

COVID-19 vaccine coverage with at least one dose remained lower among pregnant individuals than in the general population of females of reproductive age in 2021

221,190 Individuals who were pregnant in Ontario at any point between December 2020 (*when the provincial COVID-19 vaccination program began*) and December 2021, were included in the study.

Vaccine coverage: receipt at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine *before or during* pregnancy

- Vaccine coverage among all pregnant individuals with at least one dose (*before or during* pregnancy) was 71.2% by December 2021

101,009 Individuals gave birth between April and December 2021 (*when vaccines were widely available and recommended for pregnant people*).

Vaccine series initiation: receipt of dose 1 of COVID-19 vaccine *during pregnancy*

- 46,196 individuals initiated their COVID-19 vaccine series *during* pregnancy
- Factors associated with lower likelihood of COVID-19 vaccine series initiation during pregnancy included: younger age, not having a prenatal care visit in the first trimester, smoking or substance use during pregnancy, and living in neighbourhoods with higher socioeconomic deprivation

CONCLUSIONS

Despite prioritization of pregnant individuals in the COVID-19 vaccination program in April 2021, coverage with at least one dose **remained lower** by the end of 2021 than in the general population of similarly-aged females.

The study identified several sociodemographic, health and pregnancy-related factors that were associated with initiating COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy that can help inform public health strategies to increase COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and coverage in the pregnant population.

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