

The data below was extracted on 8 January 2024 for treatment injury claims lodged with ACC between 18 February 2021 (when New Zealand began COVID-19 vaccinations) and 6 January 2024, 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*, *Vaxzevria* (alternative name of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine), *Novavax*, *Nuvaxovid* (the name of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine), or included the terms *covid* or *Pfizer* together with *vacc*, *injection*, *booster*, *jab*, or *shot*. 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.

Between 18 February 2021 and 6 January 2024, ACC has received 4,099 claims for injuries relating to the Covid vaccination. 1,645 claims have been accepted, 2,391 have been declined and 63 are yet to be decided. The following tables break down these numbers by the sex, age and ethnicity of the claimants.

Comirnaty was originally the only Covid vaccine that was used as part of New Zealand’s vaccination response but more recently the AstraZeneca 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.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

### Dose

ACC has asked lodging providers to indicate whether the vaccination leading to the claim was a first, second or third primary/booster dose. Whilst 55% have provided this information it has been provided as free text, the remaining 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	170	--	<4	507
Second	396	553	10	959
Third Primary/Booster <sup>1</sup>	296	471	14	781
Unspecified	783	--	--	1,852
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4,099</b>

<sup>1</sup>ACC does not routinely collect the number of booster dose, we are unable to specify if that is the first booster or a subsequent booster dose.

### 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 6 January 2024.

Primary Injury	Accepted Claims
Allergic Reaction	226
Sprain	204
Cardiac injury	176
Contusion	159
Adverse Drug Reaction	123
Anaphylactic Reaction	93
Infection	70
Cellulitis	54
Shoulder Damage/Injury	53
Bursitis	37
Inflammation	32
Nerve Damage	29
Other	389
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,645</b>

### 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	1,740
No Causal Link	356
Withdrawn	116
Lack of Information	66
Ordinary Consequence of Treatment	19
Underlying Health Condition	19
Other	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,391</b>

### 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 8 January 2024.

Payments to 8 January 2024	Number of Accepted Claims
No payment to date	255
Up to \$100	400
Over \$100 to \$500	497
Over \$500 to \$1,000	140
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000	179
Over \$5,000 to \$10,000	54
Over \$10,000	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,645</b>

493 out of 1,645 accepted claims had resulted in payments of over \$500 by 8 January 2024. 255 accepted claims had yet to receive a payment by 8 January 2024.

Total payments made by ACC by 8 January 2024 on these 1,645 accepted claims was \$8,353,246.

To date, 5 claims have been lodged with ACC which have related to a fatal injury.

### 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.

Ethnicity	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Māori	137	209	6	352
Pacific Peoples	61	--	<4	158
Asian	142	198	4	344
European	1,176	1,690	43	2,909
Other	129	--	--	336
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4,099</b>

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 8% of the claims accepted.

### Age band

Age Band	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
5-11	11	13	0	24
12-17	47	52	0	99
18-24	111	166	5	282
25-29	109	170	0	279
30-34	135	214	4	353
35-39	142	208	7	357
40-44	154	254	6	414
45-49	185	274	6	465
50-54	162	282	8	452
55-59	169	223	6	398
60-64	120	171	4	295
65-69	135	138	9	282
70-74	72	--	<4	189
75-79	42	53	4	99
80 plus and Unknown	51	--	<4	111
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4,099</b>

### Sex

Sex	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Female	1,118	1,515	44	2,677
Male	527	876	19	1,422
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4,099</b>

The table above shows that females are more likely than males to have lodged a claim for a Covid vaccination treatment injury. Claims for female clients represent 65% of claims lodged.

## 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.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Claimed Vaccinations</b>	<b>Number Lodged</b>
February - March 2021 <sup>2</sup>	18	5
April 2021	73	21
May 2021	125	61
June 2021	120	74
July 2021	162	52
August 2021	400	131
September 2021	529	277
October 2021	626	334
November 2021	423	433
December 2021	364	397
January 2022	378	316
February 2022	362	386
March 2022	96	285
April 2022	33	172
May 2022	22	161
June 2022	19	117
July 2022	62	101
August 2022	56	110
September 2022	23	92
October 2022	20	67
November 2022	12	64
December 2022	9	51
January 2023	5	34
February 2023	4	38
March 2023	7	27
April 2023	60	38
May 2023	35	53
June 2023	14	47
July 2023	7	26
August 2023	6	31
September 2023	8	26
October 2023	5	23
November 2023	4	22
December 2023 - January 2024 <sup>3</sup>	6	27
Unknown	6	0

<sup>2</sup>Few vaccinations and consequently vaccination claims were lodged in the month of February 2021, so February and March 2021 have been grouped together to avoid reporting small numbers.

<sup>3</sup>January 2024 is partial to 6 January.

## Te Whatu Ora Region

The Te Whatu Ora region has been provided below based on the Region of Treatment where this has been identified and by the Region of Residence of the client.

Given that the number of claims received from some regions is quite small only the total number of claims lodged has been shown in the table below.

Te Whatu Ora Region	Region of Treatment	Region of Residence
Auckland	390	310
Bay of Plenty	126	208
Canterbury	228	458
Capital & Coast	154	241
Counties Manukau	62	323
Hawkes Bay	66	122
Hutt Valley	56	126
Lakes	38	76
Mid Central	89	153
Nelson Marlborough	90	161
Northland	86	127
South Canterbury	52	40
Southern	253	464
Tairāwhiti	18	30
Taranaki	99	157
Waikato	254	462
Wairarapa	23	36
Waitemata	121	462
West Coast	--	33
Whanganui	63	104
Overseas	<4	0
Unknown	1,812	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,099</b>	<b>4,099</b>

#### 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	145	22 days	26
1 days	186	23 days	24
2 days	154	24 days	35
3 days	175	25 days	20
4 days	142	26 days	15
5 days	121	27 days	22
6 days	76	4 weeks	191
7 days	79	5 weeks	136
8 days	67	6 weeks	119
9 days	53	7 weeks	102
10 days	46	8 weeks	91
11 days	42	9 weeks	73
12 days	44	10 weeks	83
13 days	38	11 weeks	86
14 days	39	12 weeks	78
15 days	30	3 months	252
16 days	32	4 months	186
17 days	33	5 months	153
18 days	31	6 months	120
19 days	30	7 months	91
20 days	34	8 months +	562
21 days	37		

The table above is illustrated in the chart below.

