

[Swine flu vaccine](#) [Norway](#) [Death](#) [Guillain-Barre syndrome](#) [Abortion](#) [Pandemrix](#)

Swine flu vaccine caused deaths

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Ten people in Norway have died as a result of last year's mass vaccination programme against the [swine flu](#) (Influenza A H1N1).

According to figures released by the Norwegian Medicines Agency (Statens legemiddelverk), the Pandemrix vaccine also accounted for 801 reported incidents of [side-effects](#). Health authorities considered 201 of these cases to be severe.

Amongst other symptoms, patients experienced severe allergic reactions and cramps. But perhaps the most serious were those who suffered from Guillain-Barré syndrome, causing gradual ascending paralysis up the legs. It can also affect the arms and upper body, and at worst can paralyze the breathing muscles.

The vaccine also affected [pregnant women](#) and [children](#). There were 16 reported cases of abortions, fetal death, or stillbirth. And 58 children were hospitalized for observation due to fainting, fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, and dehydration.

Approximately two million people were vaccinated against swine flu last year, and the agency says it's investigating every incident.