MIT Blueprint Labs

Using data to answer big questions, such as—

- How can educators close achievement gaps?

- How can policymakers better coordinate organ transplants?

- What skills will workers need to be successful in the coming decades?

And providing policy makers with rigorous evidence to improve people's lives.

Despite significant policy interventions and investments designed to improve access to high quality education, health care, and jobs, vast disparities still exist across the United States. Understanding the causal impact of policies is critical to improving people's lives. MIT Blueprint Labs scholars use cutting-edge methods to produce rigorous evidence that can help decision-makers design and implement social policy. Here are some of our influential findings:

In the first large-scale study of a lottery-based preschool program's impact on long-term academic achievement, Blueprint Director Parag Pathak showed that universal preschool significantly improves outcomes. Preschool attendance boosted high school graduation by 6% and college attendance by 8%, and decreased disciplinary measures. This evidence helps inform policymakers' decisions on increased public investment in early childhood education.

Historically, kidney exchange markets have been fragmented and inefficient, making it hard for patients to find matches. Blueprint Co-Director Nikhil Agarwal developed new, evidence-based approaches to coordinate life-saving organ transplants. Using these methods, the National Kidney Registry substantially enhanced its kidney transplant system, which should result in 30-to-60% more transplant matches being made.

By analyzing employment data covering much of the past century, Blueprint Co-Director David Autor is developing a picture of how artificial intelligence may change the nature of work in the decades to come. His work provides policymakers, educators, and employers insights into how to ensure their communities can compete effectively in the 21st century global economy.

BLUEPRINT LABS IS TACKLING BIG QUESTIONS

We are a non-partisan research lab focused on identifying evidence-based solutions that can improve people's lives.

We believe systems and institutions should create a level playing field for society, where everyone has an opportunity to succeed. And we believe that rigorous evidence and data are the best foundations for policy and decision-making.

Over the last decade, our team of faculty, staff, and student affiliates has grown to become a leading center of research, applying our unique expertise in economics principles to study pressing challenges in education, health care, and the workforce.

We produce insights that have been published in peer-reviewed academic journals, widely disseminated in mainstream media, and used by government organizations to inform policymaking.

Using market design, research design, and other methodologies, Blueprint Labs produces evidence that better enables decision-makers to close student achievement gaps, target resources to disadvantaged communities, and improve employment opportunities across the income distribution.

And we can do so much more—we can take on so many more big questions— with your help.

YOU CAN HELP ADVANCE OUR WORK

Our ability to launch many of Blueprint Labs' exciting research projects depends on having a pool of flexible funds and start-up capital. Once those projects are up and running, they can produce the foundational, proof-of-concept findings necessary to earn state or federal agencies' longer-term funding.

Your support of our efforts—the fundamental research we conduct and the evidence-based solutions we help practitioners develop—will have meaningful impact. To discuss how you can advance our work, please contact Anne Marie Michel, Assistant Dean for Development, at ammichel@mit.edu or 617-253-4075.

"This is a unique point in time, where the power and potential of our research and analytical approaches intersect with pressing societal needs. We are responding to this opportunity by expanding our mission and research scope: developing new ways of thinking about — and effectively addressing — major and multifaceted challenges in education, healthcare, and the workforce."

Parag Pathak, PhD
Professor of Economics & Faculty Director of Blueprint Labs