

Official Information Act Request

Covid Vaccination Injury Analysis - January 2022

Reference IPA-5361

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, 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.

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-19 vaccine related treatment injury claims

The data below was extracted on 12 January 2022 for treatment injury claims lodged with ACC between 18 February 2021 (when New Zealand began COVID-19 vaccinations) and 8 January 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), 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.

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 12 January 2022 and includes claims lodged between 18 February 2021, when New Zealand began Covid vaccinations, and 8 January 2022.

During this period ACC has received 1,708 claims for injuries relating to the Covid vaccination. 627 claims have been accepted, 513 have been declined and 568 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 Covid-19 vaccine has 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.

Sex

Sex	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Female	457	345	361	1,163
Male	170	168	207	545
Total	627	513	568	1,708

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 68% of claims lodged. This compares to 51% of Covid vaccination doses given.¹

Age Band

Age Band	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
12-14	8	--	--	23
15-19	28	12	21	61
20-24	43	36	35	114
25-29	47	35	42	124
30-34	61	37	72	170
35-39	58	47	64	169
40-44	61	62	55	178
45-49	82	56	64	202
50-54	52	52	64	168
55-59	58	57	43	158
60-64	42	43	38	123
65-69	40	17	32	89
70-74	19	20	19	58
75-79	13	14	7	34
80-84	8	12	5	25
85 plus	7	<4	<4	--
Unknown age	0	0	<4	<4
Total	627	513	568	1,708

Claims have been received across all age bands.

¹ Source: https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/covid_vaccinations_11_01_2022.xlsx

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Māori	55	42	57	154
Pacific Peoples	26	22	21	69
Asian	56	53	40	149
European	449	346	403	1,198
Other/Unknown	41	50	47	138
Total	627	513	568	1,708

70% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries have been for clients with European ethnicity with a similar percentage accepted for cover. Māori comprise 9% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries and 9% 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 represent a small number of claims so have been included in the unspecified figures.

Dose	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
First	100	101	83	284
Second	180	139	134	453
Unspecified/Third	347	273	351	971
Total	627	513	568	1,708

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 10 January 2022.

Primary Injury	All Accepted Claims
Allergic Reaction	150
Sprain	71
Contusion	70
Anaphylactic Reaction	66
Adverse Drug Reaction	65
Infection	40
Cellulitis	31
Cardiac injury	23
Nerve Damage	12
Bursitis	7
Other	92
Total	627

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 11 January 2022.

Payments to 11 January 2022	Number of Accepted Claims
No cost to date	173
Up to \$100	207
Over \$100 to \$500	188
Over \$500 to \$1,000	18
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000	25
Over \$5,000 to \$10,000	4
Over \$10,000 to \$50,000	12
Total	627

59 out of 627 accepted claims had resulted in payments of over \$500 by 11 January 2022. 173 accepted claims had yet to receive a payment by 11 January 2022.

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

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	Number of Claimed Vaccinations	Number Lodged
February - March 2021	12	5
April 2021	61	20
May 2021	93	60
June 2021	80	68
July 2021	105	50
August 2021	262	123
September 2021	360	259
October 2021	381	312
November 2021	212	411
December 2021 - January 2022 ¹	142	400

¹January is partial month to 8 January 2022.

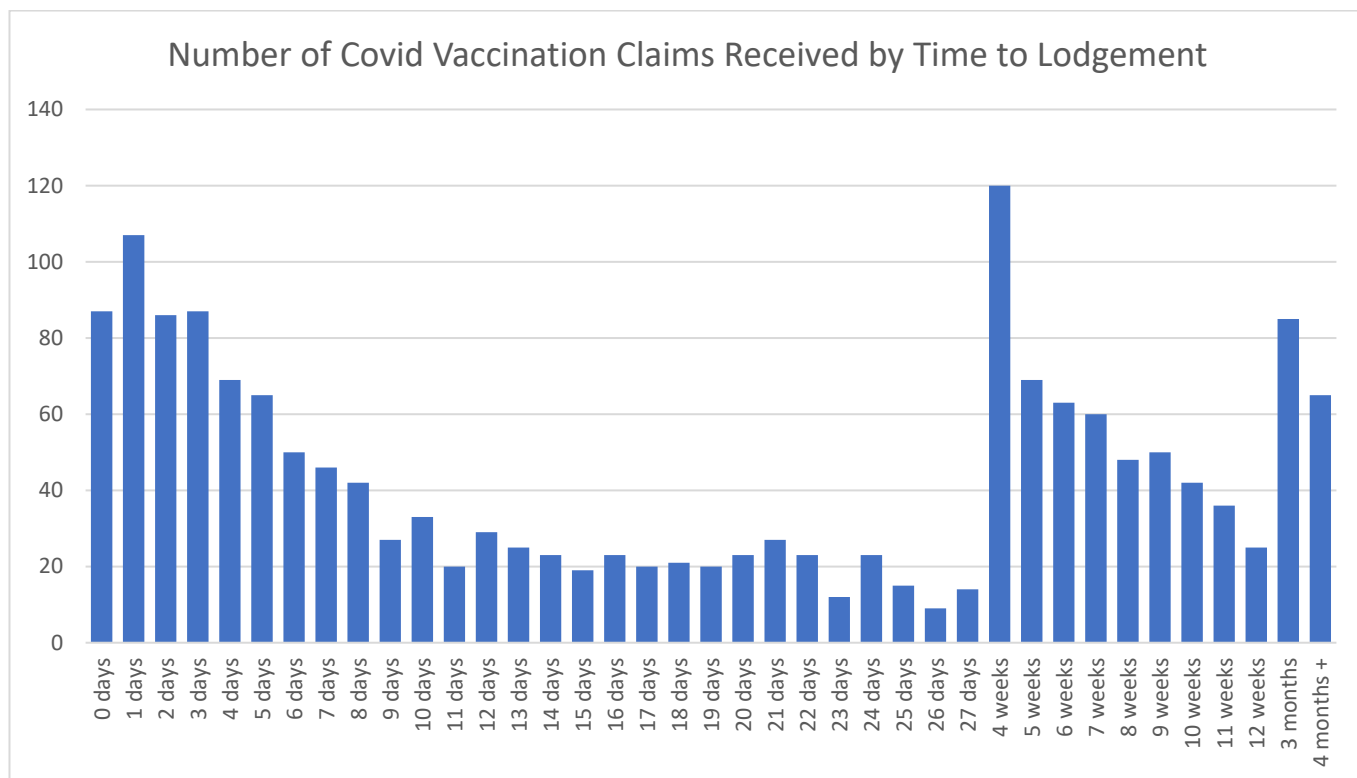
1,382 (81%) of the Covid vaccination injury claims received to date have been received since the beginning of September and many have not been assessed for cover. At this stage, it is difficult to provide meaningful data on the persistency of any injuries sustained.

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	87	20 days	23
1 days	107	21 days	27
2 days	86	22 days	23
3 days	87	23 days	12
4 days	69	24 days	23
5 days	65	25 days	15
6 days	50	26 days	9
7 days	46	27 days	14
8 days	42	4 weeks	120
9 days	27	5 weeks	69
10 days	33	6 weeks	63
11 days	20	7 weeks	60
12 days	29	8 weeks	48
13 days	25	9 weeks	50
14 days	23	10 weeks	42
15 days	19	11 weeks	36
16 days	23	12 weeks	25
17 days	20	3 months	85
18 days	21	4 months +	65
19 days	20		

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	124	134
Bay of Plenty	27	83
Canterbury	43	162
Capital & Coast	52	113
Counties Manukau	14	146
Hawkes Bay	22	56
Hutt Valley	21	55
Lakes	9	30
Mid Central	28	66
Nelson Marlborough	25	65
Northland	24	53
South Canterbury	9	14
Southern	53	161
Tairāwhiti	--	15
Taranaki	37	75
Waikato	83	195
Wairarapa	7	18
Waitemata	36	208
West Coast	4	--
Whanganui	20	46
Overseas	<4	0
Unknown	1,065	<4
Total	1,708	1,708

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.