



PROACTIVE RELEASE July 2022

GOV-015769 Data related to COVID-19 vaccinations

The treatment injury data provided was extracted on 4 July 2022 and includes claims lodged between 18 February 2021, when New Zealand began COVID vaccinations, and 2 July 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 2,946 claims for injuries relating to the Covid vaccination. 1,161 claims have been accepted, 1,531 have been declined and 254 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 52% have provided this information, it has been provided as free text and nearly 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	143	259	29	431
Second	312	400	67	779
Third Primary/Booster	114	153	52	319
Unspecified	592	719	106	1,417
Total	1,161	1,531	254	2,946

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 July 2022.

Primary injury	Accepted Claims
Allergic Reaction	194
Sprain	127
Contusion	117
Cardiac injury	108
Adverse Drug Reaction	94
Anaphylactic Reaction	82
Infection	61
Cellulitis	44
Bursitis	22
Nerve Damage	21
Other (injuries with fewer than 21 accepted claims)	291
Total	1,161

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	1,182
No Causal Link	188
Withdrawn	58
Lack of Information	33
Ordinary Consequence of Treatment	16
Other	54
Total	1,531

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 4 July 2022.

Payments to 7 June 2022	Number of Accepted Claims
No payment to date	203
Up to \$100	336
Over \$100 to \$500	379
Over \$500 to \$1,000	77
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000	82
Over \$5,000 to \$10,000	26
Over \$10,000	58
Total	1,161

Total payments made by ACC by 4 July 2022 on these 1,161 accepted claims was \$1,966,470. 243 out of 1,161 accepted claims had resulted in payments of over \$500 by 4 July 2022. 203 accepted claims had yet to receive a payment by 4 July 2022.

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

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	104	133	20	257
Pacific Peoples	42	59	11	112
Asian	108	133	18	259
European	818	1,083	174	2,075
Other	89	123	31	243
Total	1,161	1,531	254	2,946

70% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries have been for clients with European ethnicity with 70% 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	13	0	22
12-17	37	41	4	82
18-24	88	113	7	208
25-29	79	126	15	220
30-34	104	150	17	271
35-39	106	156	23	285
40-44	115	158	25	298
45-49	143	168	36	347
50-54	106	178	39	323
55-59	115	140	25	280
60-64	85	106	19	210
65-69	83	70	21	174
70-74	40	54	10	104
75-79	21	28	9	58
80 plus and unknown	30	30	4	64
Total	1,161	1,531	254	2,946

Sex

Sex	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Female	780	999	152	1,931
Male	381	532	102	1,015
Total	1,161	1,531	254	2,946

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. Likewise, we have grouped data for June to 4 July 2022.

Month	Number of Claimed Vaccinations	Number Lodged
February - March 2021	15	5
April 2021	68	21

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

May 2021	110	61
June 2021	101	68
July 2021	134	51
August 2021	330	126
September 2021	465	262
October 2021	539	316
November 2021	342	415
December 2021	280	376
January 2022	248	272
February 2022	207	326
March 2022	59	238
April 2022	21	154
May 2022	17	141
June - July 2022*	6	114
Unknown	4	0

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	265	223
Bay of Plenty	81	157
Canterbury	145	323
Capital & Coast	104	170
Counties Manukau	39	243
Hawkes Bay	41	79
Hutt Valley	38	93
Lakes	24	54
Mid Central	57	108
Nelson Marlborough	60	120
Northland	55	89
South Canterbury	29	28
Southern	155	315
Tairāwhiti	--	22
Taranaki	72	120
Waikato	171	343
Wairarapa	13	27
Waitemata	82	331
West Coast	10	20
Whanganui	47	76
Overseas	<4	0
Unknown	1,446	5
Total	2,946	2,946

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	115	21 days	32
1 days	143	22 days	24
2 days	119	23 days	19
3 days	133	24 days	30
4 days	104	25 days	19
5 days	87	26 days	13
6 days	67	27 days	19
7 days	65	4 weeks	163
8 days	51	5 weeks	108
9 days	38	6 weeks	93
10 days	40	7 weeks	91
11 days	34	8 weeks	79
12 days	39	9 weeks	65
13 days	31	10 weeks	66
14 days	32	11 weeks	74
15 days	26	12 weeks	63
16 days	28	3 months	212
17 days	22	4 months	153
18 days	26	5 months	119
19 days	24	6 months +	251
20 days	29		

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.