AusVaxSafety
An NCIRS led collaboration

Vaccine safety in Australia
AusVaxSafety summary report 2023

National Immunisation Program
A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative

Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Contents

We acknowledge that the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) is on the land of the traditional owners the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – the First Australians – and recognise their culture, history, diversity and deep connection to the land. Together, through research and partnership, we aim to move to a place of equity for all. NCIRS also acknowledges and pays respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations from which our research, staff and community are drawn.

Overview

Vaccination in Australia

- In Australia, the federal government – under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) – funds vaccines against serious diseases for children, adolescents, pregnant people and older people.
- The NIP provides vaccines at specific ages/time points called schedule points.
- Additional vaccines are also provided to people at increased risk of certain serious diseases.
- In addition to the NIP vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines continued to be administered in Australia throughout 2023.

AusVaxSafety findings in 2023

- In 2023, 524 immunisation clinics participated in the AusVaxSafety program.
- Between January and December 2023, almost 500,000 vaccine safety survey responses were gathered through the AusVaxSafety system.
- The majority of adverse events reported after vaccination in 2023 – including local injection site reactions and some systemic symptoms – were mild and went away within a few days.
- These results are consistent with data gathered by similar active safety surveillance systems, such as V-safe (United States), confirming that the short-term safety of NIP and COVID-19 vaccines used in Australia is consistent with the short-term safety of the same vaccines in other countries.

What's new in the 2023 report?

The 2023 edition of this report includes a range of new features, as follows:

- Inclusion of safety data for vaccines added to the NIP in 2023:
  - Vaxelis® (from 1 July 2023)
  - Shingrix® (from 1 November 2023)
- Standard dose and adjuvanted/high-dose seasonal influenza vaccines now reported separately
- Influenza vaccine safety data specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported for the first time
- Inclusion of vaccine safety data for new COVID-19 vaccines approved and used in Australia in 2023:
  - Pfizer BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine
  - Moderna BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine
  - Pfizer XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine – adult (12 years and older) formulation
  - Moderna XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine.

The AusVaxSafety program

Since 2014, **AusVaxSafety** has actively monitored the safety of all vaccines used at each schedule point of the NIP; the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines used in Australia has also been monitored since 2021. To do this, AusVaxSafety distributes a short vaccine safety survey via SMS or email to individuals – or, where appropriate, their parent or carer – who received an NIP or COVID-19 vaccine at a participating AusVaxSafety site across Australia.

The surveys, which are designed by vaccine experts, allow participants to report any adverse events they may have experienced after receiving their vaccination as well as whether they sought medical attention for any reason following vaccination.*

De-identified data from completed surveys are analysed and monitored by epidemiologists and immunisation specialists who investigate anything unusual or unexpected to ensure that vaccines are performing as safely and effectively as expected in real-world conditions.

In 2023, 524 immunisation provider sites participated in the AusVaxSafety program (Figure 1). The sites included general practices, pharmacies, hospitals, schools, community clinics, Aboriginal Medical Services, and state and territory vaccination hubs. In addition, AusVaxSafety collected data from a range of state, Local Health District and community-based services, each of which may operate multiple sites based on need or operational model (such as secondary school outreach).

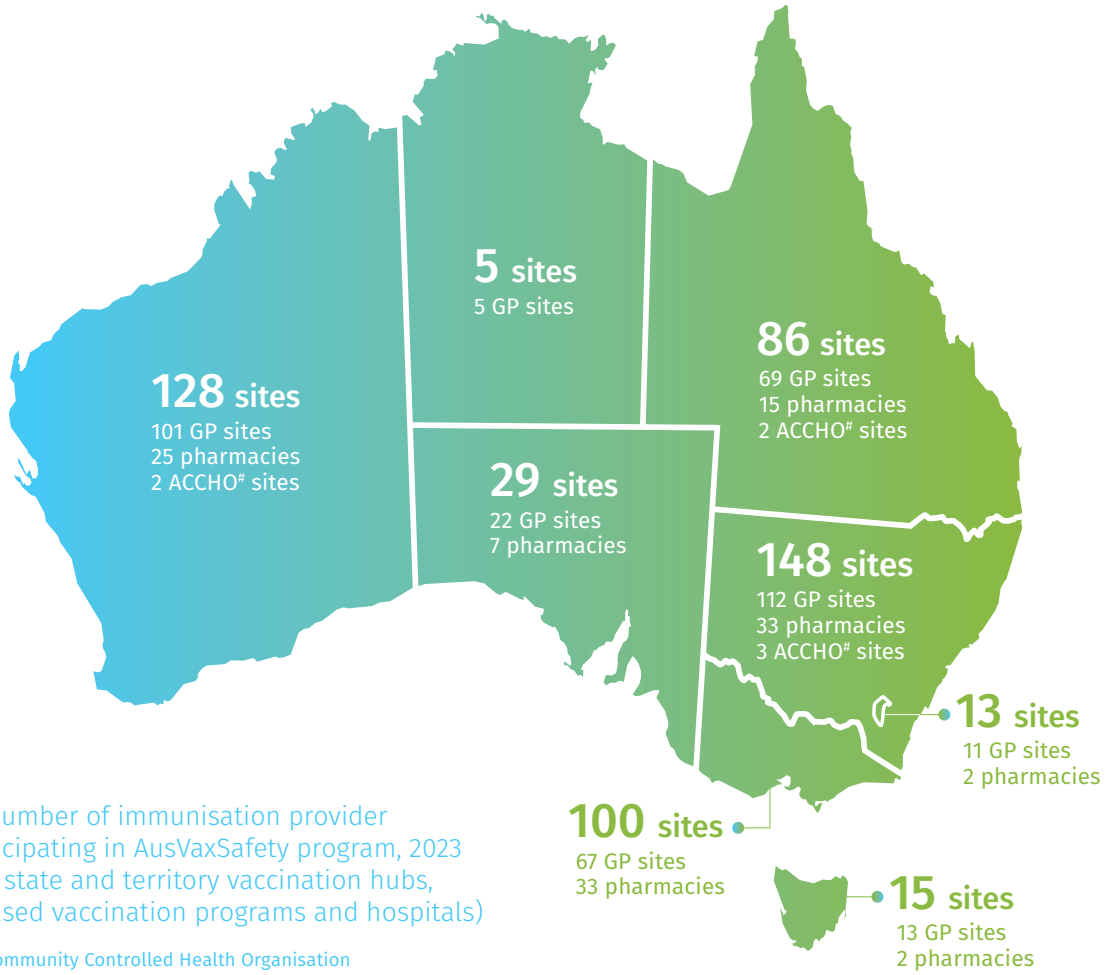


Figure 1 Number of immunisation provider sites participating in AusVaxSafety program, 2023 (excludes state and territory vaccination hubs, school-based vaccination programs and hospitals)

#Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

*As with any adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may not be caused by the vaccine; they may be coincidental and due to other causes. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Therefore, reported medical attendance may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

How AusVaxSafety works

*As with any adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may not be caused by the vaccine; they may be coincidental and due to other causes. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Therefore, reported medical attendance may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Limitations

- The information reported by survey respondents is not clinically verified.
- People experiencing a mild adverse event may be more motivated to respond, inflating the apparent frequency of these events. Conversely, those with severe adverse events may be less able to respond.
- AusVaxSafety only captures adverse events that occur within a few days of vaccination.
- Respondents from culturally and linguistically diverse communities may be under-represented, given that the survey was only available in English.
- The diversity of the respondents may have been limited by the need for internet access to complete the survey.

AusVaxSafety monitors adverse events in the three days following receipt of NIP and COVID-19 vaccines. This report reflects data from people who received a vaccine at a participating clinic and completed the AusVaxSafety vaccine safety survey sent three days after vaccination. It does not include data from every person who received a vaccine.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) also monitors adverse events that are reported in other ways through its spontaneous (passive) reporting system.

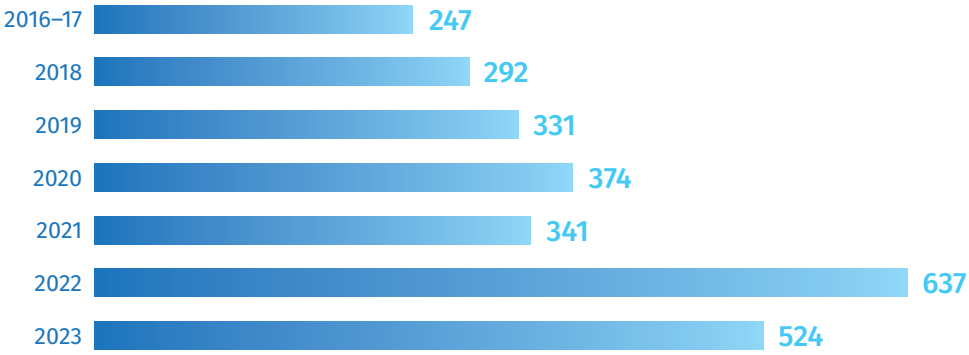
This means the TGA can detect safety issues – particularly rare and later-onset adverse events – that may not be identified through the AusVaxSafety program. For COVID-19 vaccines, this information is published in the COVID-19 vaccine safety reports on the TGA website.

Combined, the AusVaxSafety active surveillance system and the TGA spontaneous surveillance system provide a comprehensive vaccine safety framework in Australia.

Since 2022 and previous years …

The number of participating sites remained high across Australia in 2023, ensuring a high number of participants and adequate representation of the Australian population in AusVaxSafety surveillance.

PARTICIPATING SITES



With fewer doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in 2023, a number of sentinel surveillance sites that were initially recruited for COVID-19 vaccine safety surveillance elected to discontinue further participation in the AusVaxSafety program.

Overall participation remained high, with almost 500,000 safety surveys completed in 2023. This means we can be **confident that safety issues included in our surveys would have been identified.**

The types and frequency of adverse events remained **as expected from clinical trials.**

Most adverse events after vaccination were mild and went away within a few days.

No safety issues were detected for any monitored vaccines, confirming the short-term safety of NIP and COVID-19 vaccines used in Australia.

2 months* schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **2 months schedule point** and whose parent or carer completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination on their child's behalf.

Vaccines given at 2 months in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
INFANRIX® HEXA OR VAXELIS®	Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, polio
ROTARIX®	Rotavirus
PREVENAR 13®	Pneumococcal disease

➤ ***Can be given from 6 weeks of age**

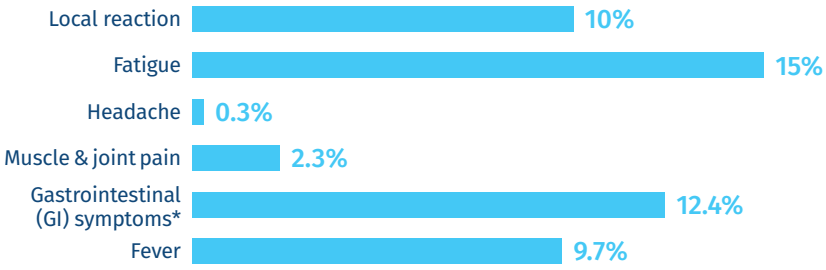
Safety surveys completed

6,353

Reported at least one adverse event

22.8%

Commonly reported adverse events

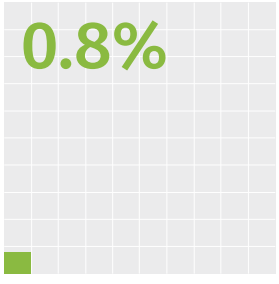


*Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain

These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

1%

Reported missing routine activities

Respondent demographics

49% female

51% male

5.8% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

1 month *Youngest respondent*

2 months *Oldest respondent*

4 months schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **4 months schedule point** and whose parent or carer completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination on their child's behalf.

Vaccines given at 4 months in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
INFANRIX® HEXA OR VAXELIS®	Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, polio
ROTARIX®	Rotavirus
PREVENAR 13®	Pneumococcal disease

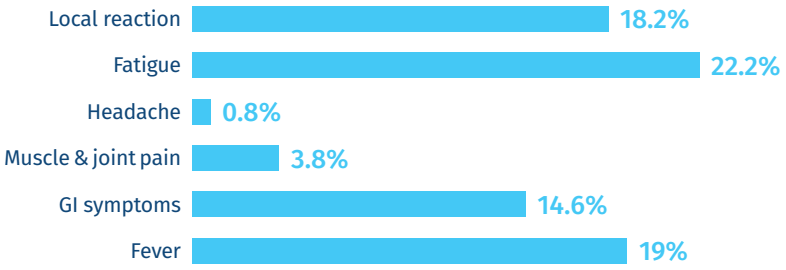
Safety surveys completed

5,748

Reported at least one adverse event

32.8%

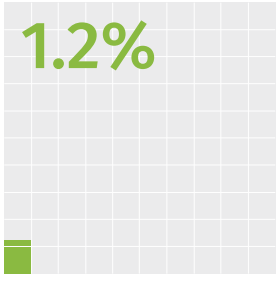
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



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Impact on routine activities

2%

Reported missing routine activities

Respondent demographics

49% female

51% male

5.3% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

3 months *Youngest respondent*

5 months *Oldest respondent*

6 months schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **6 months schedule point** and whose parent or carer completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination on their child's behalf.

Vaccines given at 6 months in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
INFANRIX® HEXA OR VAXELIS®	Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, polio

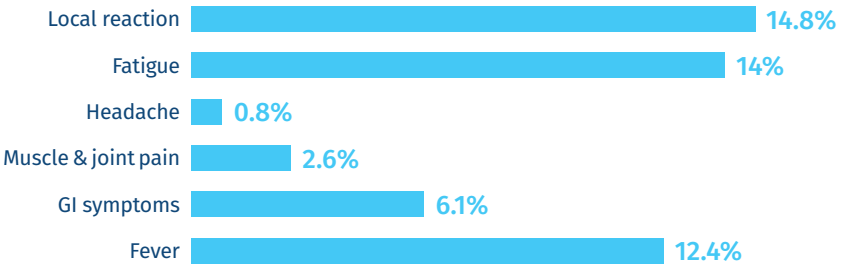
Safety surveys completed

5,149

Reported at least one adverse event

24.2%

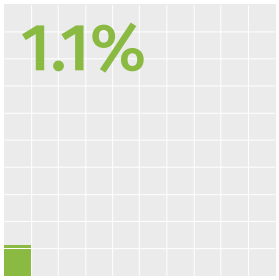
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

2%

Reported missing routine activities

Respondent demographics

50% female

50% male

5.2% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

5 months *Youngest respondent*

8 months *Oldest respondent*

12 months schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **12 months schedule point** and whose parent or carer completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination on their child's behalf.

Vaccines given at 12 months in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
M-M-R® II OR PRIORIX®	Measles, mumps, rubella
NIMENRIX®	Meningococcal disease (types A, C, W and Y)
PREVENAR 13®	Pneumococcal disease

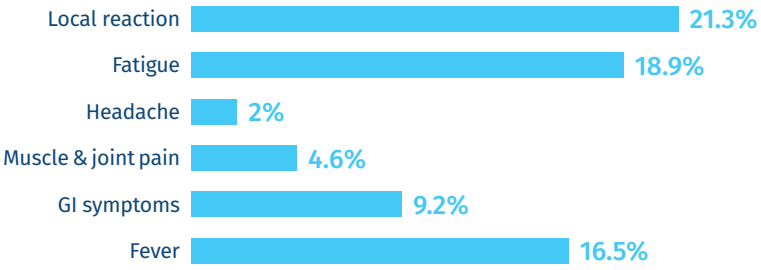
Safety surveys completed

5,402

Reported at least one adverse event

31.4%

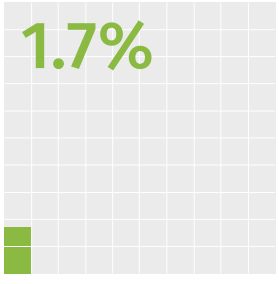
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

5%

Reported missing routine activities

Respondent demographics

50% female

50% male

5.2% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

11 months *Youngest respondent*

14 months *Oldest respondent*

18 months schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **18 months schedule point** and whose parent or carer completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination on their child's behalf.

Vaccines given at 18 months in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
PRIORIX-TETRA® OR PROQUAD®	Measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox
INFANRIX® OR TRIPACEL®	Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough
ACTHIB®	*Haemophilus influenzae* type b

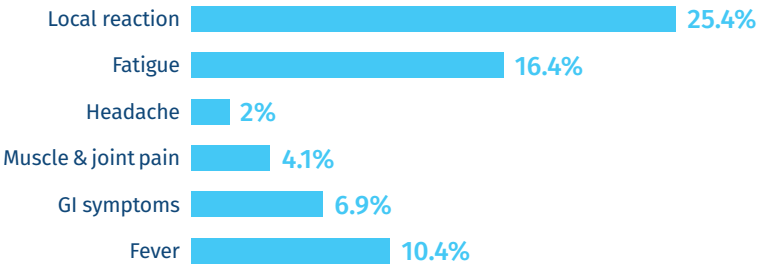
Safety surveys completed

5,577

Reported at least one adverse event

31.9%

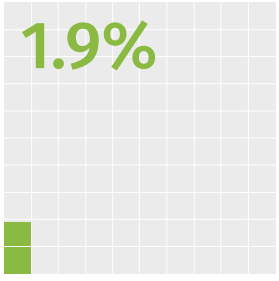
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

4%

Reported missing routine activities

Respondent demographics

48% female

52% male

4.7% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

17 months *Youngest respondent*

20 months *Oldest respondent*

4 years schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **4 years schedule point** and whose parent or carer completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination on their child's behalf.

Vaccines given at 4 years in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
INFANRIX® IPV OR QUADRACEL®	Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio

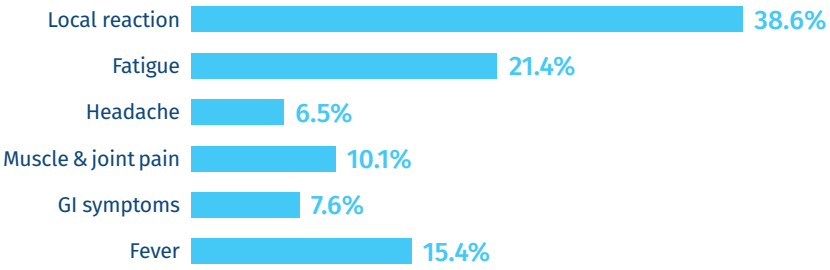
Safety surveys completed

6,515

Reported at least one adverse event

42.8%

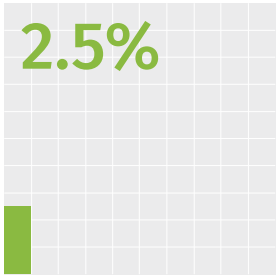
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

7%

Reported missing school or routine activities

Respondent demographics

50% female

50% male

4.9% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

3 years *Youngest respondent*

4 years *Oldest respondent*

12–13 years schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **12–13 years schedule point** and whose parent or carer completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination on their child's behalf.

Vaccines given to 12–13 year olds in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
GARDASIL®9	Human papillomavirus (HPV)
ADACEL® OR BOOSTRIX®	Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (dTpa)

Safety surveys completed

21,169 HPV and dTpa vaccines together

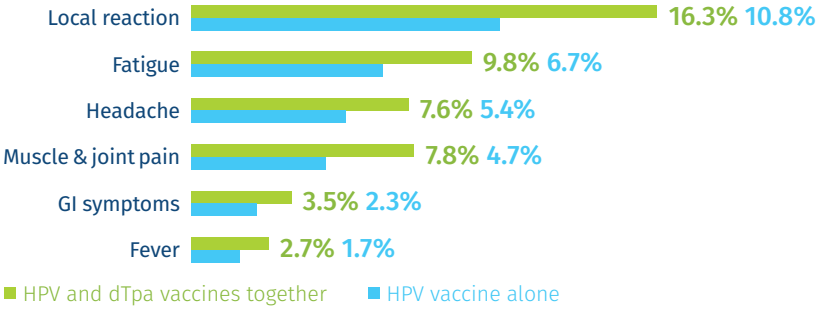
3,722 HPV vaccine alone

Reported at least one adverse event

19.8% HPV and dTpa vaccines together

14.2% HPV vaccine alone

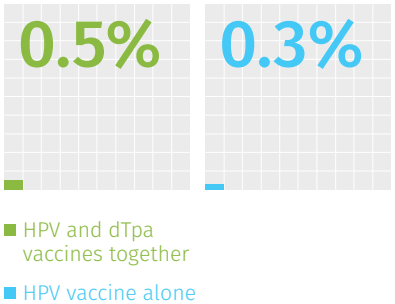
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

7% HPV and dTpa vaccines together

4% HPV vaccine alone

Reported missing school or routine activities

Respondent demographics

49% female

51% male

5.4% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

11 years *Youngest respondent*

14 years *Oldest respondent*

14–16 years schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **14–16 years schedule point** and whose parent or carer completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination on their child's behalf.

Vaccines given at 14–16 year olds in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
NIMENRIX®	Meningococcal disease (types A, C, W and Y)

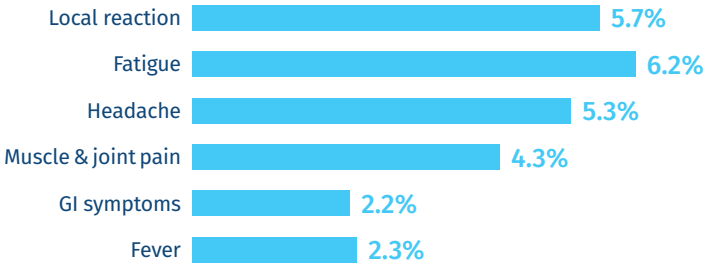
Safety surveys completed

25,057

Reported at least one adverse event

10.2%

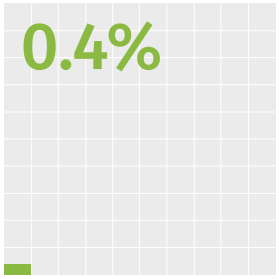
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

4%

Reported missing work, study or routine activities

Respondent demographics

49% female

51% male

4.6% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

14 years *Youngest respondent*

19 years *Oldest respondent*

Pregnant people schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of pregnant individuals who received a vaccine at the **pregnant people schedule point** and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination.

Vaccines given to pregnant people in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
AFLURIA® QUAD, FLUARIX TETRA®, FLUQUADRI®, INFLUVAC® TETRA OR VAXIGRIP TETRA®	Influenza
ADACEL® OR BOOSTRIX®	Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (dTpa)

Safety surveys completed

1,749
dTpa vaccine alone

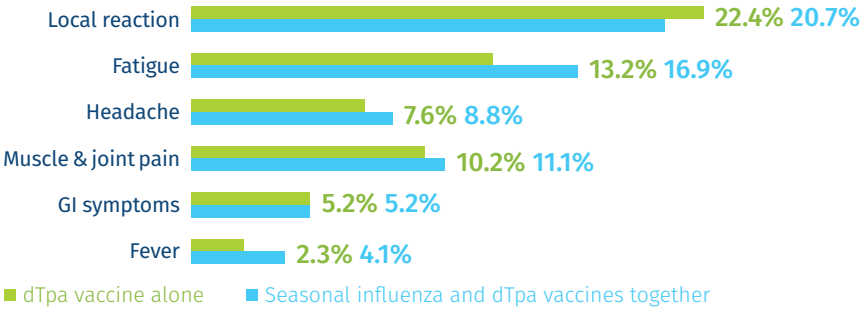
468
Seasonal influenza and dTpa vaccines together

Reported at least one adverse event

24.9%
dTpa vaccine alone

23.3%
Seasonal influenza and dTpa vaccines together

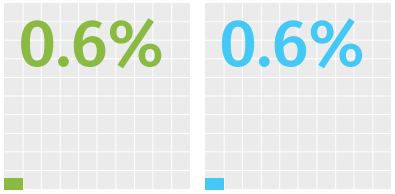
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

4% dTpa vaccine alone

7% Seasonal influenza and dTpa vaccines together

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

Respondent demographics

2.6% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

16 years *Youngest respondent*

49 years *Oldest respondent*

Older adults pneumococcal schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **older adults pneumococcal** schedule point and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination.

Vaccines given at older adults pneumococcal schedule point in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
PREVENAR®	Pneumococcal disease

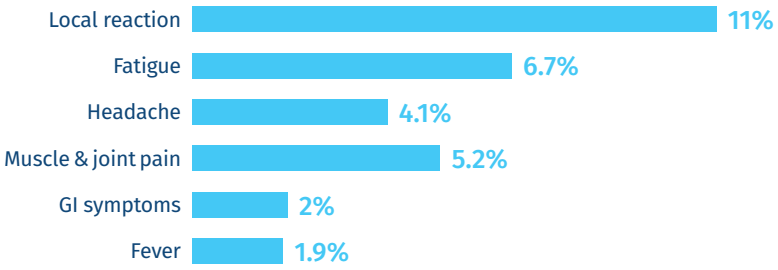
Safety surveys completed

10,777

Reported at least one adverse event

13.9%

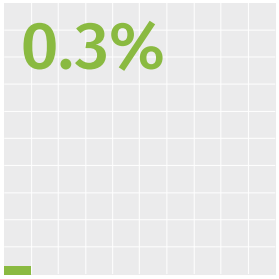
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

1%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

Respondent demographics

57% female

43% male

2.9% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

50 years *Youngest respondent*

102 years *Oldest respondent*

Older adults zoster (shingles) schedule point

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals who received a vaccine at the **older adults zoster (shingles) schedule point** and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination.

Vaccines given at older adults zoster (shingles) schedule point in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
ZOSTAVAX® OR SHINGRIX®	Zoster (shingles)

Safety surveys completed

3,087 Live zoster vaccine (Zostavax®)

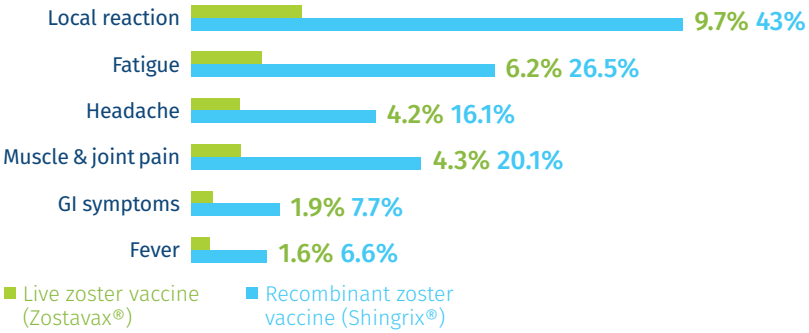
11,907 Recombinant zoster vaccine (Shingrix®)

Reported at least one adverse event

13.6% Live zoster vaccine (Zostavax®)

46.6% Recombinant zoster vaccine (Shingrix®)

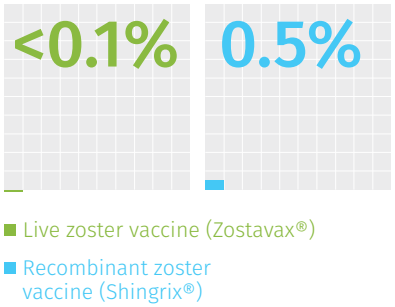
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

1% Live zoster vaccine (Zostavax®)

5% Recombinant zoster vaccine (Shingrix®)

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

Respondent demographics

58% female

42% male

2.3% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

50 years *Youngest respondent*

101 years *Oldest respondent*

Seasonal influenza vaccine standard-dose formulation – all participants

13 MARCH–4 SEPTEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals (or their parent/carer) who received a **standard dose formulation seasonal influenza vaccine** and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination.

Standard dose formulation influenza vaccines given in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
AFLURIA® QUAD, FLUARIX TETRA®, FLUCELVAX® QUAD, FLUQUADRI®, INFLUVAC® TETRA OR VAXIGRIP TETRA®	Influenza

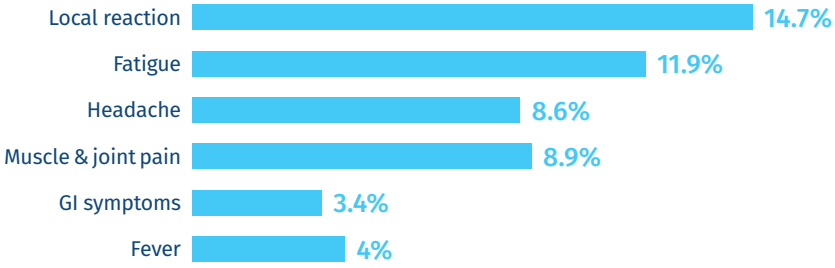
Safety surveys completed

113,310

Reported at least one adverse event

20.1%

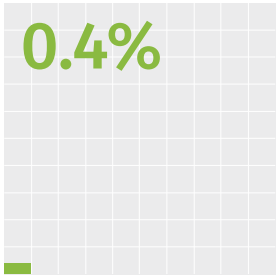
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

4%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

Respondent demographics

66% female

34% male

3.1% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

<1 year *Youngest respondent*

103 years *Oldest respondent*

Seasonal influenza vaccine high-dose/ adjuvanted formulations – all participants

13 MARCH–4 SEPTEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of individuals (or their parent/carer) who received a high-dose/adjuvanted formulation **seasonal influenza vaccine** and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination.

High-dose/adjuvanted formulation influenza vaccines given in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
FLUAD® QUAD OR FLUZONE® HIGH-DOSE QUAD	Influenza

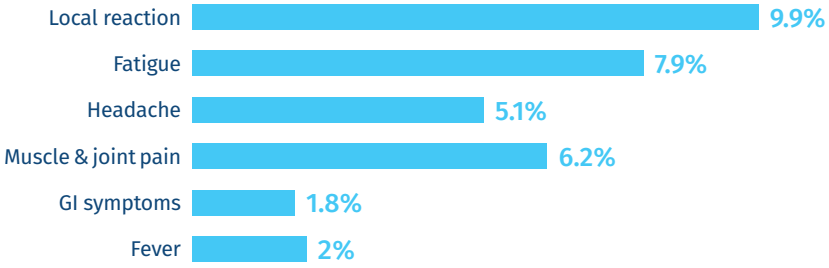
Safety surveys completed

101,529

Reported at least one adverse event

14.1%

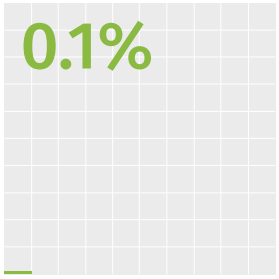
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

2%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

Respondent demographics

56% female

44% male

1.4% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

60 years *Youngest respondent*

105 years *Oldest respondent*

Seasonal influenza vaccine, all formulations – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants

13 MARCH–4 SEPTEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (or their parent/carer) who received a **seasonal influenza vaccine** and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent in the days following vaccination.

Influenza vaccines given in 2023

Vaccine	Protects against
AFLURIA® QUAD, FLUAD® QUAD, FLUARIX TETRA®, FLUCELVAX® QUAD, FLUQUADRI®, FLUZONE® HIGH-DOSE QUAD, INFLUVAC® TETRA OR VAXIGRIP TETRA®	Influenza

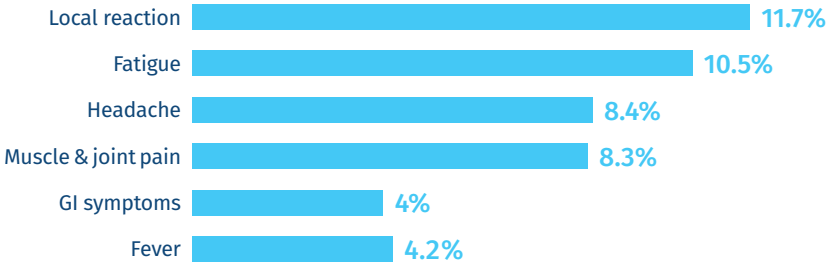
Safety surveys completed

4,911

Reported at least one adverse event

17.1%

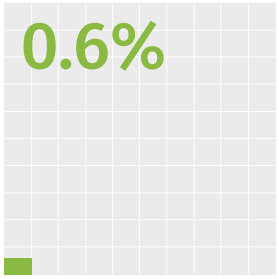
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

4%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

Respondent demographics

61% female	39% male	<1 year *Youngest respondent*	97 years *Oldest respondent*

Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine original adult formulation – all participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **12 years and older** who received the adult original formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

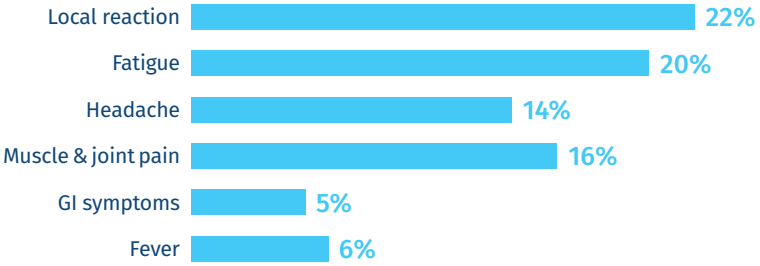
Safety surveys completed

2,744

Reported at least one adverse event

28%

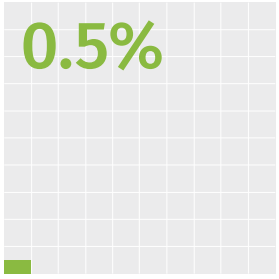
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

7%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

55% female

45% male

3.8% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

12 years *Youngest respondent*

96 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine original adult formulation – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged **12 years and older** who received the adult formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

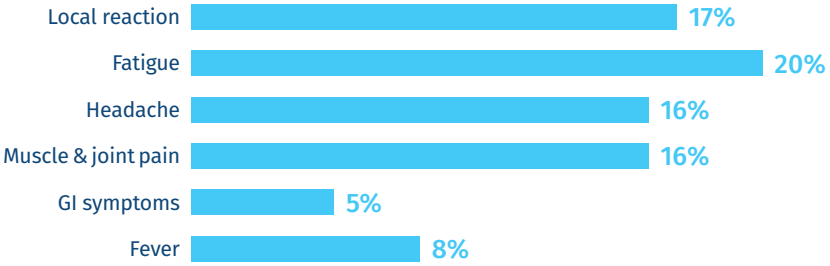
Safety surveys completed

105

Reported at least one adverse event

23%

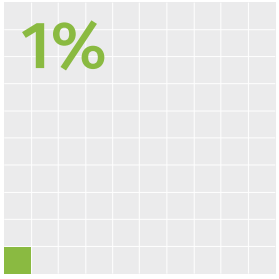
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

10%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

59% female

41% male

12 years *Youngest respondent*

89 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine – original paediatric formulation (5–11 years)

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **5–11 years** who received the paediatric original formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

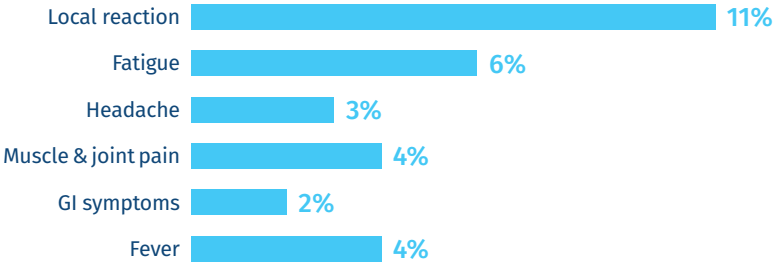
Safety surveys completed

688

Reported at least one adverse event

15%

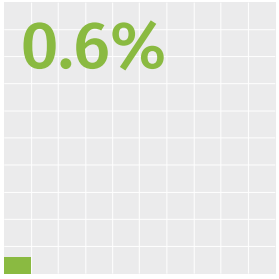
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

2%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

51% female

49% male

2.5% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

5 years *Youngest respondent*

11 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) bivalent original/BA.1 COVID-19 vaccine – all participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **18 years and older** who received the bivalent original/BA.1 formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

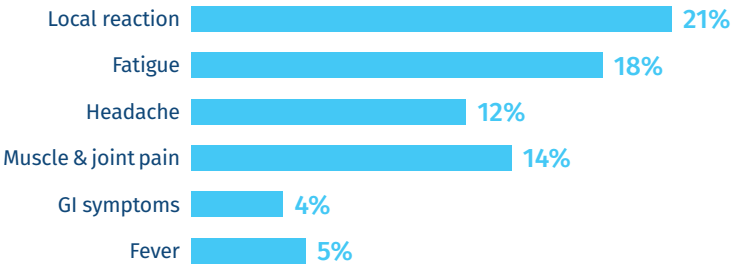
Safety surveys completed

20,088

Reported at least one adverse event

27%

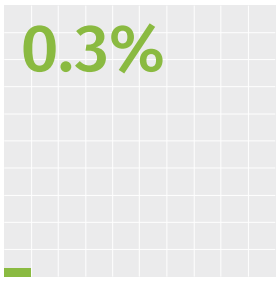
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

5%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

56% female

44% male

1.9% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

18 years *Youngest respondent*

102 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) bivalent original/BA.1 COVID-19 vaccine – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged **18 years and older** who received the bivalent original/BA.1 formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

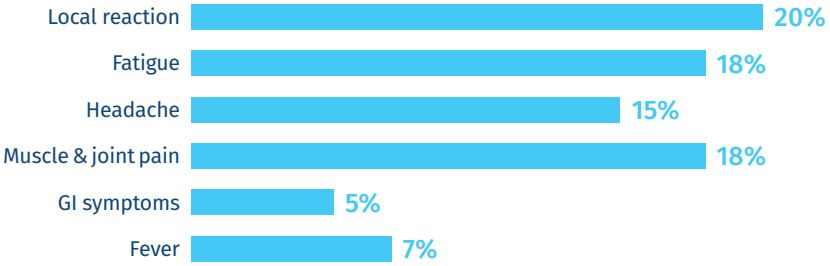
Safety surveys completed

386

Reported at least one adverse event

26%

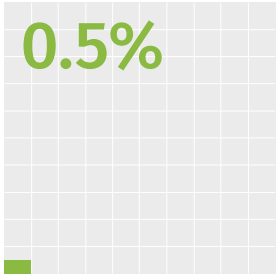
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

5%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

58% female

42% male

18 years *Youngest respondent*

97 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) bivalent original/BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine – all participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **12 years and older** who received the bivalent original/BA.4-5 formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

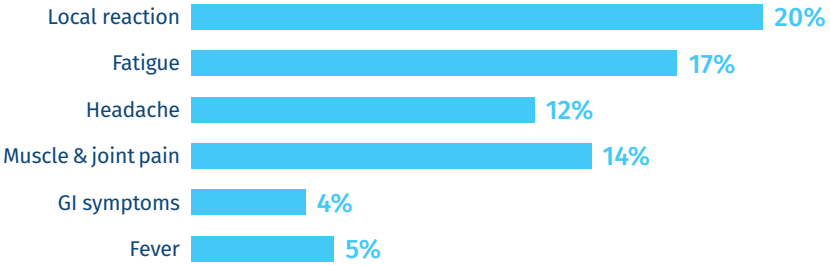
Safety surveys completed

85,539

Reported at least one adverse event

27%

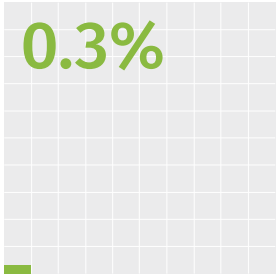
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

5%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

58% female

42% male

1.3% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

12 years *Youngest respondent*

103 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) bivalent original/BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged **12 years and older** who received the bivalent original/BA.4-5 formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

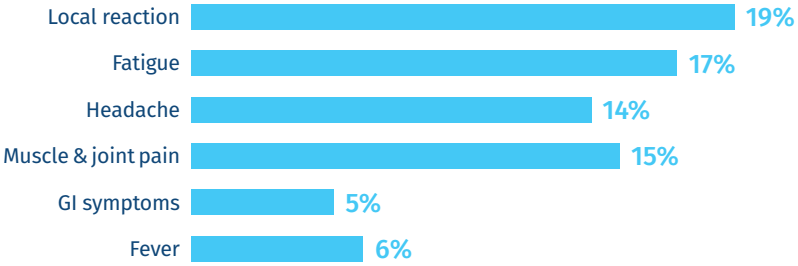
Safety surveys completed

1,125

Reported at least one adverse event

25%

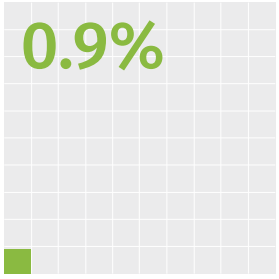
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

6%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

55% female

45% male

15 years *Youngest respondent*

97 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) XBB.1.5 adult formulation COVID-19 vaccine – all participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **12 years and older** who received the adult XBB.1.5 formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

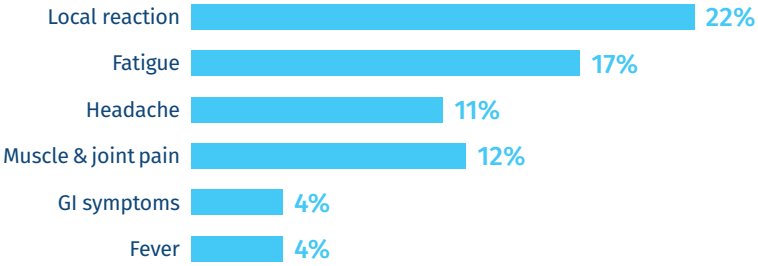
Safety surveys completed

9,022

Reported at least one adverse event

28%

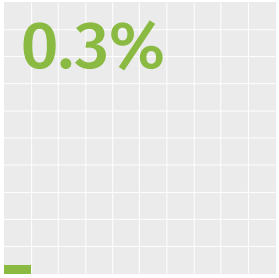
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

4%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

57% female

43% male

1% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

12 years *Youngest respondent*

104 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Spikevax (Moderna) original COVID-19 vaccine – all participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **12 years and older** who received the adult original formulation of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

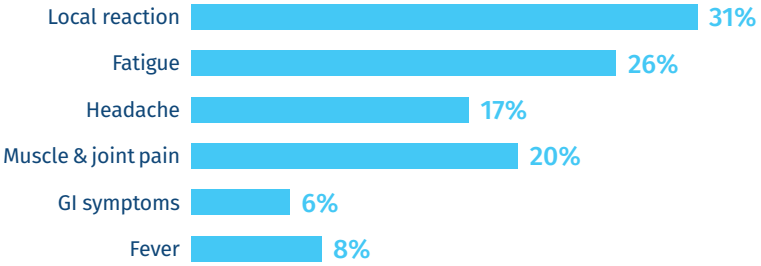
Safety surveys completed

2,593

Reported at least one adverse event

37%

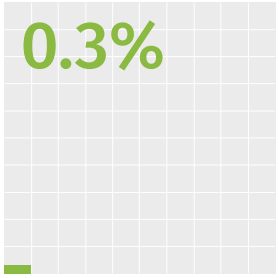
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

8%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

56% female

44% male

1.6% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

12 years *Youngest respondent*

97 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Spikevax (Moderna) bivalent original/BA.1 COVID-19 vaccine – all participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **18 years and older** who received the Moderna bivalent original/BA.1 COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

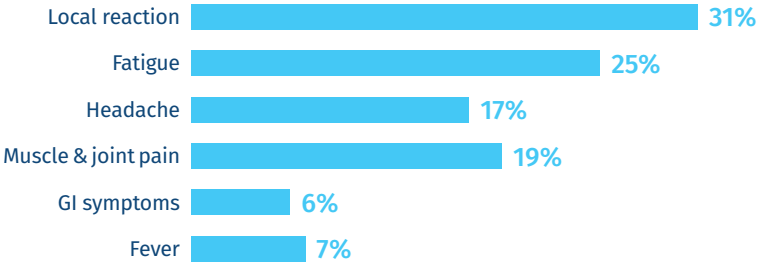
Safety surveys completed

11,208

Reported at least one adverse event

37%

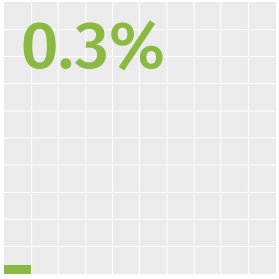
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

8%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

57% female

43% male

1.1% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

18 years *Youngest respondent*

101 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Spikevax (Moderna) bivalent original/BA.1 COVID-19 vaccine – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged **18 years and older** who received the Moderna bivalent original/BA.1 COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

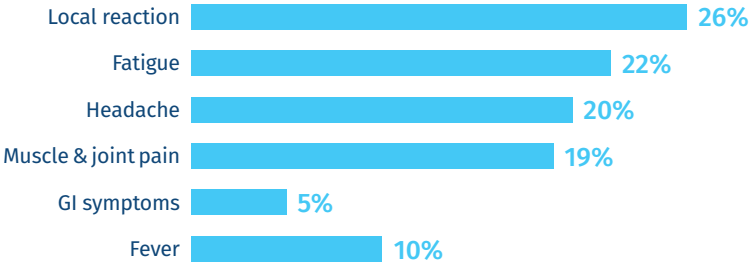
Safety surveys completed

125

Reported at least one adverse event

34%

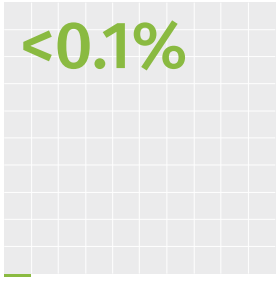
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

6%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

53% female	47% male	22 years *Youngest respondent*	90 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Spikevax (Moderna) bivalent original/BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine – all participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **12 years and older** who received the Moderna bivalent original/BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

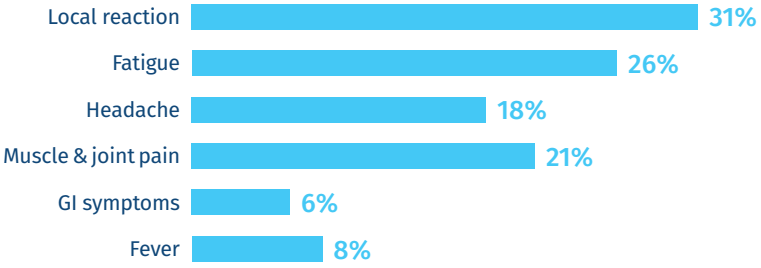
Safety surveys completed

27,777

Reported at least one adverse event

38%

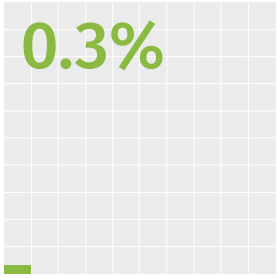
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

8%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

59% female

41% male

1.3% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

12 years *Youngest respondent*

102 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Spikevax (Moderna) bivalent original/BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged **12 years and older** who received the Moderna bivalent original/BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

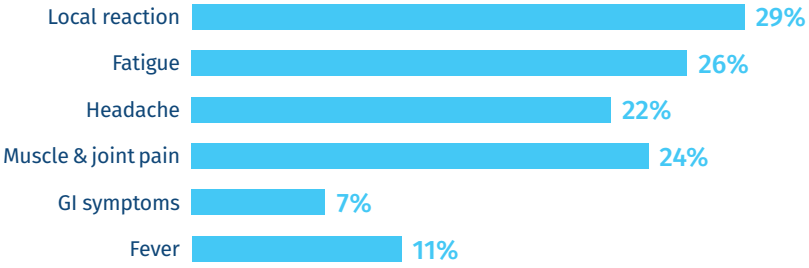
Safety surveys completed

347

Reported at least one adverse event

36%

Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance

<0.1%

Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

7%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

61% female

39% male

16 years *Youngest respondent*

93 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Spikevax (Moderna) XBB.1.5 adult formulation COVID-19 vaccine – all participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **12 years and older** who received the adult XBB.1.5 formulation of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

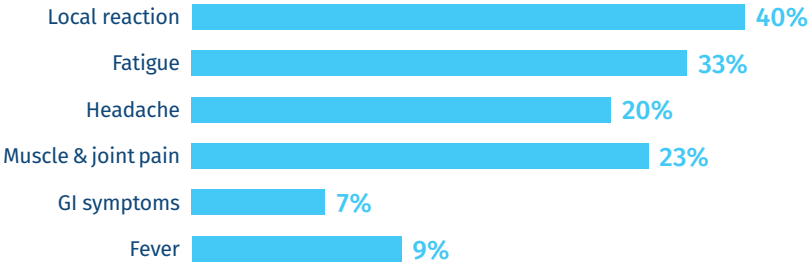
Safety surveys completed

3,183

Reported at least one adverse event

46%

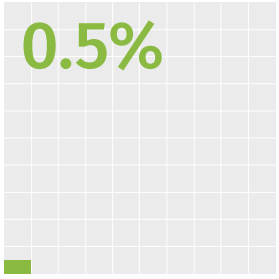
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

9%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

58% female

42% male

0.9% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

14 years *Youngest respondent*

100 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

Nuvaxovid (Novavax) COVID-19 vaccine – all participants

1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2023

Data on this page show the responses of all individuals aged **12 years and older** who received the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine and completed an AusVaxSafety survey sent on day 3 after vaccination.*

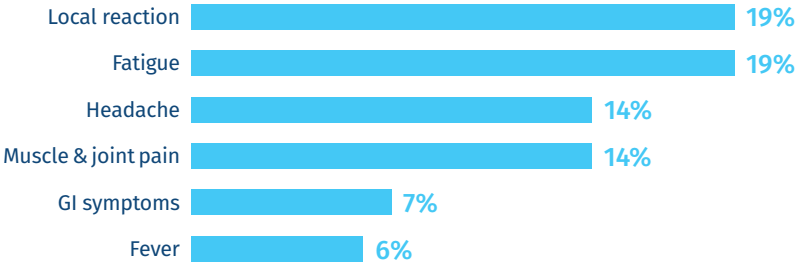
Safety surveys completed

521

Reported at least one adverse event

26%

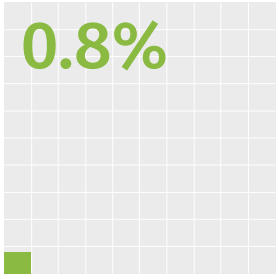
Commonly reported adverse events



These symptoms are all known to occur after vaccination. They are generally mild and short-lived.

As with all adverse event reports, some reported symptoms may be coincidental and due to causes other than the vaccine.

Medical attendance



Those who presented to GPs and emergency departments had similar adverse events to those who did not. AusVaxSafety does not specifically ask participants the reason why they accessed medical care in the days following vaccination. Reported medical attendance therefore may or may not be related to any reported adverse events.

Impact on routine activities

7%

Reported missing work, study or routine duties

The majority reported missing 1 day or less of routine activities. Most participants who reported not being able to do routine activities had fatigue, headache and joint pain. These are common adverse events linked to the immune response following immunisation and have meant some people have understandably chosen to rest after vaccination.

Respondent demographics

63% female

37% male

1.4% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

12 years *Youngest respondent*

97 years *Oldest respondent*

*This report does not contain any analyses where there were fewer than 100 responses for a specific population group for a specific vaccine.

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