Crime data, by the call.

The SpotCrime API powers real estate platforms, executive protection teams, family safety apps, and enterprise security operations across 22,000+ U.S. cities. This document covers the API as it exists today, the v1 surface coming next, and the editorial tone we ask licensees to match when using the data.

Base URLs

Current (stable): `https://api.spotcrime.com`

v1 (planned): `https://api.spotcrime.com/v1`

Authentication

All requests authenticate with a per-customer API key.

QUERY STRING (CURRENT API)

```
GET /crimes.json?lat=39.41&lon=-76.60&radius=0.01&key=YOUR_KEY
```

AUTHORIZATION HEADER (V1, PLANNED)

```
Authorization: Bearer YOUR_KEY
```

Security note

The query-string form is the only auth method on the current API and is supported for backward compatibility. Because query strings can appear in proxy and webserver logs, treat any key sent that way as equivalent to a credential in transit: rotate on suspicion of exposure, and never embed in client-side code. Every key is additionally bound to the static IP address(es) you register (required on all plans), so requests from any other IP are rejected. The v1 surface introduces the standard Authorization: Bearerheader as the recommended method.

- API keys are issued per customer/environment. Treat them as secrets.
- Request a key at https://spotcrime.io/request-access.
- A static IP address is required on every plan. Each key is bound to the static IP address(es) you register, and requests from any other IP are rejected. You must provide at least one static IP before your key is issued; register more than one, or change them, by contacting SpotCrime.

Conventions

Transport. HTTPS, JSON request/response bodies, UTF-8.

Rate limits. Rate limits are per-key and depend on plan. Developer: 60 req/min. Pro: 300 req/min. Enterprise: custom. 429 responses include a Retry-After header.

Pagination. The current `/crimes.json` endpoint returns up to 500 results per call via the `max_records` parameter (default 50). Planned `/v1` endpoints that may return many results page via cursor (`next_cursor` in the response, `cursor` query param on the next request).

Errors. Errors return a JSON body: { errors: [string, ...] }. HTTP status codes follow REST conventions (400 invalid input, 401 invalid or missing key, 403 source IP not on the key's static-IP allowlist, 404 unknown route, 429 rate-limited, 5xx server error).

Stable endpoints

These endpoints are live today on `https://api.spotcrime.com`. Build against them with confidence; they will remain available through the v1 rollout.

GET `/crimes.json` **STABLE** Developer · Pro · Enterprise

Recent incidents near a point

Returns recent reported incidents within a radius of a lat/lon — up to 500 per call (default 50), with optional filtering by date and crime type and control over sort order. This is the endpoint powering SpotCrime's public products today.

NAME	TYPE	REQ	DESCRIPTION
`lat`	number	yes	Latitude, decimal degrees. (e.g. 39.4143)
`lon`	number	yes	Longitude, decimal degrees. (e.g. -76.6019)
`radius`	number	yes	Radius in decimal degrees (not miles). 0.01 H 0.7 mi; 1 mile H 0.01448°. (e.g. 0.01)
`key`	string	yes	Your API key. (e.g. ***)
`since`	string (YYYY-MM-DD)	no	Only return incidents on or after this date. Highly recommended. (e.g. 2026-06-01)
`max_records`	integer	no	Maximum incidents to return, 1–500. Default 50. (e.g. 500)
`sort_by`	string	no	Sort results by date or distance. Default date. (e.g. date)
`sort_order`	string	no	Sort ascending or descending. Default DESC. (e.g. DESC)
`types`	string (CSV)	no	Comma-delimited crime types to include (e.g. assault,burglary). Default: all types. (e.g. assault,burglary)
`callback`	string	no	If set, wraps the JSON payload in a JavaScript function of this name (JSONP).

RESPONSE


```
{
  "crimes": [
    {
      "cdid": 285636408,
      "type": "Assault",
      "date": "06/02/26 09:17 PM",
      "address": "15600 BLK OLD COLUMBIA PIKE",
      "link": "https://spotcrime.com/crime/285636408-965bf3969effb73027bded29be470326",
      "lat": 39.11131,
      "lon": -76.932
    }
  ]
}
```


NOTES

- `radius` on this legacy endpoint is in decimal degrees, not miles. 1 mile H 0.01448°. The planned `/v1/incidents` endpoint accepts `radius_mi` in miles.
- Returns up to 500 results per call via `max_records` (default 50). Narrow a result set with `since` and `types`; `sort_by` / `sort_order` control ordering.
- Date format is local-time `MM/DD/YY HH:MM AM/PM` without a timezone suffix.
- Incident `type` values include Shooting, Assault, Robbery, Burglary, Theft, Arson, Vandalism, Arrest, Other.

GET `/crimes/{cdid}.json` STABLE

Developer · Pro · Enterprise

Full detail for a single incident

Returns the full record for one incident, looked up by the `cdid` returned in a `/crimes.json` search result. This is the second — and only other — live endpoint. The response adds a narrative `description` field not present in search results.

NAME	TYPE	REQ	DESCRIPTION
cdid	integer	yes	The unique crime detail ID, taken from the `cdid` field of a search result. Passed in the request path, not the query string. (e.g. 23923102)
key	string	yes	Your API key. (e.g. ***)

RESPONSE


```
{
  "type": "Assault",
  "address": "8XX N. CAROLINE STREET",
  "lat": 39.2993153,
  "lon": -76.5976891,
  "cdid": 23923102,
  "date": "10/17/11 09:00 PM",
  "link": "https://spotcrime.com/crime/23923102-88a90eee2890388cf8c679b4519c4619",
  "description": "Reported assault. Officers responded to the location and a re-
port was filed. See the linked incident for the agency's public narrative."
}
```


NOTES

- `cdid` is passed in the path (e.g. `/crimes/23923102.json`), not as a query parameter.
- The `description` narrative is returned by this detail endpoint only, not by `/crimes.json` search results.

Planned (v1)

The v1 surface adds cursor pagination, ISO timestamps, time-range filtering, batch queries, and webhook alerts. These endpoints are design-locked but not yet shipped; the shapes shown will be the contract at launch.

GET `/v1/incidents` PLANNED

Developer · Pro · Enterprise

Crime incidents with full filtering & pagination

Same dataset as /crimes.json but with cursor pagination, ISO-8601 timestamps, time-range filtering, and structured type categories.

NAME	TYPE	REQ	DESCRIPTION
`lat`	number	yes	Latitude. (e.g. 39.4143)
`lon`	number	yes	Longitude. (e.g. -76.6019)
`radius_mi`	number	yes	Radius in miles. (e.g. 0.5)
`start`	string (ISO-8601)	no	Earliest occurred_at (inclusive). (e.g. 2026-05-01T00:00:00Z)
`end`	string (ISO-8601)	no	Latest occurred_at (inclusive). (e.g. 2026-06-01T00:00:00Z)
`types`	comma-separated string	no	Filter by incident type. (e.g. shooting,robbery)
`cursor`	string	no	Pagination cursor returned by the prior page.
`limit`	integer	no	Page size, 1–500. Default 100. (e.g. 100)

RESPONSE


```
{
  "incidents": [
    {
      "id": "285636408",
      "type": "assault",
      "raw_type": "Assault",
      "occurred_at": "2026-06-02T21:17:00-04:00",
      "address": "15600 BLK OLD COLUMBIA PIKE",
      "lat": 39.11131,
      "lon": -76.932,
      "url": "https://spotcrime.com/crime/285636408-..."
    }
  ],
  "next_cursor": "eyJvIjoxMjM0NX0"
}
```

GET `/v1/trends` PLANNED

Pro · Enterprise

Crime trend timeseries

Returns incident counts bucketed by day/week/month over a window, optionally split by category.

NAME	TYPE	REQ	DESCRIPTION
`lat`	number	yes	Latitude.
`lon`	number	yes	Longitude.
`radius_mi`	number	yes	Radius in miles.
`interval`	string	no	day | week | month. Default week. (e.g. week)
`window`	string	no	ISO-8601 duration. Default P12W. (e.g. P12W)

RESPONSE


```
{
  "interval": "week",
  "buckets": [
    {
      "start": "2026-03-09",
      "end": "2026-03-15",
      "count": 14,
      "by_type": {
        "assault": 3,
        "theft": 7,
        "other": 4
      }
    },
    {
      "start": "2026-03-16",
      "end": "2026-03-22",
      "count": 11,
      "by_type": {
        "assault": 2,
        "theft": 6,
        "other": 3
      }
    }
  ]
}
```

GET `/v1/history` PLANNED

Enterprise

Historical incidents beyond the 90-day window (Enterprise)

Same shape as /v1/incidents, but reaches beyond the standard rolling 90-day window. Requires an Enterprise license. For bulk archives, historical data is delivered separately in all standard formats via AWS S3 rather than through this endpoint.

NAME	TYPE	REQ	DESCRIPTION
`lat`	number	yes	Latitude.
`lon`	number	yes	Longitude.
`radius_mi`	number	yes	Radius in miles.
`start`	string (ISO-8601)	yes	Earliest occurred_at.
`end`	string (ISO-8601)	yes	Latest occurred_at.
`cursor`	string	no	Pagination cursor.

RESPONSE


```
{
  "incidents": [
    {
      "id": "271110021",
      "type": "burglary",
      "occurred_at": "2024-09-12T03:14:00-04:00",
      "lat": 39.41,
      "lon": -76.6
    }
  ],
  "next_cursor": null
}
```

POST `/v1/batch` PLANNED

Pro · Enterprise

Batch query up to 500 locations

Submit up to 500 points in one call; receive an array of per-point results. Useful for branch portfolios and listing pages.

NAME	TYPE	REQ	DESCRIPTION
body	JSON	yes	{ points: [{ id, lat, lon, radius_mi }], fields: ['score','count'] }

RESPONSE

```
{
  "results": [
    {
      "id": "BR-001",
      "score": 78,
      "count_30d": 24
    },
    {
      "id": "BR-002",
      "score": 41,
      "count_30d": 71
    }
  ]
}
```

POST `/v1/alerts/subscribe` PLANNED

Pro · Enterprise

Subscribe to crime alerts

Create a webhook subscription that fires when new incidents land within a geofence.

NAME	TYPE	REQ	DESCRIPTION
body	JSON	yes	{ webhook_url, geofences: [{ lat, lon, radius_mi }], types?: string[] }

RESPONSE

```
{
  "subscription_id": "sub_01HZ...",
  "webhook_url": "https://example.com/hooks/crime",
  "created_at": "2026-06-03T15:49:00Z"
}
```

GET `/v1/executive-risk` PLANNED

Enterprise

Executive protection risk package

Aggregated risk profile for a principal's home, office, and travel itinerary. Includes scores, recent incidents, and trend deltas.

NAME	TYPE	REQ	DESCRIPTION
`principal_id`	string	yes	Enterprise-defined principal identifier.

RESPONSE


```
{
  "principal_id": "P-001",
  "locations": [
    {
      "label": "Home",
      "lat": 39.41,
      "lon": -76.6,
      "score": 82
    },
    {
      "label": "Office",
      "lat": 38.9,
      "lon": -77.03,
      "score": 64
    }
  ],
  "generated_at": "2026-06-03T15:49:00Z"
}
```

Tone & voice

SpotCrime is the calm voice in a noisy category. We don't sensationalize incidents or sell fear; we make verified, sourced data available so the people who need it can act on it. When you write copy that uses our data — in a listing, an app, an alert, an enterprise dashboard — match this tone.

Pillars

Source-led, not opinion-led
Every datapoint cites the underlying agency or public record. If we don't have it, we say so. Never imply certainty we haven't earned.

Plain language
Short sentences. Concrete nouns. No 'crime ridden,' no 'war zone,' no 'plagued by.' Describe what happened, where, and when.

Help the reader act
Pair every number with a next step: 'see incidents in the last 30 days,' 'set an alert,' 'compare to the citywide median.'

Respect everyone in the data
Avoid suspect descriptors that don't add safety value. Do not link to mugshots. Address-level incidents use block-of conventions where appropriate.

Hold two truths
Crime is down nationally; a single block can still be unsafe. A neighborhood with a low score this month was a high-score neighborhood five years ago. State the headline and the complication.

Do say

- 12 reported incidents within 0.5 mi over the last 30 days, down from 18 the prior month.
- This city's Crime Grade is C, in the 5th decile nationally (FBI UCR data).
- Source: Baltimore County Police Department public news release, 2026-05-23.
- Set up alerts to be notified when a new incident is reported within your geofence.

Don’t say

- This neighborhood is a war zone.
- Avoid this area — it's plagued by crime.
- Crime is exploding in [city].
- This is the most dangerous block in America.

Boilerplate

SpotCrime aggregates incident data from police departments, 911 systems, and verified public sources across 22,000+ U.S. cities. Today we provide raw incident data through a commercial API, plus a free A–F Crime Grade for U.S. cities; crime alerts and trend timeseries are planned for the v1 surface. Neighborhood crime scores are served separately by CrimeScore, powered by SpotCrime data. We do not sell consumer profiles or surveillance products.

FAQ

Is the documented `/crimes.json` endpoint the same one SpotCrime.com uses?

Yes. The public site, mobile apps, and partner integrations all consume this endpoint. The /v1 surface documented here is a forward-looking expansion of the same underlying data with stricter typing, ISO timestamps, and pagination.

How fresh is the data?

Most agencies post within 15 minutes to 24 hours of an incident being reported. Our refresh cadence depends on the upstream source; high-priority feeds are polled continuously, others nightly.

What happens if I exceed the rate limit?

We return HTTP 429 with a Retry-After header. Repeated bursts can trigger a short throttle. Back off, wait for the Retry-After window, then retry. Per-minute rate-limit numbers by plan are on /api-faq.

How does pagination work?

On the live /crimes.json endpoint, use `max_records` (1–500, default 50) to control how many results a single call returns. Planned `/v1` endpoints that return many results add cursor-based pagination: the response includes a `next_cursor` field you pass back as the `cursor` query parameter on the next request.

Why is my API key rejected?

The most common cause is a source IP that doesn't match the static IP(s) registered against your key. All keys are IP-bound; requests from unregistered IPs are rejected with a 403. See the Static IP Guide (/static-ip-guide) for options if your platform doesn't have a fixed egress IP.

Get a key

Request an API key at spotcrime.io/request-access. Procurement, security review, and legal questions: contact api@spotcrime.com.