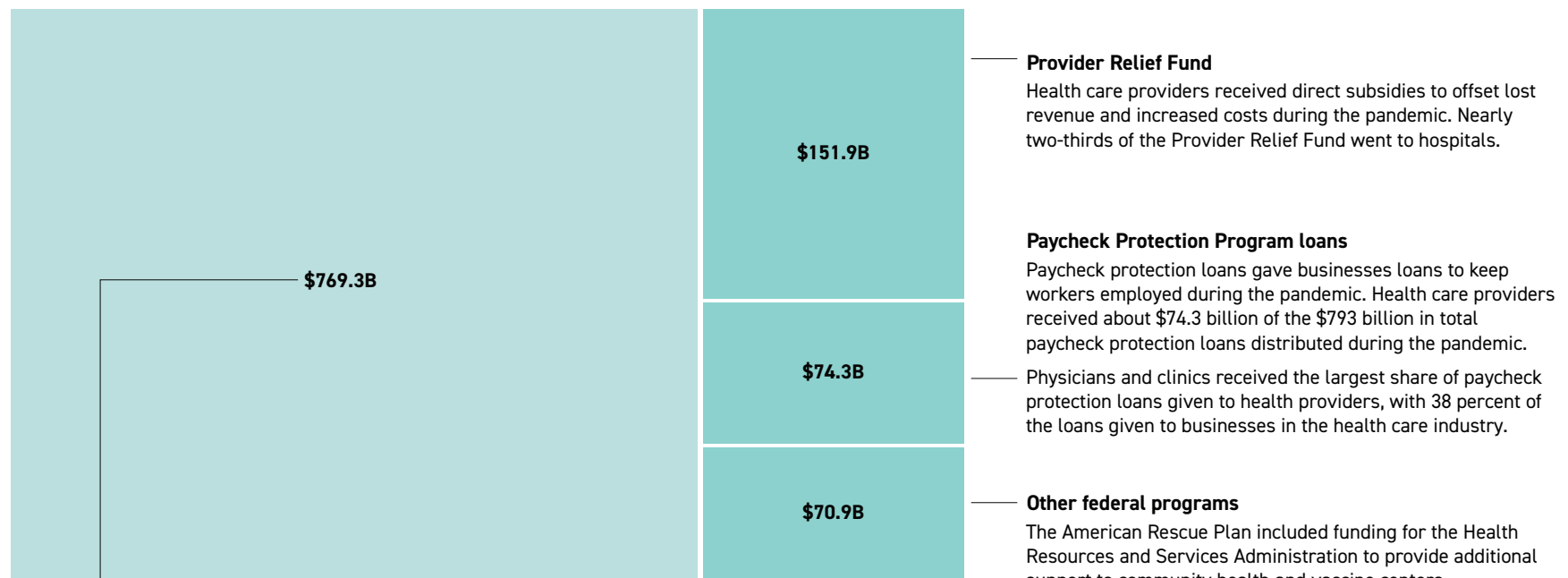


Feb. 12, 2024

## Spending bills funneled an extra \$1.1 trillion to Covid-related health programs

The federal government spent an extra \$1.1 trillion on public health efforts and economic relief for health care businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to recently released data from HHS. More than 70 percent of the additional spending went to local, state and federal public health operations. About \$227 billion of the \$1.1 trillion was spent on economic relief for the health care industry, providing loans through the Paycheck Protection Program along with subsidies for providers to offset increased health care and labor costs.

COVID-RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH AND SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING FROM 2019 TO 2022



### Public health activity

HHS spent nearly \$770 billion in public health funds on testing, disease surveillance and vaccine development and distribution. These funds are in addition to the department's regular expenditures.

### Provider Relief Fund

Health care providers received direct subsidies to offset lost revenue and increased costs during the pandemic. Nearly two-thirds of the Provider Relief Fund went to hospitals.

### Paycheck Protection Program loans

Paycheck protection loans gave businesses loans to keep workers employed during the pandemic. Health care providers received about \$74.3 billion of the \$793 billion in total paycheck protection loans distributed during the pandemic.

Physicians and clinics received the largest share of paycheck protection loans given to health providers, with 38 percent of the loans given to businesses in the health care industry.

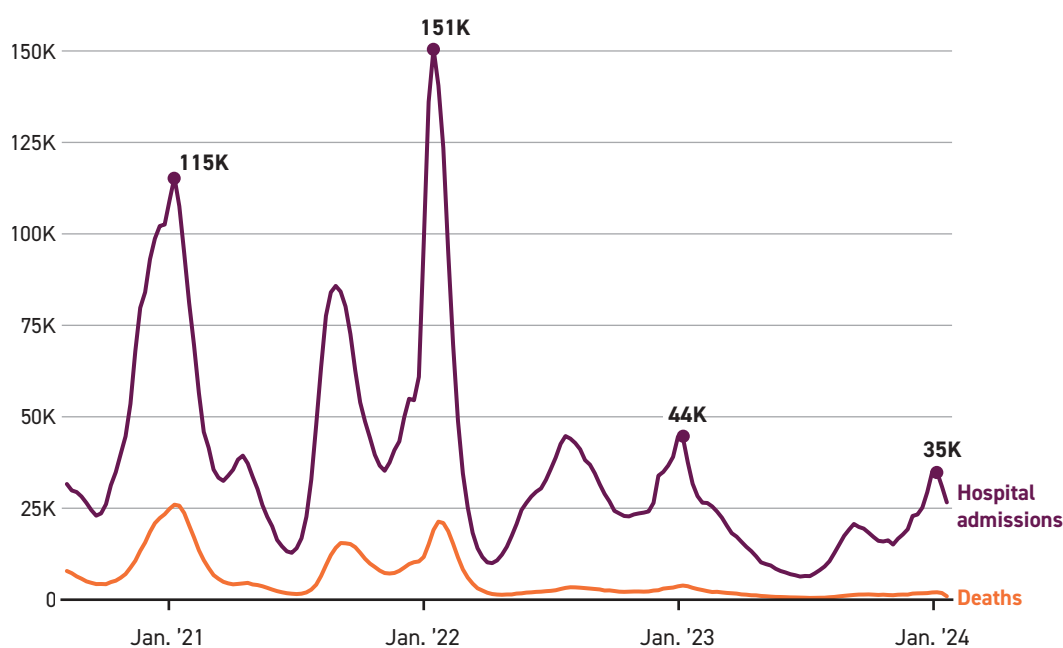
### Other federal programs

The American Rescue Plan included funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration to provide additional support to community health and vaccine centers.

## Covid saw another winter spike as hospitalizations rose in January

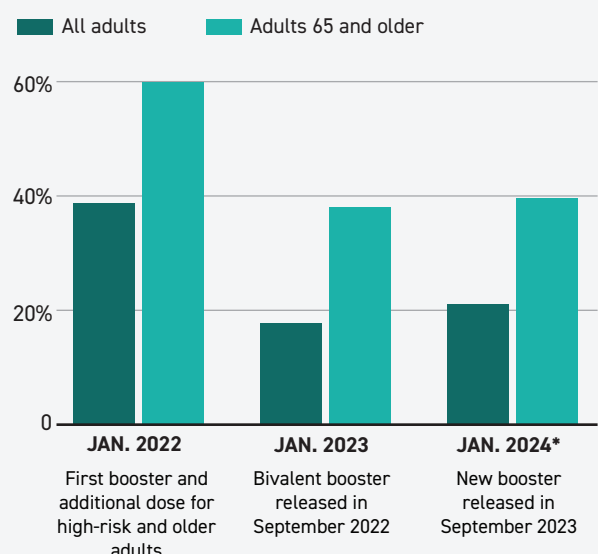
Hospitalizations increased about 81 percent from November 2023 to January 2024, signaling another winter spike in cases. Despite the rise in hospitalizations, Covid deaths stayed below their previous winter peaks in 2021 and 2022. The current Covid vaccination rate sits slightly higher than it did at the same point last year, with 21 percent of adults vaccinated at the start of 2024 compared to just under 18 percent one year ago. With more people boosted against newer strains of Covid, about 10,000 fewer people were hospitalized this year during the January peak.

WEEKLY NUMBER OF NEW HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND DEATHS DUE TO COVID-19



### New Covid shot uptake is faster than previous year's booster

PERCENT OF ADULTS WITH UP-TO-DATE COVID VACCINATIONS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY



\*January 2024 data is based on estimates from the CDC's national immunization survey.  
Source: Department of Health and Human Services