

Newspapers are dying. Should we care?

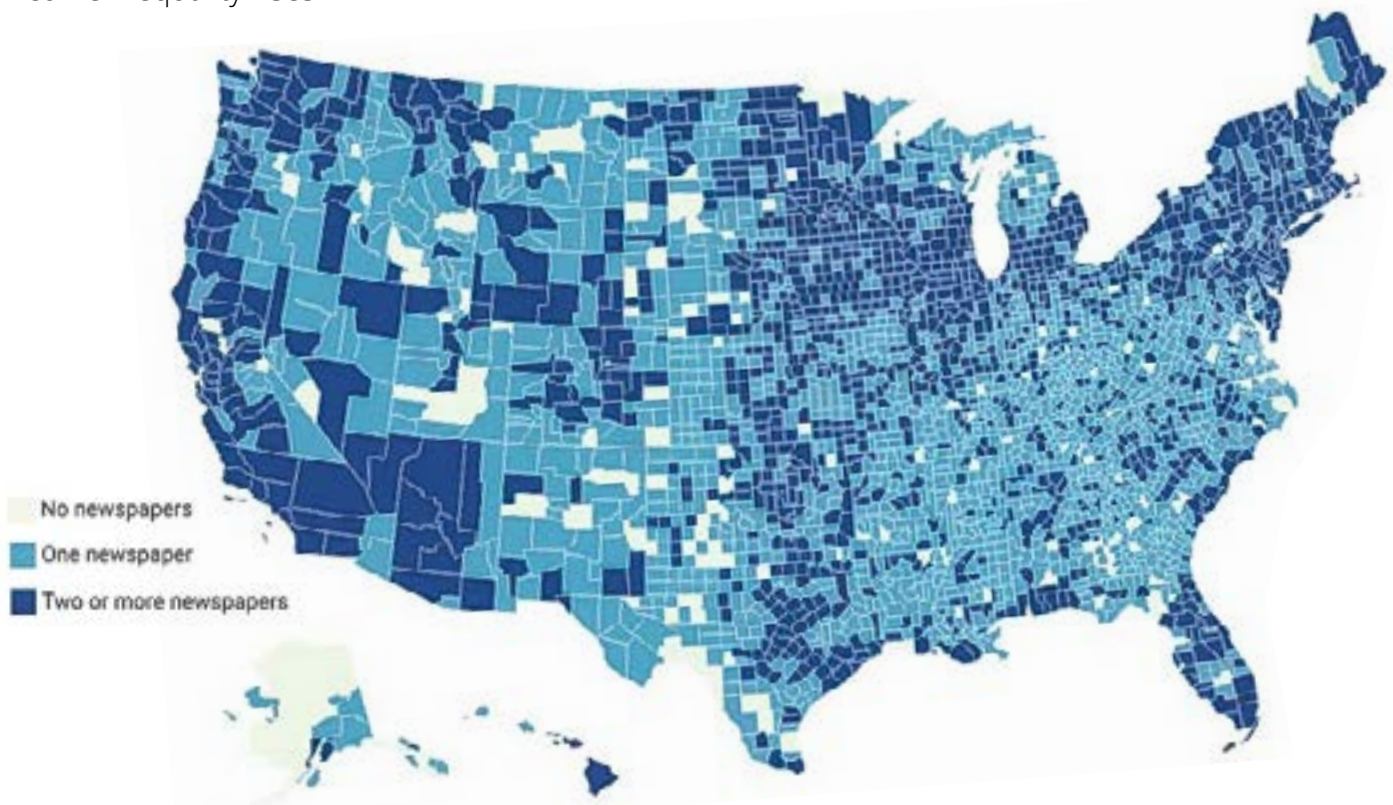
Every two weeks a print or online newspaper shuts down in the U.S. Most are never replaced.

Dying newspapers impact low-income communities the most. Economically struggling, traditionally underserved communities that need investigative local reporting are the very places unable to sustain digital or print news organizations. Research shows that as local journalism dies out in these communities:

- Voter participation declines
- Corruption increases
- Income inequality rises

What can be done?

Philanthropic funding of local investigative journalism and journalists is a good start. Large philanthropies have already helped start 64 such outfits over the last several years. Supporting pre-existing non-profit news organizations like The News Literacy Project (<https://newslit.org/>) or Report for America (www.reportforamerica.org) is another easy step we can all take to encourage young people to report in low-income or ignored communities.



I started my career as a newspaper journalist working for a small local daily which is still around today as an online publication. Though we saw the headwinds even then, I'm glad to see the rise of non-profit and philanthropically-supported local newsrooms across the country. We need many more!

If you want to learn more, here's a good book to get you started:

<https://academic.oup.com/book/33644/chapter-abstract/288171618?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

Newspapers As Non-Profits | LinkedIn, November 2023 | Ehsan Z., Chief Difference Engineer @ ASU



The news you've been missing