

Support Journalists, Support Accurate News

By Amanda Barberena

In light of the “fake news” outbreak, demands on journalists are becoming even more outrageous. Rarely do journalists have time to extensively fact check everything that is produced which can lead to unintentional errors.

Many reporters have also not been trained on the spread of false information. A [Statista survey found](#) that approximately 81% of journalists in the U.S. have not been formally trained.

A dwindling newsroom doesn't help. There are fewer journalists. There is more responsibility. There is more pressure. How are so few employees supposed to take on such a feat?

At NPR affiliate station WKAR, there are three reporters, two hosts that double as reporters when available and three interns. This team is supposed to cover the greater mid-Michigan region.

Not only are they supposed to cover every major event and breaking news in the area, but they are also supposed to turn around pristine work within hours. As fulfilling as the work is, this group of hardworking individuals is constantly tired and stressed.

They rely on college interns to help them out, but these students also have classes, student organizations and possibly other jobs that demand their time. Producing such high-quality content can be difficult.

According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), in 2018, Michigan had 1,190 reporters and correspondents covering news. This includes radio, television, newspaper and news magazine journalists.

In the Lansing and East Lansing area, there were only 150.

The [Bureau predicts](#) a 10% job decline between now and 2028, losing approximately 5,000 employees nationwide.

According to [Statista](#), in print journalism between 2013 and 2017, approximately 10,000 employees lost their jobs.

It's an unfortunate reality for many newsrooms that they can't afford to hire more reporters or keep reporters. One of the largest struggles is making sure everything published is accurate.

If more people understood the importance of journalism and supported the true journalists that strive for excellence and accuracy, then newsrooms could hire more reporters to lift some of the burden of covering an entire region.

Support journalists by subscribing to newspapers and donating money to television and radio stations, especially PBS and NPR because they are funded, in large part, by donors.

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