

Baker Briefing

Research from the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy

May 2023



HOWARD H. BAKER JR.
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Public Policy



The Real Reason Egg Prices are So High

Some have blamed the recent spike in egg prices on price manipulation and collusion, but research shows that since February 2022, 44 million commercial layers (birds) have been lost to avian influenza, better known as bird flu. This, along with higher production cost, is the likely cause.

The analysis indicated claims of unfair pricing might not be warranted given the impact of the price of natural gas, feed cost, and bird loss. Baker affiliate Andre Muhammad's latest article shows economic factors, particularly on the production side, sufficiently explain current egg pricing. [READ](#)



Impact of School Superintendent Turnover

When a data set of K-12 public school district superintendents across four years was utilized, it showed turnover among superintendents has increased, largely among men, and women seldom filled those positions – keeping the gender gap as it is.

Baker affiliate Rachel White's latest publication explores the cause and effect of not having a national superintendent dataset. [READ](#)



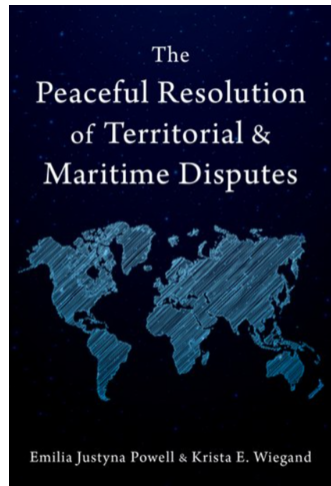
Covid- 19 Study

During the pandemic, Tennesseans were most likely to trust information from the [CDC](#) on vaccine safety followed by their own doctor or healthcare provider, according to a survey with more than 9,000 responses. Tennesseans also indicated that seeing or knowing that their own doctor or healthcare provider had received the vaccine would increase their confidence in its safety. Based on these findings, the CDC and healthcare providers are important messengers in addressing public concerns about vaccine safety.

Additional results of this survey are analyzed in an article co-authored by senior director Dr. Katie Cahill, "Perceptions of the impact of COVID-19 in Tennessee, [USA](#): a retrospective study," which has been accepted for publication in the journal [PeerJ](#). The article analyzes data collected as part of the [Tennessee Pulse Survey](#) for Gov. Bill Lee's Economic Recovery Group, which was an effort by the [Coronavirus-19 Outbreak Response Experts \(CORE-19\)](#).

The article was written in collaboration with lead author Dr. Tamara Chavez-Lindell (TN Dept. of Health), Dr. Agricola Odoi (Veterinary Medicine), and Dr. Kristina Kitzinger (Public Health).

Global Security



GS Director Wiegand Publishes Book

As an expert in international conflict and maritime disputes, Global Security director Krista Wiegand published her most recent book [The Peaceful Settlement of Territorial and Maritime Disputes](#).

Co-authored with professor of political science and Concurrent Professor of Law at the University of Notre Dame Emilia J. Powell, the book provides a deep insight into the South China Sea dispute arbitration process, mainly between the Philippines versus China, explaining how the goals of states who engage in territorial and

maritime disputes are to reduce uncertainty and win in negotiations, mediation, or legal cases.

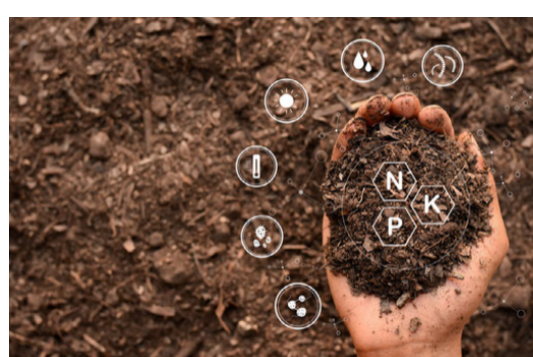
Energy & Environment



Valuing Improvements in Water Quality

The benefits of water quality improvements in lakes, rivers, and streams can be underestimated by government agencies when determining regulations.

Using a new survey-based approach based on a measure of biological integrity that can be applied to different waterbodies and locations, a team of economists and ecologists have sought to quantify better the benefits of water quality improvements across a large part of the country. [READ](#)



Benefits of Urban Forests

Urban forests play a key role in making cities more sustainable by providing critical ecosystem services such as reducing air and water pollution, promoting human health, and mitigating climate change.

In Baker affiliate Michael McKinney's paper, he discusses the overlooked aspects of improved management of urban forests by including better ecological and soil data. [READ](#)



Geography, Equity, and the Energy Transition

On a podcast with the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, Baker affiliate Nikki Luke explained how state-level labor policies have contributed to geographic labor inequities. She states that if the labor inequities persist, they could limit access to quality jobs across the new energy economy. [LISTEN](#)

Student Spotlight



Sophia Milen is a sophomore political science College Scholar, with a concentration in government affairs and campaign design. Originally from Cleveland, Tenn., Milen is a Baker Ambassador and student worker. She is attending her first Washington Fellowship this June.

"I have found a home at the Baker Center. I am grateful for the fellowship and acceptance given to me here. My undergraduate experience has been characterized by the wonderful programs offered, and I wouldn't trade the Center for the world."

Contact Us



HOWARD H.
BAKER JR.
CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY

Howard H. Baker Jr Center for Public Policy

1640 Cumberland Avenue

Knoxville, TN 37996

Phone: 865-974-0931

Email: bakercenter@utk.edu

Online: bakercenter.utk.edu

[View as web page](#)

This email was sent to .
Add us to your address book to continue receiving our emails.

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.