

# PERTUSSIS REPORT

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This report includes cases of pertussis reported in EpiSurv up to midnight 8 June 2012. Data were extracted from EpiSurv at 10.00 am 12 June 2012.

## Summary

In the past two surveillance weeks (26 May – 8 June 2012), 284 new cases of pertussis (169 and 115 cases, respectively) were notified, including 64 confirmed cases, 152 probable cases, 15 suspect cases, and 53 cases still under investigation. These numbers have increased compared to the numbers reported over the previous two weeks (255 cases). Thirteen (4.6%) of the notified cases were aged less than 1 year. Eight cases were hospitalised.

There has been a total of 2280 pertussis notifications reported in EpiSurv since the first surveillance week of 2012 (compared to 305 over the same period in 2011), including 833 confirmed cases, 1272 probable cases, 72 suspect cases, and 103 cases still under investigation. 160 (7.0%) of the notified cases were in the less than 1 year age group. During this period, 106 hospitalisations and no deaths have been reported.

In the last two weeks, the highest number of cases (excluding cases under investigation) was reported in Canterbury (51 cases), Capital and Coast (30 cases), and Counties Manukau (23 cases) DHBs. The highest cumulative rate to date in 2012 was recorded in Nelson Marlborough (253.0 per 100 000, 354 cases), followed by West Coast (242.7 per 100 000, 80 cases) and Tairāwhiti (141.6 per 100 000, 66 cases) DHBs. The highest number of notifications was reported from Canterbury DHB (490 cases), followed by Nelson Marlborough (354 cases), Capital and Coast (272), Counties Manukau (142) and Hutt Valley (127) DHBs.

This report summarises pertussis notifications for 2012 (first surveillance week starts on 31 December 2011) and new cases in the last two weeks, and incorporates the temporal distribution of cases, the distribution of cases by age, ethnicity (prioritised), and DHB, as well as hospitalisations and immunisation status. The case classification used in this report is specified in the appendix. The definitions of cases have changed following the release of the Ministry of Health's communicable disease control manual 2012 on 31 May 2012.

## Temporal distribution of pertussis cases

Figure 1 shows weekly total pertussis notifications for 2010, 2011 and 2012 (to week ending 8 June). Notifications for the past two weeks of 2012 remain well above 2011 and 2010 levels, although in 2011 they have been running above 2010 levels since week 34 (ending 26 August 2011) and have been rising more or less consistently. There was a decreasing trend in notifications through February and March 2012, although since the beginning of April there has been a general increase in weekly notifications. Note the total number of notifications may change as cases are investigated further and some are found not to meet the case definition. No deaths have been reported since the beginning of this year. Figure 5 (appendix) shows weekly pertussis notifications for confirmed, suspect and probable cases only for 2010, 2011 and 2012.

**Figure 1: Number of pertussis notifications by week reported 2010 - 2012**

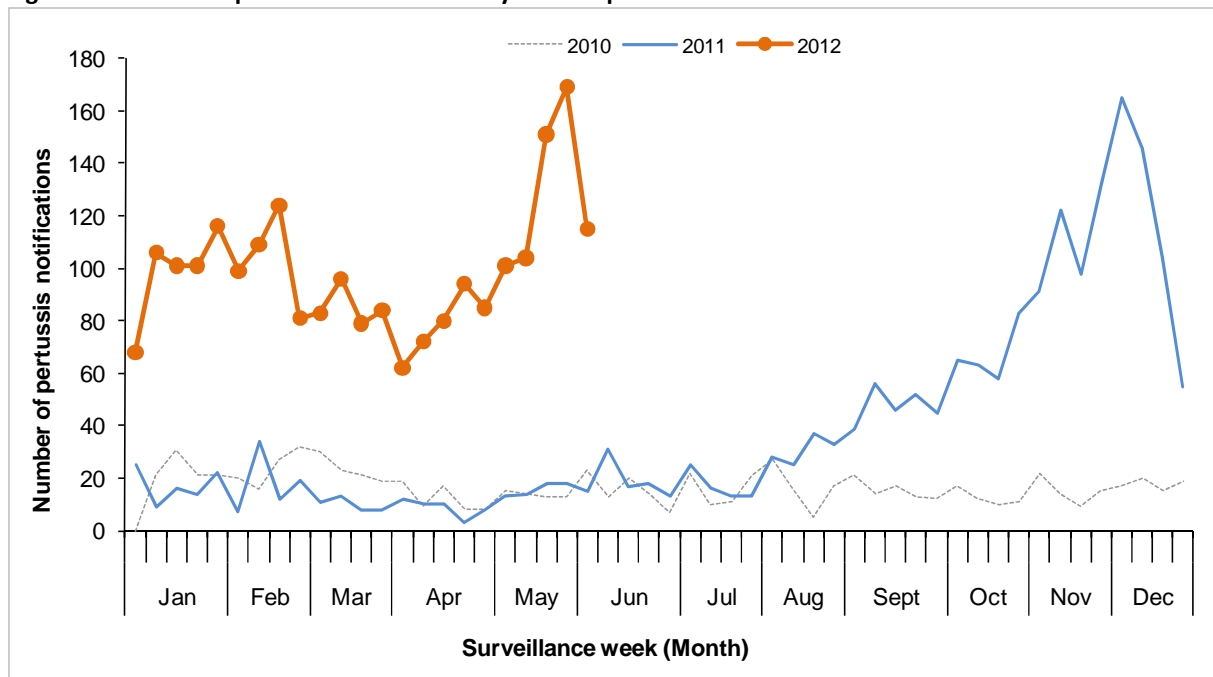
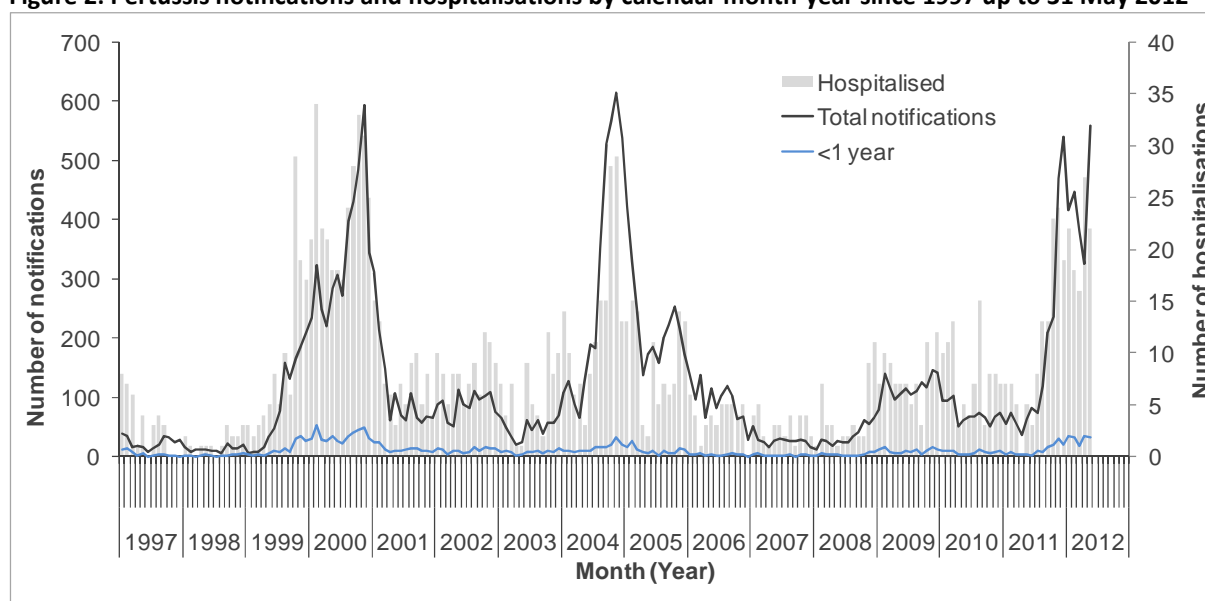


Figure 2 shows pertussis notifications and hospitalisations by calendar month, and notifications in those aged less than 1 year between 1 January 1997 and 31 May 2012. A four to five-year cycle can be seen with large peaks in notifications in years 2000 and 2004 and a much smaller peak in 2009. However, notifications have been rising again since May 2011. Increases in hospitalisations show a similar cycle, although peaks in hospitalisations do not always coincide with peaks in notifications. Figure 6 (appendix) shows annual rates in the less than 1 year age group over 1997-2011.

**Figure 2: Pertussis notifications and hospitalisations by calendar month-year since 1997 up to 31 May 2012**

In the following sections all analyses exclude cases still under investigation. Therefore, “cases” refer to those classified as confirmed, probable, or suspect.

### Age distribution of cases

Table 1 shows notifications and associated rates by age, including new cases for the last two weeks. Pertussis rates varied across age groups. Of the cases reported in 2012, infants aged less than one year had the highest cumulative incidence (248.5 per 100 000 population, 155 cases), followed by the 1 to 4 years (145.3 per 100 000, 366 cases), and 5 to 9 years (89.8 per 100 000, 258 cases) age groups.

Of the 2151 cumulative cases with known age, 19 (0.9%) were infants under 6 weeks of age. Figure 3 shows the cumulative incidence of pertussis cases by age group and ethnicity in 2012.

**Table 1: Pertussis cases and rates by age group in 2012, and new cases in the last two weeks**

Age group (Years)	Cumulative <sup>2</sup> notifications			Last two weeks <sup>3</sup>	
	All cases <sup>1</sup>	Rates <sup>1</sup>	Hosp	New Cases	Hosp
<1	155	248.5	63	11	3
1 to 4	366	145.3	7	25	1
5 to 9	258	89.8	4	31	0
10 to 14	182	62.1	2	25	0
15 to 19	111	35.0	3	14	1
20 to 29	196	31.7	2	25	0
30 to 39	236	41.9	5	18	0
40 to 49	280	44.3	5	24	0
50 to 59	180	32.4	8	26	0
60 to 69	118	28.3	4	18	2
70+	69	17.0	1	8	0
Unknown	10		0	6	0
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2177</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>7</b>

<sup>1</sup>Rate of pertussis cases per 100 000 population calculated using 2011 mid-year population estimates.

<sup>2</sup>Cumulative notifications (excluding cases under investigation) since 31 December 2011

<sup>3</sup>Notifications between 26 May and 8 June 2012 inclusive

**Hosp:** hospitalisation counts

## Ethnicity

Pertussis cases and rates by ethnicity are shown in Table 2. Of the pertussis cases with known ethnicity, the European ethnic group had the highest numbers reported in the last two weeks (145 cases). Of the cases in 2012, the ethnic-specific cumulative rates were highest for the European ethnic group (60.7 per 100 000, 1635 cases), followed by Māori (46.7 per 100 000, 264 cases) and Pacific Peoples (35.4 per 100 000, 80 cases). Figure 3 shows the European ethnic group having the highest rates across all age groups except the under 1 year age group, followed by Māori. The ethnic distribution of cases in the under 1 year age group is also shown below. The Pacific Peoples ethnic group had the highest rates in this age group, followed by European.

**Table 2: Pertussis cases and rates by ethnicity (prioritised) in 2012, and new cases in the last two weeks**

Ethnicity	Cumulative <sup>2</sup> notifications			Last two weeks <sup>3</sup>		
	All cases <sup>1</sup>	<1 year <sup>1</sup>	Hosp (% <sup>4</sup> )	New Cases	<1 year	Hosp
Māori	264 (46.7)	37 (263.7)	28 (10.6)	25	2	1
Pacific Peoples	80 (35.4)	19 (371.0)	21(26.3)	4	0	0
Other	79 (21.1)	4 (76.1)	3 (3.8)	9	0	1
European	1635 (60.7)	86 (289.5)	48 (2.9)	145	6	5
Unknown	119	9	4	48	3	0
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2177</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>

<sup>1</sup>Value in brackets denotes rate of pertussis cases per 100 000 population calculated using Census 2006 usually resident populations.

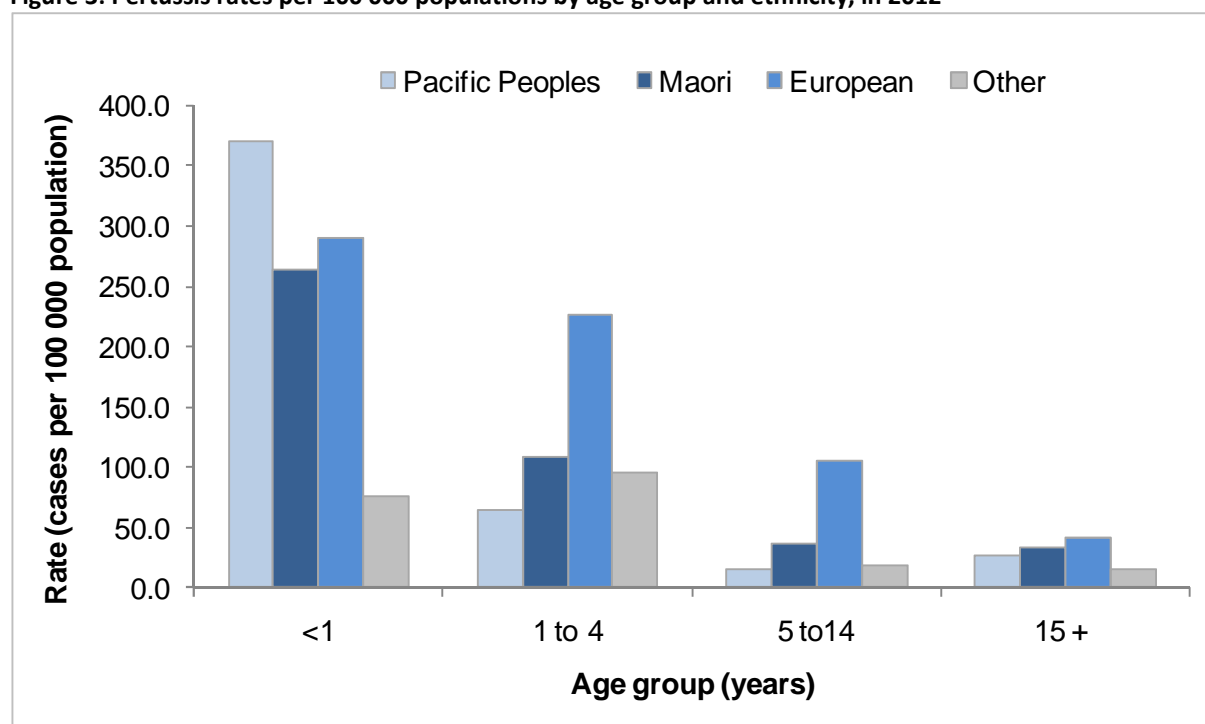
<sup>2</sup>Cumulative notifications (excluding cases under investigation) since 31 December 2011

<sup>3</sup>Notifications between 26 May and 8 June 2012 inclusive

<sup>4</sup>Percentage of hospitalised notifications by ethnic group

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

**Figure 3: Pertussis rates per 100 000 populations by age group and ethnicity, in 2012**



**Note:** Rate of pertussis cases per 100 000 population calculated using Census 2006 usually resident populations. Rates calculated on fewer than five cases are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 7 (appendix) shows the trend of cumulative pertussis notification rates (per 100 000 population) by age group and ethnicity for years 2003 to 2011. Over this time period rates

have been generally highest among Pacific Peoples in the less than 1 year age group, while in other age groups rates have been consistently highest in the European ethnic group. Note that these rates are for all notifications.

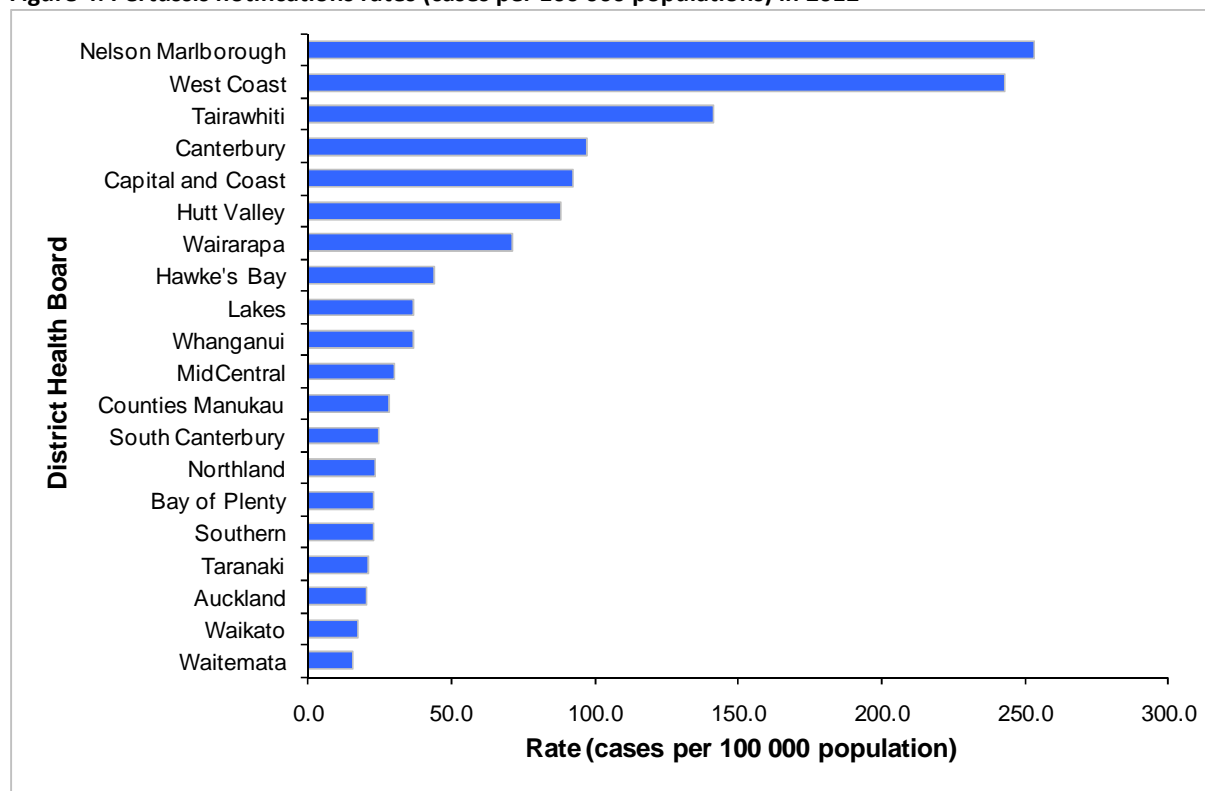
## Hospitalisations

The distribution of hospitalisations by age group, ethnicity, and DHB is described in Table 1, Table 2 and Table 5, respectively. In the last two weeks, seven hospitalisations were recorded. There have been 104 hospitalisations reported in EpiSurv in 2012. Sixty-three (60.6%) of these were infants aged less than one year including 17 cases aged less than six weeks. Of the 1877 cases with known ethnicity and hospitalisation status, the ethnic-specific proportions of hospitalisations were as follows: Pacific Peoples (28.4%, 21/74), Māori (11.6%, 28/242), European (6.7%, 48/1492), and Other (4.3%, 3/69).

## Geographic distribution

The rates of pertussis notifications by DHB can be seen in Figure 4 and Table 5 (appendix). In the last two weeks, the highest number of cases was reported in Canterbury (51 cases), Capital and Coast (30 cases), and Counties Manukau (27 cases) DHBs. The highest cumulative rate in 2012 was recorded in Nelson Marlborough (253.0 per 100 000, 354 cases), followed by West Coast (242.7 per 100 000, 80 cases) and Tairāwhiti (141.6 per 100 000, 66 cases) DHBs. The highest number of notifications was reported from Canterbury DHB (490 cases), followed by Nelson Marlborough (354 cases), Capital and Coast (272), Counties Manukau (142) and Hutt Valley (127) DHBs. Cases in the under 1 year age group by DHB are shown in Table 5 (appendix).

**Figure 4: Pertussis notifications rates (cases per 100 000 populations) in 2012**



**Note:** Rates were calculated using 2011 mid-year population estimates. Rates calculated on fewer than five cases are unstable and should be interpreted with caution (see Appendix for table).

## Immunisation status

The immunisation status for confirmed pertussis cases with known age is shown in Table 3 and Table 4 for the last two weeks and for 2012, respectively. Of the 64 confirmed cases reported in the last two weeks, 27 (42.2%) had a known vaccination status. Of these 27 cases, nine were not vaccinated. One case had received one dose of vaccine, four cases had received three doses, four cases had received four doses, and two cases reported having completed pertussis vaccination. A further six cases reported being vaccinated but no dose information was available.

**Table 3: Immunisation status of pertussis cases (confirmed) notified in the last two weeks (ending 8 June)**

Age Group	Total cases	One dose	Two doses	Three doses	Four doses	Five doses	Vaccinated		Unknown
							(no dose info)	Not vaccinated	
<6wks	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
6wks - 2mths	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
3-4 mths	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5mths - 3yrs	7	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	1
4 - 10yrs	18	0	0	1	2	1	3	3	8
11+ yrs	33	1	0	1	1	1	2	3	24
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>37</b>

**Note:** Immunisation status has been extracted from Episurv notifications and is based on parental recall or Well Child book records only.

Of the 748 confirmed cases with known age reported during 2012, 539 (72.1%) had a known vaccination status (Table 4). Of these 539 cases, 179 were not vaccinated, including seven cases aged less than 6 weeks and thus not eligible for vaccination. Fifty-three cases had received one dose of vaccine, eight cases had received two doses, 83 cases had received three doses, 70 cases had received four doses, and 36 cases reported having completed pertussis vaccination. A further 110 cases reported being vaccinated but no dose information was available.

**Table 4: Immunisation status of pertussis cases (confirmed) notified in 2012 (since 31 December 2011)**

Age Group	Total cases	One dose	Two doses	Three doses	Four doses	Five doses	Vaccinated		Unknown
							(no dose info)	Not vaccinated	
<6wks	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3
6wks - 2mths	22	12	0	0	0	0	0	8	2
3-4 mths	15	3	3	0	0	0	1	7	1
5mths - 3yrs	157	2	4	64	17	0	14	39	17
4 - 10yrs	184	5	0	13	43	22	19	58	24
11+ yrs	444	31	1	6	10	14	76	60	246
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>293</b>

**Note:** Immunisation status has been extracted from Episurv notifications and is based on parental recall or Well Child book records only.

## Appendix

Table 5: Pertussis cases and rates by DHB in 2012, and new cases in the last two weeks

DHB	Cumulative <sup>2</sup> notifications				Last two weeks <sup>3</sup>		
	All cases	Rates <sup>1</sup>	<1 year*	Hosp	New Cases	<1 year*	Hosp
Northland	37	23.4	4	2	2	0	0
Waitemata	86	15.8	7	9	12	0	0
Auckland	93	20.4	10	11	10	1	1
Counties Manukau	142	28.4	23	24	27	0	2
Waikato	64	17.4	4	4	8	1	0
Lakes	38	36.9	2	1	4	1	1
Bay of Plenty	49	23.1	2	2	4	0	0
Tairāwhiti	66	141.6	7	1	1	0	0
Taranaki	23	20.9	1	1	4	0	1
Hawke's Bay	69	44.3	5	4	9	0	0
Whanganui	23	36.5	3	0	22	3	0
MidCentral	51	30.3	5	2	6	0	0
Hutt Valley	127	87.9	8	3	13	1	0
Capital and Coast	272	92.3	16	4	30	1	0
Wairarapa	29	71.5	3	6	0	0	0
Nelson Marlborough	354	253.0	20	4	14	1	0
West Coast	80	242.7	2	1	4	0	0
Canterbury	490	97.5	20	14	51	2	2
South Canterbury	14	24.8	0	1	0	0	0
Southern	70	22.8	13	10	10	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2177</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>

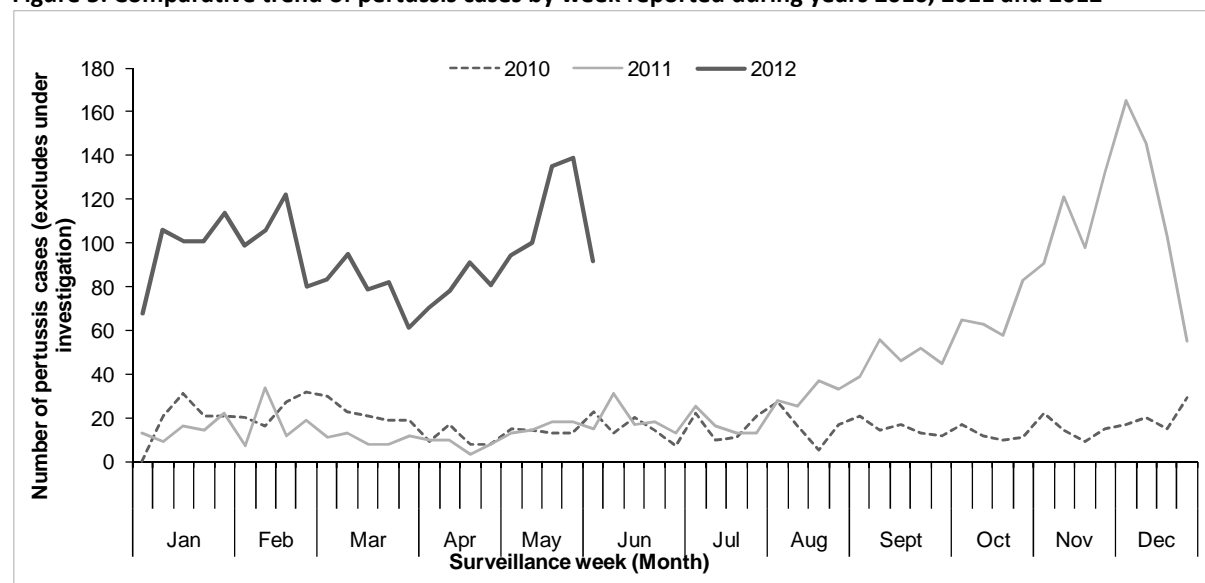
<sup>1</sup>Rate of pertussis cases per 100 000 population calculated using 2011 mid-year population estimates.

<sup>2</sup>Cumulative notifications (excluding cases under investigation) since 31 December 2011

<sup>3</sup>Notifications between 26 May and 8 June 2012 inclusive

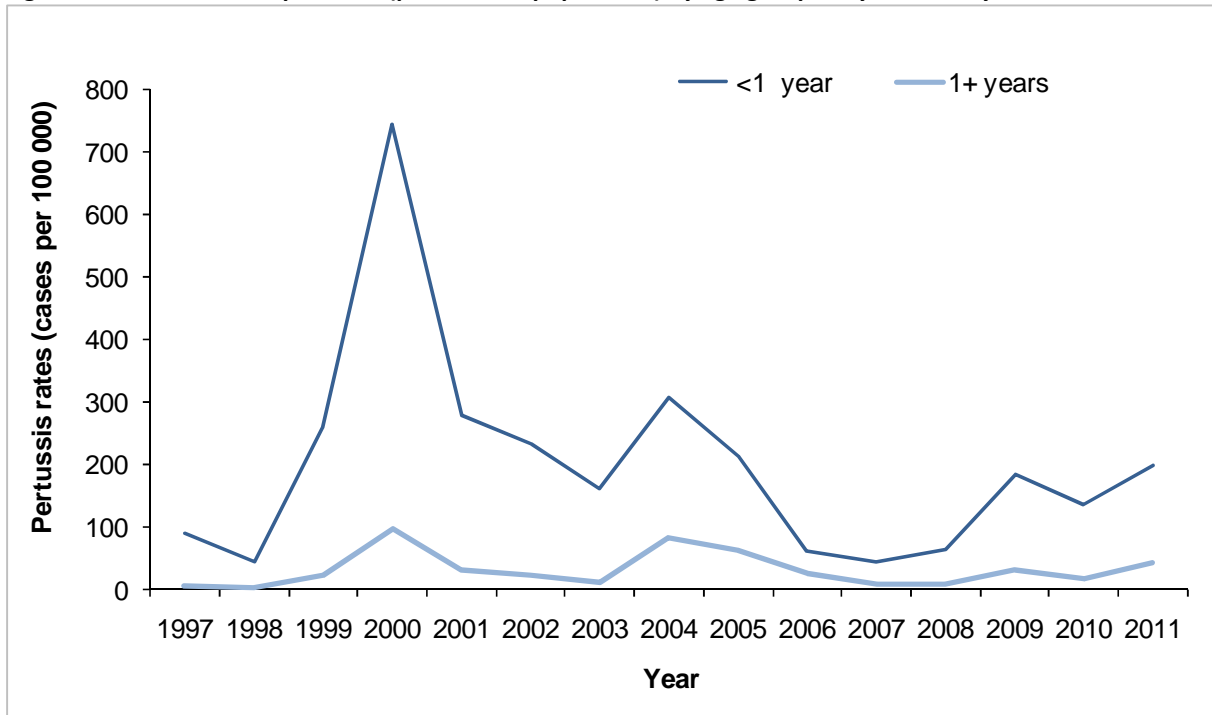
\*Cases in the less than 1 year age group

Figure 5: Comparative trend of pertussis cases by week reported during years 2010, 2011 and 2012



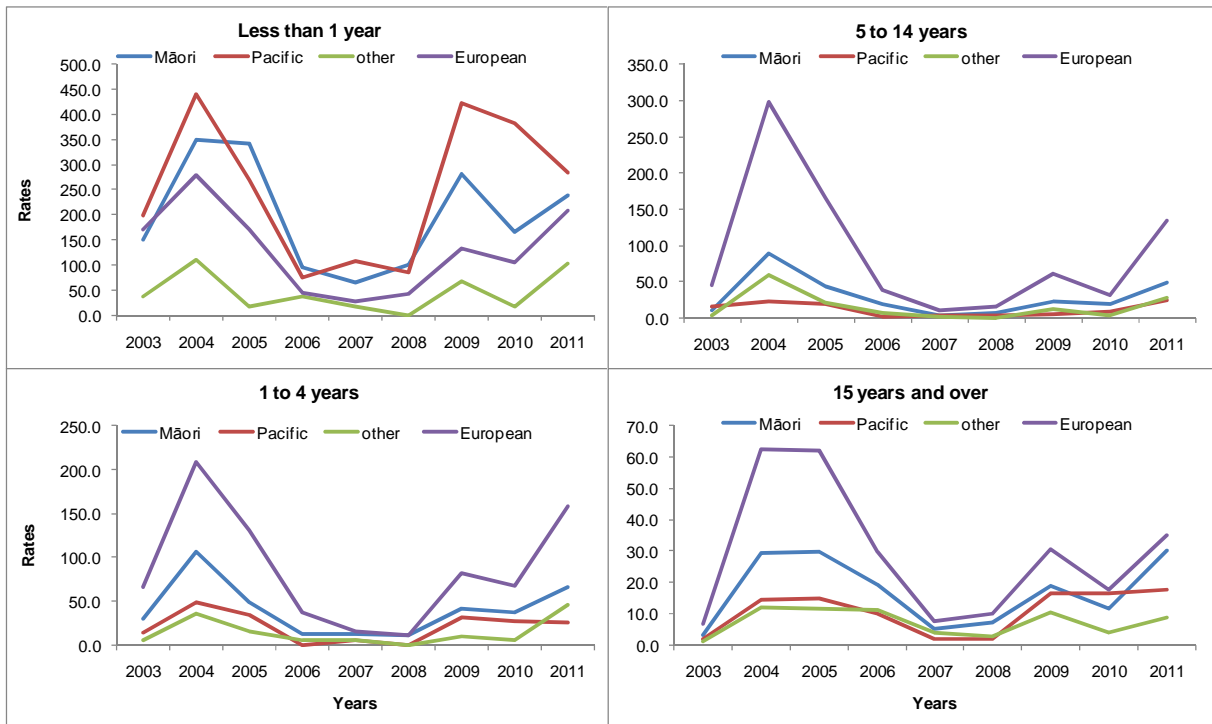
Note: Includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases only.

Figure 6: Annual rates of pertussis (per 100 000 population) by age group, <1 year vs. 1+ year, 1997-2011



Note: Rate of pertussis notified cases per 100 000 population calculated using mid-year population estimates.

Figure 7: Trends in cumulative pertussis rates (per 100 000 population) by age group and ethnicity, 2003 to 2011



Note: Rate of pertussis notified cases per 100 000 population (includes cases under investigation) calculated using mid-year population estimates



**Case classification for pertussis notification in New Zealand to 31 May 2012**

<b>Confirmed</b>	A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed, or is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.
<b>Probable</b>	A clinically compatible illness with a high <i>B. pertussis</i> IgA test or a significant increase in antibody levels between paired sera at the same laboratory  OR  A cough lasting longer than two weeks and with one or more of the following, for which there is no other known cause: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paroxysmal cough</li> <li>• Cough ending in vomiting or apnoea</li> <li>• Inspiratory whoop</li> </ul>
<b>Suspect</b>	In children under five years of age any paroxysmal cough with whoop, vomiting or apnoea for which there is no other known cause.
<b>Under investigation</b>	A case that has been notified, but information is not yet available to classify it as suspect, probable or confirmed.
<b>Notifications</b>	Include confirmed cases, probable, and under investigation as specified above.

This report will be available at: <http://www.surv.esr.cri.nz/surveillance/PertussisRpt.php>.