

Pertussis Surveillance

Key Points



3 cases in July 2021



27 cases in the past 6 months



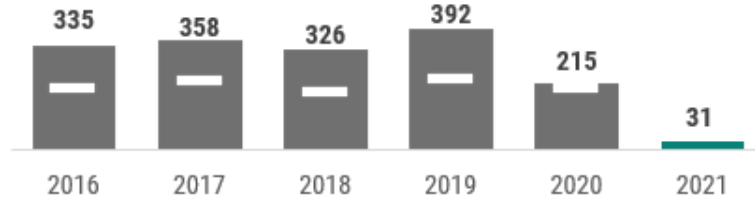
No outbreaks have been reported in 2021



<1 year olds had the highest 6 month average incidence rate



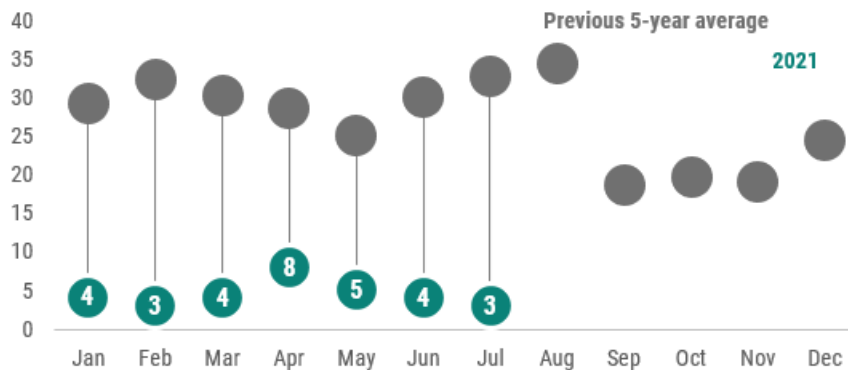
In 2021, 31 pertussis cases were reported in 14 counties. When comparing the number of pertussis cases from February 2021 through July 2021 to February 2019 through July 2019 (n=198 cases), there was an **86% decrease**.



*The white bars indicate the total number of cases as of July for each year



The number of pertussis cases reported in July was lower than the previous month, and was below the previous 5-year average. Elevated case counts in early 2020 may be due to a change in the case definition for pertussis; please see the last page for more information.



No **outbreak-associated cases** and **1 household-associated case** have been identified in 2021. For most pertussis cases, exposure to other known cases is not identified and are not able to be linked to outbreaks.

Household-associated | Outbreak-associated | Total cases

6 Mo Avg
Feb 2021 -
Jul 2021



6 Mo Avg
Feb 2019 -
Jul 2019



The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting health care seeking behavior, which may be impacting the diagnosis and reporting of pertussis cases that are shown in this report. For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic in Florida, please visit [FloridaHealthCOVID-19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19).

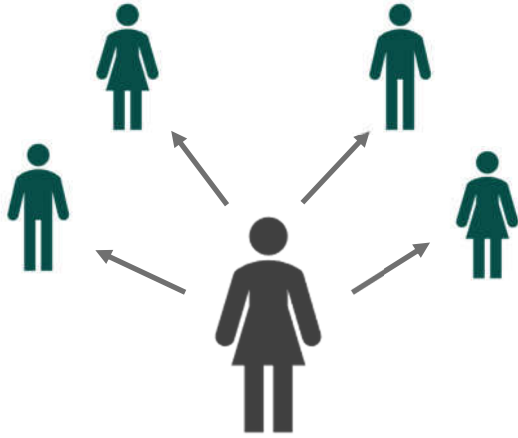


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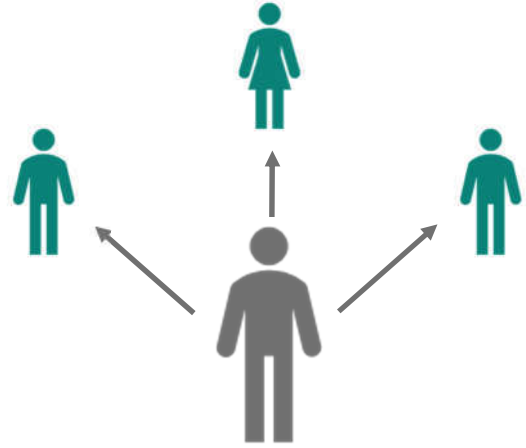


An average of **3 contacts** per case between February 2021 and July 2021 were reported compared to an average of **4 contacts** per case between February 2019 and July 2019. Contacts are classified as people whom antibiotics were recommended to prevent illness. Antibiotics can shorten the amount of time cases are contagious and can also be used to prevent illness in those exposed. Understanding pertussis transmission is a key factor in decreasing pertussis infections. In Florida, transmission setting is not routinely identified for non-outbreak cases, resulting in 68% of cases reporting unknown setting in the past six months.

February 2019 to July 2019




February 2021 to July 2021

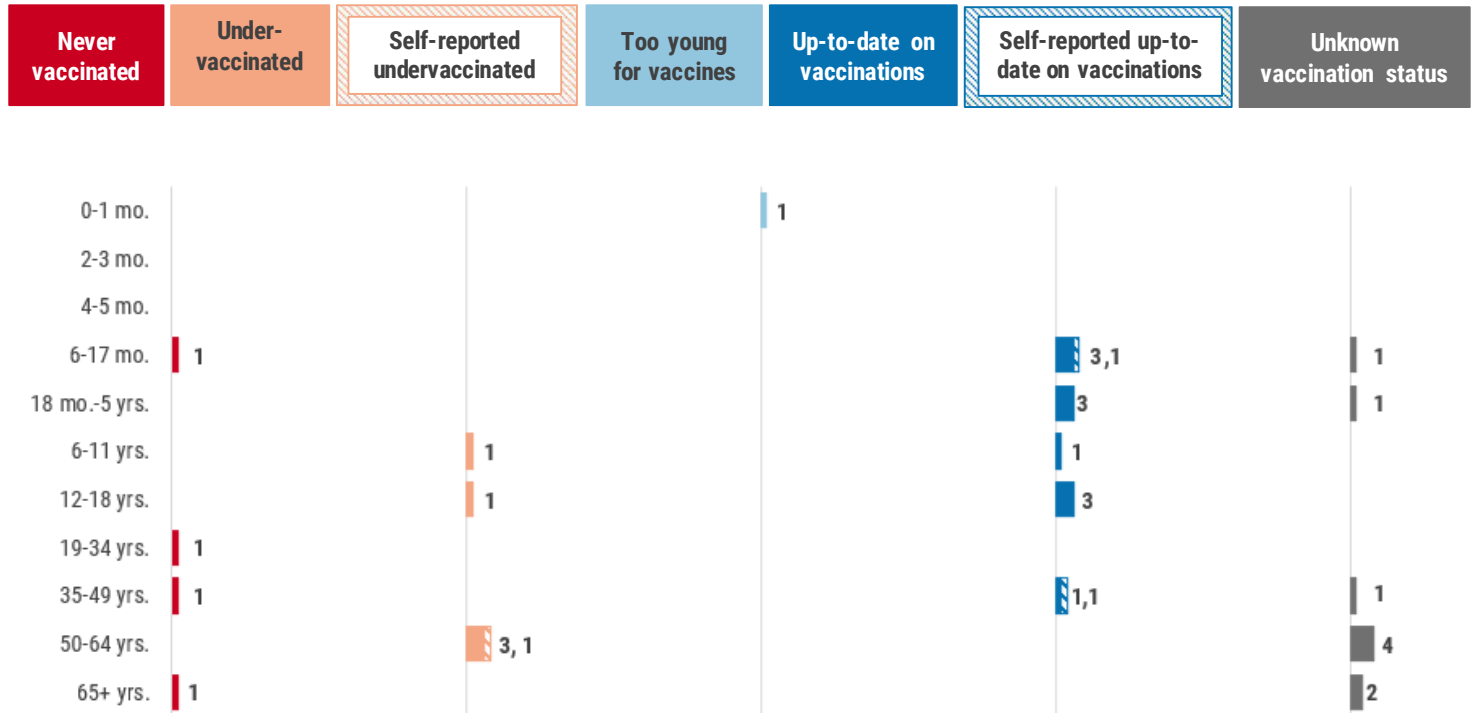



The average incidence rate was highest among **<1 year olds** at **0.2 cases** per 100,000 population between February 2021 and July 2021, which is **20 times lower** than the average incidence rate for <1 year olds between February 2019 and July 2019. Infants experience the greatest burden of pertussis infections, not only in number of cases but also in severity. Infants <2 months old are too young to receive vaccinations against pertussis, which is why vaccination of parents, siblings, grandparents, and other age groups is important in infection prevention among infants.



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 In 2021, over half of cases were up-to-date on their pertussis vaccinations. **In general, those who have received at least one pertussis vaccination have less severe outcomes than those who have never been vaccinated.** If a person was born before December 1st, 1982, the current pertussis immunization recommendation would not have been implemented when they were receiving their childhood immunizations. Based on the case's age, **12 cases** would not have been vaccinated under the current childhood immunization recommendations.



 **National activity**
 The number of pertussis cases gradually increased since the 1980s, peaking in 2012 at levels not seen since the 1950s. Since 2012, the number of pertussis cases started gradually decreasing. Pertussis incidence has remained highest among infants <1 year old and lowest among adults ≥20 years old since the 1990s.

Pertussis surveillance goals

- Identify cases to limit transmission in settings with infants or others who may transmit pertussis to infants
- Identify and prevent outbreaks
- Identify transmission settings in non-outbreak cases to prevent the spread of sporadic cases
- Identify contacts of cases and recommend appropriate prevention measures, including exclusion, antibiotic prophylaxis, and immunization
- Monitor the effectiveness of immunization programs and vaccines

To learn more about pertussis, please visit FloridaHealth.gov/Pertussis. For more information on the data sources used in Florida