



Welcome to the second
edition of The Impact Report
Public Interest Experts
(PIE)'s quarterly newsletter

The Impact Report is a place for PIE to share updates and perspectives from our work, keeping our community informed and engaged. In our second edition, we're covering highlights from a recent effort to quantify the legacy of slavery in Barbados, and an analysis of a bold new policy to reduce pharmaceutical costs in New York State.

Though these projects are quite distinct – one focused on an historic injustice, the other a current one; one dealing with urgent legislation, the other a long-term reparative process – they show the common thread of PIE's work: an insistence on pushing past the rhetoric to get to the fundamental realities of some of the most important public interest questions of our time.

-Reckoning With the True Costs of Slavery-

Between 1627 and 1834, nearly 800,000 people were enslaved in Barbados. Now, nearly two hundred years after the end of slavery on the island, leaders are pushing for an honest accounting of exactly how much labor was taken from the Barbadian people and their descendants.

Working with the Division of Culture in the Barbados Prime Minister's Office, Coleman Bazelon, Dr. Alberto Vargas, and the PIE research team conducted an analysis of the monetary value of the uncompensated labour of enslaved Africans in Barbados. The first-of-its-kind study for Barbados yielded a staggering number: \$1.6-2 trillion in harm done, between stolen labor and loss of life.

Designed to spur a conversation about a wide-ranging strategy to address the economic and social legacy of the transatlantic slave trade, the report has already yielded media coverage in [Barbados](#) and [globally](#). In the months and years to come, the country's leaders will continue to use the evidence to push to address the lingering impact of this historical atrocity.

Bold Ideas to Curb Pharmaceutical Costs

Pharmaceutical costs are a [growing](#) part of the healthcare affordability crisis, and a [major source of stress](#) for many American families. Despite the common refrain that high costs of medicine incentivize innovation, [approximately half](#) of every dollar Americans spend on pharmaceuticals goes to third parties like insurers and benefits managers. Because these third parties bill based on a medicine's list price, rather than on its efficacy, there is a financial incentive to push for more-expensive choices.

Since early 2025, the [New York Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act](#) has been working its way through the state legislature. The bill, designed to increase competition, lower prices, and address shortages in the market for generic prescription drugs, has the support of health policy groups including T1 International and the NYU Science, Health & Information Clinic, and they asked PIE to investigate its likely impact.

PIE conducted this research and found that the legislation would save taxpayers \$7.8 million to \$16.9 million annually, make the market for insulin more stable and competitive, mitigate drug shortages, and potentially provide new jobs. As its advocates work to push the bill through the state assembly, we hope our research allows lawmakers to accurately assess risks and opportunities.

Our Impact

Reparations and pharmaceutical costs are just two of a range of issues that PIE is working on right now. We are now working on or have completed more than 20 different projects, on issues from trans rights to fair housing to healthcare in prisons to capital punishment.

To learn more about how our work is affecting our partners, and the broader public, check out the [testimonials section](#) of our website.

Speaking Out for the Public Interest

On our [LinkedIn](#) page, PIE offers highlights of critical data and perspectives on timely legal issues. In each Impact Report, we'll share a roundup of what we're talking about, including:

- We shared [updates](#) of the Barbados reparations report and the media coverage of it.
- We featured [a report](#) by our partner, Worth Rises, about the hidden costs of incarceration and how free phone calls can improve the lives of incarcerated people and their families.
- We spotlighted powerful [feedback](#) on our work on the New York Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act, highlighting how we are able to provide the same caliber of expert analysis on our public interest projects as our team does in their other professional roles on high-stakes commercial matters.
- To honor [Pride Month](#), we analyzed research on the damage caused by attacks on LGBTQIA+ Americans in our courts and in the public discourse.
- We reflected on [Juneteenth](#) as a moment to take stock of the progress that has been made in eradicating slavery and racial injustice, as well as the urgent work that remains.

Support Our Work

These highlights are just a snapshot of what we have achieved with a lean, focused, primarily volunteer team. But we can't do it without our supporter community – 100% of our funding comes from private donors who are committed to the public interest, and to ensuring that our legal system makes decisions based on high-quality evidence and research.

Please consider making a contribution to PIE [here](#). Together, we can supercharge legal and legislative fights for the public interest.

- Coleman Bazelon, Michelle Cleary, and Laura Lubben

