

## **ABSTRACT**

*The health sector is one of the main human needs and has an important role in the national economy. The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 caused an increase in the health budget in Indonesia, but this has not been accompanied by an improvement in public health. This study aims to compare the efficiency of the health budget before and during the pandemic in 34 Indonesian provinces in 2017-2022.*

*This study uses the Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) analysis method with DEAP version 2.01 software. The input variable of this research is the health expenditure budget, followed by health facilities and services as intermediate output variables (to accommodate the indirect relationship between input and output variables). And the degree of health as an output variable. The assumptions in this study use Variable Return to Scale (VRS) and are output-oriented.*

*The study results showed that the Covid-19 pandemic caused the efficiency score in most provinces in Indonesia to decline. The average technical cost efficiency score in 34 provinces in Indonesia during the Covid-19 pandemic decreased from 0.036 to 0.739. During the Covid-19 pandemic in cost technical efficiency there were only 6 provinces and in system technical efficiency there were only 8 provinces that had reached an efficient condition (=1). This shows that most provinces in Indonesia are still not efficient in using their health expenditure budgets so improvements need to be made through the calculation of improvement targets that are oriented towards optimizing output.*

*Keywords: Data Envelopment Analysis, Technical Efficiency, Covid-19, Health Expenditure, Health Outcomes.*

