

Pertussis Vaccine Failure

State and National information

Evidence on Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in Wisconsin

Most cases of pertussis in Wisconsin have occurred in persons who were fully vaccinated. A significant number of teens who were diagnosed with pertussis had also received a booster dose of Tdap prior to developing the disease.

In 2018:¹

- 388 confirmed and 312 probable pertussis cases were reported among Wisconsin residents in 60 counties. Persons with pertussis ranged in age from <1 month to 88 years (**median age: 1 year**).
- Among cases aged 2 months through 10 years, **55% were up to date with pertussis vaccinations, and 79% of cases aged 11–18 years had previously received the Tdap booster dose.**

In 2017:²

- 529 confirmed and 247 probable pertussis cases were reported among Wisconsin residents in 61 counties. Persons with pertussis ranged in age from <1 month to 89 years (**median age: 13 years**).
- Among cases aged 2 months through 10 years, **66% were up to date with pertussis vaccinations, and 85% of cases aged 11–18 years had previously received the Tdap booster dose.**

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Nationally

In March of 2019, The Los Angeles Times reported on a large pertussis outbreak in one Los Angeles County school that affected 50 fully vaccinated students. There were 18 unvaccinated students in the school...and not a single one developed whooping cough.³

Pertussis is not the result of failure to vaccinate. It is the result of vaccine failure.

¹ Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Surveillance Summary Wisconsin, 2018 Wisconsin Dept. of Health - P-02321 (April 9, 2019) (<https://tinyurl.com/y585kmd>)

² Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Surveillance Summary Wisconsin, 2017 Wisconsin Dept. of Health – P-02321 (Dec. 19, 2018) (<https://tinyurl.com/y28gyqmu>)

³ Karlamangla S Harvard-Westlake students were vaccinated. Dozens caught whooping cough anyway Los Angeles Times Mar. 16, 2016 (<https://tinyurl.com/y3m78bp5>)