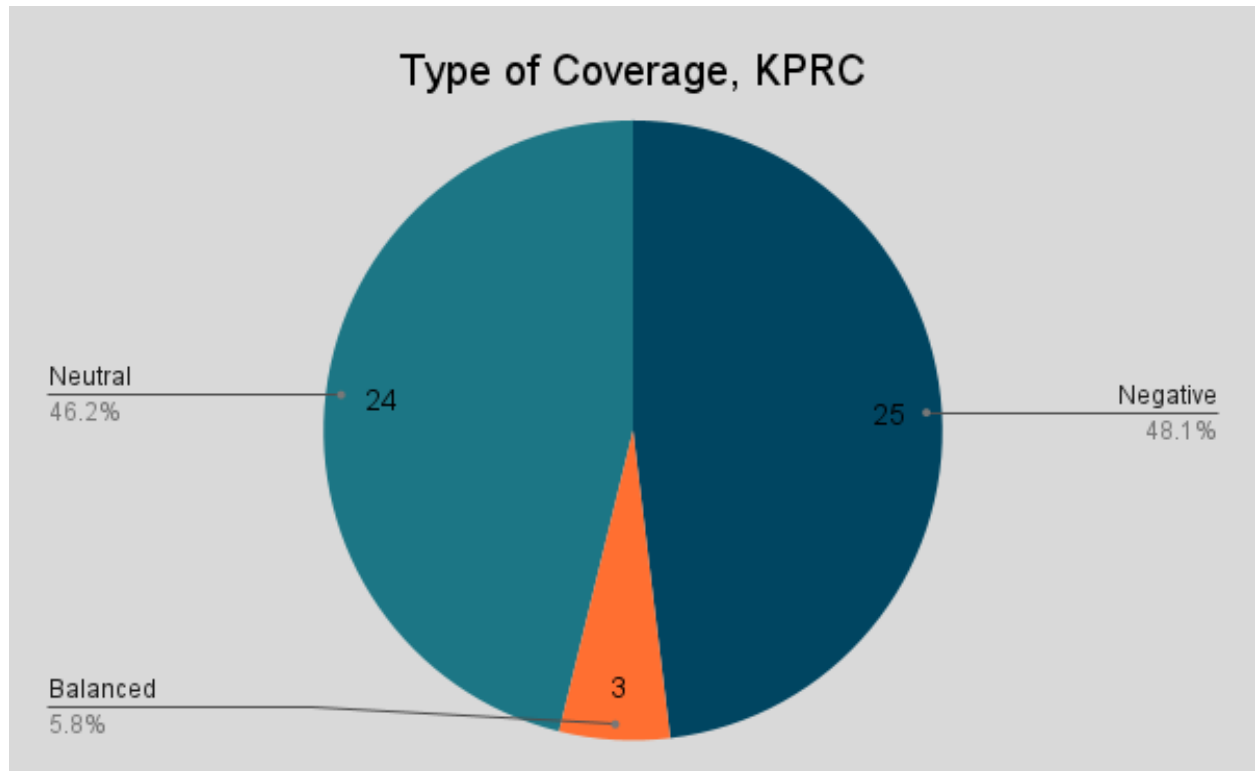


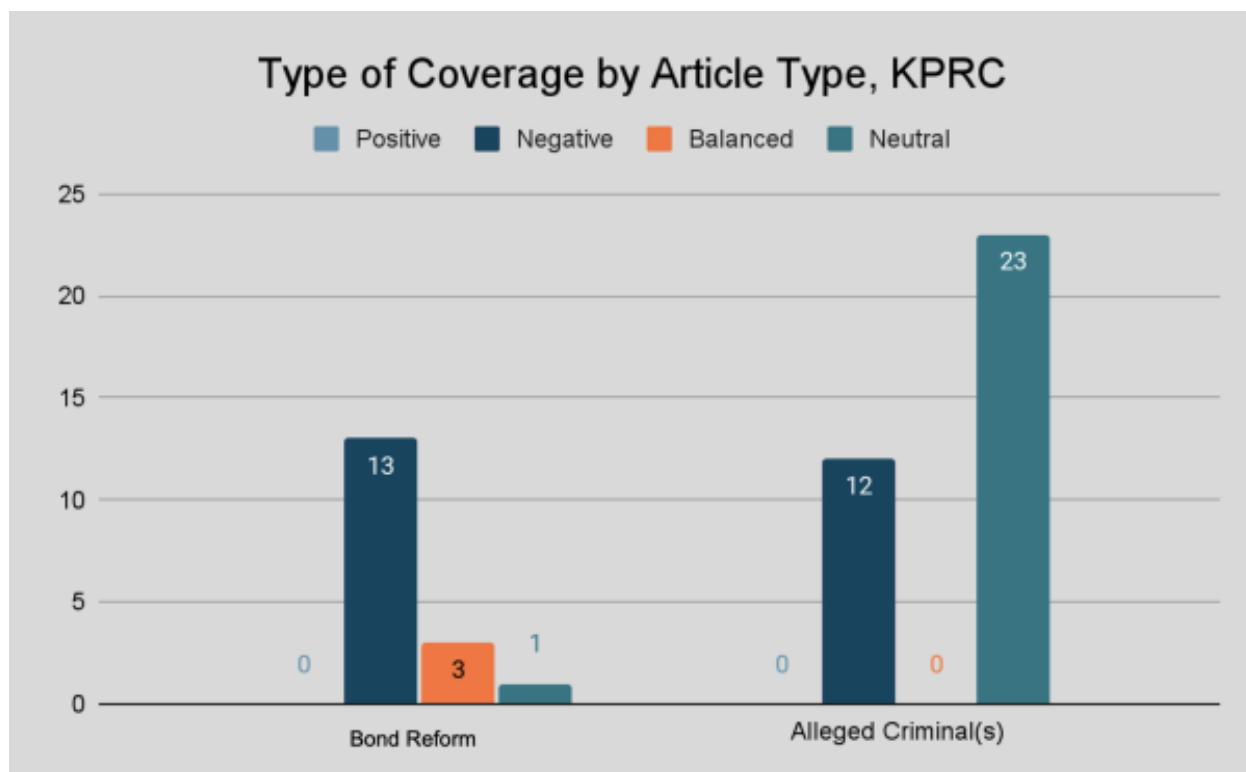
Station Report: KPRC (NBC Affiliate)

KPRC had the lowest percentage of negatively biased coverage among the primarily English-language stations, at 48 percent. No articles from this station were coded as positive, and only about 6 percent were balanced. Articles run by KPRC on this subject were found from July 14, 2015, to June 10, 2021, and totaled 52. Of these articles, 17 were primarily about bond reform while 35 were primarily about defendants.



Ten of the 17 articles primarily about bond reform were either about felonies or did not specify the type of bond being discussed, risking conflation of reforms among its viewers.

Fifty-one percent of articles about defendants were about Black defendants, which is an over-representation relative to the 20 percent Black population in Harris County; this disparity is compounded by the fact that 83 percent of all “defendant” articles include a mugshot. Similarly, nearly 30 percent of defendants were allegedly involved in homicide cases in some way—indicating that these types of cases are likely over-covered.



Law enforcement was referenced in 35 total articles, making it the most common reference for KPRC, with 25 articles coded as negative. Crime Stoppers was referenced in 13 articles and police unions in 5 articles; all articles that referenced these two groups were coded as negative. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was referenced in 13 articles, with 6 coded as negative.

Other findings from KPRC relate to coverage of judges, reporter trends, and changes in coverage over time. Local district or felony court judges were identified by name in 8 articles; interestingly, 7 of those were coded as negative, which raises questions about the potential motivations for referring to judges by name.

This station report is part of a larger analysis of bias in media coverage of bond reform in Harris County. Read the [full report](#), and see evaluations of other stations: [KTRK](#) (ABC affiliate), [KHOU](#) (CBS affiliate), [KRIV](#) (FOX affiliate), [KXLN](#) (Univision affiliate), and [KTMD](#) (Telemundo affiliate).

Before releasing this report, we contacted KPRC to ask the following questions.

1. Does your station have any policies to ensure that racial or ethnic groups are not disproportionately represented in your coverage of the justice system, in particular stories concerning bail bonds? If so, when was that policy implemented and is that policy presently being followed?
2. Does your station have a policy on naming judges, attorneys, or other individuals associated with a criminal case in your coverage of the justice

system, in particular stories concerning bail bonds? If so, when was that policy implemented and is that policy presently being followed?

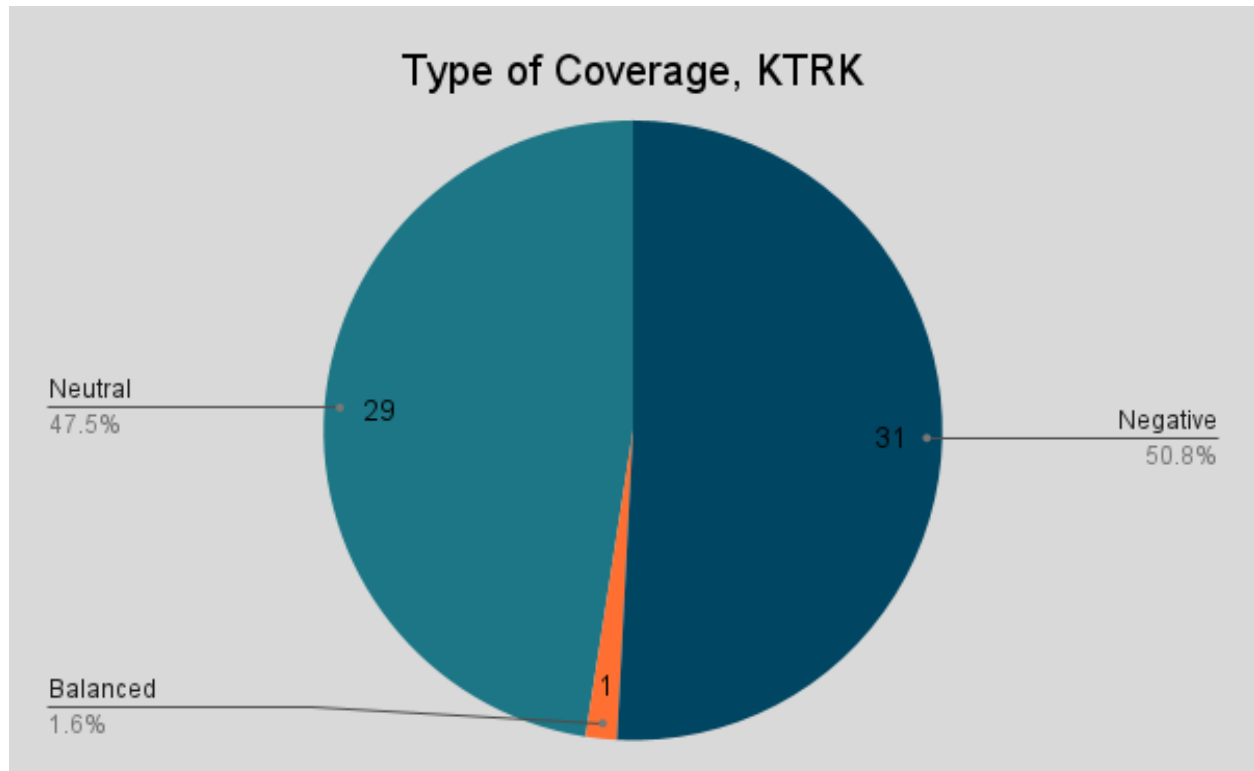
3. Does your station have a policy to ensure your coverage of the justice system distinguishes an arrest from a conviction in a criminal case? If your station has covered the arrest of an individual, is it your policy to publish a follow-up story if the charges are dismissed or the individual is found not guilty? Why or why not?
4. Crime Stoppers Houston lists you as a partnering organization in their annual report. What is the nature of this partnership, and what activities (financial or otherwise) does this partnership entail? How much editorial control or influence does your station give to Crime Stoppers Houston?

We received a response from KPRC, asking the report authors to sit down with their reporters. In early December, co-author Elaine Hennig met with KPRC staff to share findings and recommendations.

You can contact KPRC to request unbiased coverage [through their website](#).

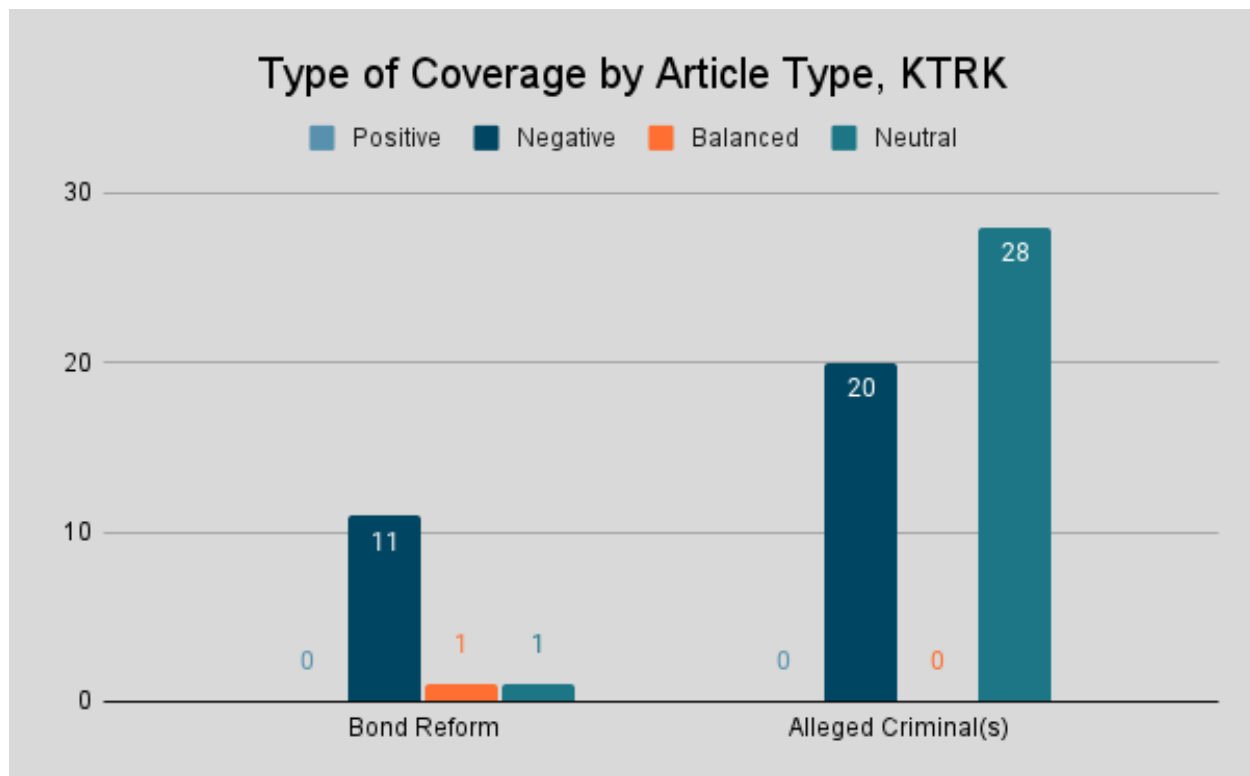
Station Report: KTRK (ABC Affiliate)

KTRK had the second-lowest percentage of negatively biased coverage among the primarily English-language stations, at 51 percent. No articles from this station were coded as positive, and less than 2 percent were balanced. Articles run by KTRK on this subject were found from February 13, 2015, to June 21, 2021, and totaled 61. Of these articles, 13 were primarily about bond reform while 48 were primarily about defendants.



Eleven of the 13 articles primarily about bond reform were either about felonies or did not specify the type of bond being discussed, risking conflation of reforms among its viewers.

Fifty percent of articles about defendants were about Black defendants, which is an over-representation relative to the 20 percent Black population in Harris County; this disparity is compounded by the fact that 81 percent of all “defendant” articles include a mugshot. Similarly, 67 percent of defendants were allegedly involved in homicide cases in some way—indicating that these types of cases are likely over-covered.



Law enforcement was referenced in 40 total articles, making it the most common reference for KTRK, with 19 articles coded as negative. Crime Stoppers was referenced in 13 articles, all of which were coded as negative; police unions were referenced in 2 articles, with 1 coded negative. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was referenced in 18 articles, with 13 coded as negative.

Other findings from KTRK relate to coverage of judges, reporter trends, and changes in coverage over time. Local district or felony court judges were identified by name in 8 articles; interestingly, all of those were coded as negative, which again raises questions about the reason for referring to judges by name.

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Before releasing this report, we contacted KTRK to ask the following questions.

1. Does your station have any policies to ensure that racial or ethnic groups are not disproportionately represented in your coverage of the justice system, in particular stories concerning bail bonds? If so, when was that policy implemented and is that policy presently being followed?
2. Does your station have a policy on naming judges, attorneys, or other individuals associated with a criminal case in your coverage of the justice

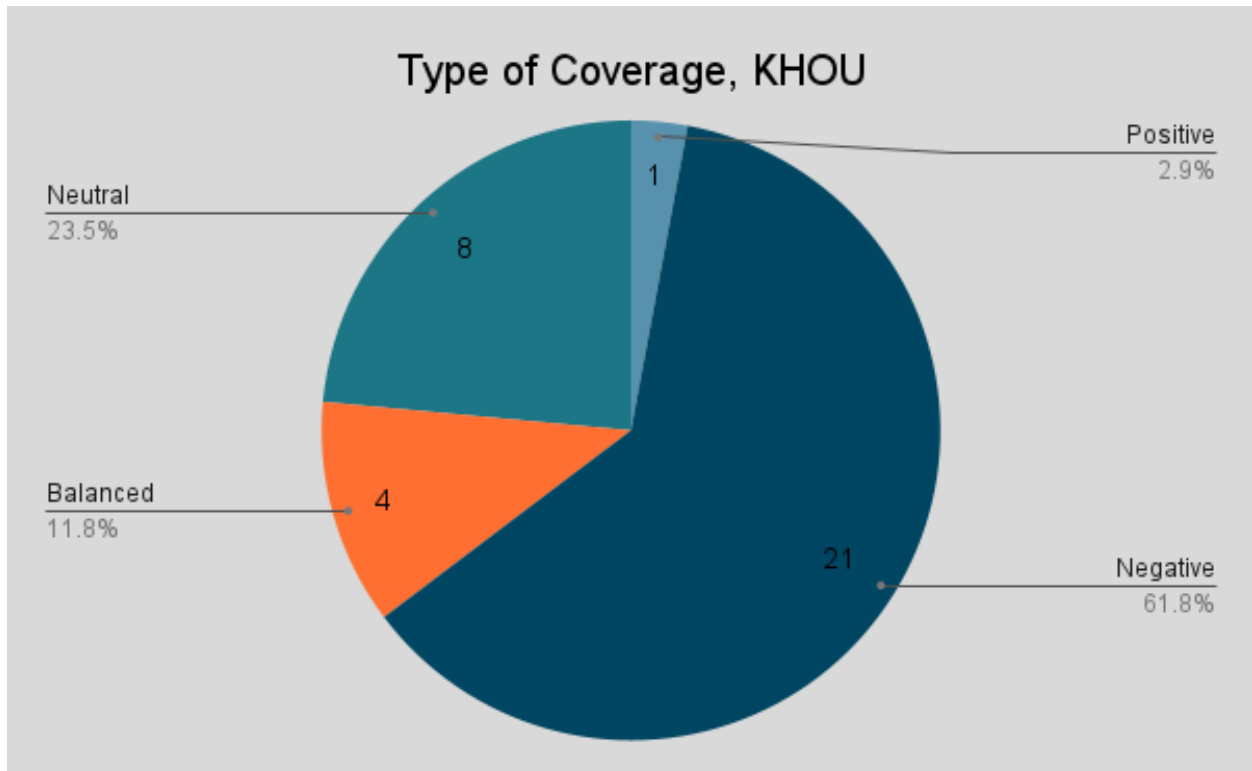
system, in particular stories concerning bail bonds? If so, when was that policy implemented and is that policy presently being followed?

3. Does your station have a policy to ensure your coverage of the justice system distinguishes an arrest from a conviction in a criminal case? If your station has covered the arrest of an individual, is it your policy to publish a follow-up story if the charges are dismissed or the individual is found not guilty? Why or why not?
4. Crime Stoppers Houston lists you as a partnering organization in their annual report. What is the nature of this partnership, and what activities (financial or otherwise) does this partnership entail? How much editorial control or influence does your station give to Crime Stoppers Houston?

We have not received a response. You can contact KTRK to request unbiased coverage [through their website](#).

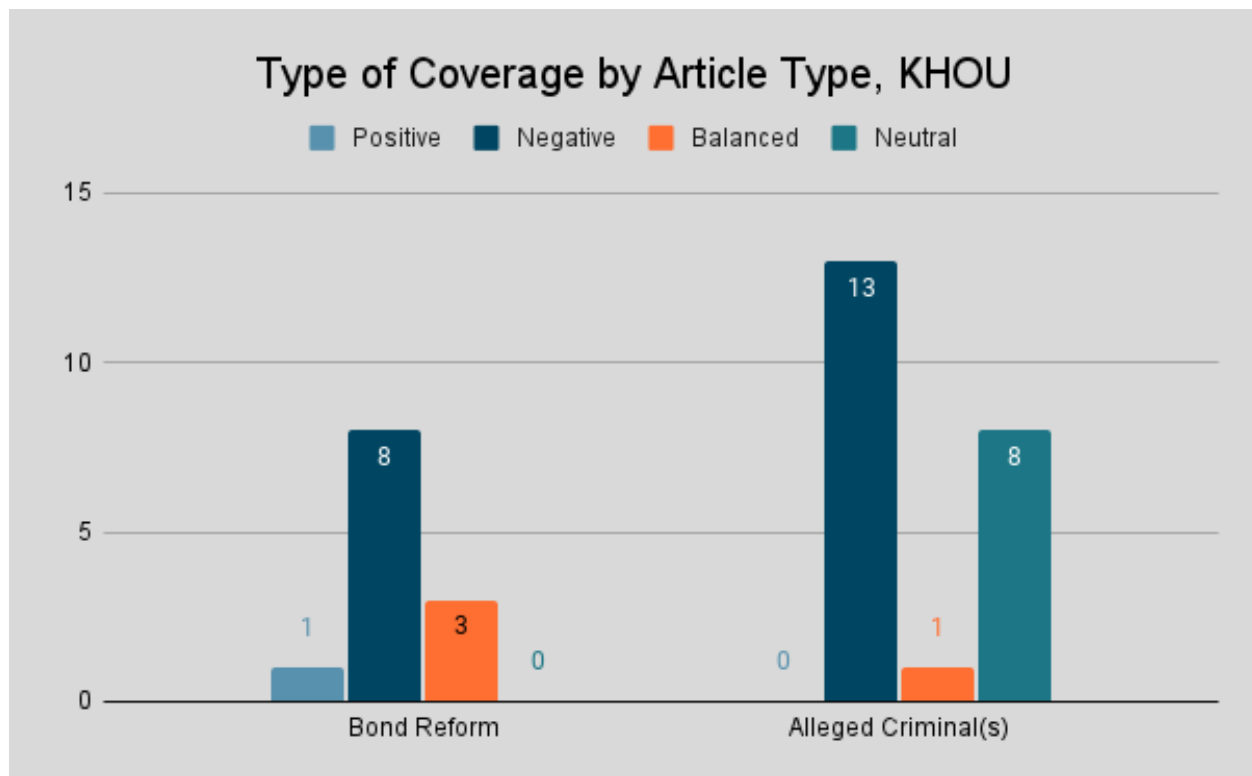
Station Report: KHOU (CBS Affiliate)

KHOU had the second-highest percentage of negatively biased coverage among the primarily English-language stations, at 62 percent. One article from this station was coded as positive, and nearly 12 percent were balanced. Articles run by KHOU on this subject were found from February 16, 2015, to June 23, 2021, and totaled 34. Of these articles, 12 were primarily about bond reform while 22 were primarily about defendants.



Eight of the 12 articles primarily about bond reform were either about felonies or did not specify the type of bond being discussed, risking conflation of reforms among its viewers.

Fifty-nine percent of articles about defendants were about Black defendants, which is an over-representation relative to the 20 percent Black population in Harris County; this disparity is compounded by the fact that 86 percent of all “defendant” articles include a mugshot. Similarly, nearly 77 percent of defendants were allegedly involved in homicide cases in some way—indicating that these types of cases are likely over-covered.



Law enforcement was referenced in 23 total articles, making it the most common reference for KHOU, with 14 articles coded as negative. Crime Stoppers was referenced in 10 articles, 9 of which were coded as negative; police unions were referenced in 1 article, which was coded as negative. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was referenced in 8 articles, with 4 coded as negative.

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Before releasing this report, we contacted KHOU to ask the following questions.

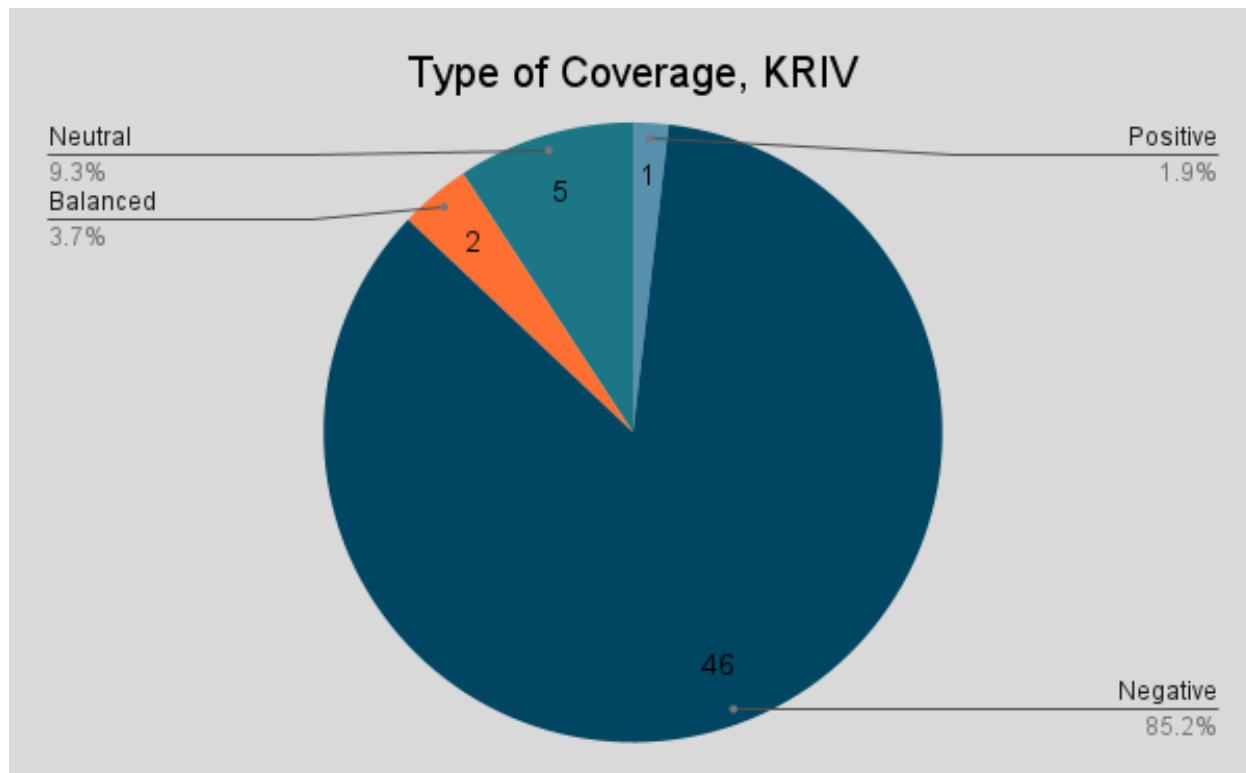
1. Does your station have any policies to ensure that racial or ethnic groups are not disproportionately represented in your coverage of the justice system, in particular stories concerning bail bonds? If so, when was that policy implemented and is that policy presently being followed?

2. Does your station have a policy on naming judges, attorneys, or other individuals associated with a criminal case in your coverage of the justice system, in particular stories concerning bail bonds? If so, when was that policy implemented and is that policy presently being followed?
3. Does your station have a policy to ensure your coverage of the justice system distinguishes an arrest from a conviction in a criminal case? If your station has covered the arrest of an individual, is it your policy to publish a follow-up story if the charges are dismissed or the individual is found not guilty? Why or why not?
4. Crime Stoppers Houston lists you as a partnering organization in their annual report. What is the nature of this partnership, and what activities (financial or otherwise) does this partnership entail? How much editorial control or influence does your station give to Crime Stoppers Houston?

We have not received a response. You can contact KHOU to request unbiased coverage [through their website](#).

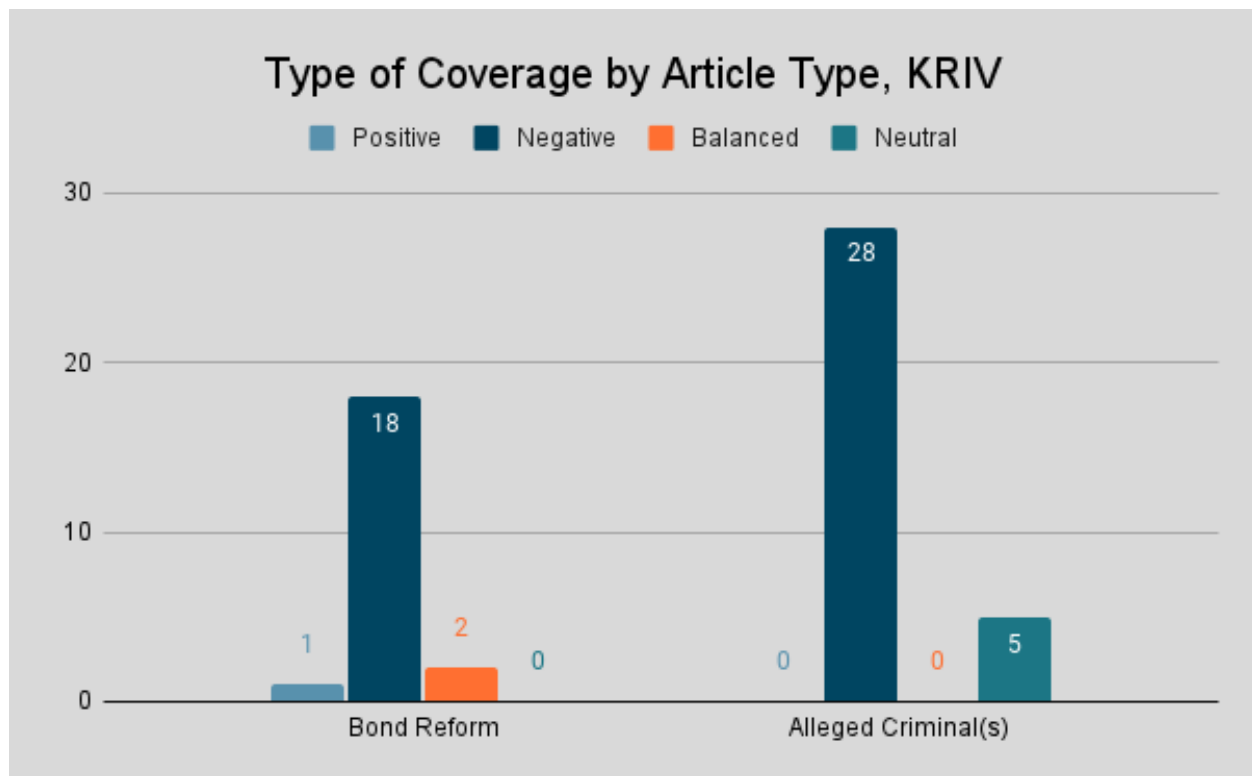
Station Report: KRIV (FOX Affiliate)

KRIV had the highest percentage of negatively biased coverage among the primarily English-language stations, at 85 percent. One article from this station was coded as positive, and only about 4 percent were balanced. Articles run by KRIV on this subject were found from July 27, 2015, to June 29, 2021, and totaled 54. Of these articles, 21 were primarily about bond reform while 33 were primarily about defendants.



Eighteen of the 21 articles primarily about bond reform were either about felonies or did not specify the type of bond being discussed, risking conflation of reforms among its viewers.

Fifty-five percent of articles about defendants were about Black defendants, which is an over-representation relative to the 20 percent Black population in Harris County; this disparity is compounded by the fact that 97 percent of all “defendant” articles include a mugshot. Similarly, 70 percent of defendants were allegedly involved in homicide cases in some way—indicating that these types of cases are likely over-covered.



Crime Stoppers was referenced in 39 total articles—all of which were coded as negative—making it the most common reference for KRIV, even over law enforcement, which was referenced in 27 articles, 22 of which were coded as negative. Police unions were referenced in 9 articles, all of which were coded as negative. The Harris County District Attorney’s Office was referenced in 10 articles, all of which were coded as negative.

Other findings from KRIV relate to coverage of judges, reporter trends, and changes in coverage over time. Local district or felony court judges were identified by name in 32 articles; interestingly, all of them were coded as negative, which raises questions about the reason for referring to judges by name.

KRIV Spotlight: *Breaking Bond*

In addition to having the highest level of negative bias in its media coverage of bond, KRIV was also the only station we identified as having a special series dedicated to this subject. Of the 54 total articles KRIV ran, 33 were found to be part of the *Breaking Bond* series—though this may not be an all-inclusive accounting—starting on November 25, 2020. All 33 articles were coded as negative, accounting for a substantial amount of KRIV’s negative bias. Furthermore, Crime Stoppers was referenced in 30 of these articles, which may explain why 12 of the 15 articles primarily about bond reform make no mention of the actual misdemeanor reforms that have taken place. It is also worth questioning how deeply ingrained this unelected, non-governmental group is with KRIV,¹ particularly when considering the extent to which Crime Stoppers is referenced in negatively biased articles. Other issues with *Breaking Bond* stem

from its racialized coverage, which over-represents Black defendants at an even higher rate than KRIV more broadly, and its continued, likely over-coverage of homicide cases.

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Before releasing this report, we contacted KRIV to ask the following questions.

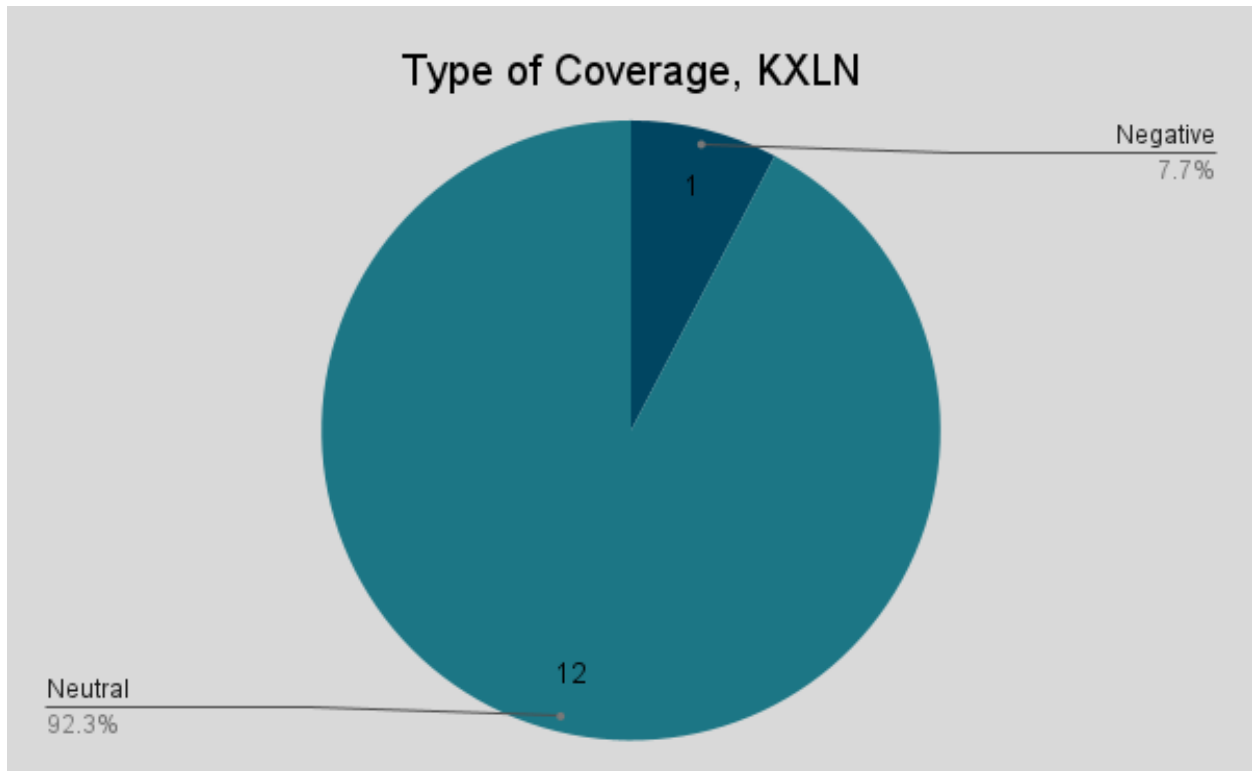
1. Does your station have any policies to ensure that racial or ethnic groups are not disproportionately represented in your coverage of the justice system, in particular stories concerning bail bonds? If so, when was that policy implemented and is that policy presently being followed?
2. Does your station have a policy on naming judges, attorneys, or other individuals associated with a criminal case in your coverage of the justice system, in particular stories concerning bail bonds? If so, when was that policy implemented and is that policy presently being followed?
3. Does your station have a policy to ensure your coverage of the justice system distinguishes an arrest from a conviction in a criminal case? If your station has covered the arrest of an individual, is it your policy to publish a follow-up story if the charges are dismissed or the individual is found not guilty? Why or why not?
4. Crime Stoppers Houston lists you as a partnering organization in their annual report. What is the nature of this partnership, and what activities (financial or otherwise) does this partnership entail? How much editorial control or influence does your station give to Crime Stoppers Houston (including but not limited to the recurring "Breaking Bond" segments aired on your station)?

We have not received a response. You can contact KRIV to request unbiased coverage [through their website](#).

¹ Crime Stoppers refers to *Breaking Bond* as “our [...] Series” in a [press release](#).

Station Report: KXLN (Univision Affiliate)

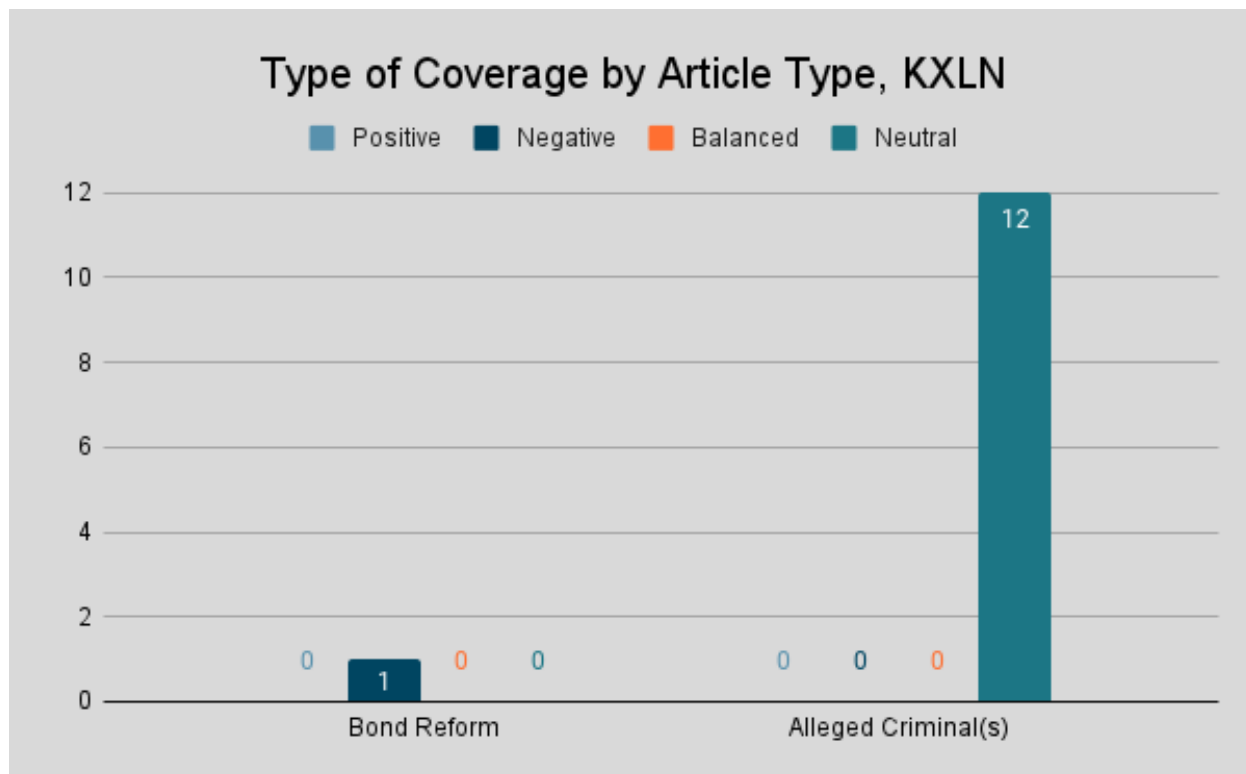
KXLN had the highest percentage of neutral coverage among Spanish-language stations, at 92 percent. No articles from this station were coded as positive or balanced, and only about 8 percent were negative. Articles run by KXLN on this subject were found from November 12, 2020, to June 27, 2021, and totaled 13. Of these articles, 1 was primarily about bond reform while 12 were primarily about defendants.



The 1 article primarily about bond reform did not specify the type of bond being discussed, risking conflation of reforms among its viewers.

Black defendants were not over-represented relative to the 20 percent Black population in Harris County; however, 92 percent of all “defendant” articles include a mugshot. Forty-two percent of defendants were allegedly involved in homicide cases in some way—indicating that these types of cases are likely over-covered.

Law enforcement was referenced in 9 total articles, making it the most common

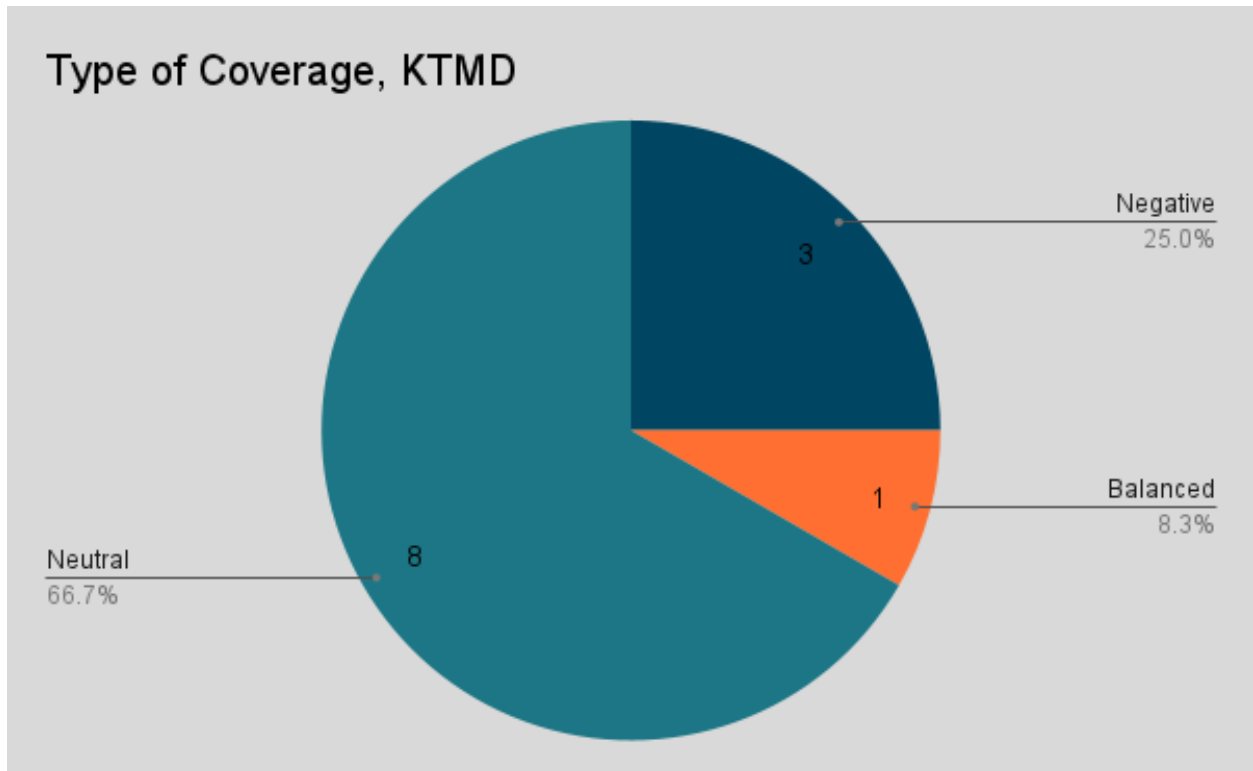


reference for KXLN, with 1 article coded as negative. Neither Crime Stoppers nor police unions were referenced. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was referenced in 14 articles, with 1 coded as negative.

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Station Report: KTMD (Telemundo Affiliate)

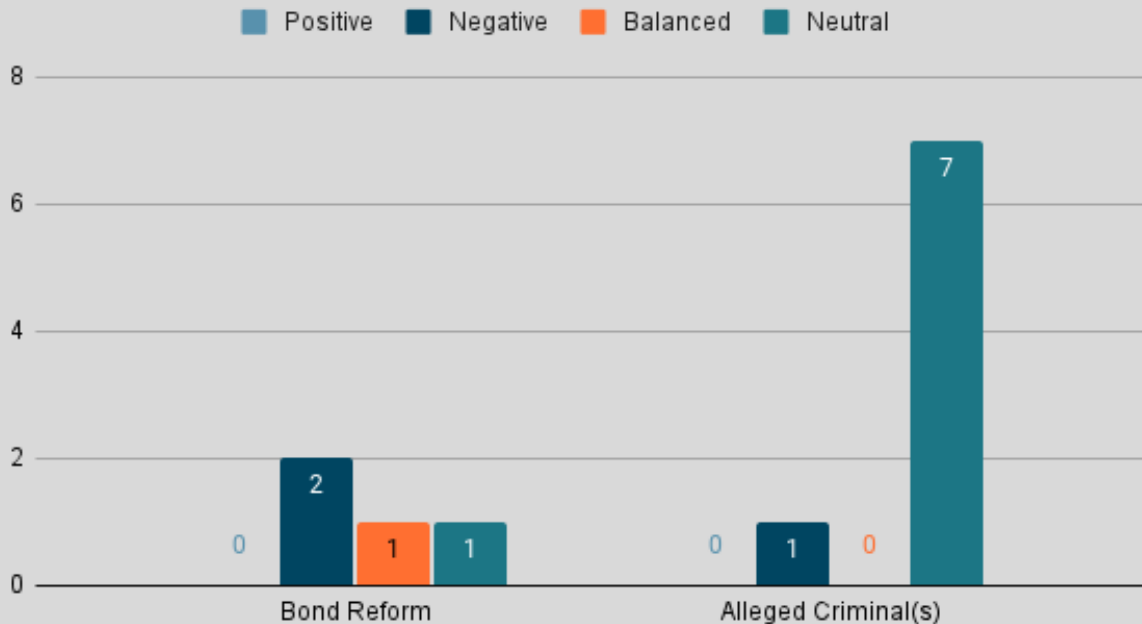
KTMD had the second-highest percentage of neutral coverage among Spanish-language stations, at 67 percent. No articles from this station were coded as positive, though 8 percent were balanced and 25 percent were negative. Articles run by KTMD on this subject were found from August 7, 2019, to June 16, 2021, and totaled 12. Of these articles, 4 were primarily about bond reform while 8 were primarily about defendants.



Half of the articles primarily about bond reform did not specify the type of bond being discussed, risking conflation of reforms among its viewers.

Also, half of articles about defendants were about Black defendants, which is an over-representation relative to the 20 percent Black population in Harris County; this disparity is compounded by the fact that 63 percent of all “defendant” articles include a mugshot. Similarly, 50 percent of defendants were allegedly involved in homicide cases in some way—indicating that these types of cases are likely over-covered.

Type of Coverage by Article Type, KTMD



Law enforcement was referenced in 7 total articles, making it the most common reference for KTMD, with 3 articles coded as negative. Crime Stoppers as an organization, and not Andy Kahan, was referenced in 1 article, which was coded as negative. Police unions and the Harris County District Attorney's Office were not referenced.

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