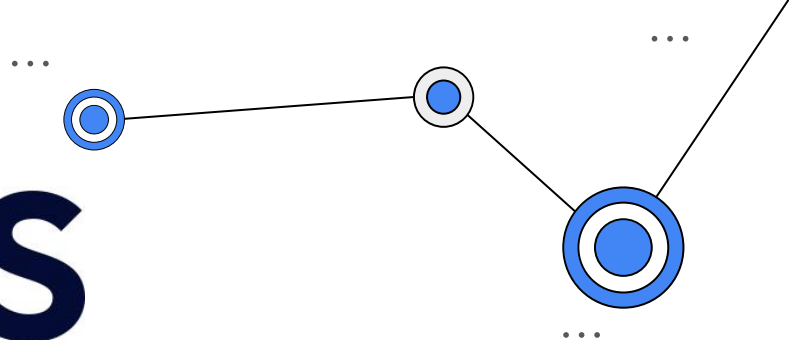




COVID Spending

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XC410 | May 2022





01

Introduction





CBS Boston | Covid Spending in Government

WBZ-TV (CBS Boston) is local news organization providing accurate, timely and compelling stories about the events in our communities and the people impacted by them

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Our Topic

COVID spending in Massachusetts' government

- What has been done with ventilators that are no longer in use?
- Where did Massachusetts get their ventilators from?
- Were there any strange purchases made during COVID
 - Ex: What happened to all the COVID tests?



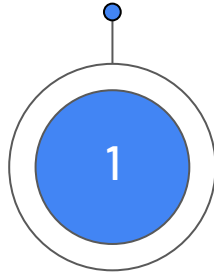


02

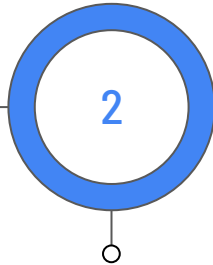
Approach & Process



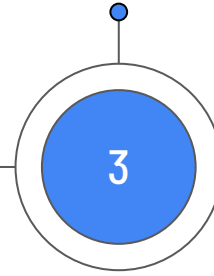
Conducted Preliminary
Research through
Comptroller Data



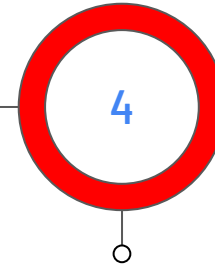
Identified unspecified
transactions to medical
organizations



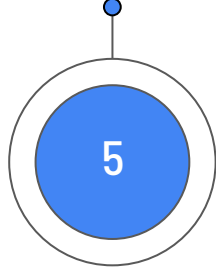
Looked at COVID specific
spending transactions



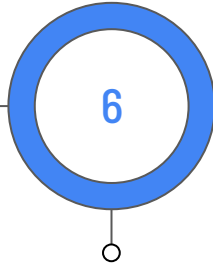
Pivoted to researching
any transactions for
those organizations



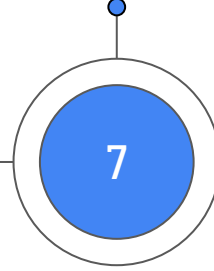
Started to research
ColorHealth-a company
that produces Covid
tests- to see where all
there money is being
allocated once Covid
started to calm down



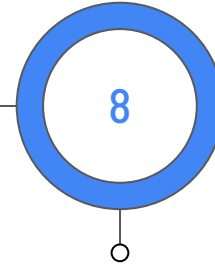
Had a meeting with
Jackie from ColorHealth's
communications agency
support team



Also reached out to
Boston University to
compare how they dealt
with the pandemic versus
Massachusetts in general
(ex: how they are dividing
their money)



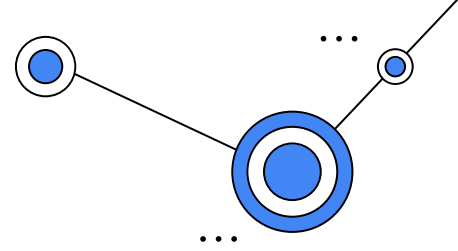
Started researching out
to UMass as well to
compare how they
handled the pandemic



03

Pivots

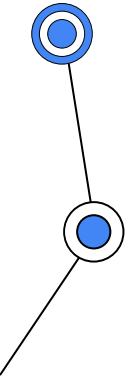
Cataldo Ambulance Company



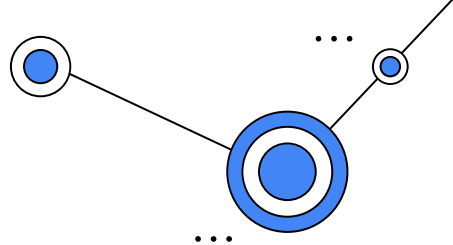
To kick off this semester we began with

1. Manually perused through the comptroller site as a whole, which proved to be too difficult to find discrepancies
2. We then took a route to look more into an ambulance company who had made a lot of money and had land records that looked interesting and consultation companies the government paid for

Upon further research into the records and companies, we realized that they checked out and pivoted again



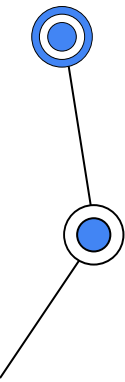
BU COVID Response



Was a private institution able to create a more efficient COVID prevention program or get better deals on tests and equipment?

Our next pivot was speaking with a BU spokesperson to gain insights on COVID spending here. With the goal of comparing spending within the university to state spending

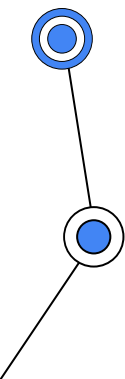
- Looked at overall cost of COVID response and cost of individual tests
- Compared this to the state as a whole, and other institutions within Massachusetts, mostly other schools and the Broad Institute
- While BU spent a lot on COVID, we didn't find anything odd within the school spending or through comparing spending costs



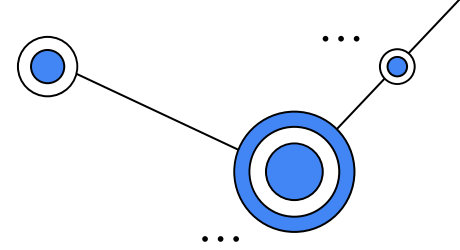
UMass and Government Employee Testing



How did public universities in Massachusetts pay for testing? Was the government employee testing program fair?

- Did contact a few UMass schools but didn't hear back
 - Many schools contracted through Broad Institute
 - Public schools did receive funding but also had to take some money out of pocket
 - Government employee testing had no issues that we found, as testing in Massachusetts was free for anyone exposed with insurance, which gov employees have
- 

Zoll Medical Contracts

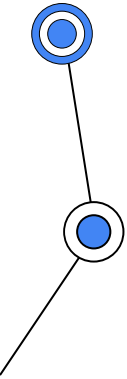


Zoll Medical Corp. is an Approved U.S. Government supplier.

- Existing contract with Department of Defense

March 2020 - pledged to manufacture 10k ventilators a month

- Resulted in receiving contracts from U.S. Government to provide ventilators (~\$10M)
- Sent to hospitals and various organizations
- Leftover ventilators are in federal and state government stockpiles
- Most of the spending was commissioned by other states



Color Health Inc.

Research

Found the company's first partners were the state of California (its headquarters) and Massachusetts

Interview

Interviewed a member of their PR team

- No info was on the record
- Did not have any info on government funded products/ projects

Approach

Color Health Inc. had a 3x increase in profit during the pandemic, launching it into a billion dollar company.

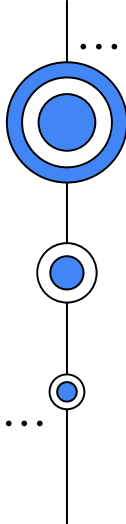
We aimed to figure out

1. How much government money contributed to this
2. What they will do with extra gov funded resources

Outcome

- Their employee maintained very limited contact with us
- Found connection to MA government was credible
- Somewhat of a dead end





Thank You!
Questions?