



PROACTIVE RELEASE MAY 2022

GOV-015769 Data related to COVID-19 vaccinations

The treatment injury data provided was extracted on 2 May 2022 and includes claims lodged between 18 February 2021, when New Zealand began COVID vaccinations, and 30 April 2022, where the treatment event was *vaccination* or *injection/medications*, *adverse reaction/medication error* and where the medication type was recorded as *vaccine*.

However, as these fields are only completed when cover for the claim is decided, the figures provided have been supplemented by a text search of the claim forms received by ACC which mention *Comirnaty* (the name of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine), *AstraZeneca*, *Novavax*, or included the terms *covid* or *Pfizer* together with *vacc* or *injection*. This text search allows us to identify claims that have been lodged but where cover has not been decided. Free text search methods are not reliable data extraction methods and can result in anomalies in the data; so claims identified by this method above have been manually reviewed and some false positive matches removed.

During this period ACC has received 2,673 claims for injuries relating to the Covid vaccination. 1,065 claims have been accepted, 1,351 have been declined and 257 are yet to be decided. The following tables break down these numbers by the sex, age and ethnicity of the claimants.

Comirnaty had until very recently been the only Covid vaccine that has been used as part of New Zealand's vaccination response but more recently the Astra Zeneca and Novavax Covid-19 vaccines have also been used. The specific vaccine used is not always identified on the claim so identifying the vaccine used cannot be reliably determined. Given the vaccination policy, the vast majority of the claims reported below relate to the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine.

Claim lodgement rates

Claim lodgement rates are dependent on several factors. They can be influenced by:

- population demography i.e. the characteristics of the resident population, visitors and referred patients
- health status of the population treated
- what level of facility the organisation provides i.e. tertiary versus secondary
- familiarity of health providers or clients in recognising and/or lodging treatment injury claims.

Privacy

ACC does not routinely disclose low value numbers related to claims. Accordingly, some of the values in the tables only indicate that the number is less than 4 (denoted as <4). In other instances, values are suppressed and notated as (--) to limit the potential for particular individuals or matters specific to certain individuals from being identified.

Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of these individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

Dose

ACC has asked lodging providers to indicate whether the vaccination leading to the claim was a first, second or third/booster dose. Whilst nearly 50% have provided this information it has been provided as free text and over 50% of claims do not clarify which dose was involved. The table below categorises the claims received based on whether the claim was for the first, second or third primary/booster dose or whether this wasn't clear from the description given.

Dose	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
First	138	231	28	397
Second	288	350	75	713
Third Primary/Booster	88	115	43	246
Unspecified	551	655	111	1,317
Total	1,065	1,351	257	2,673

Accepted Injuries

Treatment injuries are confirmed and recorded when a claim is decided. The following table shows the primary injury recorded for the accepted Covid vaccination claims decided by 2 April 2022.

Primary Injury	Accepted Claims
Allergic Reaction	189
Sprain	116
Contusion	110
Cardiac injury	92
Adverse Drug Reaction	88
Anaphylactic Reaction	81
Infection	61
Cellulitis	44
Nerve Damage	20
Bursitis	19
Other (injuries with fewer than 19 accepted claims)	245
Total	1,065

Declined Reason

The table below shows the number of declined claims, broken down by declined reasons, which relate to the treatment injury assessment criteria.

Declined Reason	Number of Declined Claims
No Injury	1,058
No Causal Link	139
Withdrawn	53
Lack of Information	25
Ordinary Consequence of Treatment	16
Other	60
Total	1,351

Severity of Injuries

Measuring the impact of an injury on a person is challenging. ACC and others use the overall cost of a treatment injury claim as an indicator of the severity of the injury because more costly claims are likely to indicate claims where there has been a more severe impact on the person injured. While not always directly related, overall cost is one measure of severity and impact.

The following table shows the number of accepted claims grouped by the total payments made per claim to 2 May 2022.

Payments to 2 May 2022	Number of Accepted Claims
No payment to date	211
Up to \$100	327
Over \$100 to \$500	345
Over \$500 to \$1,000	63
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000	53
Over \$5,000 to \$10,000	27
Over \$10,000	39
Total	1,065

Total payments made by ACC by 2 May 2022 on these 1,065 accepted claims was \$1,339,356. 182 out of 1,065 accepted claims had resulted in payments of over \$500 by 2 May 2022. 211 accepted claims had yet to receive a payment by 2 May 2022.

To date fewer than 4 claims have been lodged with ACC which have related to a fatal injury. All have been accepted.

Ethnicity

The ethnicity data provided is based on ACC's 'prioritised ethnicity' data field. This method reduces the six ethnic responses to a single response by a system of "prioritisation" where: Māori regardless of other ethnicities listed is classified as Māori; Pacific peoples with any other response other than Māori is classified as Pacific; Asian peoples with any other response other than Māori and Pacific are classified as Asian; Other ethnicity regardless of any other response other than Māori, Asian or Pacific is classified as Other. Those that listed European and did not list Māori, Pacific, Asian or Other are classified as European.

Ethnicity	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Māori	91	119	23	233
Pacific Peoples	39	53	7	99
Asian	95	121	21	237
European	757	949	183	1,889
Other	83	109	23	215
Total	1,065	1,351	257	2,673

71% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries have been for clients with European ethnicity with 71% accepted for cover. Māori comprise 9% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries and 9% of the claims accepted.

ACC reports ethnicity using a different method to Statistics New Zealand. Care must be taken when comparing ACC's ethnicity data with other Government agencies or census data.

Age Band

Age Band	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
5-11	9	--	<4	21
12-17	37	37	4	78
18-24	82	107	13	202
25-29	73	115	17	205
30-34	99	134	24	257
35-39	98	135	25	258
40-44	105	138	28	271
45-49	129	149	27	305
50-54	97	145	47	289
55-59	106	126	21	253
60-64	72	97	18	187
65-69	76	60	11	147
70-74	38	47	10	95
75-79	16	23	8	47
80 plus and unknown	28	--	<4	39
Total	1,065	1,351	257	2,673

Sex

Sex	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Female	722	883	167	1,772
Male	343	468	90	901
Total	1,065	1,351	257	2,673

The table above shows that females are far more likely than males to have lodged a claim for a Covid vaccination treatment injury. Claims for female clients represent 66% of claims lodged. This compares to 50% of the population with at least one Covid vaccination.¹

Claims by Month

The following table shows the number of Covid vaccination injury claims received by ACC by month. This is grouped by the recorded accident date ('Number of Claimed Vaccinations' column in table below) and by the date on which the claim was lodged with ACC ('Number Lodged' column in table below). ACC records treatment injury accident dates as the date on which the client first sought treatment for the injury. This may not necessarily be the date on which the event leading to the injury occurred although for the purpose of the analysis this date is used as a proxy for the date of vaccination.

Few vaccinations and consequently vaccination claims were lodged in the month of February 2021, so February and March have been grouped together to avoid reporting small numbers.

2,342 (88%) of the Covid vaccination injury claims received to date have been lodged since the beginning of September. At this stage, it is difficult to provide meaningful data on the persistency of any injuries sustained.

¹ Source: [COVID-19: Vaccine data | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

Month	Number of Claimed Vaccinations	Number Lodged
February - March 2021	--	5
April 2021	66	--
May 2021	107	61
June 2021	100	68
July 2021	128	51
August 2021	306	125
September 2021	440	262
October 2021	502	316
November 2021	315	415
December 2021	249	375
January 2022	209	271
February 2022	176	325
March 2022	44	233
April 2022	14	145
Unknown	<4	<4

DHB

The DHB has been provided below based on the DHB of Treatment where this has been identified and by the DHB of Residence of the client. Given that the number of claims received from some DHBs is quite small only the total number of claims lodged has been shown in the table below.

District Health Board Region	DHB of Treatment	DHB of Residence
Auckland	245	207
Bay of Plenty	72	146
Canterbury	117	291
Capital & Coast	97	146
Counties Manukau	33	216
Hawkes Bay	37	76
Hutt Valley	35	84
Lakes	21	50
Mid Central	51	99
Nelson Marlborough	53	108
Northland	51	81
South Canterbury	26	26
Southern	143	287
Tairāwhiti	10	--
Taranaki	65	115
Waikato	154	303
Wairarapa	11	22
Waitemata	76	306
West Coast	--	17
Whanganui	44	71
Overseas	<4	0
Unknown	1,323	<4
Total	2,673	2,673

Time to Lodgement

Some vaccination injuries are immediately apparent whereas other injuries may take some time to become apparent. The table below shows the time between the accident date (assumed to be the date of vaccination in most cases) and the date when the claim is lodged with ACC.

Delay	Number of Claims	Delay	Number of Claims
0 days	109	20 days	27
1 days	139	21 days	32
2 days	117	22 days	24
3 days	131	23 days	19
4 days	101	24 days	30
5 days	85	25 days	18
6 days	66	26 days	13
7 days	64	27 days	18
8 days	51	4 weeks	161
9 days	38	5 weeks	104
10 days	40	6 weeks	88
11 days	34	7 weeks	89
12 days	39	8 weeks	78
13 days	31	9 weeks	63
14 days	32	10 weeks	62
15 days	26	11 weeks	66
16 days	28	12 weeks	58
17 days	22	3 months	181
18 days	26	4 months	134
19 days	24	5 months +	205

Treatment Injury

ACC has provided cover for treatment injuries since 1 July 2005, when treatment injury provisions came into law. The treatment injury provisions replaced the medical misadventure provisions of the Accident Compensation Act 2001, to bring it more in line with the no-fault nature of the scheme.

A treatment injury is a personal injury caused as a result of seeking or receiving medical treatment from, or at the direction of, a registered health professional. In order to fulfil the criteria for cover, the person must have suffered a personal injury and there must be a clear causal link between the treatment and the injury, and the injury must not be a necessary part or ordinary consequence of the treatment.

When considering treatment injury data, it is important to note that the number of claims lodged with ACC cannot be taken as an accurate indication of the occurrence of injury during treatment or the quality of care. This is because, among other reasons, not all occurrences of injury during treatment are lodged with ACC.

The ACC website contains further information on treatment injury www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/treatment-safety.

A full overview of treatment injury in public and private surgical hospitals and general practice settings is available at www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/ACC7971-Supporting-Treatment-Safety-2021.pdf.