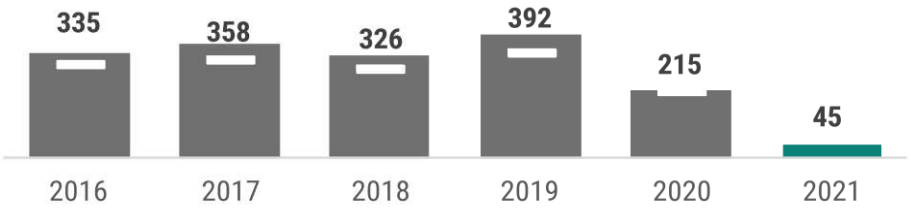
Pertussis Surveillance

November Key Points

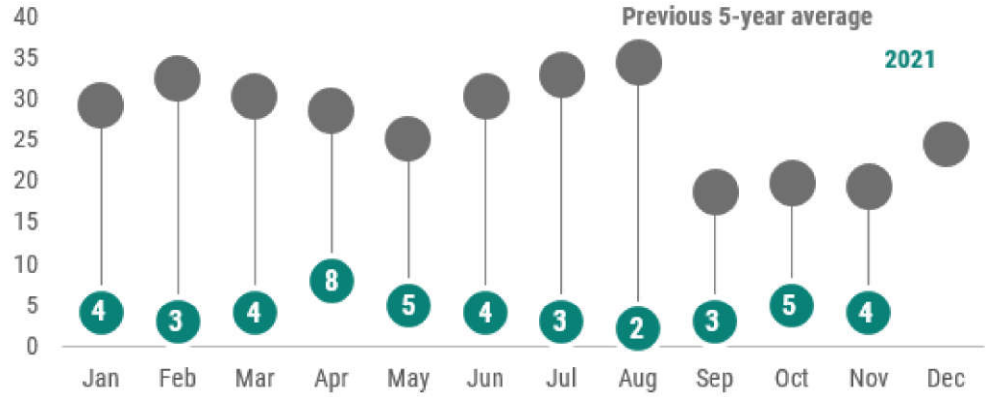
- 4 cases
- 26 cases in the past 6 months
- No new outbreaks
- <1 year olds had the highest 6 month average incidence rate

In 2021, 45 pertussis cases were reported in 19 counties. There was a **90% decrease** in the number of pertussis cases reported between June 2021—November 2021 compared to June 2019—November 2019 (n=250 cases).

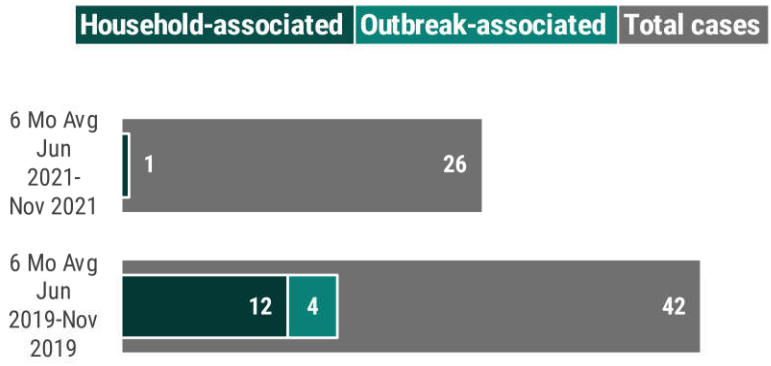


*The white bars indicate the total number of cases as of November for each year

The number of pertussis cases reported in November 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.



One outbreak-associated case and **4 household-associated** cases identified in the past 6 months. For most pertussis cases, exposure to other known cases is not identified and are not able to be linked to outbreaks.



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.

Florida HEALTH

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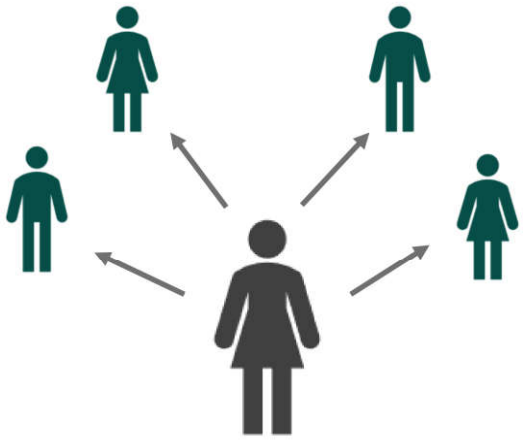
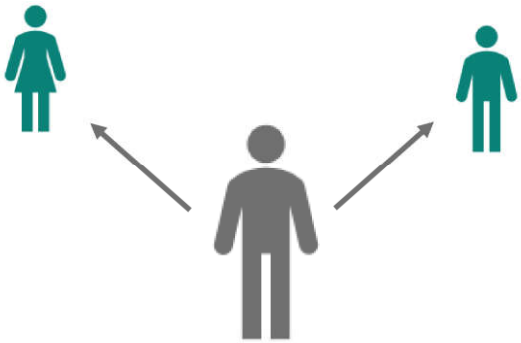
An average of 2 contacts per case between June 2021 and November 2021 were reported compared to an average of 4 contacts per case between June 2019 and November 2019. Contacts are classified as people whom antibiotics were recommended to prevent illness. Antibiotics can shorten the amount of time cases 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 **61%** of cases reporting unknown setting in the past six months.

June 2019 to November 2019



June 2021 to November 2021



The average incidence rate was highest among <1 year olds at 0.2 cases per 100,000 population between June 2021 and November 2021, which is **18 times lower** than the average incidence rate for <1 year olds between June 2019 and November 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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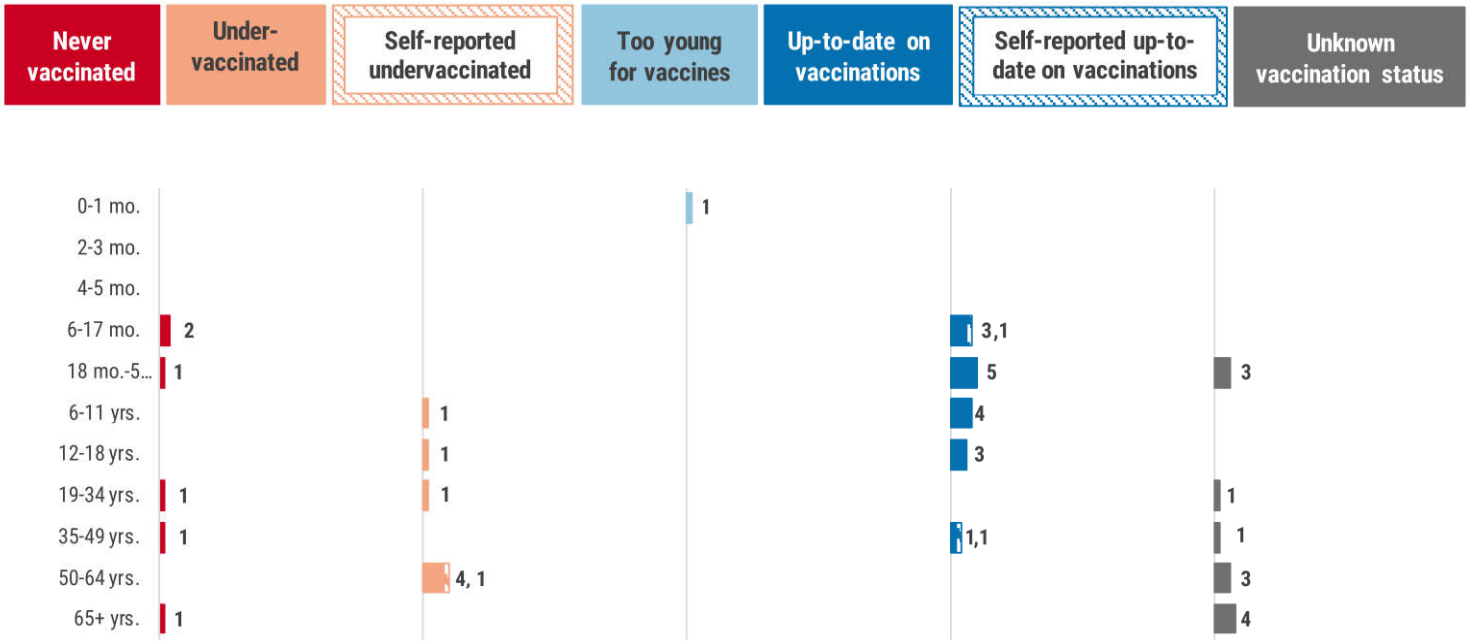
In 2021, over half of cases were not reported up-to-date on their pertussis vaccinations. **In general, those who have received at least one pertussis vaccination have less severe outcomes than those who have never been vaccinated.** If a person was born before December 1st, 1982, the current pertussis immunization recommendation would not have been implemented when they were receiving their childhood immunizations. Based on the case's age, **15 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