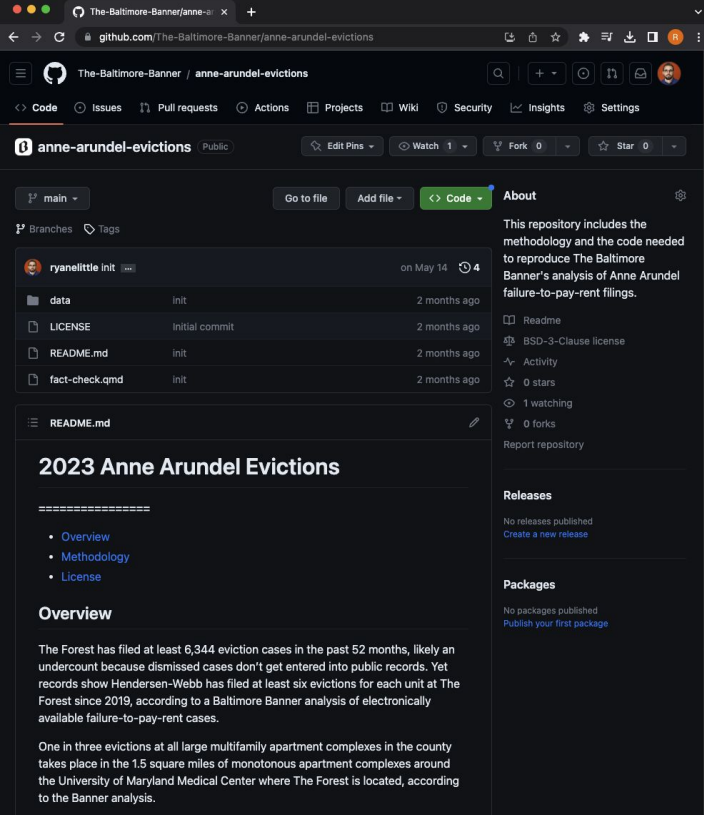
More than 1,000 cars have been stolen in Baltimore every month since June.

By Jasmine Vaughn-Hall and Greg Morton • November 13, 2023

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# Reproduce our work

- We strive to make our work reproducible.
- Not only do we publish detailed methodology, we release the code needed to replicate our findings.



The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'anne-arundel-evictions' by 'The-Baltimore-Banner'. The repository is public and contains a README.md file. The README is titled '2023 Anne Arundel Evictions' and includes a table of contents with links to 'Overview', 'Methodology', and 'License'. The 'Overview' section states that the Forest has filed at least 6,344 eviction cases in the past 52 months, likely an undercount because dismissed cases don't get entered into public records. It also mentions that records show Hendersen-Webb has filed at least six evictions for each unit at The Forest since 2019, according to a Baltimore Banner analysis of electronically available failure-to-pay-rent cases. The 'Methodology' section mentions that one in three evictions at all large multifamily apartment complexes in the county takes place in the 1.5 square miles of monotonous apartment complexes around the University of Maryland Medical Center where The Forest is located, according to the Banner analysis.



# Analyzed death and autopsy data to find unprecedented overdose epidemic

Analysis found almost 6,000 deaths in 6 years, the highest rate of overdose death of any major American city.

## Almost 6,000 dead in 6 years: How Baltimore became the U.S. overdose capital

[Alissa Zhu](#), [Nick Thieme](#) and [Jessica Gallagher](#) 5/23/24 5:00 a.m. EDT



# Noticed generational trends in deaths

The same cohort of Black men born between 1950 and 1970 have died more than anyone else. Remove these men and Baltimore's rate looks much more normal.

**COMMUNITY ISSUES** [Criminal justice](#) [Housing](#) [Health](#) [Environment](#) [Transportation](#)

## A horrific number of older Black men are dying from overdoses in Baltimore

[Nick Thieme](#), [Alissa Zhu](#) and [Jessica Gallagher](#) 6/3/24 5:30 a.m. EDT



# Black migration to the suburbs

2020 Census data was crosswalked to city neighborhoods and county planning districts to show Black migration. Showed Black population loss in the Black Butterfly is not offset by other population gains.

[Local news](#)

## Black residents are leaving Baltimore in large numbers, heading to suburbs

City advocates point to a bright spot — the rise in the number of households with young professionals

[Abby Zimmardi](#) and [Ryan Little](#)

Published 4/25/2023 5:30 a.m. EDT, Updated 5/23/2023 9:26 p.m. EDT



# Identified youth gun violence trend in October

Identified the Baltimore trend before the national trend was identified.



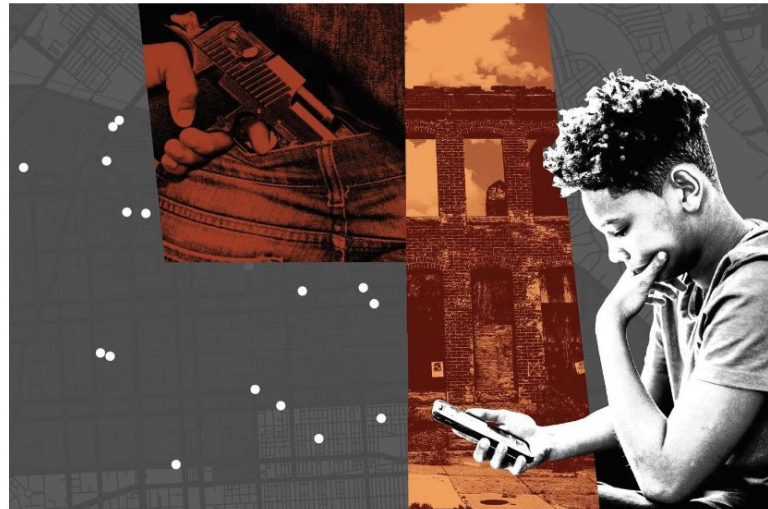
This content is made possible by the generous support of Lifebridge Health. All editorial decisions remain the domain of our newsroom.

[Criminal justice](#)

## Baltimore teenagers are being shot at an alarming rate this year

[Ben Conarck](#) and [Ryan Little](#)

Published 10/17/2022 6:00 a.m. EDT, Updated 5/10/2023 11:03 a.m. EDT



The influence of social media is one of the possible factors driving the increase in youth gunshot victims in Baltimore City. (Laila Milevski/The Baltimore Banner. Original photos by Getty Images, OpenMapTiles and Ulysses Muñoz/The Baltimore Banner)

# Analyzed every citation heread in the citation docket

We hand entered data from every citation using a form created by a data journalist. Then a data journalist analyzed the data for trends.

**THE BALTIMORE BANNER** 92° [Get the App](#) Ryan Menu

**COMMUNITY ISSUES**

## Baltimore launched a court docket for citations. Police aren't writing many of them.

**Dylan Segalbaum** **Ramsey Archibald**  
1/10/24 5:30 a.m. EST

DOCKET COPY

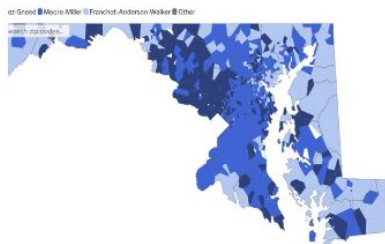
DOCKET COPY

When Baltimore State's Attorney Ivan Bates ran for office, he vowed to rescind a policy from his predecessor, Marilyn Mosby, against



# Made our precinct shapefile

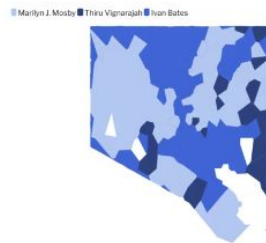
State did not have shapefiles for Maryland precincts, so we made our own using voronoi shapes (Dirichlet tessellation.)



## Precinct-level\* election results: Maryland Gubernatorial primary

See how your neighborhood voted in the Maryland Gubernatorial election.

By Nick Thieme • July 21, 2022



## Precinct-level\* election results: Baltimore City State's Attorney primary

See how your neighborhood voted in the 2022 Baltimore City state's attorney primary election.

By Nick Thieme • July 21, 2022



Questions?

