

FILLING NEWS GAPS WITH ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

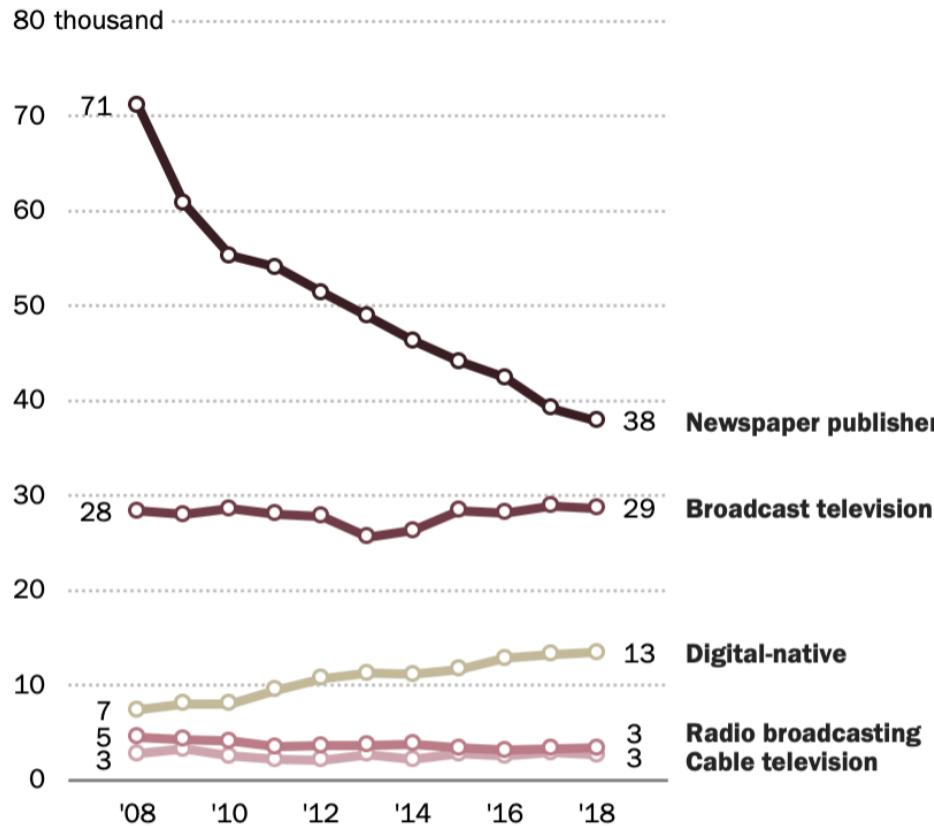
Lara Salahi

New England Newspaper Press Association

Presented February 7, 2020

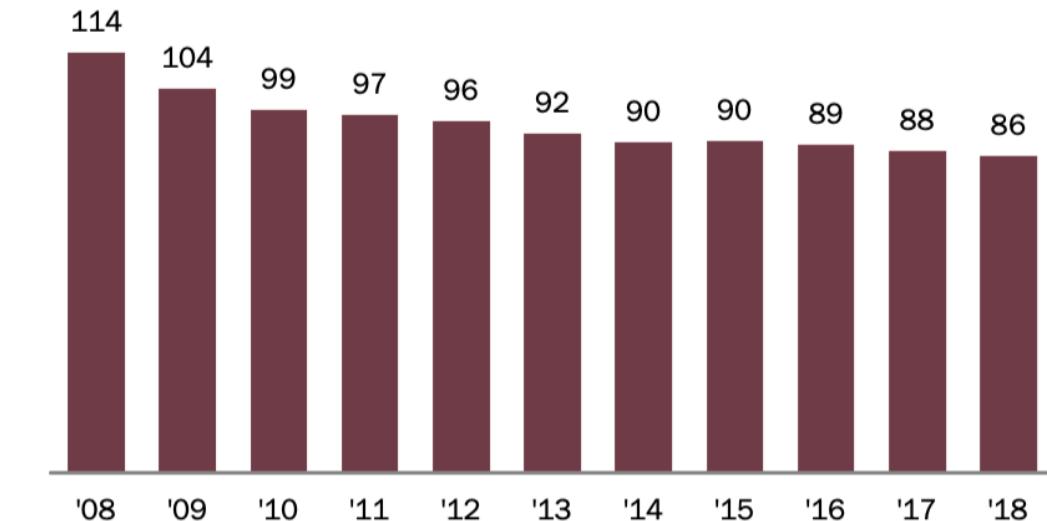
The number of newsroom employees at U.S. newspapers declined by 47% between 2008 and 2018

Number of U.S. newsroom employees in each news industry, in thousands



Newsroom employment in the United States declined 25% between 2008 and 2018

Number of U.S. newsroom employees in news industries, in thousands



Note: The OES survey is designed to produce estimates by combining data collected over a three-year period. Newsroom employees include news analysts, reporters and correspondents; editors; photographers; and television, video and motion picture camera operators and editors. News industries include newspaper publishers; radio broadcasting; television broadcasting; cable and other subscription programming; and other information services, the best match for digital-native news publishers.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics data.

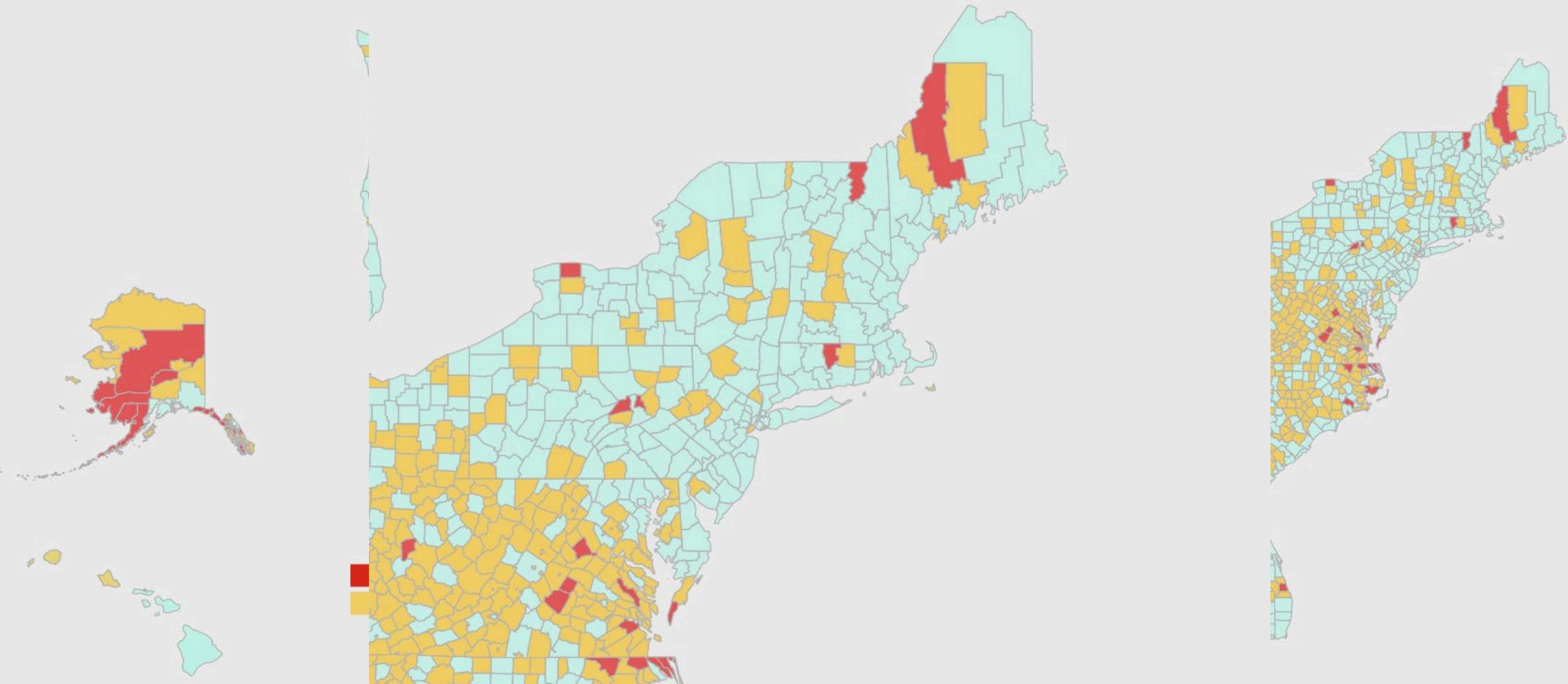
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- America lost a quarter of its journalists from 2008 to 2018, the vast majority of them covering local issues
- Newsrooms lost at least 3,800 jobs in 2019 alone.
- “Ghost Papers”; “News Deserts”

Do You Live in a News Desert?

In the U.S., 225 countie

er, usually a weekly.



Source: UNC School of Media and Journalism's Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media



MODELS TO “HYDRATE” COMMUNITIES AT RISK

- Expansion of bureaus from inherently “Boston” newsrooms
- Single journalist news startups in local communities
- News/Academic partnerships





PARTNERSHIP MODELS

- Confined to a recurring course
- Faculty practitioner/student(s) collaboration
- Resides with an extracurricular student media
- Resides with an academic institution's news media service



GateHouse Media®

2015

32 editorial employees

21 publications

GANNETT

TODAY

15 editorial employees

10 publications (4 of
which are merged
publications)

NEWS/ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS: BENEFITS & RISKS

Benefits	Risks
Additional coverage of News/Feature content	Poor/ “Green” quality content
Building experience/portfolio for students	Risking reputation of students and/or Journalism Program or Course
Building relationships and visibility in an academic program	Errors such as misquotes that may slip into published stories
Possible cost-saving measure for newsrooms (?)	Student burnout, depending on rigor of partnership
	Organizer(s) burnout to maintain sustainable partnership

PART OF A PARTNERSHIP?

Examining the Sustainability of College Media
Partnership Models

lsalahi@endicott.edu

christina.smith1@gcsu.edu