

Zack Newman

Freelance investigative data journalist

zack@zacknewsman.com • zacknewman.com • <https://www.linkedin.com/in/zacknewman/>

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I persistently weave data, records and research into a compelling narrative designed to pull readers and viewers in. My award-winning investigative data work has led to [changes](#) in [laws and policies](#), [exposed an international human trafficking ring](#), [inspired the American Civil Liberties Union to sue](#) Denver Police and [win \\$3.76 million](#), [prompted a Congressional inquiry](#), and [compelled a sheriff's office to fire a troublesome deputy](#).

WORK EXPERIENCE

FREELANCE INVESTIGATIVE DATA JOURNALIST

ZackNewsman, LLC / International / 2023-Present

I regularly conduct investigative data work for either my own projects or as a resource on collaborative projects.

- Leverage data analytics, records requests and sourcing to produce compelling investigative watchdog journalism for news organizations including the [Colorado Sun](#), [The Local](#), [Collective Colorado](#), [BusinessDesk](#), [Colorado Public Radio](#), and [The Denver Gazette](#).
- Merge qualitative and quantitative data techniques for analysis in R and SQL.
- Editor and researcher for [The Conversation's local news initiative](#). I work with scholars across the country to synthesize complex academic research into accessible articles with thousands of views – including [two of their most-read stories](#).
- Conduct robust analysis in R to map and visualize findings for [The Colorado Sun](#) and [BusinessDesk](#).
- Chosen by a panel of veteran investigators to receive a seed grant from the [Fund for Investigative Journalism](#) to dig into first responders in Colorado.
- Recurring contributor of [data analysis](#) and writing to [Stacker](#), a wire service that distributes data journalism to a nationwide network of publishing partners.
- Teach students at Columbia University, Colorado College and Fairfield University data journalism principles.

INVESTIGATIVE DATA PRODUCER

9NEWS (KUSA-TV) / Colorado / 2019-2023

Acted as an off-air reporter working independently or in concert with other members of iconic investigative unit 9Wants To Know. I did complex data analysis, fought government agencies for open records, built sources, wrote for audiences on various platforms and [executed comprehensive undercover investigations](#).

- Pushed data analysis skills in R, SQL, Excel, Flourish, ArcGIS and Google Sheets to analyze and visualize data obtained through open records requests.
- Winner of a 2022 Heartland Regional Emmy for my data analysis and reporting that identified nursing homes that were both paid and punished for [doing both a good and bad job during the pandemic](#).
- Winner of national 2020 Edward R. Murrow Award for [data reporting on "A Vivitrol 'Success' Story."](#)
- Taught data journalism to professionals and students through sessions hosted by Investigative Reporters and Editors, The Colorado Sun and the Colorado Broadcasters Association.

INVESTIGATIVE FIELD PRODUCER

Sky Blossom / Nationwide / 2018-2020

I reported from Alaska to Hawaii on this non-profit documentary about military caregivers. I handled logistics, filed records requests and ensured the success of shoots across the country.

- [The documentary is streaming on Peacock](#), a NBCUniversal platform, and debuted in the Kennedy Center.
- Built sources within veteran communities.
- Requested and managed Freedom of Information Act requests with numerous government entities.

ANCHOR PRODUCER AND DIGITAL PRODUCER

MSNBC LIVE / New York / 2018-2019

I was a trusted resource for anchors and correspondents through MSNBC and NBC News. I was known as a reliable, thorough and tenacious researcher that added depth to broadcasts.

- Fact-checked statistics and produced [various deep-dive segments](#).
- [Contributed research](#) for MSNBC Legal Unit digital and broadcast pieces.

INVESTIGATIVE FELLOW

ABC NEWS / New York / 2017-2018

I was a dogged and trusted analyst supporting the investigative unit in quick and long-term ventures. This included finding possible sources, field work and research to add depth in our pieces.

- Built complex data sets using FOIA requests. An investigation on ankle bracelets embraced these skills and aired on the newsmagazine program “20/20.”
- Employed editorial skills and knowledge of public documents to compile deep-dive and quick-turn research packets used on air.

INVESTIGATIVE AND GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER

KOMU-TV / Missouri / 2013-2016

I cut my reporting teeth doing day-turns and enterprise pieces on everything from transportation to politics. This is where I learned to be relentless but that I can also catch more flies with honey than vinegar. And – interviews about one topic may actually lead to other follow-ups.

- Utilized computer assisted reporting tools to [assemble long-form investigations](#).
- Worked collaboratively to contribute reporting and data components to other investigations in the unit.
- One-man-band responsible for video capture, editing using Avid and writing web stories/television scripts.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Journalism

University of Missouri / 2013-2017

SKILLS

Data analysis	R	SQL	Investigative reporting
Data visualization	DataWrapper	Flourish	Mapping
Public records requests	Web scraping	Writing	Field producing
AI tools to maximize efficiency, like Google Gemini and Pinpoint.			API's
Court document research with Nexis and PACER.		ArcGIS	Database design

AWARDS

2024 Business Feature award from the New Zealand Shareholders Association of Business Journalism

2022 Heartland Regional Emmy.

2020 National Murrow.

2016 Sigma Delta Chi.

Nominated for 10 regional Emmys for investigative data work.

ACTIVITIES

Mentoring for Report for America and Investigative Reporters and Editors, 2020 – Present.

Improv performer for ThirdKind Improv, 2019 – 2023.

Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America.