

PERTUSSIS REPORT

April 2010 (Weeks 15-16)

This report includes cases of pertussis reported in EpiSurv up to midnight 17 April 2010. Data was extracted from EpiSurv at 10.00am 20 April 2010.

There have been a total of 348 pertussis notifications reported in EpiSurv since 26 December 2009 (the beginning of surveillance week 1 for 2010), including 208 confirmed cases, 114 probable cases, six suspect case, and 20 cases under investigation. Thirty-six cases were hospitalised. There have been no deaths reported. In the past two weeks, 26 (10 and 16 consecutively) new cases of pertussis were notified, including 15 confirmed cases, eight probable cases, and three cases under investigation. Two hospitalisations were reported in week 15.

This report incorporates the temporal distribution of cases, and the distribution of cases by age, ethnicity (prioritised), and district health board (DHB), as well as hospitalisations. The case classification used in this report is specified in the appendix.

Temporal distribution of cases

Figure 1 shows the epidemic curve of total pertussis notifications for 2008, 2009 and 2010 (to date). A substantial increase in notifications, with weekly fluctuations is clearly visible for 2009 compared to 2008. After an initial peak in week 3, notifications have generally followed the 2009 trend but at slightly lower levels. However, the total number of notifications may change as cases are investigated.

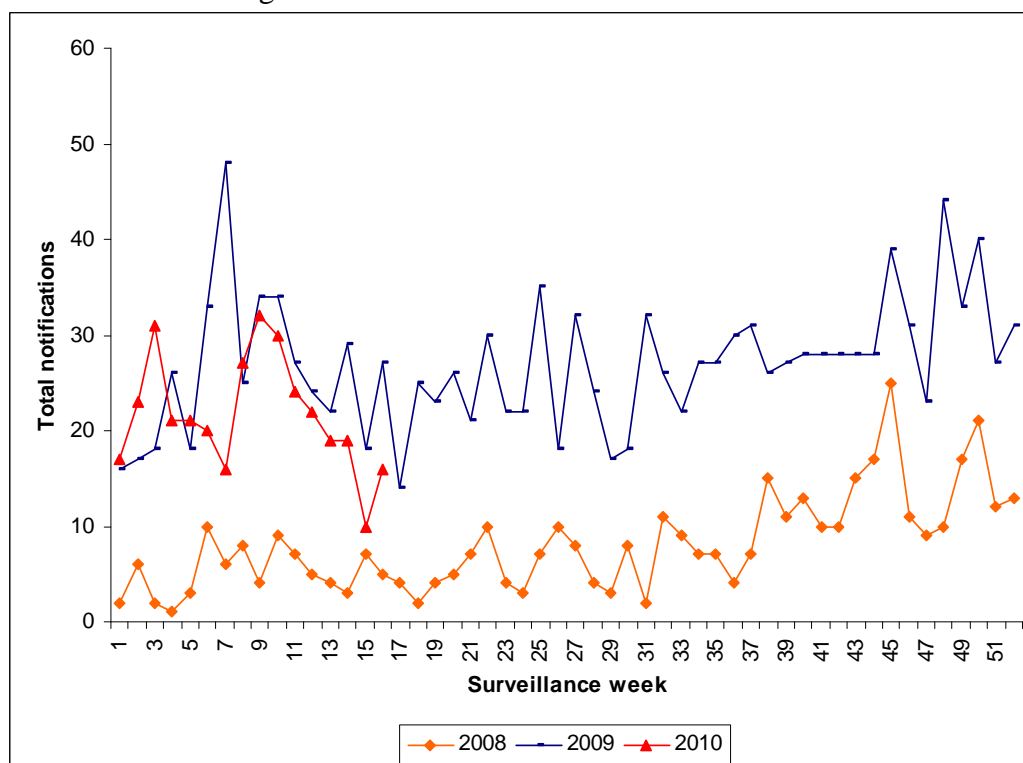


Figure 1: Comparative epidemic curves of total pertussis notifications by week reported during years 2008, 2009 and 2010 (surveillance week = Saturday to Friday inclusive).

Age distribution of cases

Pertussis notifications and associated age-specific rates, including new cases for the past two weeks, are shown in Table 1. Of the total cases since 26 December 2009, the age-specific rate was highest in the less than one year age group (50.7 per 100 000 population, 32 cases), followed by the 1 to 4 (23.5 per 100 000 population, 57 cases) and 5 to 9 (13.5 per 100 000 population, 39 cases) year age groups. For the last two weeks, children aged less than one year had the highest age-specific rate (4.8 per 100 000 population, 3 cases).

Table 1: Pertussis cases and rates by age group since January 2009, including new cases in the last two weeks

Age group (Years)	Cumulative ² notifications			Last two weeks		
	Cases	Rates ¹	Hosp	Cases	Rates ¹	Hosp
<1	32	50.7	23	3	4.8	2
1 to 4	57	23.5	3	4	1.6	0
5 to 9	39	13.5	0	3	1.0	0
10 to 14	24	8.1	3	0	0.0	0
15 to 19	21	6.5	2	5	1.5	0
20 to 29	28	4.8	1	0	0.0	0
30 to 39	42	7.3	0	2	0.3	0
40 to 49	46	7.2	1	4	0.6	0
50 to 59	28	5.3	1	3	0.6	0
60 to 69	25	6.4	2	2	0.5	0
70+	6	1.6	0	0	0.0	0
Unknown	0	-	0	0	-	0
Overall	348	8.1	36	26	0.6	2

¹Age specific rate per 100,000 population, calculated using 2009 mid-year population estimates

²Cumulative notifications between 26 December 2009 and 17 April 2010

Hosp: hospitalisation counts

Rates calculated on fewer than five cases are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

Ethnicity

Pertussis notifications and rates by ethnicity are shown in Table 2. Of the 327 cases with a known ethnicity, Pacific Peoples had the highest rate (10.2 per 100 000 population, 23 cases), followed by Maori ethnicity (10.1 per 100 000 population, 57 cases). In the last two weeks, Europeans had the highest rate (0.5 per 100 000 population, 13 cases).

Table 2: Pertussis cases and rates by ethnicity (prioritised) since 26 December 2010, including new cases in the last two weeks

Ethnicity	Cumulative ² notifications			Last two weeks		
	Cases	Rates ¹	Hosp	Cases	Rates ¹	Hosp
Maori	57	10.1	12	1	0.2	0
Pacific Peoples	23	10.2	10	1	0.4	1
Other	5	1.3	0	1	0.3	0
European	242	9.0	12	13	0.5	0
Unknown	21	-	2	10	-	1
Overall	348	8.6	36	26	0.6	2

¹Ethnic specific rates computed using the 2006 usually resident census population

²Cumulative notifications between 26 December 2009 and 17 April 2010

Hosp: hospitalisation counts

Rates calculated on fewer than five cases are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

Hospitalisations

There have been 36 hospitalisations reported in EpiSurv since 26 December 2009, including two in the last two weeks. Twenty-three (63.9%) of the 36 hospitalisations were children aged less than one year of age. The two cases that were hospitalised in the last two weeks were both aged less than one year. One of the cases hospitalised in the last two weeks was of Pacific Peoples ethnicity, for the remaining case ethnicity was unknown. Counties Manukau DHB had the highest number of cumulative hospitalisations (7 cases). The distributions of hospitalisations by age group, ethnicity, and DHB are described in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3, respectively.

Geographical distribution

The rates of pertussis notifications by DHB can be seen in Figure 2 and Table 3. The highest rates were recorded in Hutt Valley DHB (20.3 per 100 000 population, 29 cases), followed by South Canterbury (19.8 per 100 000 population, 11 cases), and Taranaki (19.4 per 100 000 population, 21 cases) DHBs. Canterbury DHB reported the highest number of notifications (63 cases) followed by Capital and Coast DHB (52 cases). In the last two weeks, the highest number of notifications was reported in Canterbury DHB (8 cases), followed by Taranaki DHB (5 cases). Also during this period the highest rate was in the Taranaki DHB (4.6 per 100 000 population).

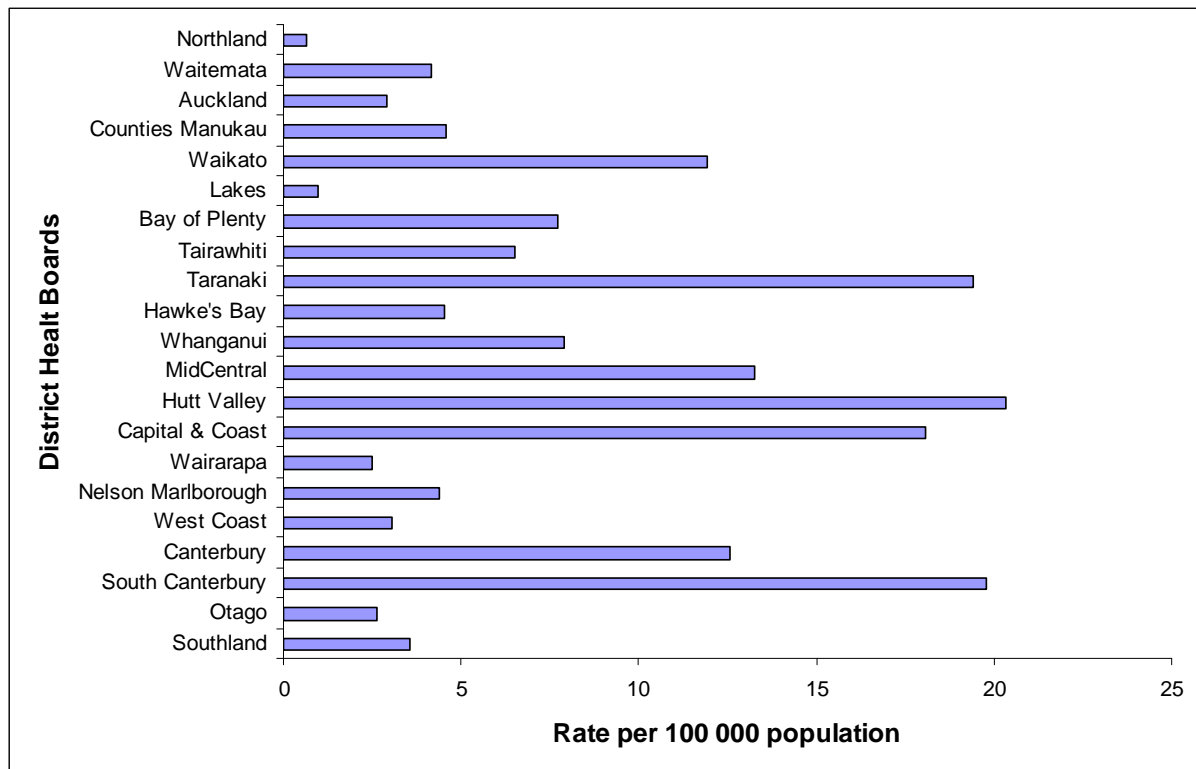


Figure 2: Geographical distribution of pertussis crude rates (cases per 100,000 population) since 26 December 2009.

Rates were calculated using 2009 mid-year population estimates. Rates calculated on fewer than five cases are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

Table 3 Pertussis cases and rates by DHB since 26 December 2009, including new cases in the last two weeks

DHB	Cumulative notifications			Last two weeks		
	Cases	Rates ¹	Hosp	Cases	Rates ¹	Hosp
Northland	1	0.6	0	0	0.0	0
Waitemata	22	4.2	6	3	0.6	1
Auckland	13	2.9	2	3	0.7	1
Counties Manukau	22	4.6	7	1	0.2	0
Waikato	43	11.9	2	4	1.1	0
Lakes	1	1.0	0	0	0.0	0
Bay of Plenty	16	7.7	3	0	0.0	0
Tairāwhiti	3	6.5	1	0	0.0	0
Taranaki	21	19.4	4	5	4.6	0
Hawke's Bay	7	4.5	2	0	0.0	0
Whanganui	5	7.9	0	0	0.0	0
MidCentral	22	13.3	3	0	0.0	0
Hutt Valley	29	20.3	1	0	0.0	0
Capital and Coast	52	18.0	2	0	0.0	0
Wairarapa	1	2.5	1	0	0.0	0
Nelson Marlborough	6	4.4	0	1	0.7	0
West Coast	1	3.1	0	1	3.1	0
Canterbury	63	12.6	2	8	1.6	0
South Canterbury	11	19.8	0	0	0.0	0
Otago	5	2.7	0	0	0.0	0
Southland	4	3.6	0	0	0.0	0
Total	348	8.1	36	26	0.6	2

¹Rate of confirmed and probable pertussis cases per 100,000 population calculated using 2009 mid-year population estimates.

²Cumulative notifications between 26 December 2009 and 17 April 2010

Hosp: hospitalisation counts

Rates calculated on fewer than five cases are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

Immunisation status

The immunisation status as reported to Public Health Service staff for confirmed pertussis cases is shown in Table 4 and Table 5.

Of the 15 confirmed cases reported in the last two weeks, five (33.3%) had a known vaccination status. Of these five cases, four were not vaccinated including one case aged less than six weeks and therefore not eligible for vaccination. One case had received one dose of vaccine.

Table 4 : Immunisation status of pertussis cases (confirmed) notified in the last two weeks

Age Group	Total cases	One dose	Two doses	Three doses	Four doses	Five doses	Vaccinated (no dose info)	Not vaccinated	Unknown
<6wks	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
6wks - 2mths	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
3-4 mths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5mths - 3yrs	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
4 - 10yrs	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
11+ yrs	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Total	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	10

Of the 208 confirmed cases reported since 26 December 2009, 132 (63.5%) had a known vaccination status. Of these 132 cases, 68 were not vaccinated including five cases aged less than six weeks and therefore not eligible for vaccination. Fifteen cases had received one dose of vaccine, five cases had received two doses of vaccine, 17 cases had received three doses of vaccine, five cases had received four doses and five cases reported having completed pertussis vaccination.

Table 5 : Immunisation status of pertussis cases (confirmed) notified since 26 December 2009

Age Group	Total cases	One dose	Two doses	Three doses	Four doses	Five doses	Vaccinated (no dose info)	Not vaccinated	Unknown
<6wks	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
6wks - 2mths	13	4	0	0	0	0	0	7	2
3-4 mths	6	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
5mths - 3yrs	36	1	3	9	0	0	3	14	6
4 - 10yrs	37	3	0	3	4	1	1	20	5
11+ yrs	111	5	0	5	1	4	12	22	62
Total	208	15	5	17	5	5	17	68	76

Appendix

Table 4 Case classification for pertussis notification in New Zealand

Confirmed	A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed by isolation of <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> from a pernasal swab, or epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.
Probable	Cough lasting longer than two weeks and one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paroxysmal cough • Cough ending in vomiting or apnoea • Inspiratory whoop for which there is no other known cause.
Suspect	In children under five years of age any paroxysmal cough with whoop, vomiting or apnoea for which there is no other known cause.
Other	Status recorded as <i>under investigation</i> or suspect case.
Notifications	Include confirmed cases, probable, and other as specified above.

This report is available on the internet from www.surv.esr.cri.nz