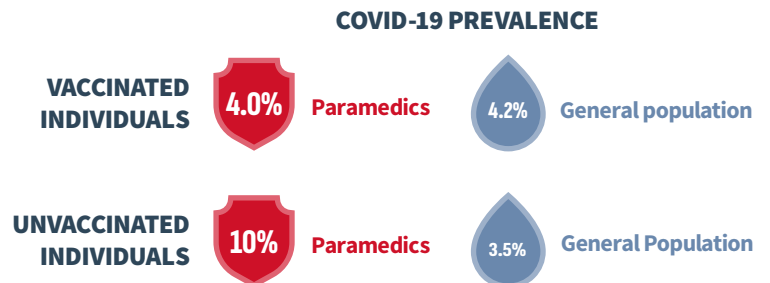


Key results from the CORSIP study: Navigating COVID-19's impact on paramedics

The COVID-19 Occupational Risks, Seroprevalence and Immunity among Paramedics (CORSIP) project sought to identify COVID-19-related occupational risks to paramedics and develop recommendations to protect paramedic health. Here are three of the key findings.

1 Vaccination effectively reduced paramedics' occupational COVID-19 risk

Unvaccinated paramedics had **three times higher prevalence** of COVID-19 infection compared to the unvaccinated general public who donated blood. In contrast, the prevalence among vaccinated paramedics was similar. This suggests that paramedics do face an increased risk of contracting COVID-19, in comparison to the general public, however that vaccination helped to mitigate this occupational risk.



2 The COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacted mental health and coping among paramedics

LIFE SATISFACTION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:



81%

of paramedics reported **reduced life satisfaction** compared with before the pandemic

♂ 79% males ♀ 84% females

REPORTED REDUCTION IN HEALTH AND COPING AMONG PARAMEDICS DURING COVID-19:



46%

physical health



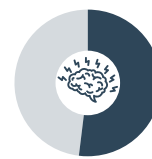
65%

mental health



55%

ability to cope with personal stress



52%

ability to cope with workplace stress

PTSD RATES DIDN'T CHANGE PRE-PANDEMIC VERSUS EARLY PANDEMIC



41%

Paramedics who met criteria for PTSD before the pandemic
♂ 35% ♀ 47%



43%

Paramedics who met criteria for PTSD early in the pandemic
♂ 37% ♀ 46%

MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER (MDD):



32%

of paramedics met criteria for MDD early in the pandemic
♂ 29% ♀ 36%

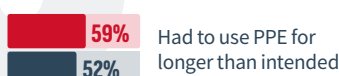
9% of paramedics reported thoughts of suicide

3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) availability varied over time and across occupation

PPE availability issues were greater early in the pandemic and differed by province. Paramedics and health care workers reported using a variety of PPE practices. Availability issues were more prevalent among paramedics than other health care workers.

CHANGES IN PPE AVAILABILITY OVER TIME:

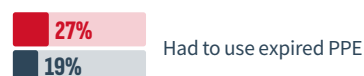
March–May 2020 (Red) June 2020 onward (Dark Blue)



59%

Had to use PPE for longer than intended

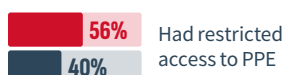
52%



27%

Had to use expired PPE

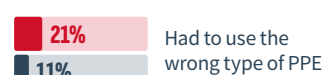
19%



56%

Had restricted access to PPE

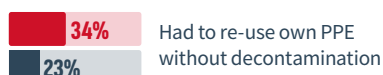
40%



21%

Had to use the wrong type of PPE

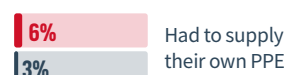
11%



34%

Had to re-use own PPE without decontamination

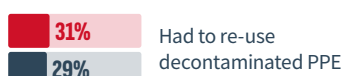
23%



6%

Had to supply their own PPE

3%



31%

Had to re-use decontaminated PPE

29%

COMPARED WITH OTHER HEALTH CARE WORKERS:

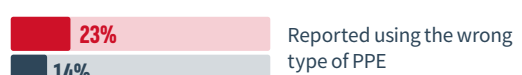
Paramedics (Red) Other health care workers (Dark Blue)



28%

Reported using expired PPE

12%



23%

Reported using the wrong type of PPE

14%



37%

Reported having to reuse their own PPE

20%