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ICES COVID-19 Dashboard: Data Notes & Caveats

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For Vaccine Coverage:

Notes & Data Caveats:

The vaccine coverage estimates may differ from other publicly reported statistics due to one or more methodological differences:

1. Data extraction dates may differ.
2. Individuals are assigned to a forward sortation area (FSA; the first 3 digits of the postal code) based upon their postal code of residence; the source of the postal code used for this assignment may differ.
3. The method used to assign postal codes to Public Health Unit (PHU) geographies may differ depending on whether the method used population weights and whether a postal code is shared among multiple PHUs.
4. The population denominators used may differ.
 - a. Here we use Ontario Health Insurance Plan Registered Persons Database (OHIP RPDB) estimates, and these tend to be larger than Ontario Census population estimates, leading to a lower percentage of vaccine coverage. The OHIP RPDB includes all individuals with a valid Ontario health insurance number. Study postal codes were assigned according to the most recent residential address information available in the OHIP RPDB.
 - b. We included persons aged 0-120 years
 - c. We excluded residents of long-term care facilities (a sub-population largely vaccinated in Phase 1 of the vaccination strategy) and those with no evidence of health service use in the preceding 9 years (as a proxy for unrecorded emigration).
5. Those included in the numerator – ie, vaccinated -- may differ. For example, here we included vaccinated residents who did not present with a valid health card so long as their postal code of residence was based in Ontario.

Data sources:

- Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Data (COVaxON)
- Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS)
- Case and Contact Management (CCM) Solutions
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan Registered Persons Database (OHIP RPDB)
- Postal Code Conversion File Plus (PCCF+) Version 7B

Methods:

This analysis includes individuals with a COVID-19 vaccination event recorded in COVaxON, including individuals with or without an OHIP Health Card Number.

A hierarchy was used to assign a postal code to each individual who received a COVID-19 vaccination:

1. For individuals with an OHIP Health Card Number recorded in COVaxON and linked to OHIP RPDB, we used the postal code of residence recorded as of the end of the reporting period.
2. For individuals without an OHIP Health Card Number or individuals who had a non-Ontario postal code recorded in OHIP RPDB, we used the postal code of residence recorded in COVaxON or if missing, the postal code of the 1st vaccination event.

****UPDATED 14JAN2022:** We used OHIP RPDB to estimate the number of individuals alive and eligible for OHIP as of **January 1, 2022** for Ontario overall and each FSA. We excluded individuals residing in long-term care facilities, **individuals**

aged <65 years who did not have any contact with the Ontario health care system within the last 9 years, and individuals aged ≥65 years who did not have contact with the health care system within the last 3 years. The rationale for this change is to refine our estimate of the number of unvaccinated individuals who are currently likely to be residing in Ontario.

Age was calculated as of the end of the reporting period. These population denominators may differ from Ontario Census population estimates.

Acknowledgements & Disclaimers:

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These datasets were linked using unique encoded identifiers and analyzed at ICES.