

Public Media's Local Journalists

A distributed national network

October 2021



STATION RESOURCE GROUP

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Against the backdrop of a continuing local journalism crisis

A growing number of local public media organizations are becoming premier providers of public service journalism for their communities

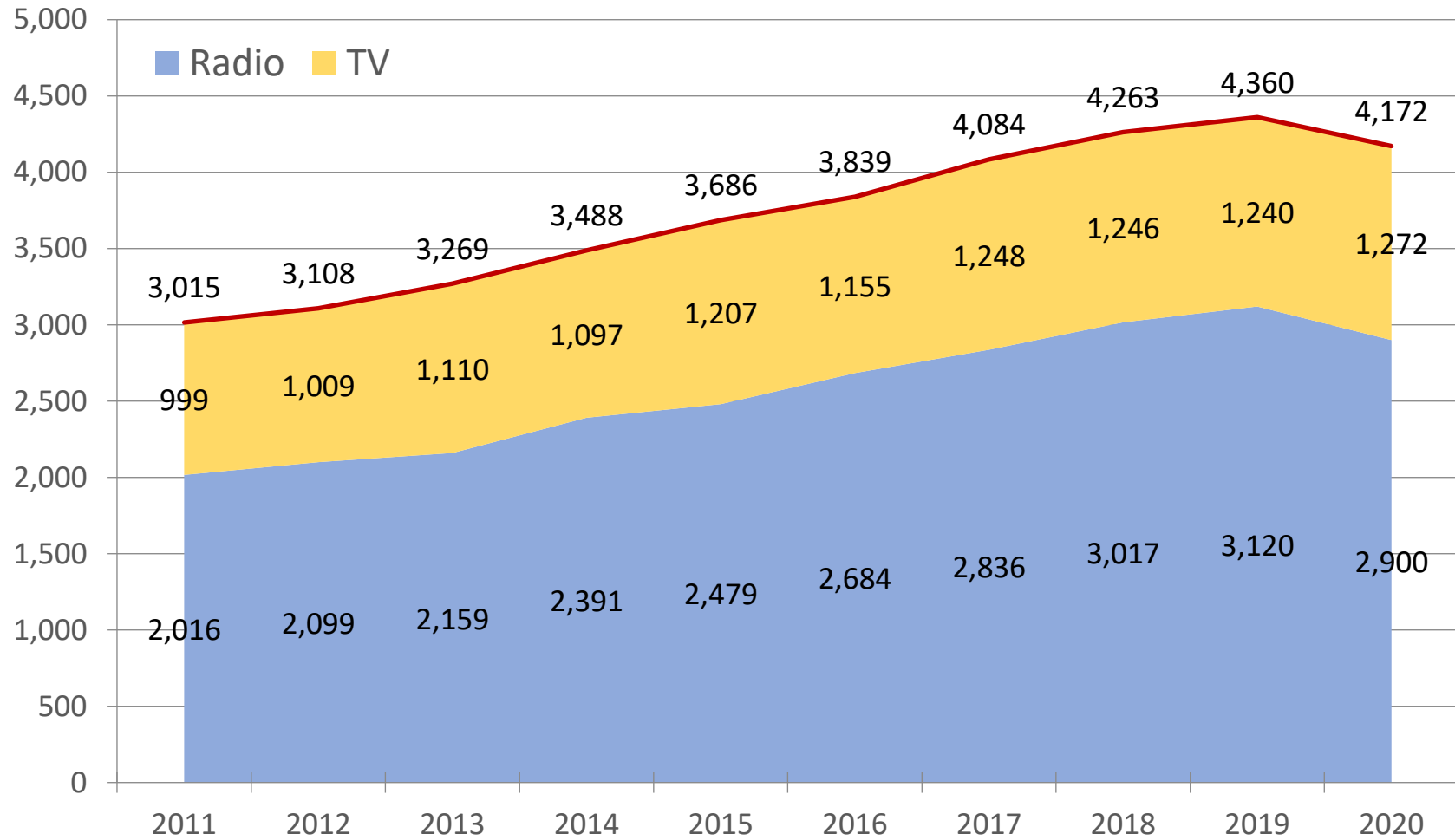
Producing in-depth, high quality coverage and opportunities for civic engagement that improve civic and cultural life

Leveraging multiple platforms—broadcast, on-demand, digital, live event, video, text, and social media—to meet the changing ways audiences consume news

Remaining remarkably resilient through the challenges and disruptions of the Covid pandemic

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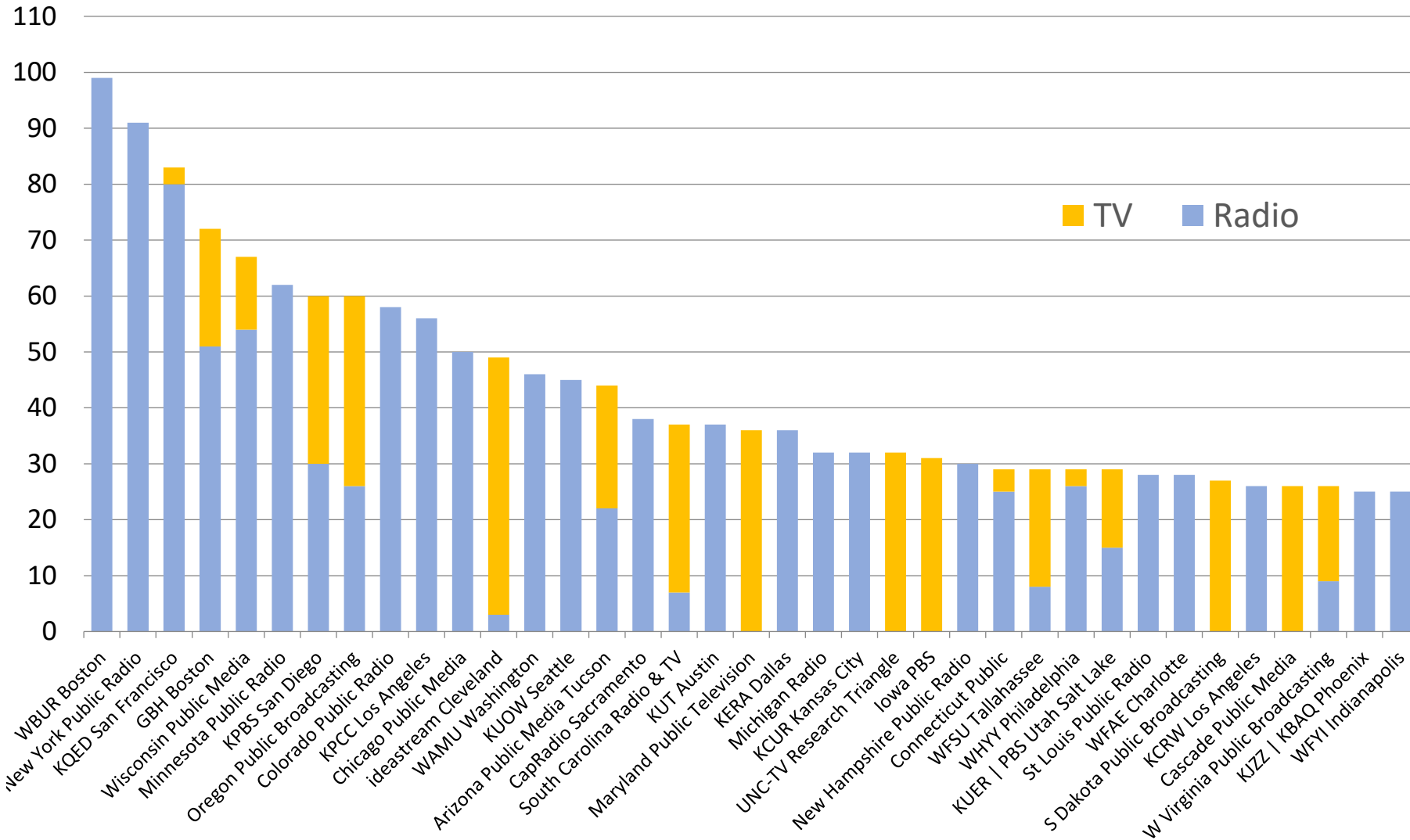
1,150 positions added over 9 years



Source: Corporation for Public Broadcasting Station Surveys

Public Media's Full-Time Local Journalists

Radio and TV Organizations with 25 or More Full-Time Positions, FY 2020

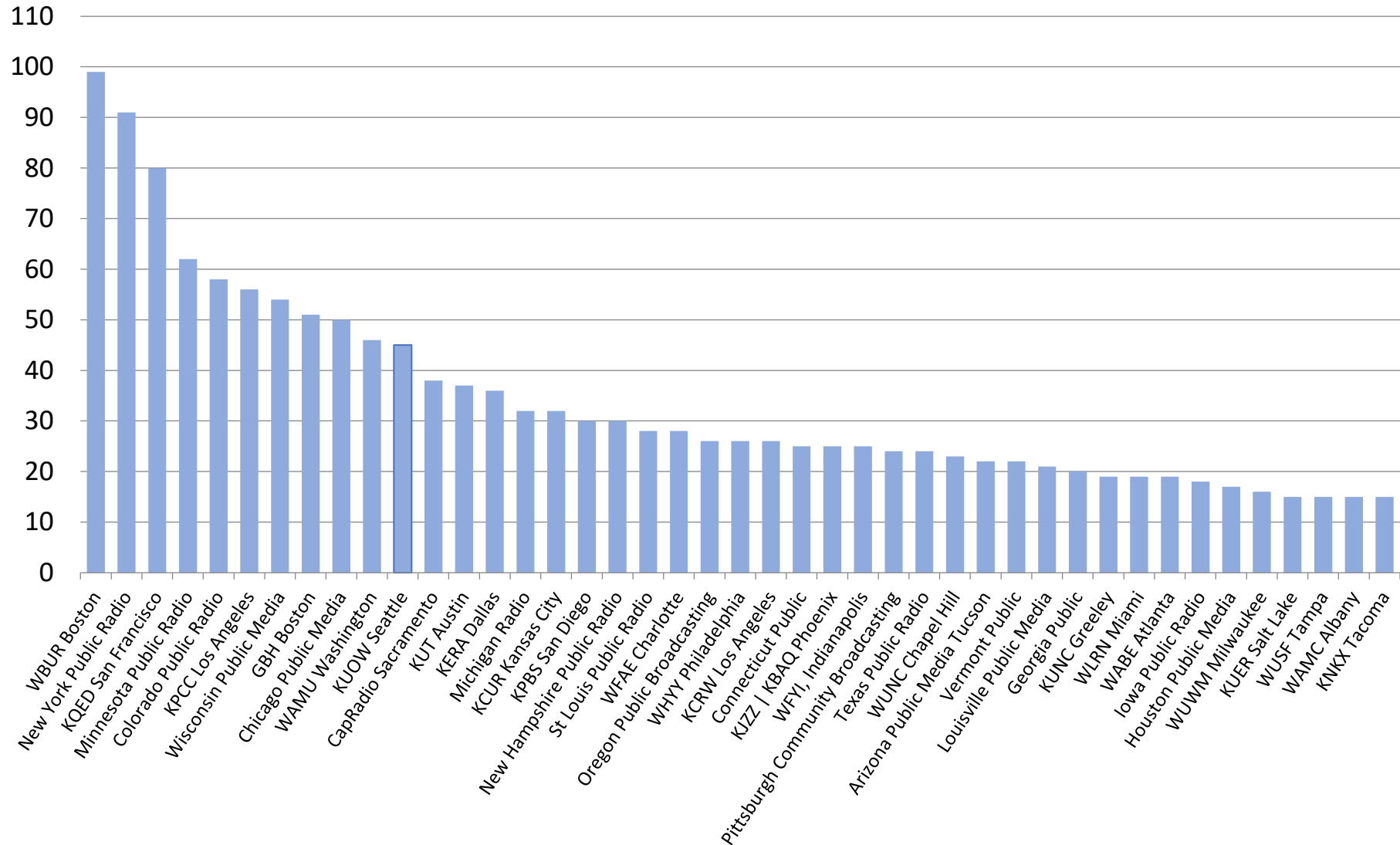


Source: Corporation for Public Broadcasting Station Surveys

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Public Radio's Full-Time Local Journalists

Organizations with 15 or More Full-Time Radio Journalists, FY 2020



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Impact of the pandemic

January 2020 to January 2021

Net loss of 48 full-time journalist positions across 462 radio, television, and joint public media organizations

- 22 net full-time radio positions lost, 26 net full-time positions lost in television
- Combination of buy-outs and layoffs
- Some stations added journalist positions to meet local needs

Part-time positions – 217 lost jobs

- Most of the part-time loss was in radio, down 192 part-time jobs

Contract personnel increased – 77 positions

A spectacular achievement under pandemic adversity

Resilience among public radio's news stations

134 public radio organizations with strong commitments to local news saw a **net loss of just two positions** from January 2020 to January 2021

- These organizations account for 88% of public radio's full-time journalists
- Part-time journalists at these organizations increased by a net of 39 positions, from 330 to 369 (+12%)
- Contract journalism personnel among the 134 organizations declined by four positions, from 126 to 122 (-3%)
- Several stations with the largest losses as of January 2021 have since been hiring to levels above their January 2020 numbers