

Official Information Act Request

Covid Vaccination Injury Analysis

Reference IPA-4784

Question

Please provide data for all covid related vaccination claims including death and side affects also including age, gender and ethnicity.

Please also provide me with data on deaths related to covid vaccine and successful injury claims stating the injured persons age, gender and ethnicity. The time it took for the injury to occur after receiving the covid vaccine dose and if it was a first dose or second dose.

Can you please advise how many claims ACC is dealing with due to adverse reactions to the Cominarty injection?

Recently there was an article in one of media outlets the New Zealand Herald, you provide an update of the statistic of Covid cases work related, and vaccine injuries. These Stats only take us up to the 10th September, I am now requesting a further update to the 10 of October 2021. Could you please provide an update on the following stats:

1. Pfizer vaccine injuries accepted
2. Vaccine injuries declined?
3. Vaccine injuries still pending?
4. How many ACC vaccine injury deaths has accepted/dismissed by the Corporation?

These figures would be helpful at keeping our Database up to date. Also I am advising the vaccine injured on how to make a claim, and also advising if they don't have a claim, but I always advise people to talk to their GPs first.

Can I have a breakdown of ACC claims relating to treatment/adverse effects to the COVID-19 vaccine since January 2021 broken down by month, DHB, Age (5 year age bands are acceptable), ethnicity, permanence of effect, and clinical nature of effect?

Can this please be in Excel spreadsheet format.

Can you please advise the following associated with Covid vaccine adverse affects or harm claims (minor, serious, death or otherwise), if any:

Total number of reports/claims to ACC (categorised by adverse affect/harm type) AND for each:

Total of claim outcomes for each category (pending, declined, granted etc).

How many ACC claims have been made for AEFIs and/or injuries related to the COVID-19 vaccine In total for the year 2021 including reports made up until 12 Oct 2021? How many of these claims have been accepted? How many are still being processed? And how many have been declined? Could you also please provide raw data and/or statistics inclusive of age, type of injury, and dates reported?

Background information about treatment injury data

Before responding to your request, we would first like to provide you with some background information about treatment injuries.

ACC has provided cover for treatment injuries since 1 July 2005. 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 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.

Context

Treatment injury (TI) data is available from 1 July 2005, when treatment injury provisions came into law.

The ACC website contains further information on treatment injury <https://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 <https://www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/ACC7971-Supporting-Treatment-Safety-2021.pdf>.

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.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Covid vaccination related claims

For this response, a combination of a structured data extraction (for specific treatment events) and a free text search was used. Free text search methods are not reliable data extraction methods and can result in anomalies in the data. In this case all vaccination treatment injury claims where the free text has indicated 'comirnaty' the name of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccine or included 'covid' or 'pfizer' and 'vacc....' have been manually reviewed and some false positive matches removed.

Ethnicity

The ethnicity data provided below 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.

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.

Data

The treatment injury data provided below was extracted on 2 December 2021 and includes claims lodged between 18 February 2021 when New Zealand began Covid vaccinations and 27 November 2021.

During this period ACC has received 1,179 claims for injuries relating to the Covid vaccination. 448 claims have been accepted, 260 have been declined and 471 are yet to be decided. The following tables break down these numbers by the gender, age and ethnicity of the claimants.

Comirnaty has until very recently been the only Covid vaccine that has been used as part of New Zealand's vaccination response so with the exception of fewer than four cases where the vaccine was administered abroad and we don't have certainty over the vaccine used, all figures quoted in this response are assumed to be in relation to the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine.

Gender

Gender	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Female	339	185	304	828
Male	109	75	167	351
Total	448	260	471	1,179

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 73% of claims lodged. This compares to 52% of Covid vaccination doses given.¹

Age Band

Age Band	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
12-19	17	--	--	55
20-24	22	21	26	69
25-29	23	18	30	71
30-34	27	22	45	94
35-39	35	22	47	104
40-44	32	27	53	112
45-49	41	26	56	123
50-54	28	27	44	99
55-59	27	23	44	94
60-64	19	27	35	81
65-69	20	11	20	51
70-74	8	11	18	37
75 plus	10	14	21	45
Unknown age	139	<4	--	144
Total	448	260	471	1,179

Claims have been received across all age bands.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Māori	36	10	52	98
Pacific Peoples	18	11	17	46
Asian	45	35	28	108
European	319	176	335	830
Other/Unknown	30	28	39	97
Total	448	260	471	1,179

¹ Source: https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/covid_vaccinations_19_10_2021.xlsx

70% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries have been for clients with European ethnicity 71% of claims accepted for cover. Māori comprise 8% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries and 8% of the claims accepted.

Dose

ACC has asked lodging providers to indicate whether the vaccination leading to the claim was a first, second or third/booster dose. Whilst over 40% have provided this information it has been provided as free text and nearly 60% 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 or second dose or whether this wasn't clear from the description given. Third and booster vaccinations currently total fewer than four claims so have been included in the unspecified figures.

Dose	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
First	79	52	78	209
Second	118	65	103	286
Unspecified/Third	251	143	290	684
Total	448	260	471	1,179

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 December 2021.

Primary Injury	All Accepted Claims
Allergic Reaction	130
Adverse Drug Reaction	52
Anaphylactic Reaction	49
Contusion	43
Sprain	37
Infection	25
Cellulitis	20
Cardiac injury	14
Nerve Damage	9
Bursitis	5
Other	64
Total	448

Severity of Injuries

To date, no claims have been lodged with ACC which have resulted in a fatal injury.

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 1 December 2021.

Payments to 1 December 2021	Number of Accepted Claims
No payment to date	156
Up to \$100	145
Over \$100 to \$500	113
Over \$500 to \$1,000	8
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000	16
Over \$5,000 to \$10,000	5
Over \$10,000 to \$50,000	5
Total	448

34 out of 448 accepted claims had resulted in payments of over \$500 by 1 December 2021. 156 accepted claims had yet to receive a payment by 1 December 2021.

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 and by the date on which the claim was lodged with ACC. 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, so February and March have been grouped together to avoid reporting small numbers.

Month (2021)	Number of Claimed Vaccinations	Number Lodged
February - March	11	5
April	59	20
May	83	56
June	66	62
July	84	48
August	213	109
September	296	240
October	281	297
November ¹	86	342

¹November is partial month to 27 November 2021.

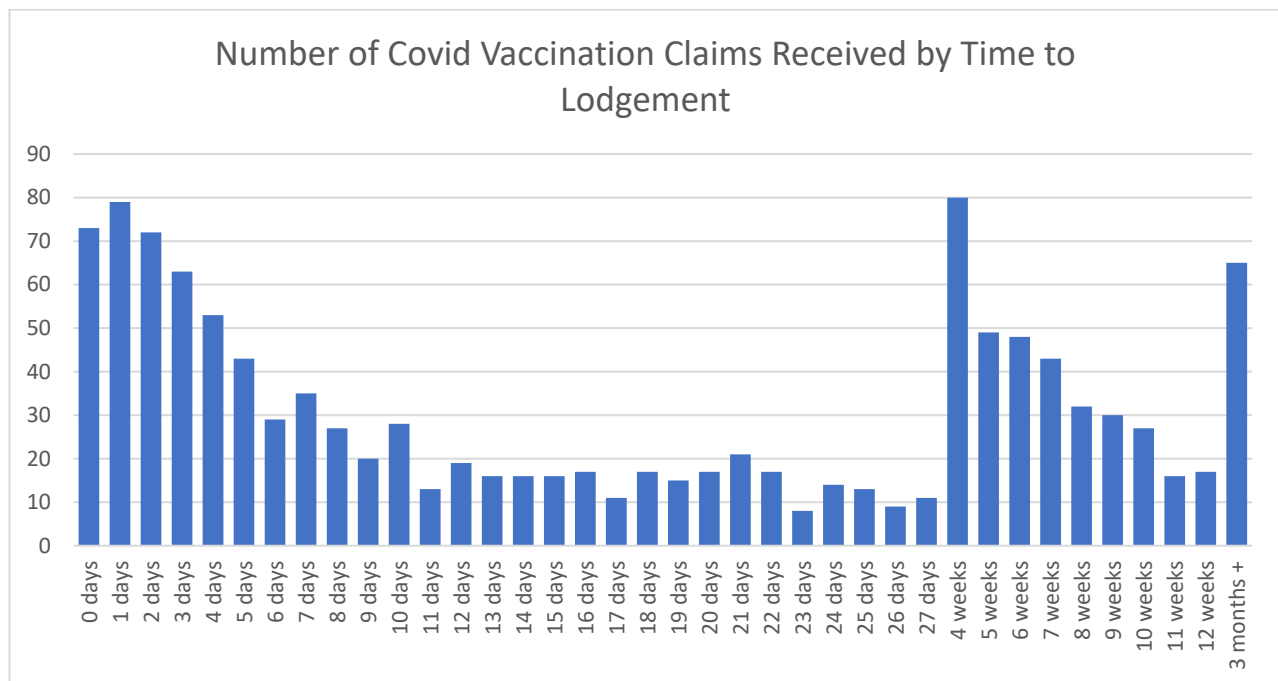
879 (75%) of the Covid vaccination injury claims received to date have been received since the beginning of September and many have not been assessed for cover. At this stage it is difficult to provide meaningful data on the persistency of any injuries sustained.

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	73	19 days	15
1 days	79	20 days	17
2 days	72	21 days	21
3 days	63	22 days	17
4 days	53	23 days	8
5 days	43	24 days	14
6 days	29	25 days	13
7 days	35	26 days	9
8 days	27	27 days	11
9 days	20	4 weeks	80
10 days	28	5 weeks	49
11 days	13	6 weeks	48
12 days	19	7 weeks	43
13 days	16	8 weeks	32
14 days	16	9 weeks	30
15 days	16	10 weeks	27
16 days	17	11 weeks	16
17 days	11	12 weeks	17
18 days	17	3 months +	65

The table above is illustrated in the chart below.



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	80	91
Bay of Plenty	17	59
Canterbury	28	108
Capital & Coast	35	74
Counties Manukau	8	100
Hawkes Bay	9	30
Hutt Valley	13	42
Lakes	<4	18
Mid Central	19	47
Nelson Marlborough	21	50
Northland	12	38
South Canterbury	6	12
Southern	33	103
Tairāwhiti	<4	14
Taranaki	16	54
Waikato	60	139
Wairarapa	5	9
Waitematā	24	152
West Coast	4	--
Whanganui	12	29
Overseas	<4	<4
Unknown	771	0
Total	1,179	1,179

The DHB of Treatment is often not confirmed until the claim is decided hence the large number of claims recorded with no known DHB of Treatment.