

Vaccine Safety in Ontario



This is a summary of adverse events following immunization (AEFI) reported in Ontario following vaccines administered in 2024.

Vaccines are very safe.



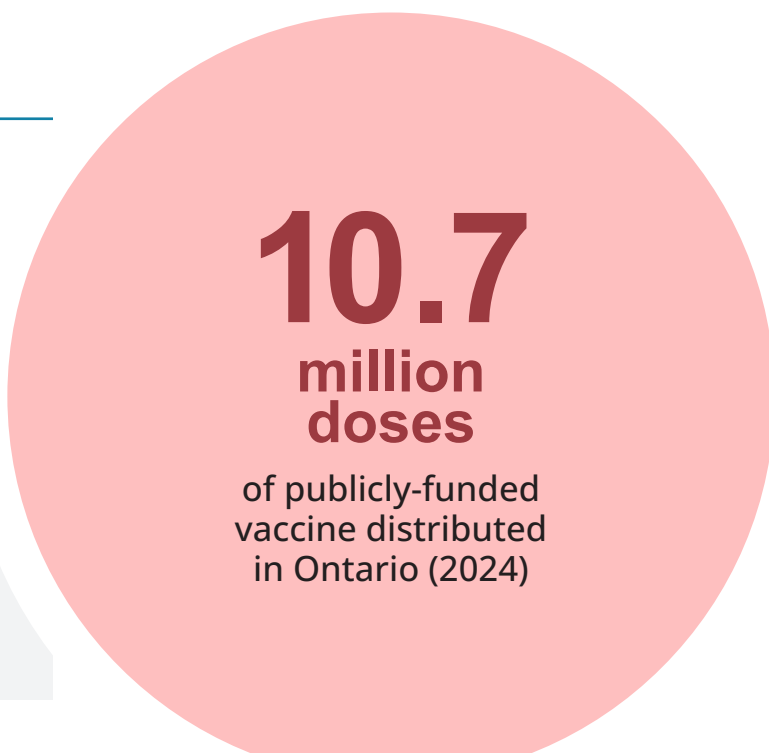
As a key component of vaccine safety, Ontario ensures ongoing monitoring of vaccine safety data in collaboration with local, provincial, territorial, and national partners.

What is an adverse event?

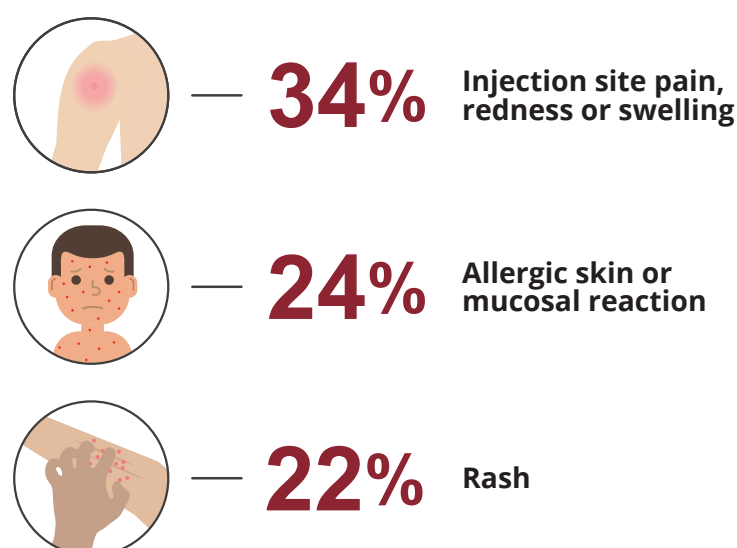
An adverse event following immunization is an unwanted or unexpected health effect that happens after someone receives a vaccine, which may or may not be caused by the vaccine.

AEFIs are rare.

In 2024, 0.007% of publicly-funded doses distributed* were associated with a reported AEFI.



The most frequently reported adverse events among the 708 AEFIs reported were:



708 AEFIs reported

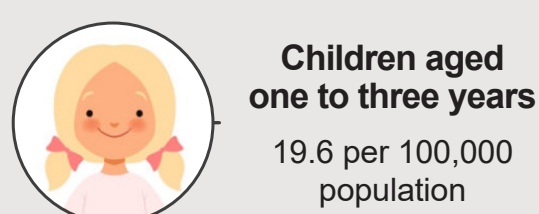
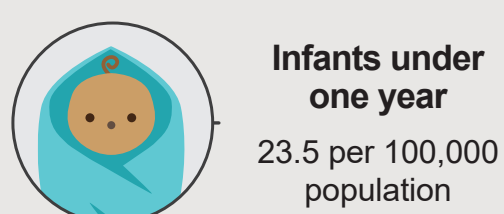
96.3% were non-serious

*Doses distributed data are only available for publicly-funded vaccines. For COVID-19 vaccines, the number of doses administered are used.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Infants and children three years and under had the highest AEFI reporting rates.

This is likely due to the relatively high number of vaccines given to children under four years as part of the routine immunization schedule, which creates more opportunities for AEFIs to occur and to be reported to a health care provider.



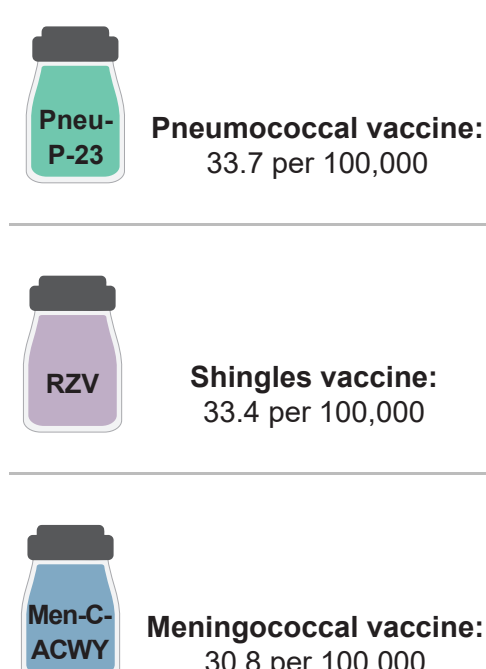
VACCINES

Higher vaccine-specific AEFI reporting rates can be associated with factors such as:

- **population characteristics** (e.g., age)
- **characteristics of the vaccine** (e.g., increased reactogenicity)
- **setting of vaccine administration** (e.g., school-based vaccines with increased opportunities for reporting).

Although Influenza vaccine had the **highest number of AEFI reports** (136), it had the **second lowest reporting rate** among publicly-funded vaccines (3.6 per 100,000 doses distributed).

The highest vaccine-specific AEFI reporting rates were:



Note: Pneu-P-23 is no longer included in the routine schedule in Ontario as of July 2024.



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

Vaccination can prevent illness, including acute severe illness, such as 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 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 **Immunization Data Tool** at publichealthontario.ca/ImmunizationTool