

The Institute

Turning Information into Insight

*Economic, Impact, Health,
Social, and Education
Research, Evaluation, and
Consulting*

Indicators 2022

Thursday, May 19

9:00 AM ~ 10:30 AM

In person and online!

Mohegan Sun Convention Center

Wilkes-Barre, PA

Breakfast and networking begin at 8:30 AM for in-person attendees

[Click here to register for this hybrid event!](#)

\$55 registration includes breakfast, presentations, and Indicators report (\$30 value)

In this Issue:

- Special Thanks to Sponsors
- Task Force Research
- New website announcement
- 2021 Annual report
- Student Poll results
- Media Impressions
- New Issues of the Economy and Policy Trackers
- Client Solutions

A collaboration among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Johnson College, Keystone College, King's College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Scranton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, The Wright Center or Graduate Medical Education, University of Scranton, Wilkes University, and the business community



Many Thanks

To Our 2022 Community-Based Underwriters
and Indicators Event Sponsors

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2022 Task Force Research: Sneak Preview!

Planning, Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure: The region has seen rapid growth in the transportation and logistics sector. Significant new industrial development has occurred or is planned, reducing the quantity of readily developable open space suitable for these uses. As other neighboring regions like the Lehigh Valley exhaust their supply of cost-effective open space suitable for industry, the region can increase its economic competitiveness by looking toward repurposing of older industrial buildings or redevelopment of brownfield sites as an alternative to Greenfield development. This study will articulate the benefits of such reuse related to sustainability, infrastructure, public services, and transportation and explore regional and nationwide case studies of successful projects. The report will also analyze barriers to reuse and successful programmatic or policy approaches to help overcome these barriers. Finally, the study will analyze existing land inventories to identify areas of greatest opportunity.

Jobs, Economy & Economic Development: Even prior to COVID-19, non-skill barriers to workforce participation, like lack of transportation, lack of childcare, and family caregiving responsibilities, were important factors in the region's labor market. This study will examine regional, state, and national workforce participation data over time by age and gender (including COVID impacts, as available data allows), and draw upon literature to show the dynamics of the decision to participate in the workforce. Within the context of a tight and rapidly shifting labor market and ongoing retirement of the Baby Boomer generation, research and case studies will be prepared on potential programs or policies to help overcome these barriers and help connect those outside the labor force, particularly parents and other caregivers, with opportunities to build family economic security and meet the needs of local employers. Recommendations will be identified by stakeholder groups, including potential industry-specific recommendations.

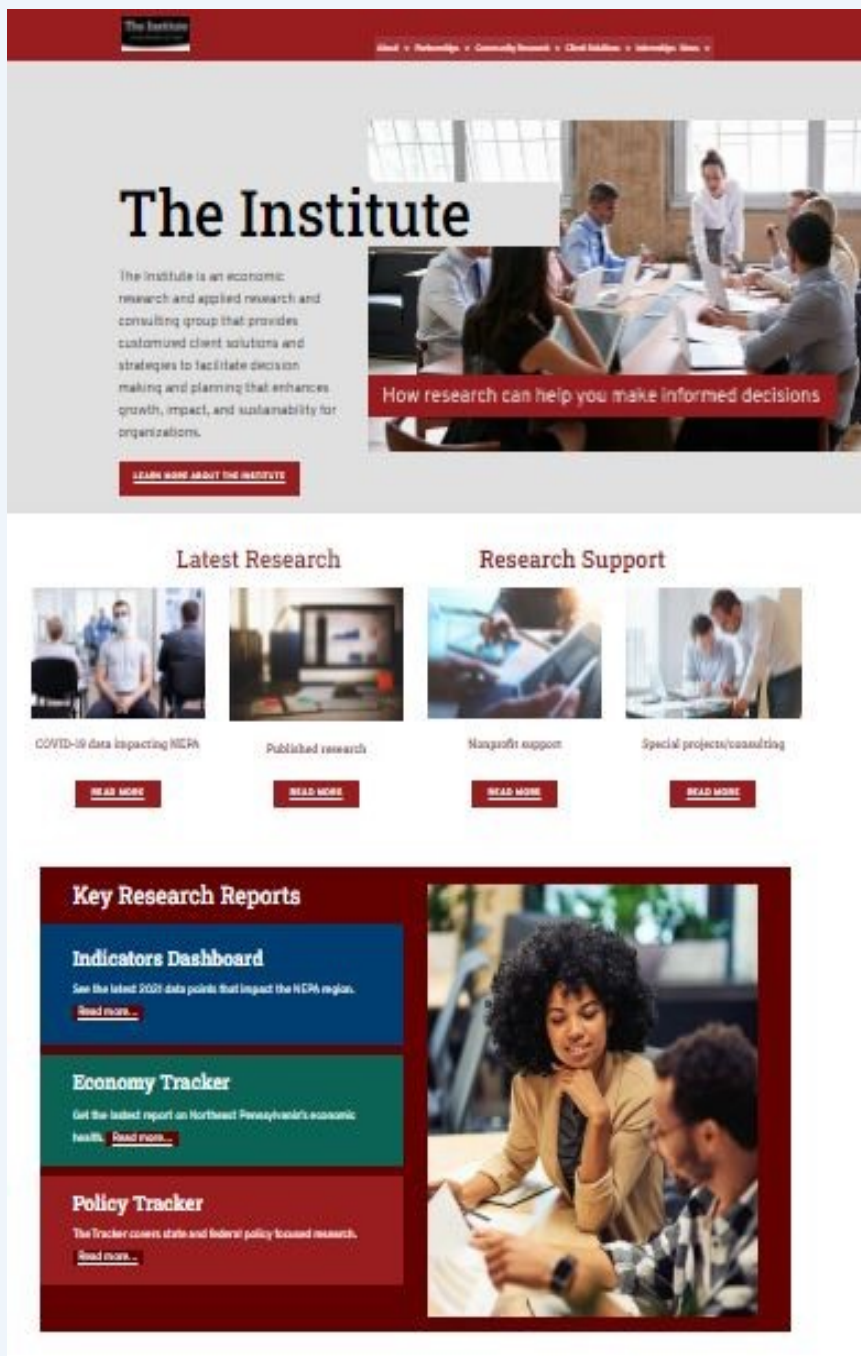
Housing: The region has seen signs of recent population growth, and in order to maintain naturally affordable, achievable housing for working-class and middle-class households, there will likely be a need for new housing and revitalization and/or reimagining of existing housing. This policy-oriented report will further define these needs and explore several methods of providing quality, unsubsidized housing that is affordable to NEPA's working families. This will include federal, state, or nonprofit programs to rehabilitate and return to use aging, blighted, or foreclosed homes, adaptive reuse, land use barriers to new housing construction, and employer-driven interventions.

Health & Health Care: This report will explore the impacts of social isolation on health and how the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated social isolation among various segments of the population, including older adults, children, and families. A broad-based literature review will summarize findings on these impacts, including aspects such as child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and behavioral health. Additionally, secondary data on pertinent health indicators will be analyzed, and a regional perspective will be gleaned through interviews with stakeholders in health, social services, and education.

Energy: Shifting energy production to non-fossil fuel energy sources (including nuclear and renewables) has been emphasized by policymakers and business leaders alike in order to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Industries centered on transportation, such as Northeastern Pennsylvania's logistics sector, are key stakeholders in these efforts as major users of energy. The environmental and economic impacts of electricity and natural gas are researched and compared to alternatives in order to determine best practices.

Education & Workforce Development: Several disruptions have impacted education and workforce needs internationally, nationally, and in Northeastern Pennsylvania. This report will examine how these disruptions have impacted students, teachers, and education and workforce training institutions. It will include a background analysis of long-term industry trends and industrial automation, literature review of COVID-19 impacts on K-12 and postsecondary education, and primary data collection in the form of educator surveys and/or focus groups to gather local-level impact data on how the pandemic affected students, and interviews with postsecondary and workforce development stakeholders to connect pandemic impacts with long-term challenges to the talent pipeline. Finally, programmatic and policy recommendations will be developed to alleviate short-term challenges faced by students and teachers and ensure long-term competitiveness in the evolving economic landscape.

New website/dashboard



Our research team is excited to unveil our new website! Not only is it visually appealing and user-friendly and interactive!

Visitors can now use our [Research Hub](#) to search and sort through our library of studies (by keyword and category).

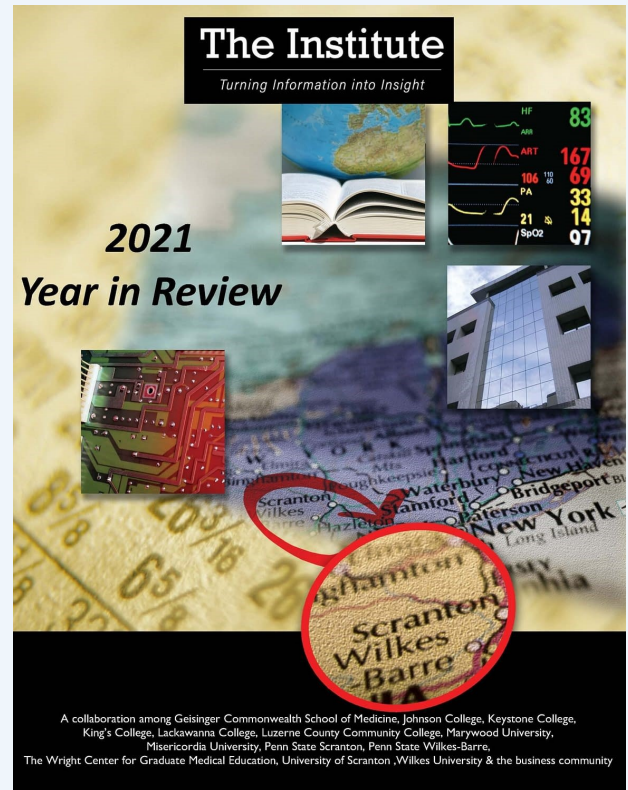
Visitors can also explore our [Indicators Dashboard](#). It includes:

- Regional datasets for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, separated into 12 categories
- Granular data for six of the region's cities
- Profiles for 11 surrounding counties

Don't worry - you can still access and download the full Indicators publication!

Annual report

There were no dull moments for the research team in 2021! Take a look at our annual report, and find details surrounding our task force studies and other community-based research. Read about some of our newest projects, as well as our latest presentations and organizational transformations.



[Access the full report here](#)

- ♦ Indicators 2021 Overview
- ♦ Task Force Research
- ♦ Community-Based Research
- ♦ Student Polling Results
- ♦ The Cost of Living Index
- ♦ Client List
- ♦ Project List
- ♦ Project STIR
- ♦ The Institute Review
- ♦ Institute Insights into COVID-19
- ♦ White Paper on Corporate Social Responsibility
- ♦ Intern Insights
- ♦ Organizational transformation
- ♦ Conferences and presentations
- ♦ Media presence
- ♦ Research in Action

The Institute is in the news!

RealClear, a publication committed to political news and policy analysis, has recently featured an op-ed from our own Director of Research, Andrew Chew.

This piece also appeared in The Scranton Times, and explores the importance of safe and accessible housing in order to sustain growth.

[Read the full editorial here!](#)

In case you missed them...

New editions of the Economy Tracker and Policy Tracker are now available!

In the Winter 2022 edition of the **Economy Tracker**, read about:

- The great resignation
- Labor market updates
- Regional cost of living
- Supply chain impacts on small businesses
- Child care needs and work attendance
- COVID-19 progress

In the Winter 2022 edition of the **Policy Tracker**, read about:

- Recent legislative updates
- Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation
- The proposed national infrastructure bank
- Patient care and interoperability
- And more!

[Access the issue here!](#)

[Access the issue here!](#)

Client Solutions

Market & Feasibility Studies
Indicators- Indexes
Community Needs Assessments
Housing Studies
Economic Development Strategies
Economic and Tax Impact Studies

Survey Research
Industry Studies
Workforce Studies
Education Studies
Policy Analysis
Site Selection Research
Arts & Culture Studies

Economic and Demographic Profiles
Grant and Program Evaluation Support
Research Validation and Peer Review
Tourism Strategic Plans
Comprehensive Plans
Asset Maps

Who We Are

The Institute is dedicated to empowering business and community leaders with researched-driven strategies for informed decision-making.

We conduct community-based, empirical research to identify the opportunities and challenges unique to our region, and offer innovative solutions for the problems facing our communities. **This research is funded by generous academic partners and sponsors who share our vision for a strong regional economy and vibrant communities.**

Community-Based Research

Access the latest regional research on the Institute's website. www.institutepa.org

Regional Indicators Data & Research

Indicators data tracks the region's progress over time. They include economy, healthcare, environment, education and infrastructure measures.

<https://www.institutepa.org/dashboard/>

Task Force Research

Recent and archived research studies identify and address the region's challenges. This research is a driving force behind many important economic development and community revitalization initiatives, which produce positive outcomes for our area.

<https://www.institutepa.org/research-hub/>

Quarterly Economic Tracker

This quarterly electronic publication explores the region's economic and business trends.

<https://www.institutepa.org/economy-tracker/>

Policy Tracker

This tracker covers state and federal policy focused research and aims to educate and inform the reader about the challenges, opportunities, and potential non-partisan solutions.

<https://www.institutepa.org/policy-tracker/>

Polling Program

Better understand the subject matter interests, public policy views, and civic engagement of our local college students and future leaders.

<https://www.institutepa.org/polling-center/>

Thanks to our 2022 Research Underwriters!

Sincere thanks to our generous stakeholders who share our vision for a strong regional economy and healthy communities. Your support makes our work possible!

Signature Underwriters

Andrew J. Sordoni Foundation
Luzerne County
PPL Electric Utilities
Sordoni Family Foundation

Contributing Underwriters

Altitude Philanthropies
Borton-Lawson
Geisinger Health System
UGI Utilities
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Penn State Wilkes-Barre
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Lucyann Vierling — Workforce Alliance

Marwan Wafa, Ph.D. — Penn State University Scranton

Tara Mugford Wilson,— Power Engineering Corporation

Join our growing list of research underwriters !

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