Ongoing surveillance of adverse events following immunization (AEFI) is essential for monitoring vaccine safety and maintaining confidence in immunization programs.

The following is a summary of AEFIs reported in Ontario following vaccines administered in 2019.

**8.6 million doses**

of publicly funded vaccine distributed in Ontario

**823** reports of adverse events following immunization

**18** adverse events classified as serious

There was a wide variation in AEFI reporting rates among public health units (PHUs) ranging from 0.8 to 29.7 per 100,000 population.

Most reported adverse events were mild.
Among reports of AEFIs, the most frequently reported reactions were:

- Pain, redness or swelling at the injection site: 39%
- Rash: 25%
- Allergic skin reaction: 14%
Physicians and other health care providers reported the majority of AEFIs (69%). Family member and self-reports accounted for 24% of AEFI reports.

Age and sex distribution
Persons with AEFI reports ranged in age from 1 month to 98 years, with a median age of 31 years. The highest AEFI reporting rates were among infants under one year and children aged one to three years.

Vaccines
The highest AEFI reporting rates by doses distributed (publicly funded vaccines) were observed among:

- **Men-C ACWY**
  - 27.9 per 100,000 population
- **PPV23**
  - 27.0 per 100,000 population
- **Var**
  - 25.1 per 100,000 population

Although Influenza vaccine was associated with the highest number of AEFI reports (228), it had the second lowest reporting rate (5.8 per 100,000 doses distributed) due to the high volume of doses distributed for this vaccine.

Recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV) accounted for 13% of AEFI reports. The most frequently reported reaction associated with RZV was pain, redness or swelling at the injection site (59%).

For more information please refer to the Vaccine Safety Surveillance Tool at: publichealthontario.ca/vaccinesafety