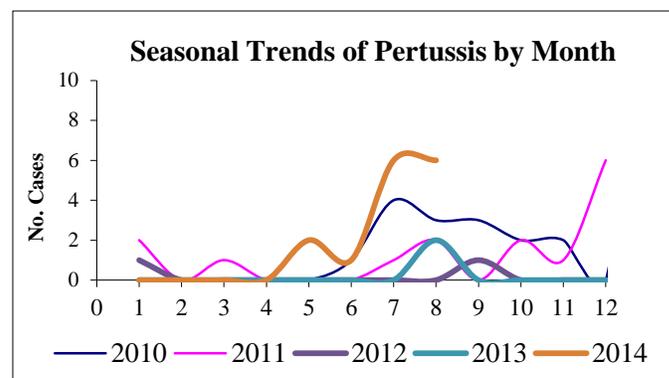
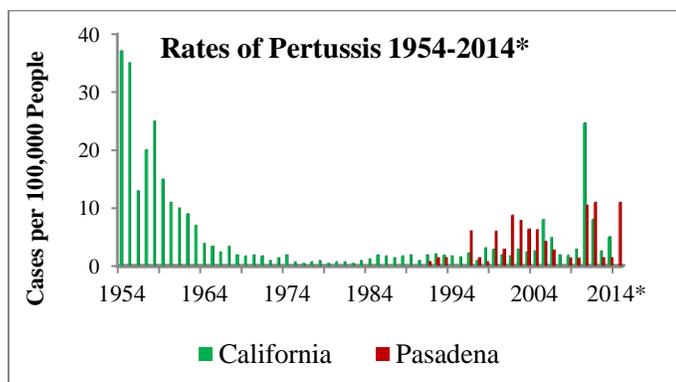
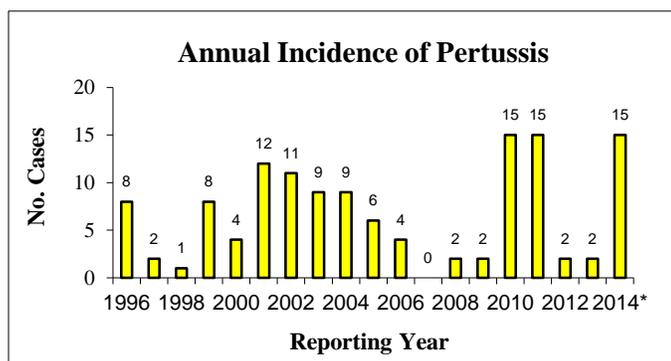


Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Status Report

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by exposure to *Bordetella* bacteria. People with pertussis have severe coughing attacks that can last for months. This coughing or sneezing can spread to at-risk individuals in close contact. Infants too young for vaccination and unvaccinated adults are at greatest risk of contracting pertussis.



Following the advent of the pertussis vaccine in the 1930's, the number of cases in the United States declined. In recent years, this trend has reversed. California is currently experiencing a pertussis epidemic with more cases than expected. The California Department of Public Health reports that the increase since the 1990's is partly due to a change in the type of pertussis vaccine used. The currently-used acellular vaccines cause fewer side effects than the previously-used whole-cell vaccines, but do not provide as long-lasting immunity.



Pertussis incidence is cyclical and peaks every 3-5 years. We see some of this trend in Pasadena.

*Cases as of August 27, 2014

Over the past few years, Pasadena has experienced a summer to early fall peak in cases.

Other Key Statistics

- As of August 18, California has an incidence rate of 19.6 cases per 100,000 compared to 10.9 in Pasadena.
- There has been one death in California attributed to pertussis in 2014. Two additional deaths occurred in 2014, but disease onset was in 2013. All deaths were in infants less than or equal to 2 months old.
- 47% of the cases of pertussis in Pasadena have been among teens, and 73% White versus 27% Black.

Key Recommendation

- Pregnant mothers should receive a pertussis vaccine (Tdap) during the third (3rd) trimester of each pregnancy. This confers passive immunity to young infants, who are at highest risk for serious illness, and are ineligible for vaccination until 6 months of age.

Sources

California Department of Public Health. "Pertussis Summary Report, 08-18-2014". <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/>

California Department of Public Health. "Communicable Disease Data". <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Pages/CDdata.aspx>

Epidemiology and Biostatistics, City of Pasadena Public Health Department. Unpublished raw data.