



## **New Indigenous Investigative Journalism Guide addresses Data Sovereignty**

Posted by Eleanor Bishop on Oct. 15, 2019

We at the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) passionately believe Indigenous communities have the right to control how data about their communities is collected and disseminated. Inaccurate and absent data can have very real legal and monetary consequences, making it more difficult for Indigenous lawmakers to back up policies with evidence or obtain needed grants.

The Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) and NAJA have released a resource guide designed to help Indigenous journalists with in-depth, investigative reporting. We and GIJN recognize the importance of Indigenous data sovereignty, devoting a [chapter](#) of their guide to the topic.

Indigenous reporters are likely to face difficulty when trying to access data about Indigenous communities. These communities have limited control over the decisions made regarding the data gathered, data that often has large gaps in collection, meaning that there is insufficient evidence to accurately analyze the community. The guide addresses common difficulties reporters may face. It notes that the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) does not currently measure Indigenous communities, meaning that countries could appear to be meeting SDGs while neglecting Indigenous people.

Data sovereignty specialists are available around the globe as valuable resources for Indigenous reporters. The chapter includes a list of country specific specialists.

In addition to data sovereignty, other topics addressed in the guide include:

- Data Journalism on Indigenous communities
- Land ownership
- Investigating criminal justice
- Exposing exploitation and corruption
- Covering the comate crisis
- Investigating murdered or missing persons
- Getting documents, dealing with whistle blowers and staying safe

Read the full guide [here](#). For more information, visit [gijn.org](http://gijn.org) or [najanewsroom.com](http://najanewsroom.com).

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