

# Pertussis Surveillance

## Key Points



In September 2020, there were 3 cases



56 new cases between April and September 2020

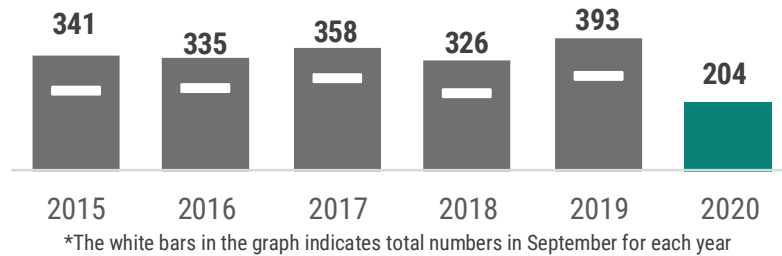


No outbreaks have occurred in 2020

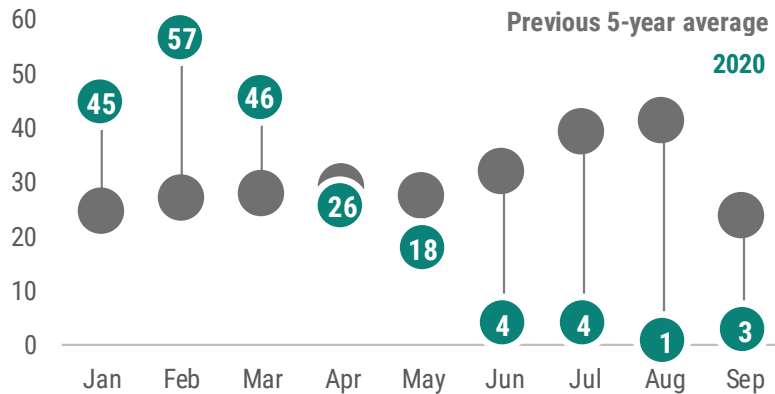


<1 year olds had the highest 6 month average incidence rate for April 2020 to September 2020

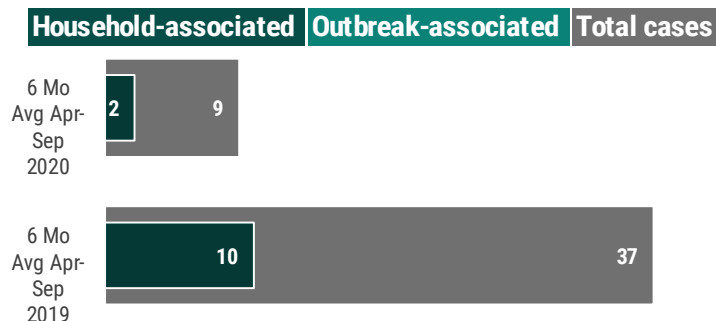
From January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020, **204 pertussis cases** were reported in **38 counties**. Fifty-six pertussis cases were reported between April and September 2020, which is a **75% decrease** compared to April to September 2019 (224 cases).



The number of pertussis cases reported in September increased from 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.



The average number of household-associated cases between April and September 2020 was five times lower than the average number of household-associated cases between April and September in 2019. No outbreak-associated cases have been identified in 2020. For most pertussis cases, exposure to other known cases is never identified, and they are not able to be linked to outbreaks.



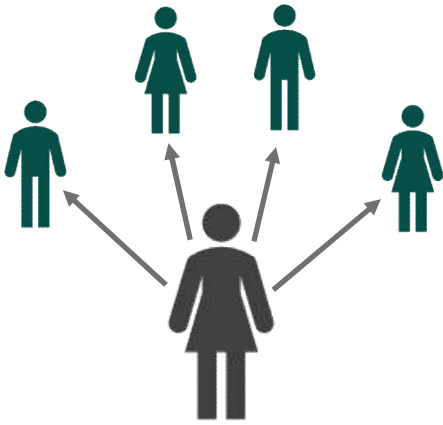
The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting health care seeking behavior, which may be impacting the diagnosis and reporting of pertussis cases that are shown in this report. For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic in Florida, please visit [FloridaHealthCOVID-19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19).



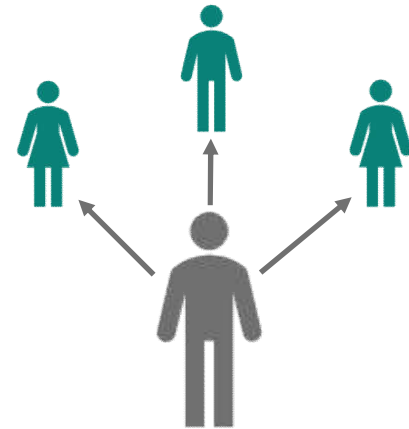
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There was an average of **3 contacts** per case between April and September 2020. Between April and September 2019, there was an average of **4 contacts** per case. Contacts are classified as people whom antibiotics were recommended to in order to prevent illness. For those diagnosed with pertussis, antibiotics can shorten the amount of time they are contagious to others. Antibiotics can also be used to prevent illness in those who have been exposed to someone with pertussis while they are contagious.

## April to September 2019



## April to September 2020



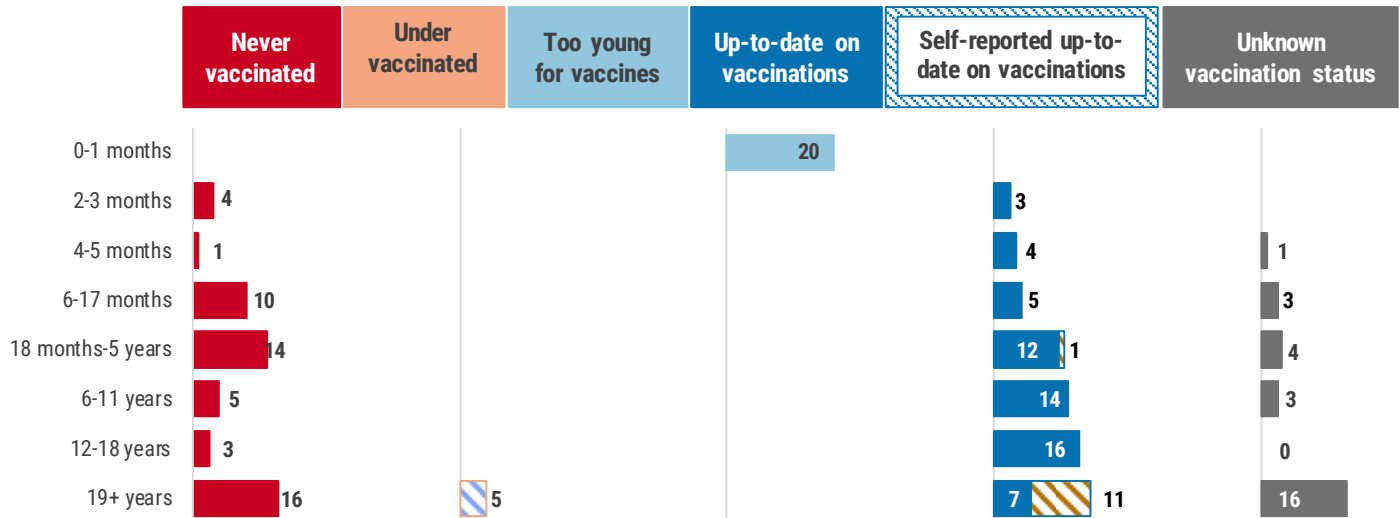
The average incidence rate was highest among **<1 year olds** at **0.8 cases per 100,000 population** between April and September 2020, which is roughly **four times lower** than the average incidence rate for <1 year olds between April and September 2019. Infants experience the greatest burden of pertussis 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 so important to help prevent infection in infants.



## Pertussis Surveillance



In 2020, the majority of adults aged 19 years and older with pertussis were not up-to-date on their pertussis vaccinations or had unknown vaccination status. **In general, those who have received at least one pertussis vaccination have less severe outcomes than those who have never been vaccinated.** Self-reported vaccination status that could not be verified is shown with a diagonal pattern.



### 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 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](https://www.floridahealth.gov/Pertussis). For more information on the data sources used in Florida for pertussis surveillance, see the last page of this report.