

Vaccine Safety in Ontario

This infographic provides a summary of AEFIs reported in Ontario following vaccines administered in 2022. This does not include data on COVID-19 vaccine AEFIs.

Vaccines are very safe

Ongoing monitoring is a key component of vaccine safety

Ontario continues to closely monitor vaccine safety data in collaboration with local, provincial, territorial, and national partners.

8.6 million doses

of publicly-funded vaccine distributed in Ontario (2022)

447 AEFIs reported

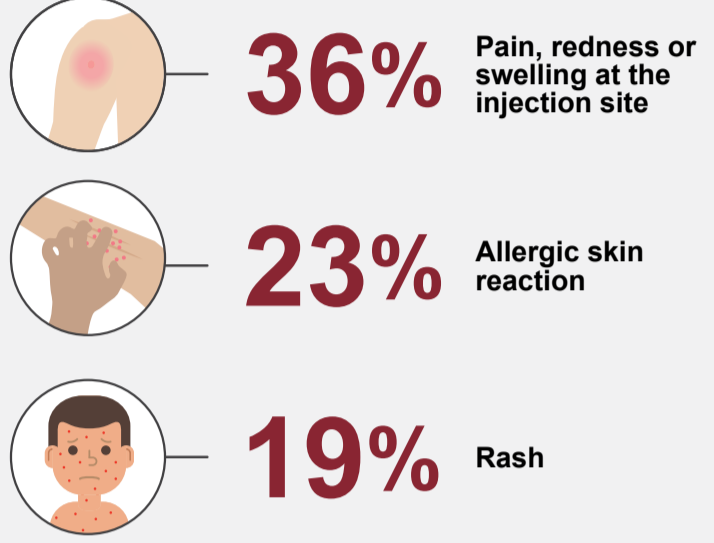
(0.006% of doses distributed)

95.5% were non-serious

What is an adverse event?

An adverse event following immunization (AEFI) is an unwanted or unexpected health effect that happens after someone receives a vaccine, which may or may not be caused by the vaccine.

Most reported adverse events were mild.



Age and sex distribution

Infants under one year and children aged one to three years had the highest AEFI reporting rates. The likely explanation is the relatively high number of vaccines given to children under 2 years, which creates more opportunities for AEFIs to occur and to be reported to a health care provider.



Infants under one year
20.9 per 100,000 population



Children aged one to three years
12.2 per 100,000 population

64% of reported AEFIs came from females



Vaccines

The highest AEFI reporting rates by doses distributed were in recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV), meningococcal (Men-C-ACWY) and HPV9.

RZV became publicly-funded in late 2020. Newer vaccines tend to have a higher proportion of reported AEFIs compared to older vaccines. Men-C-ACWY and HPV9 are school-based vaccines administered by public health units, which may create more opportunities for AEFI reporting.



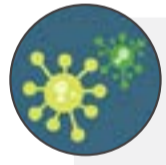
Reporting Rate:
28.8 per 100,000



Reporting Rate:
19.8 per 100,000



Reporting Rate:
17.8 per 100,000



Although Influenza vaccine had the **highest number of AEFI reports (100)**, it had the **lowest reporting rate (2.6 per 100,000 doses distributed)**.

AEFI reports were lower during the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges to health care, including to the delivery of routine, non-COVID immunization programs, resulting in lower AEFI reports during the pandemic (2020-2022) compared to previous years.



Immunization lowers the risk of getting and spreading vaccine-preventable diseases to others.

Vaccination can prevent illness, including acute severe illness, hospitalization and death, as well as serious and long-term complications from vaccine-preventable diseases.

How to report an AEFI

Vaccine recipients can report AEFIs to their health care provider or local public health unit.



Physicians and other health care providers

are required to report AEFIs to their local public health unit.

For more information on how to report an AEFI, please see [AEFI reporting for Health Care Providers in Ontario](#).

For more information on vaccine safety data in Ontario, please refer to the **Vaccine Safety Surveillance Tool** at publichealthontario.ca/vaccinesafety

For more information on AEFIs reported for COVID-19 vaccines, please see the surveillance report on [AEFIs for COVID-19 in Ontario](#)