

Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infections (iGAS) in Durham Region 2017-2021

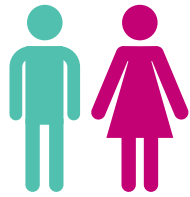
Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infections (iGAS) occur when bacteria invade parts of the body where bacteria are not usually found

Quick Facts

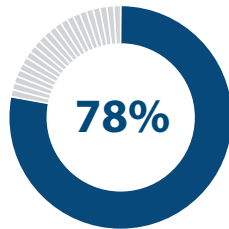
On average,

29

cases of iGAS were reported in Durham Region each year between 2017 and 2021



Cases are evenly split between males and females



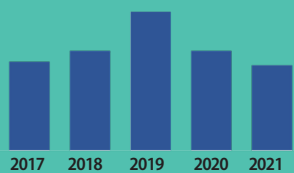
of cases were aged 35 or older at time of illness



The average age at time of illness was 50 years



7% of cases were fatal



The number of cases reported in 2019 (39) was the highest number ever reported in a single year. Interpret 2020 and 2021 data with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Symptoms

71%

of cases reported



fever

38%

of cases reported



rash, skin redness and/or cellulitis

21%

of cases had



low blood pressure

19%

of cases reported



vomiting

15%

of cases reported



respiratory distress

Risk Factors

55%

of cases reported



chronic illness or underlying medical condition

23%

of cases reported



existing skin condition, wound or break in skin

23%

of cases reported



injection drug use

18%

of cases reported



being homeless / underhoused

14%

of cases reported



compromised or weakened immune system

Prevention

The risk of iGAS may be reduced by proper hand hygiene, especially in people with non-invasive infections



Antibiotics can prevent and treat iGAS infections if administered appropriately



The spread of iGAS can be controlled through proper case and contact management



For detailed guidelines on iGAS treatment and prevention see: **Group A Streptococcal diseases: For health professionals, Public Health Agency of Canada**

• Data Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, 2017-2021
 • To see Durham compared to Ontario and other public health units go to [Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario](#)