

REPORT #3

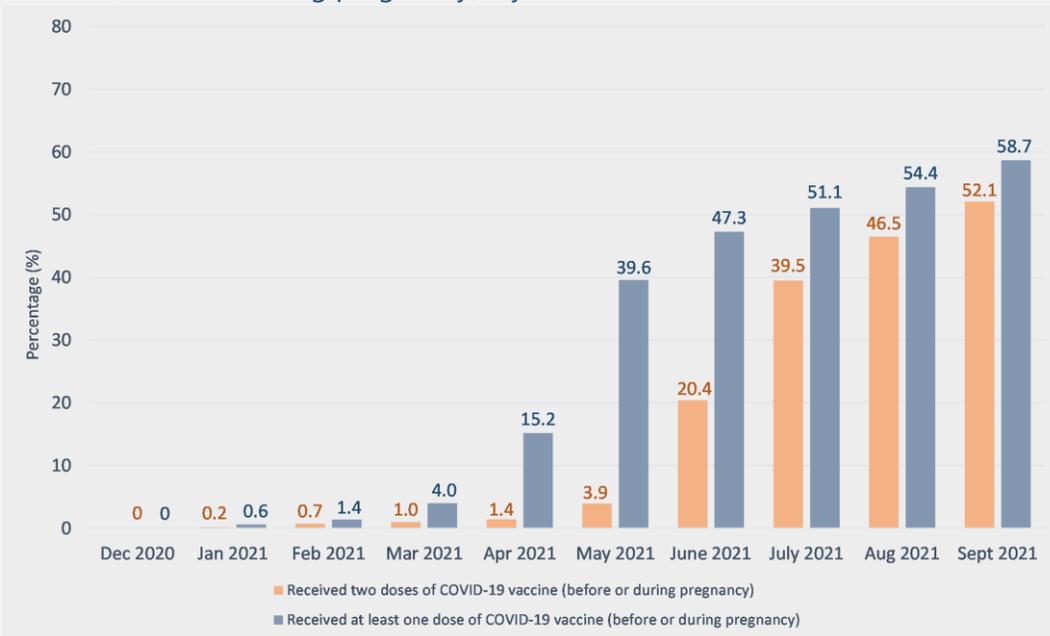
COVID-19 VACCINATION DURING PREGNANCY IN ONTARIO

December 14, 2020 to September 30, 2021

BACKGROUND:

Pregnant individuals are considered a high-risk population for COVID-19 complications, based on higher rates of COVID-19 hospitalization, ICU admission, and death compared with non-pregnant individuals. Since late April 2021, pregnant people in Ontario have been prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination as part of Phase 2 of the COVID-19 vaccine program implementation. To-date, vaccine coverage in pregnant individuals has remained lower than in the general population^a. The **Better Outcomes Registry & Network (BORN) Ontario** (www.bornontario.ca) is evaluating COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant individuals in Ontario. **This report shows data on vaccine coverage among individuals who were pregnant at any point between December 14, 2020 and September 30, 2021.** During this period, there were **64,234** pregnant individuals who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before or during pregnancy.

FIGURE 1. Estimated percentage of pregnant people who had received COVID-19 vaccine (before or during pregnancy), by calendar month



*Pregnant people in Ontario were prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination on April 23, 2021.

WHAT THE DATA SHOW:



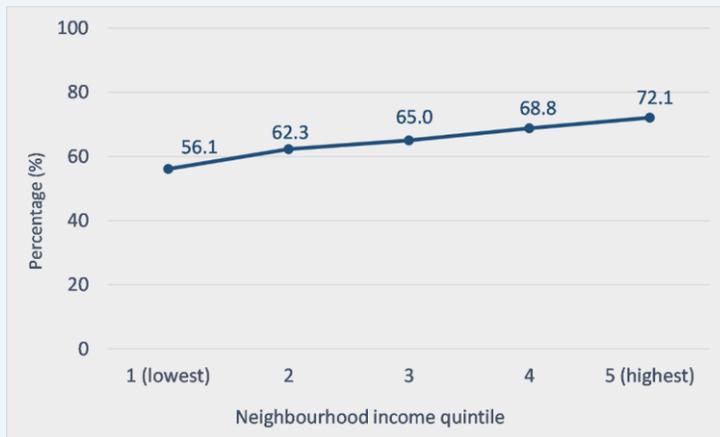
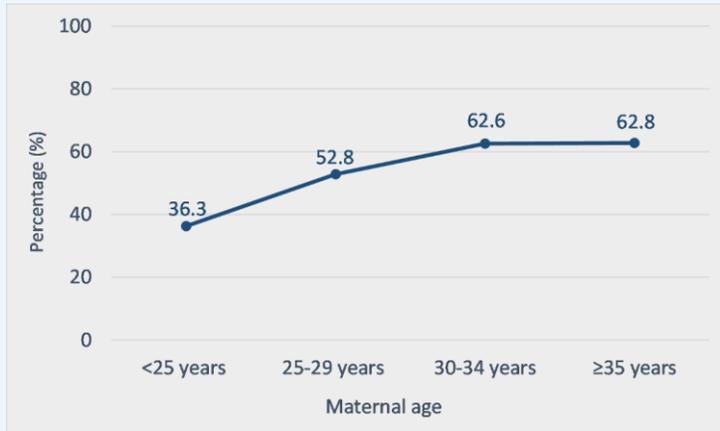
Among people who were pregnant in September 2021:

- **58.7%** had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before or during pregnancy.
- **52.1%** had received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine before or during pregnancy.
- **41.3%** still had not received any doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

This work is supported by the **Public Health Agency of Canada**, through the **Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group** and the **COVID-19 Immunity Task Force**. The report is based on data extracted from the Ontario Ministry of Health's COVaxON and from the BORN Information System (BIS).

Disclaimer: the results of this report may differ from other reported estimates due to differences in data sources and data processing lag times.

FIGURE 2. Estimated percentage of people who were pregnant in September 2021 and had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine (before or during pregnancy), by age and neighbourhood income quintile



WHAT THE DATA SHOW:



COVID-19 vaccination rates differ by age:

- Among pregnant people ≥35 years of age, **62.8%** had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before or during pregnancy.
 - **37.2%** of pregnant people in this age group had not received any doses of COVID-19 vaccine at any time.
- Among pregnant people <25 years of age, **36.3%** had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before or during pregnancy.
 - **63.7%** of pregnant people in this age group had not received any doses of COVID-19 vaccine at any time.

COVID-19 vaccination rates differ by income quintile:

- There was a gradient in the percentage of people who had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before or during pregnancy by neighbourhood income quintile, ranging from **56.1%** among individuals in the lowest income quintile to **72.1%** among those in the highest income quintile.

*Among those individuals who were pregnant in September 2021.



VACCINATION POSTPARTUM:

Among people who were unvaccinated before or during pregnancy, and gave birth by July 31, 2021, about **32%** still remained unvaccinated as of September 30, 2021.

BIRTH OUTCOMES:

Public health and obstetric organizations recommend that pregnant people, and those planning pregnancy, become vaccinated to prevent the risk of COVID-19 infection during pregnancy, which tends to be more severe in pregnant people^{b,c}. We are conducting several studies to monitor pregnancy and birth outcomes following COVID-19 vaccination in all trimesters of pregnancy; this information will be used to inform pregnant individuals, health care providers and public health policy makers.

References: a) Public Health Ontario: COVID-19 vaccine uptake in Ontario: December 14, 2020 to October 17, 2021. Toronto, ON; b) <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-vaccines-pregnancy> c) https://soqc.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Latest%20News/SOGC_Statement_COVID-19_Vaccination_in_Pregnancy.pdf