

# Federal COVID-19 Testing Report

## Why did we do this report?

The Pandemic Response Accountability Committee's Health Care Subgroup examined COVID-19 testing efforts for six federal health care programs, which provide benefits or care to about 64 million individuals combined.

The report is intended to inform policymakers of federal COVID-19 testing efforts over the first seven months of the pandemic.

*This report highlights critical areas for policymakers to consider to improve testing for Americans, including availability, accessibility, and cost effectiveness of tests.*



- What factors may hinder the rapid development and deployment of COVID-19 tests? Our data reveals challenges related to regulations, access, public health infrastructure, and private market incentives.
- Will testing be available to populations most impacted by COVID-19?
- What payment policies are appropriate for testing during a public health emergency?
- What data is needed to ensure effective and efficient testing efforts?

## What did we find?

*The number of tests administered by the six health care programs mirrored the volume of testing in the United States from February through August 2020.*



### COVID-19 testing in six federal health care programs

From February through August 2020, six federal health care programs paid for or administered

**10.7 million**

COVID-19 tests, which constituted

**12.7% of all tests**

performed in the United States during that time.

