



PROACTIVE RELEASE April 2022

GOV-015769 Data related to COVID-19 vaccinations

This treatment injury data provided was extracted on 4 April 2022 and includes claims lodged between 18 February 2021, when New Zealand began COVID vaccinations, and 2 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 2,522 claims for injuries relating to the Covid vaccination. 987 claims have been accepted, 1,238 have been declined and 297 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	129	215	37	381
Second	275	318	71	664
Third Primary/Booster	68	89	44	201
Unspecified	515	616	145	1,276
Total	987	1,238	297	2,522

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	186
Sprain	103
Contusion	102
Adverse Drug Reaction	83
Anaphylactic Reaction	81
Cardiac injury	77
Infection	60
Cellulitis	44
Nerve Damage	19
Bursitis	17
Other (injuries with fewer than 17 accepted claims)	215
Total	987

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	973
No Causal Link	119
Withdrawn	53
Lack of Information	20
Ordinary Consequence of Treatment	16
Other	57
Total	1,238

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 April 2022.

Payments to 4 April 2022	Number of Accepted Claims
No payment to date	211
Up to \$100	299
Over \$100 to \$500	321
Over \$500 to \$1,000	52
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000	48
Over \$5,000 to \$10,000	22
Over \$10,000	34
Total	987

Total payments made by ACC by 4 April 2022 on these 987 accepted claims was \$1,118,322. 156 out of 987 accepted claims had resulted in payments of over \$500 by 4 April 2022. 211 accepted claims had yet to receive a payment by 4 April 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	86	105	27	218
Pacific Peoples	36	50	10	96
Asian	89	112	19	220
European	704	870	216	1,790
Other	72	101	25	198
Total	987	1,238	297	2,522

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	--	--	20
12-17	36	35	5	76
18-24	76	104	14	194
25-29	70	104	19	193
30-34	92	121	32	245
35-39	96	124	26	246
40-44	99	128	32	259
45-49	122	135	32	289
50-54	87	126	53	266
55-59	92	114	29	235
60-64	66	89	20	175
65-69	65	54	16	135
70-74	34	45	9	88
75-79	16	--	--	44
80 plus and unknown	27	--	<4	57
Total	987	1,238	297	2,522

Sex

Sex	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Female	675	813	190	1,678
Male	312	425	107	844
Total	987	1,238	297	2,522

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 67% 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. As this extract was taken early in April 2022, few claims had been lodged for April 2022, so these claims have been grouped with March 2022.

2,191 (87%) 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	64	21
May 2021	100	61
June 2021	94	68
July 2021	125	51
August 2021	301	125
September 2021	426	262
October 2021	485	316
November 2021	299	415
December 2021	234	375
January 2022	188	271
February 2022	157	324
March - April 2022 ¹	32	228
Unknown	<4	0

¹April 2022 is partial month to 2 April 2022.

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	229	199
Bay of Plenty	69	140
Canterbury	105	267
Capital & Coast	86	142
Counties Manukau	31	202
Hawkes Bay	37	72
Hutt Valley	33	78
Lakes	17	48
Mid Central	49	92
Nelson Marlborough	50	96
Northland	47	78
South Canterbury	25	24
Southern	124	272
Tairāwhiti	9	--
Taranaki	64	109
Waikato	146	286
Wairarapa	9	22
Waitemata	73	289
West Coast	--	16
Whanganui	41	68
Overseas	<4	0
Unknown	1,272	<4
Total	2,522	2,522

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	108	20 days	27
1 days	135	21 days	32
2 days	115	22 days	24
3 days	128	23 days	17
4 days	99	24 days	30
5 days	84	25 days	17
6 days	65	26 days	13
7 days	64	27 days	18
8 days	51	4 weeks	159
9 days	38	5 weeks	101
10 days	40	6 weeks	83
11 days	32	7 weeks	84
12 days	39	8 weeks	73
13 days	31	9 weeks	60
14 days	32	10 weeks	57
15 days	26	11 weeks	57
16 days	28	12 weeks	53
17 days	22	3 months	170
18 days	25	4 months	113
19 days	23	5 months +	149

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.