



About Blueprint

Blueprint Labs is a non-partisan research lab with scholars and staff who bring unique expertise in economics and data science to study pressing challenges in education, health care, and the workforce. Over the last decade, our growing team of more than 40 faculty, staff, and student affiliates have produced insights that have been published in peer-reviewed academic journals, widely disseminated in popular media, and used

by government organizations to inform policymaking. Blueprint Labs is led by MIT Economics Professors Nikhil Agarwal, Joshua Angrist, David Autor, and Parag Pathak.

At Blueprint, we believe policy should create a level playing field for society and that rigorous evidence and data are the best foundations for policy and decision-making.

Some of the Big Questions We're Tackling

How can educators close gaps in student achievement?

Educators have long struggled to close achievement gaps that undercut progress for entire communities. Blueprint Labs researchers are informing evidence-based approaches to increasing achievement for students from pre-K to college.

We have, for example, shown that universal preschool can improve long-term educational outcomes—boosting high school graduation and college attendance, and decreasing disciplinary measures. We have also found that financial aid increases college enrollment and degree completion for historically disadvantaged students.

Who should have access to scarce medical resources?

Even in rich countries, medical resources and healthcare services are often in short supply, leaving caregivers and policymakers struggling to find the most equitable way to decide who receives them. Blueprint Labs researchers are developing insights to

help reduce inequities in myriad resource-constrained areas.

For example, we have offered evidence-based approaches for coordinating life-saving organ transplants. We are also working with medical care providers to develop ways that artificial intelligence may aid doctors in making medical diagnoses.

What skills will workers need to succeed?

The nature of work is being transformed by factors like innovation, automation, artificial intelligence, and climate change—how and where it's done, by whom, and for how long. Blueprint Labs researchers are developing evidence designed to help communities and their workforces compete effectively in the 21st-century global economy.

We have analyzed nearly a century of data to understand how artificial intelligence may change the structure of occupations. We are also studying the potential impacts of the changing skills mix demanded of workers on emerging patterns of income inequality.

Engaging with Policymakers

Through several policy partnerships, we aim to foster continuous interaction between rigorous research, policy design, implementation, and evaluation.

Education is one of Blueprint's core focus areas. Since our founding in 2011, we have provided ongoing support to the New York City Department of Education, Boston Public Schools, and many other districts across the country. We regularly run policy simulations and present our findings on the impact of different student assignment policies on school diversity and student access to quality schools.

"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

Blueprint also engages with health policymakers. At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, a Blueprint team used



market design principles to propose novel and more equitable ways of rationing vital scarce medical resources such as ventilators, anti-viral drugs, and vaccines. Our interdisciplinary team introduced the concept to healthcare policymakers and these tools are now being used in state policy and various allocation frameworks across the country.

In addition to these partnerships, Blueprint has organized policy-oriented fellowships and summits since 2018, featuring perspectives from policy leaders, policymakers, and researchers. These events provide an opportunity for attendees from around the country to engage with new research and innovative policy ideas.

Contact Information

Explore our [website](#) for more information or reach out directly at contact@mitblueprintlabs.org.