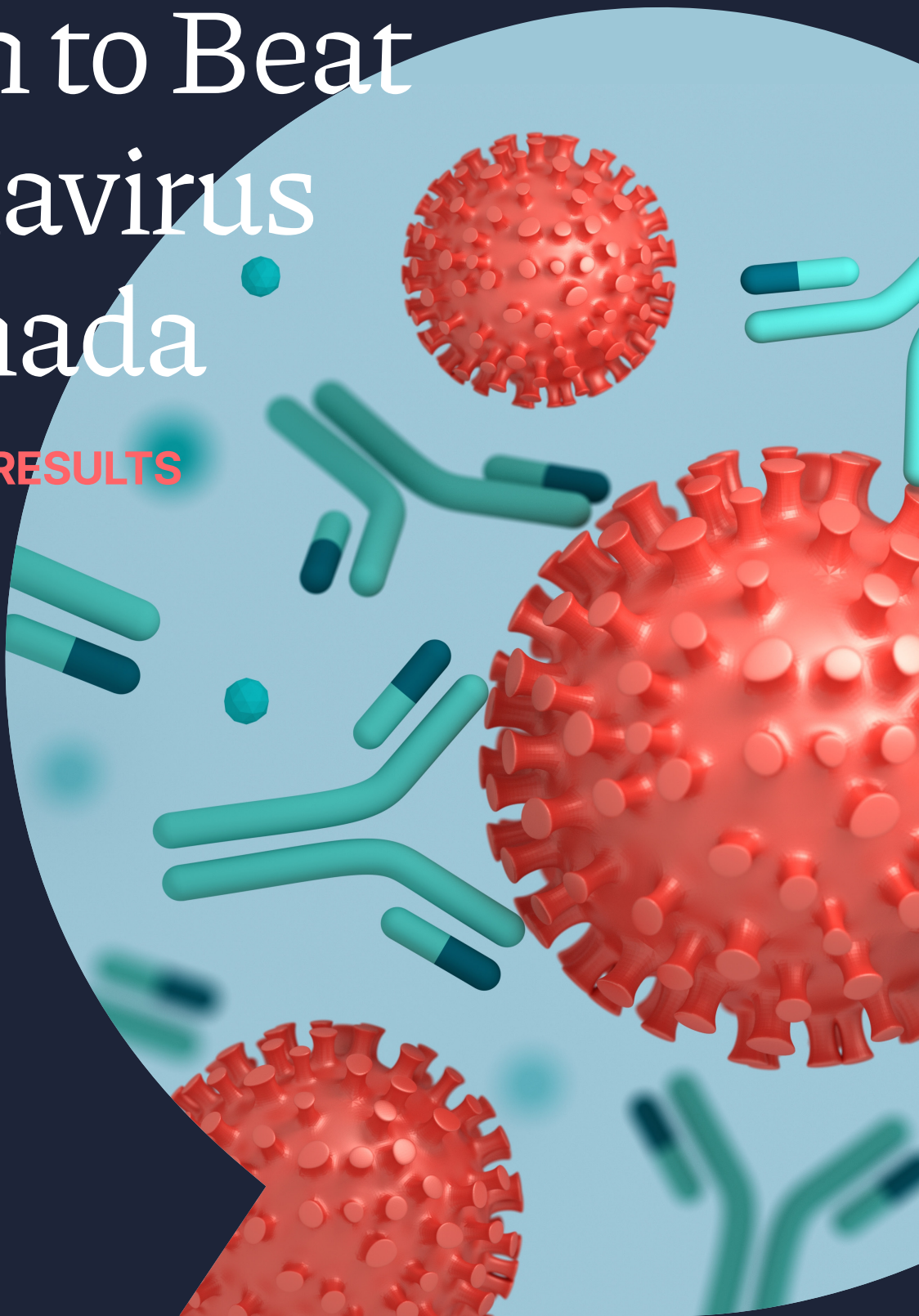


Action to Beat Coronavirus in Canada

2020 STUDY RESULTS



The first phase of the Action to Beat Coronavirus in Canada study—Ab-C—is now complete, including analysis of the blood samples and correlating the lab results with responses to the survey.

Here's what we found about the first wave of Canada's coronavirus pandemic:

The bottom line is that about **2%** of the samples were positive for COVID-19 antibodies, signaling infection during the first viral wave from April to August 2020.

In most respects, the Angus Reid Forum members who participated are similar in health profile to the overall Canadian population, so 2% is a reasonable estimate for nationwide infection prevalence through September 1, or up to 1 million adult infections.

This places Canada among the lowest national rates early in the pandemic, which ranged from about 1% in Iceland to 9% in the US.

In all:

 19,994

Angus Reid Forum members completed the Ab-C online survey between May and September.

 9,064

of those members also sent self-collected dried blood spot (DBS) samples to the Unity Health researchers in Toronto, and these were tested for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Looking at the results in detail, we find:



Prevalence was similar in men and women

18–39

The 18–39 year-old age group (the youngest group in the study) had a slightly higher prevalence than older groups.



Ontario had the highest prevalence rate, followed by Quebec. British Columbia, and the Atlantic provinces had the lowest rates.

Pairing lab and survey results produces some interesting findings:

- People who reported symptoms were likely to have a positive blood antibody test.
- About 30% of those with positive blood antibody tests did not report symptoms—suggesting that asymptomatic infections are common.

A manuscript with all the results from 2020 is currently under review at a major medical journal. We'll alert you when it is published. You can also see a video of the results [HERE](#).

Ab-C 2021

We now know that COVID-19 transmission began to accelerate in Canada—as in much of the world—toward the end of 2020, continuing into 2021. We need your help to continue to track the pandemic!

Thanks for being part of the fight against COVID.

Sincerely,
The Entire Ab-C Team

Here's how you can help:

- 1 If you have been invited to take the Angus Reid online survey on COVID symptoms, please complete it as soon as you can if you haven't already done so.
- 2 If you signed up to get a home sample collection kit but have not yet done the collection, please do so. More instructions can be found [HERE](#).
- 3 Even if you did not sign up the first time for a home sample collection, but would like to this time, we welcome you to join. You may sign up by reaching out directly to the Unity Health team (contact info below).

Unity Health Toronto

1-833-TEST-ABC (837-8222)

Available 8 am to 8 pm EST

Email: AbCStudy@UnityHealth.to

