Public Health Ontario | Santé publique Ontario

Vaccine Safety in Ontario 2018

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 2018.

8.6 million doses

of publicly funded vaccine distributed in Ontario

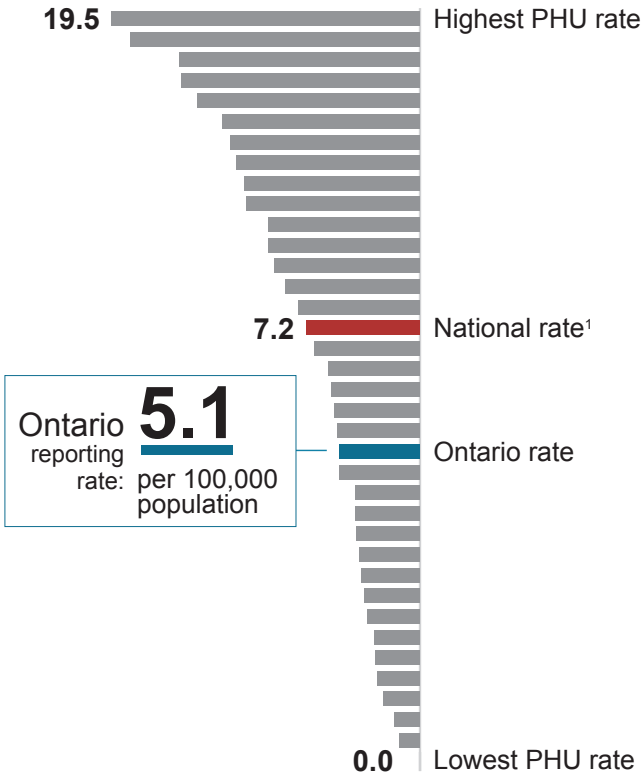
742

reports of adverse events following immunization

21

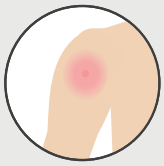
adverse events classified as serious

There was a wide variation in AEFI reporting rates among public health units (PHUs) ranging from 0.0 to 19.5 per 100,000 population.

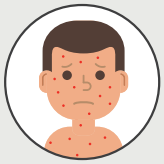


Types of adverse events

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



42% Pain, redness or swelling at the injection site



26% Rash

14% Allergic skin reaction

1 Johnson K, Anyoti H (Public Health Agency of Canada). Vaccine safety surveillance in Canada: reports to CAEFISS, 2018 [forthcoming]. Personal communication. Email sent to Lim G; 2019 Sep 17.

Age and sex distribution

Persons with AEFI reports ranged in age from 2 months to 99 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.**

Infants under one year
30.1 per 100,000 population

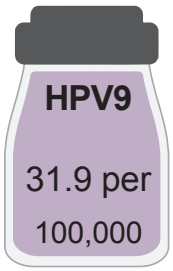
Children aged one to three years
26.3 per 100,000 population

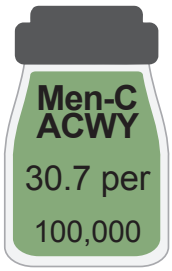
Female predominance was observed in AEFI reports

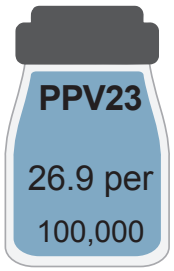
66% occured among females

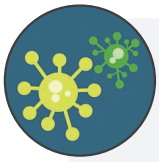
Vaccines

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









Although Influenza vaccine was associated with the **highest number of AEFI reports** (168), it had the **third lowest reporting rate** (4.0 per 100,000 doses distributed) due to the high volume of doses distributed for this vaccine.

The newly authorized 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** (57%).

Reporting Source

Physicians and other health care providers reported the majority of AEFIs (67%).

Family member and self-reports accounted for 27% of AEFI reports.

For more information please refer to the Annual Report on Vaccine Safety, 2018 and the Online Data Tool at: publichealthontario.ca/vaccinesafety

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