**Study: News Deserts Spread Dramatically in 2020**

Nearly 25% of newspapers published 15 years ago have been shut down, and the number of communities without a local source has grown by 500 in the same time period, researchers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill report. Local newsrooms shut down at an average rate of ten per month from 2004 to 2018, but that figure jumped to 30 per month in the first half of 2020.

***Poynter 6.24.20***

[***https://www.poynter.org/locally/2020/unc-news-deserts-report-2020/***](https://www.poynter.org/locally/2020/unc-news-deserts-report-2020/)

***Image credit:***

[***https://www.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/styles/scale\_1440/public/images/2018/09/IMG\_2694.jpg?itok=XvMd5wta***](https://www.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/styles/scale_1440/public/images/2018/09/IMG_2694.jpg?itok=XvMd5wta)