



THE MAINE MONITOR

2022 Impact Report

*A publication of the
Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting*

THEMAINEMONITOR.ORG





The Maine Monitor fills the gap between diminished in-depth, investigative reporting and the need of Mainers to be fully informed about their state. Published by the nonprofit Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting, The Maine Monitor's investigative and in-depth stories on government, diversity, education, environment, and healthcare engage readers to participate and connect to create a better Maine.

In 2022, we saw exponential growth in our reporting, our readership, and our community of donors. Most importantly, our investigative, in-depth stories prompted real, positive results for Mainers.

**265 stories, videos, and podcasts published,
a 51% increase over 2021**

TWO NEW Newsletters Launched

Climate Monitor April 2022

Downeast Monitor December 2022

Audience Growth:

In 2022, we welcomed thousands of new readers into

The Maine Monitor community:

- ★ **98.5% increase** in website views, with 601,331 visits to **themaineonitor.org** (compared to 303,003 in 2021)
- ★ 31,000 users per month on average in 2022, up from 16,000/month in 2021
- ★ More than **2,400 NEW subscribers** to our newsletters, bringing to **6,200 our unique, opt-in newsletter subscribers**

In 2022, Our Reporting ...

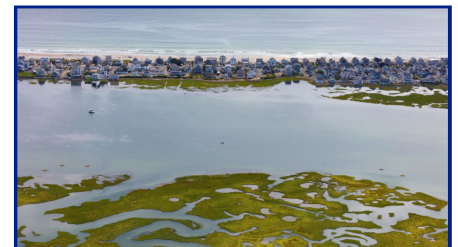
- **Revealed** that some Maine sheriffs illegally allowed law enforcement to listen in on recorded phone conversations between jailed defendants and their lawyers;
- **Examined** the impact of the pandemic on Maine, from the increase in mental health problems of teens, to more substance use among medical professionals, to stresses on behavioral health facilities and difficulty rebuilding ranks of public health nurses;
- **Told** the stories of transgender men and women struggling to find a place in rural communities.
- **Tracked** the stubborn legacy of “forever chemicals” in our precious lands;
- **Explored** the impact of sea rise on Maine coastal communities and the solutions being discussed;
- **Dedicated** reporting to Washington County, exploring the impact of new residents on Washington County and its housing market, the increasingly dire need for funding for its ambulance services, and the history and contributions of its Latino community; and
- **Exposed** how a huge development proposed by a politically powerful family in tiny Columbia Falls would burden the town and evade state regulations.



Eavesdropping in Maine Jails



The Journey to Be Me



The Unstoppable Ocean



In 2022, our reporting prompted real actions...

- Samantha Hogan's 2021 award-winning "Defenseless" project **prompted numerous legislative reforms and rule changes** at the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services. The **Maine Legislature in spring of 2022 funded five public defender positions, the first in the state's history**. The Maine Attorney General now has a civil suit against a private defense lawyer who participated in the MCILS program.
- Samantha's 2022 "Eavesdropping in Maine Jails" project caused **the Legislature to order a study of the prisoners' right to counsel in Maine jails and prisons**.
- Kate Cough's coverage of a huge development proposed by a politically powerful family in tiny Columbia Falls **put the state on notice** that the project wasn't going to escape public scrutiny.
- Kate's coverage of mining projects in rural Maine, including a \$1.5 billion lithium discovery in western Maine, drew attention from state and local policy makers, environmental advocates, and investors, and **prompted Legislators to introduce new mining-related bills**.
- Rose Lundy's investigation into deaths at two long term care homes in 2022 prompted readers to contact our newsroom with additional cases, **sparking a broader investigation of inadequate care in several homes** by the Monitor that is still underway.

Our Mission

To deliver fearless, independent, citizen-supported, nonpartisan journalism that informs Mainers about the issues impacting our state and inspires them to take action. Through investigative and in-depth stories, we engage readers to participate and connect to create a better Maine.



50 news organizations reprinted
The Maine Monitor's original investigative
reporting, including:

Bangor Daily News (66 stories)

*Portland Press Herald (35+
stories)*

Maine Public

Machias Valley News Observer

Quoddy Tides

Lewiston Sun Journal

Kennebec Journal

Morning Sentinel

Courier Gazette

Camden Herald

Republican Journal

Midcoast TV

Saco Bay News

News Center Maine

Penobscot Bay Pilot

Spectrum News Maine

Wiscasset Newspaper

Times Record

Ellsworth American

Sea Coast Online

Boothbay Register

Down East Magazine

Reporting Partnerships

REPORT FOR **AMERICA**



PROPUBLICA



Pulitzer Center



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S MEDIA
FOUNDATION



INVESTIGATIVE
Editing Corps

Donor Growth

Charitable contributions from foundations and individuals **funded 96%** of **The Maine Monitor** 2022 operating expenses.

Individual donations accounted for 42% of operating expenses.

- ❖ **293 new individual donors joined** the community supporting **The Maine Monitor**.
- ❖ Almost 800 people gave, 82% of whom reside in Maine.

Foundation Support



REPORT FOR AMERICA

PROPUBLICA

Elmina B. Sewall
FOUNDATION



Pulitzer Center

THE BETTERMENT FUND

Nicholas B. Ottaway Foundation



NewsMatch

2022 Accolades for The Maine Monitor Team

- ★ 56 Maine Press Association awards
- ★ Maine Public Health Association Public Health Journalism Award
- ★ 2 Report for America awards
- ★ 4 National Newspaper Association awards
- ★ Finalist for New England EMMY award
- ★ Finalist for INN award
- ★ 3 Finalists for LION award

Testimonials

The Maine Monitor's top-shelf reporting provides BDN readers with access to consistently strong local accountability journalism. We are grateful for our ongoing partnership with The Maine Monitor.

- Jo Easton, Director of Audience, Bangor Daily News

As strong as our newsroom is, we can't get to everything. The stories provided by The Maine Monitor help enrich the array of coverage that our readers have access to.

- Steve Greenlee, Executive Editor, Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram

Our newsroom is stretched thin covering a large region with only a handful of reporters. We rely on The Maine Monitor's in-depth coverage to expand content for our readers. The Maine Monitor's investigative reports are unmatched and provide an invaluable service to the people of Maine.

- Sarah Craighead Dedmon, Editor, Machias Valley News Observer

The future of journalism well may hinge on new business models based not on profit, but on the public service inherent in uncovering and reporting truthful, accurate and in-depth news. The Maine Monitor has been at the forefront of that effort for 13 years - much to the benefit of the state it serves.

- Bill Nemitz