

Stop saying local news is dying | Poynter

By Kristin Hare

December 11, 2019

We started 2019 with Gannett [layoffs at local newspapers](#), [we're ending](#) 2019 with Gannett layoffs at local newspapers, and Ken Doctor's look at continued newspaper consolidation in 2020 [is devastating](#).

It's quite the end to [quite a decade](#).

News deserts, or places without news, have [spread](#) in the last 10 years, and they've most seriously hurt places that have poor and underserved populations, said the University of North Carolina's Penny Muse Abernathy, who has tracked news deserts. Less local news has also led to [lower voter turnout](#) and [increased political polarization](#).

The business of local news is in trouble, Clara Henderickson wrote [in a recent report](#) for The Brookings Institution.

"This is a serious public problem; those who read, listen, and watch the news are not just consumers, but citizens that rely on news publishers to meet the demands of living in a democracy."

The headlines this year [have been in agreement](#) – local news is dying.

But those headlines are wrong.

[...]

Source: [Stop saying local news is dying – Poynter](#)