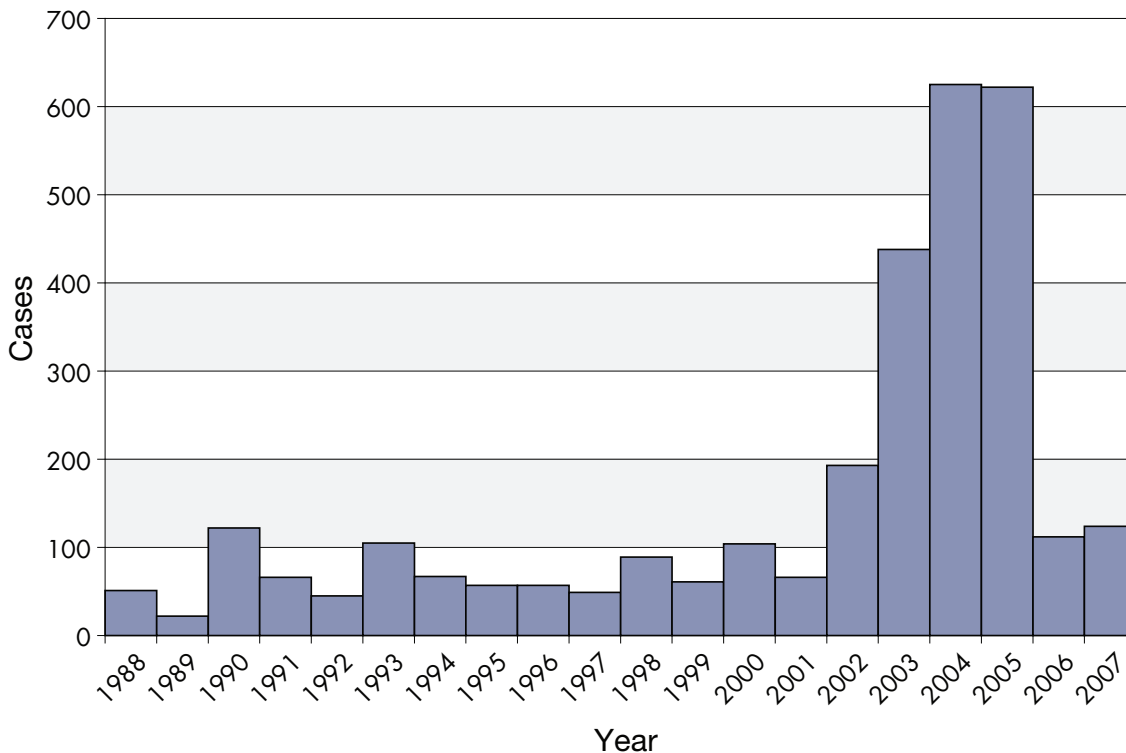


Pertussis

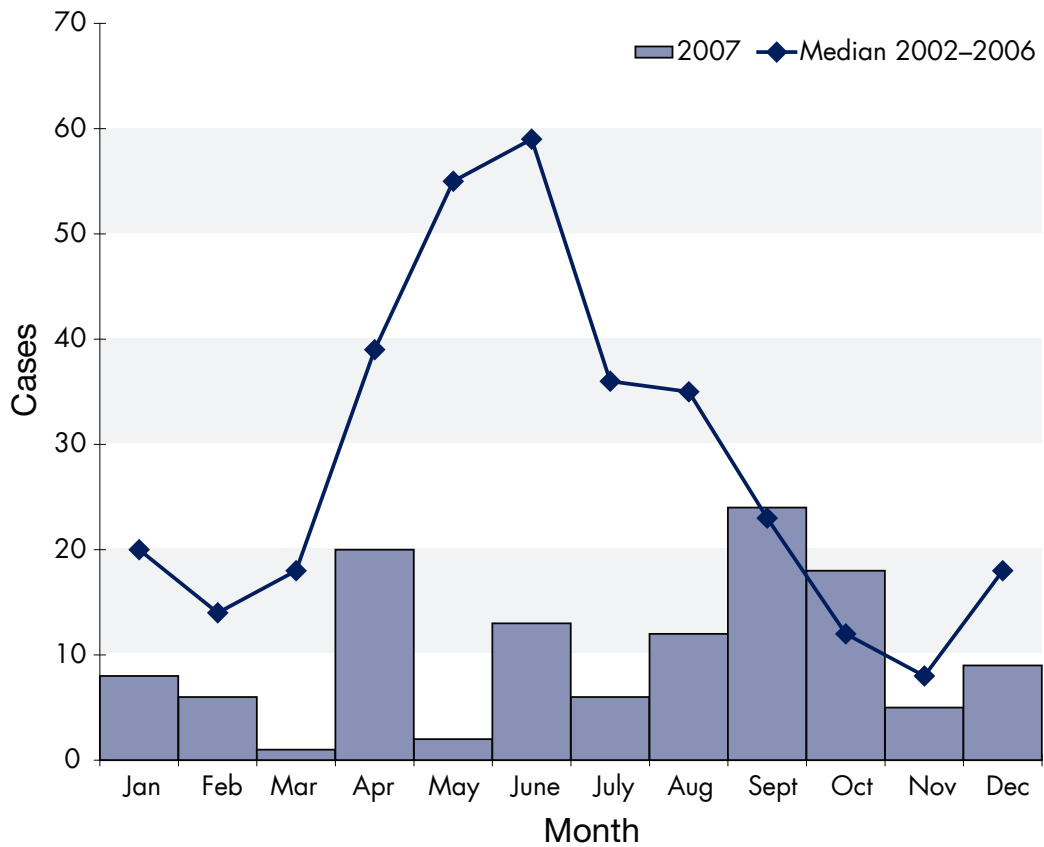
Pertussis is a highly contagious acute bacterial infection of the respiratory tract attributable to *Bordetella pertussis*. It is transmitted from person to person through contact with respiratory secretions (droplet transmission). Illness presents as an irritating cough that gradually becomes paroxysmal, and more than 50% of cases develop the characteristic inspiratory “whoop.” In 2004, reported cases reached the highest level since 1959. Although down considerably from levels seen in 2004 and 2005, case counts were up from 2006 and pertussis transmission continued in 2007. Because pertussis often goes undiagnosed in adolescents and adults, it is likely that the actual number of cases greatly exceeds the number reported.

In Oregon, most hospitalizations and all deaths from pertussis are reported in infants less than 6 months of age, but substantial morbidity occurs in other age groups. Adolescents, included in the 10 to 19-year-old group, have high documented rates, and Oregon has seen a number of large and disruptive outbreaks among middle school and high school students. Pertussis vaccine, available for adolescents and adults as Tdap, should provide some immunity to the disease for all of us older kids. Health care workers in particular are encouraged to get a dose.

Pertussis by year: Oregon, 1988–2007

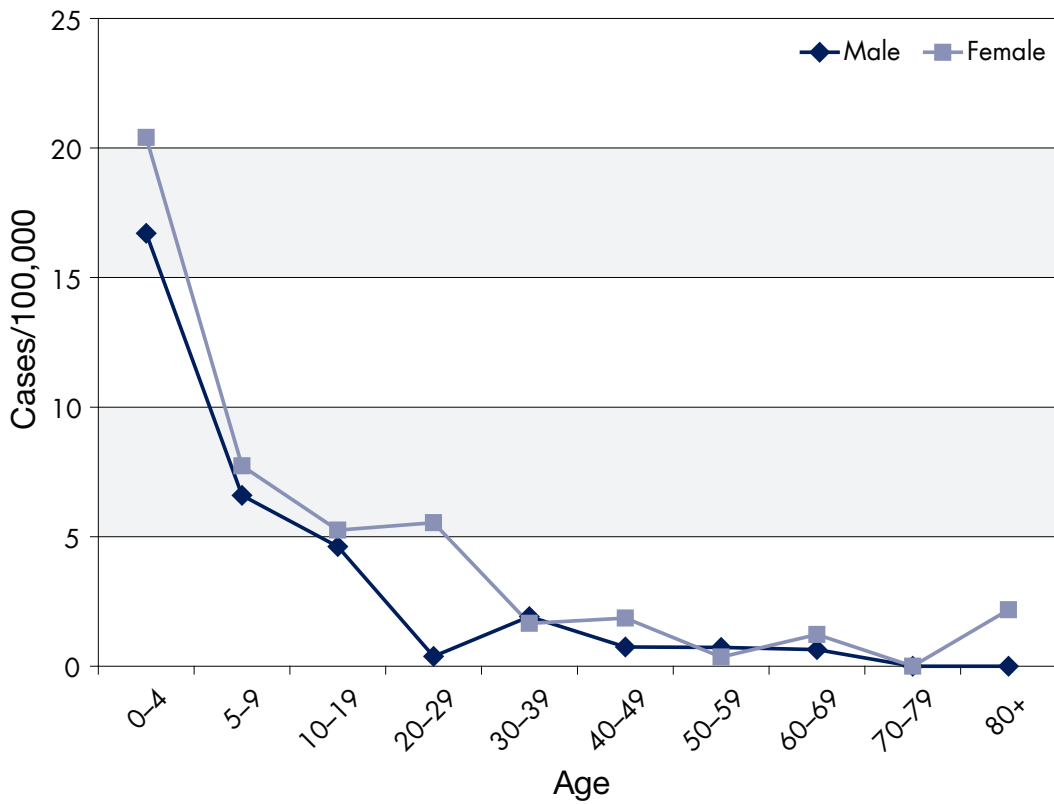


Pertussis by onset month: Oregon, 2007

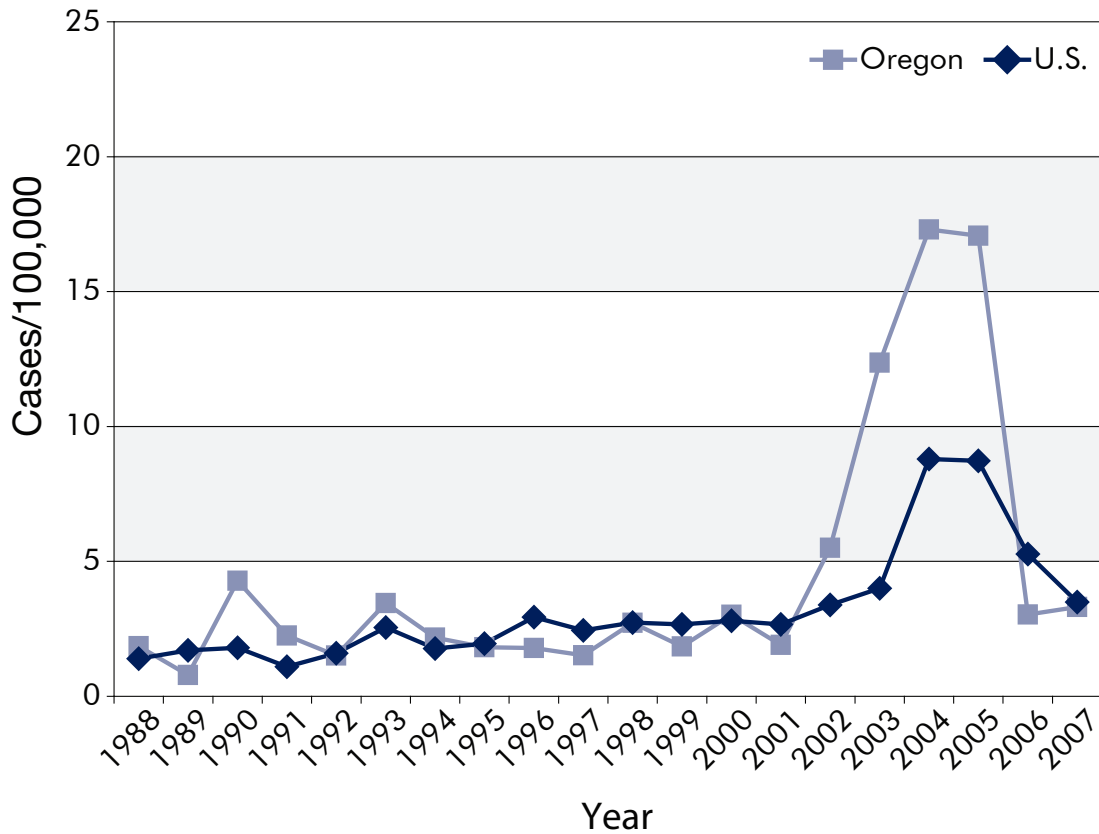


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Incidence of pertussis by age and sex: Oregon, 2007



Incidence of pertussis: Oregon vs. nationwide, 1988–2007



Incidence of pertussis by county of residence: Oregon, 1998–2007

