



## Characteristics of Medical Device Shortages in the US, 2006-20

This document presents the abstract of this ASPE and FDA study, as published in *Health Affairs*. The full text of the article is available at: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00643>.

Trinidad Beleche,<sup>1</sup> Maria Kuecken,<sup>2</sup> Aliya Sassi,<sup>2</sup> Katherine Toran,<sup>2</sup> Emily Galloway,<sup>2</sup> and Thomas Henry<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

<sup>2</sup> US Food and Drug Administration

### Abstract

---

Shortages of critical medical devices during the COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in device markets. From 2010 to 2019 there were approximately five shortages annually, but that number increased fourfold in the first half of 2020. Although most 2020 shortages were triggered by the pandemic, pre-2020 shortages stemmed from regulatory and enforcement actions related to product quality and manufacturing.

---



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation**

200 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 434E  
Washington, D.C. 20201

For more ASPE briefs and other publications, visit:  
[aspe.hhs.gov/reports](https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports)



**SUGGESTED CITATION**

Beleche, T., Kuecken, M., Sassi, A., Toran, K., Galloway, E., and Henry, T. Characteristics of Medical Device Shortages in the US, 2006-20. *Health Affairs*, December 2022, 41(12): 1790-1794. Available at: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00643>.

---

For general questions or general information about ASPE: [aspe.hhs.gov/about](https://aspe.hhs.gov/about)