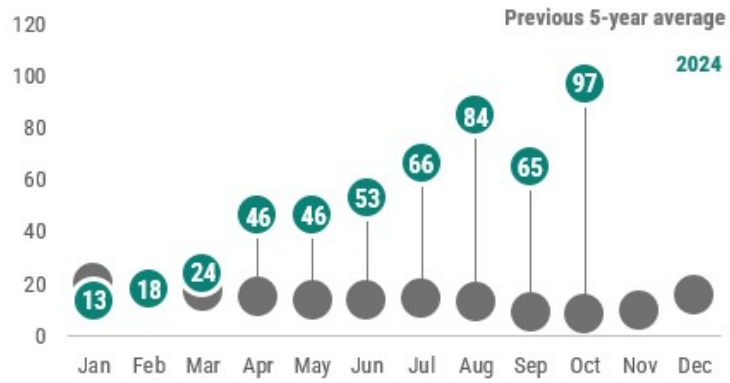
Pertussis Surveillance

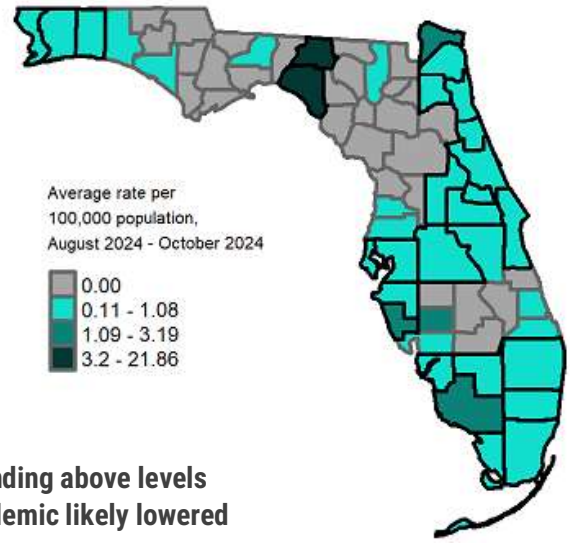
October Key Points

- 97 cases
- 411 cases in the past 6 months
- One new outbreak
- <1 year olds had the highest 6 month average incidence rate

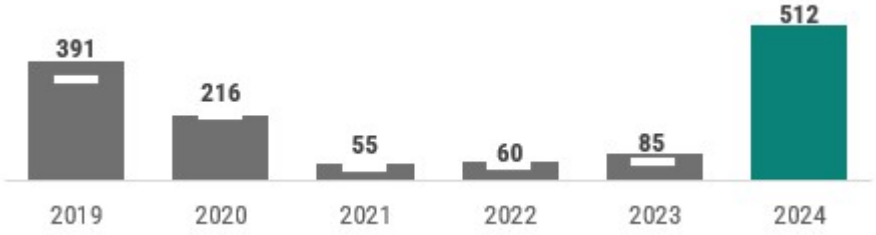
The number of pertussis cases reported in October increased from the previous month and was above the previous 5-year average.



In October 2024, **97 pertussis cases** were reported in **27 counties,** outlined in black in the map below. From July 2024 through October 2024 the average county rates varied throughout the state.

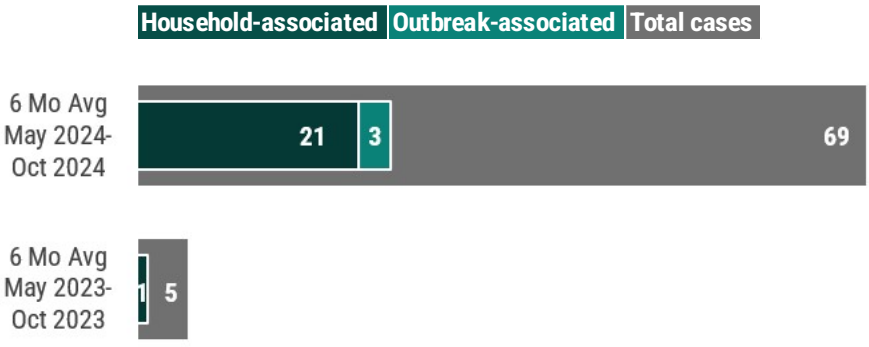


In 2024, 512 pertussis cases were reported. These case counts are trending above levels reported pre-pandemic in 2019. Mitigation efforts used during the pandemic likely lowered transmission of pertussis.



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

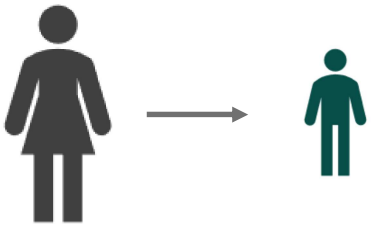
In October 2024, 12 pertussis cases were outbreak-associated. In the past 6 months, there was an average of **21 household-associated cases,** an average **of 3 outbreak-associated case** and an average of **60 total cases**. From May 2023 to October 2023, there was an average of **1 household-associated case,** an average **of 0 outbreak-associated cases** and an average of **5 total cases**. For most pertussis cases, exposure to other known cases is not identified and are not able to be linked to outbreaks.



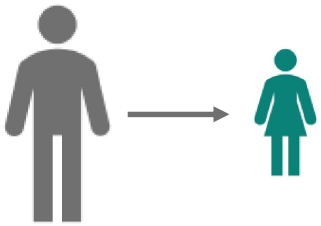
Pertussis Surveillance

There was an average of 1 contact per case between May 2023 and October 2023 and between May 2024 and October 2024. 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.

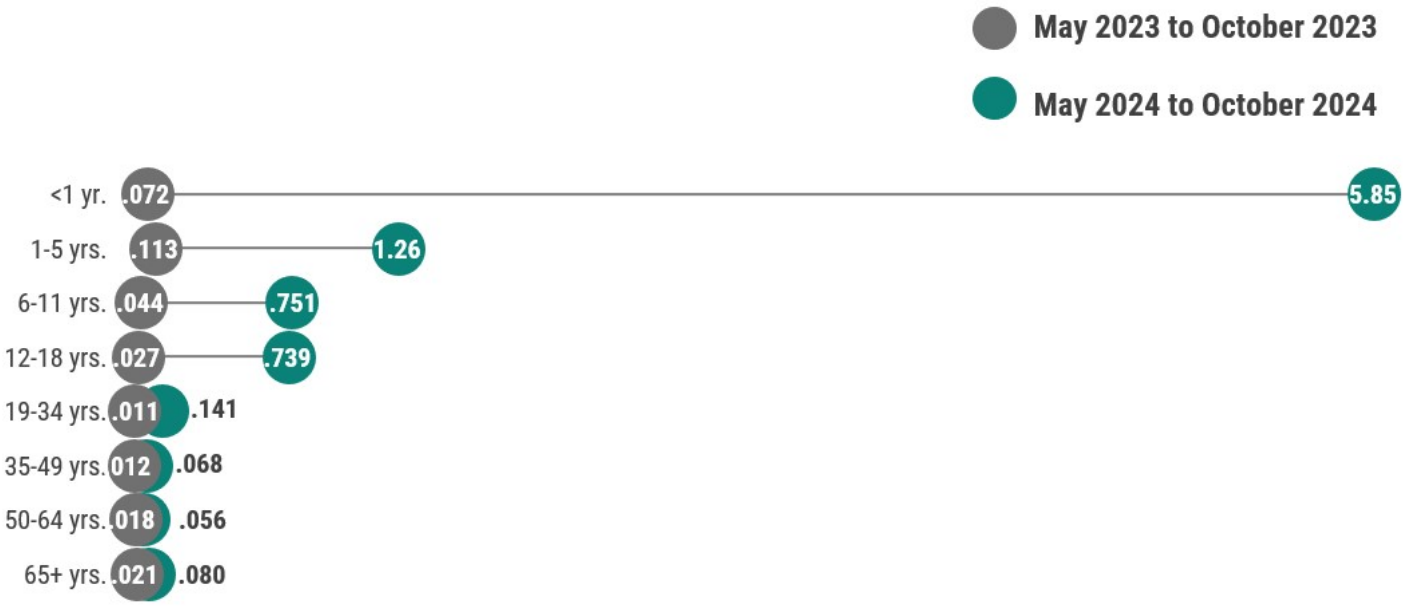
May 2023 to October 2023



May 2024 to October 2024

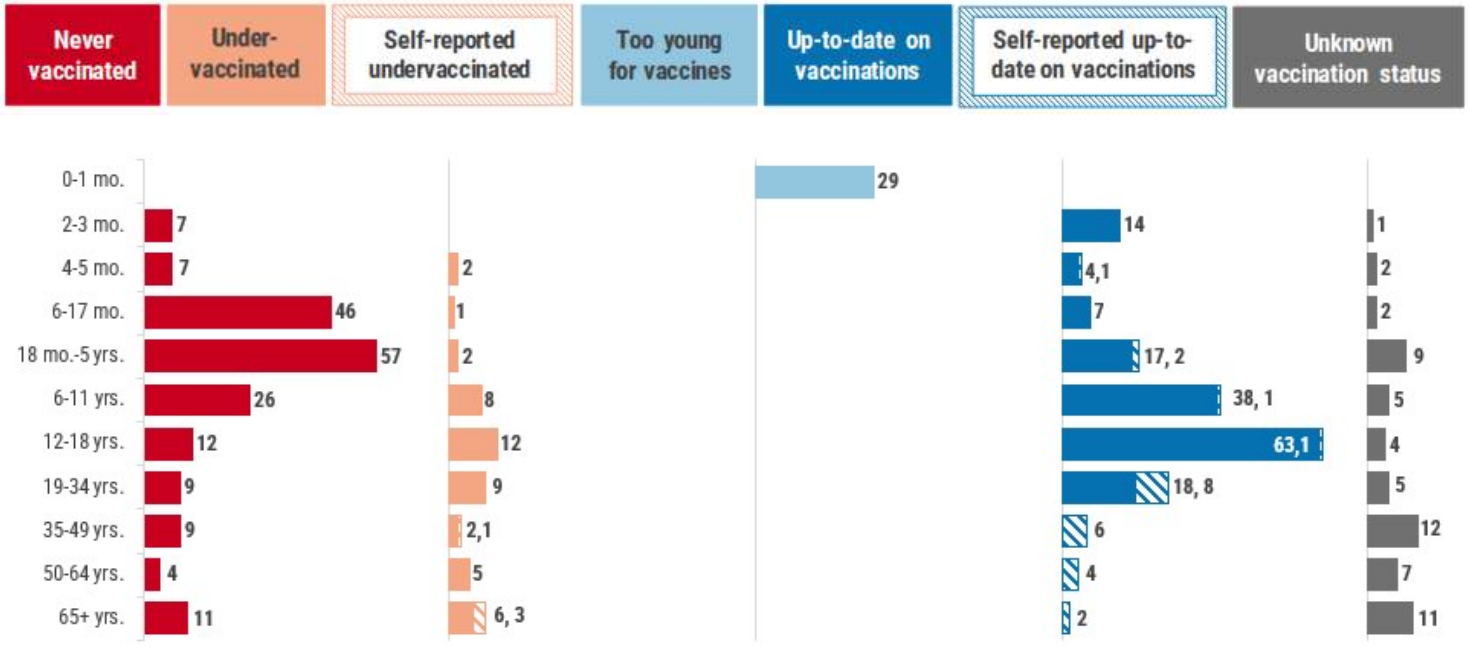


The average incidence rate was highest among <1 year olds at 5.85 cases per 100,000 population between May 2024 and October 2024. Infants experience the greatest burden of pertussis infections, not only in number of cases but also in severity. Infants <2 months old are too young to receive vaccinations against pertussis, which is why vaccination of parents, siblings, grandparents, and other age groups is important in infection prevention among infants.



Pertussis Surveillance

In 2024, over half of cases reported were not 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 January 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, **71 cases** would not have been vaccinated under the current childhood immunization recommendations.



National activity

Nationally, the number of reported pertussis cases were lower than usual in recent years. The number of pertussis cases reported in 2024 has increased across the United States which may imply that pertussis reports are returning to more typical trends. Preliminary data reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in October of 2024, shows that there are five times as many cases than were reported at the same time in 2023.

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 for pertussis surveillance, see the last page of this report.