

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=0.5&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, never embed in client-side code, and prefer egress IP allowlisting (Pro / Enterprise). The v1 surface introduces the standard Authorization: Bearer header as the recommended method.

- API keys are issued per customer/environment. Treat them as secrets.
- Request a key at `https://spotcrime.io/request-access`.
- Egress IP allowlists are available on Pro and Enterprise plans for an additional security layer.

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: 600 req/min. Enterprise: custom. 429 responses include a Retry-After header.

Pagination. Endpoints that may return many results page via cursor (`next_cursor` in the response, `cursor` query param on the next request). Hard cap of 50 results per call on the current `/crimes.json` endpoint.

Errors. Errors return a JSON body: { errors: [string, ...] }. HTTP status codes follow REST conventions (400 invalid input, 401 invalid key, 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 the most recent ~50 reported incidents within a radius of a lat/lon. 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 miles. Practical max ~5. (e.g. 0.5)
key	string	yes	Your API key. (e.g. ***)

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

- Capped at 50 results per call. Use multiple smaller radii or the planned `/v1/incidents`` endpoint with cursor pagination for larger result sets.
- 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.

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": "eyJvIjoxMjM0NTU0"
}
```

GET

/v1/score

PLANNED

Developer · Pro · Enterprise

Neighborhood safety score (SpotScore)

Returns a 0–100 safety score for the point, with letter grade and category breakdown. Updated daily.

NAME	TYPE	REQ	DESCRIPTION
lat	number	yes	Latitude. (e.g. 39.4143)
lon	number	yes	Longitude. (e.g. -76.6019)
radius_mi	number	no	Radius in miles. Default 0.5. (e.g. 0.5)

RESPONSE

```
{
  "score": 78,
  "grade": "B",
  "radius_mi": 0.5,
  "updated_at": "2026-06-03T06:00:00Z",
  "breakdown": {
    "violent": 12,
    "property": 41,
    "quality_of_life": 25
  }
}
```

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

Pro · Enterprise

Historical incidents (up to 36 months)

Same shape as /v1/incidents but allows querying the full 36-month archive.

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
<code>principal_id</code>	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.
- SpotScore for this address is 78 out of 100 (B). The score combines incident frequency and severity over the trailing 12 months.
- 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. Our SpotScore is a 0–100 neighborhood safety rating that updates daily. We provide raw incidents, scores, and trends through a commercial API; 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.

Do you offer SLAs?

Pro plans include a 99.9% uptime SLA. Enterprise plans include 99.99% with dedicated infrastructure and a named account manager.

Can I redistribute SpotCrime data?

Paid plans include a commercial license to display SpotCrime data inside your product. Enterprise plans support white-labeling. See /api-terms for the full license.

What happens if I exceed my plan's rate limit?

We return HTTP 429 with a Retry-After header. Repeated bursts can trigger a short throttle. Reach out about an Enterprise contract if you regularly hit the limit.

Get a key

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