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DEGLI STUDI DI BARI  
ALDO MORO

**CORSO DI IGIENE**

**Scuola  
di  
Medicina**

**Pertussis**



# Pertussis

- Acute infectious disease caused by *Bordetella pertussis*
- Outbreaks first described in 16th century
- *Bordetella pertussis* isolated in 1906
- Estimated 195,000 deaths worldwide in 2008



# Bordetella pertussis

- Fastidious gram-negative bacteria
- Antigenic and biologically active components:
  - pertussis toxin (PT)
  - filamentous hemagglutinin (FHA)
  - agglutinogens
  - adenylate cyclase
  - pertactin
  - tracheal cytotoxin



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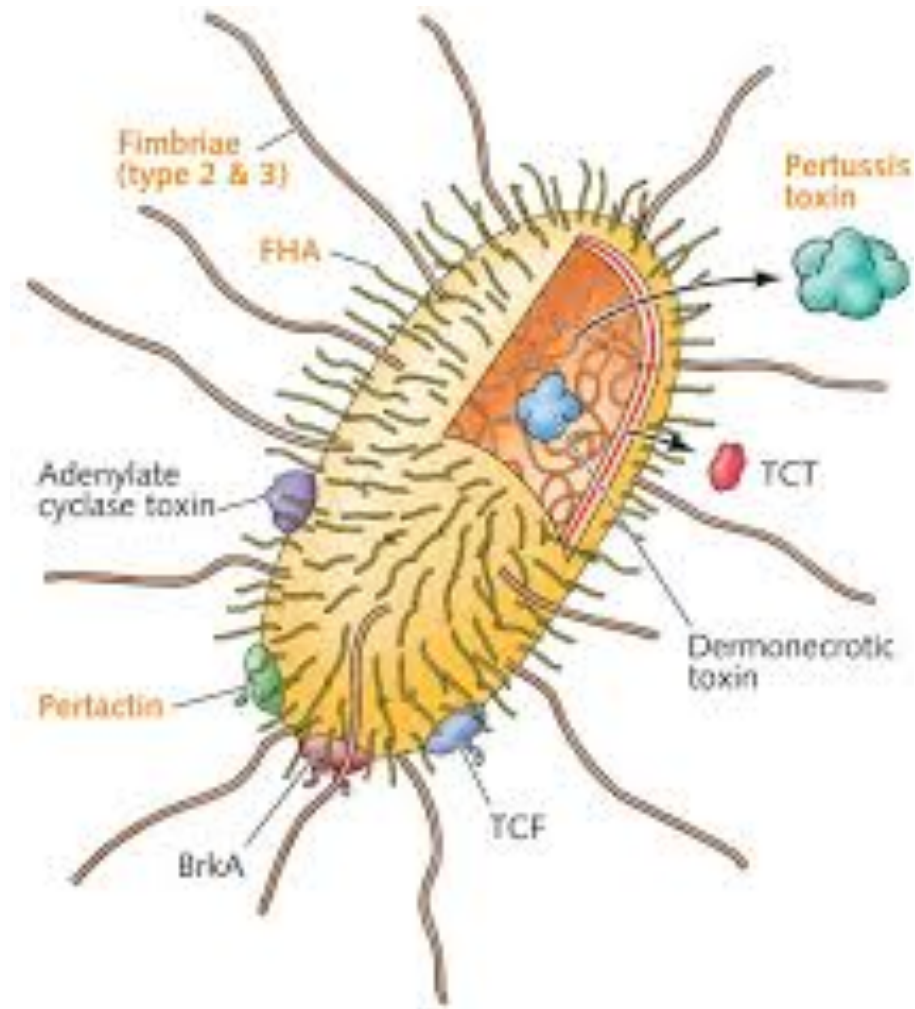
# Bordetella pertussis



**Bordetella pertussis**



# Bordetella pertussis





# Pertussis Pathogenesis

- Primarily a toxin-mediated disease
- Bacteria attach to cilia of respiratory epithelial cells
- Inflammation occurs which interferes with clearance of pulmonary secretions
- Pertussis antigens allow evasion of host defenses (lymphocytosis promoted but impaired chemotaxis)



# Pertussis Clinical Features

- Incubation period: 7-10 days (range 4-21 days)
- Insidious onset, similar to the common cold with nonspecific cough
- Fever usually minimal throughout course of illness
- **Catarrhal stage: 1-2 weeks**
- **Paroxysmal cough stage: 1-6 weeks**
- **Convalescence: weeks to months**



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# Pertussis Clinical Features







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# Pertussis Clinical Features





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# Pertussis Among Children, Adolescents and Adults

- Disease often milder than in infants and young children
- Infection may be asymptomatic, or may present as classic pertussis
- Persons with mild disease may transmit the infection
- Older persons often source of infection for children



# Pertussis Complications in Children

- Secondary bacterial pneumonia – most common
- Neurologic complications – seizures, encephalopathy more common among infants
- Otitis media
- Anorexia
- Dehydration
- Pneumothorax
- Epistaxis
- Subdural hematomas
- Hernias
- Rectal prolapse



# Pertussis Complications in Adolescents and Adults

- Difficulty sleeping
- Urinary incontinence
- Pneumonia
- Rib fracture



# Pertussis Laboratory Diagnosis

- Culture – gold standard
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
  - can confirm pertussis in an outbreak
  - highly sensitive
  - high false-positive rate
- Serology
  - can confirm illness late in the course of infection
  - many tests have unproven or unknown clinical accuracy
- Direct fluorescent antibody test
  - low sensitivity
  - variable specificity
  - should not be used for laboratory confirmation



# Medical management

- Antibiotics
  - azithromycin
  - clarithromycin
  - erythromycin
  - Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole
- supportive therapy





# Contacts management

- **All close contacts** of persons with pertussis must receive **antibiotics**
- All close contacts **younger than 7 years** of age who have not completed the four-dose primary series should **complete the series** with the minimal intervals
- Close contacts who are **4–6 years of age** and who have not yet received the booster dose **should be vaccinated.**



# Pertussis Epidemiology

- Reservoir
  - Human Adolescents and adults
- Transmission
  - Respiratory droplets
- Communicability
  - Maximum in catarrhal stage
  - Secondary attack rate up to 80%



# Pertussis paradox



No vaccination



High coverage rate in  
pediatric age



High incidence in the  
first year of age



Low incidence



Frequent natural  
booster



Less frequent natural  
booster



Immunity in  
adolescents/adults



Waning immunity in  
adolescents/adults



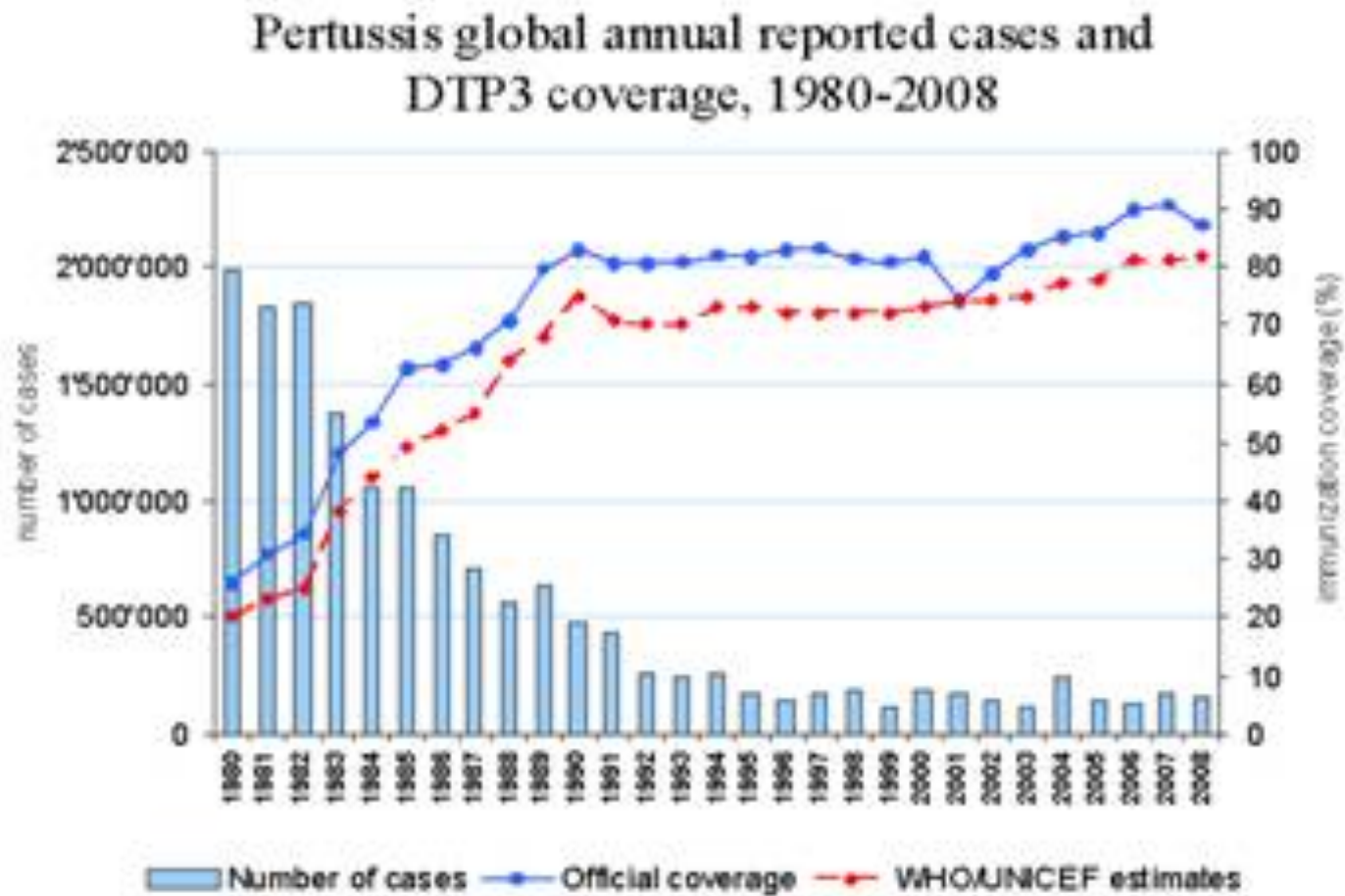
Disease prevailing in  
young children



Disease most frequent  
in infants (< 6 months)  
and adolescents/adults



# Pertussis epidemiology

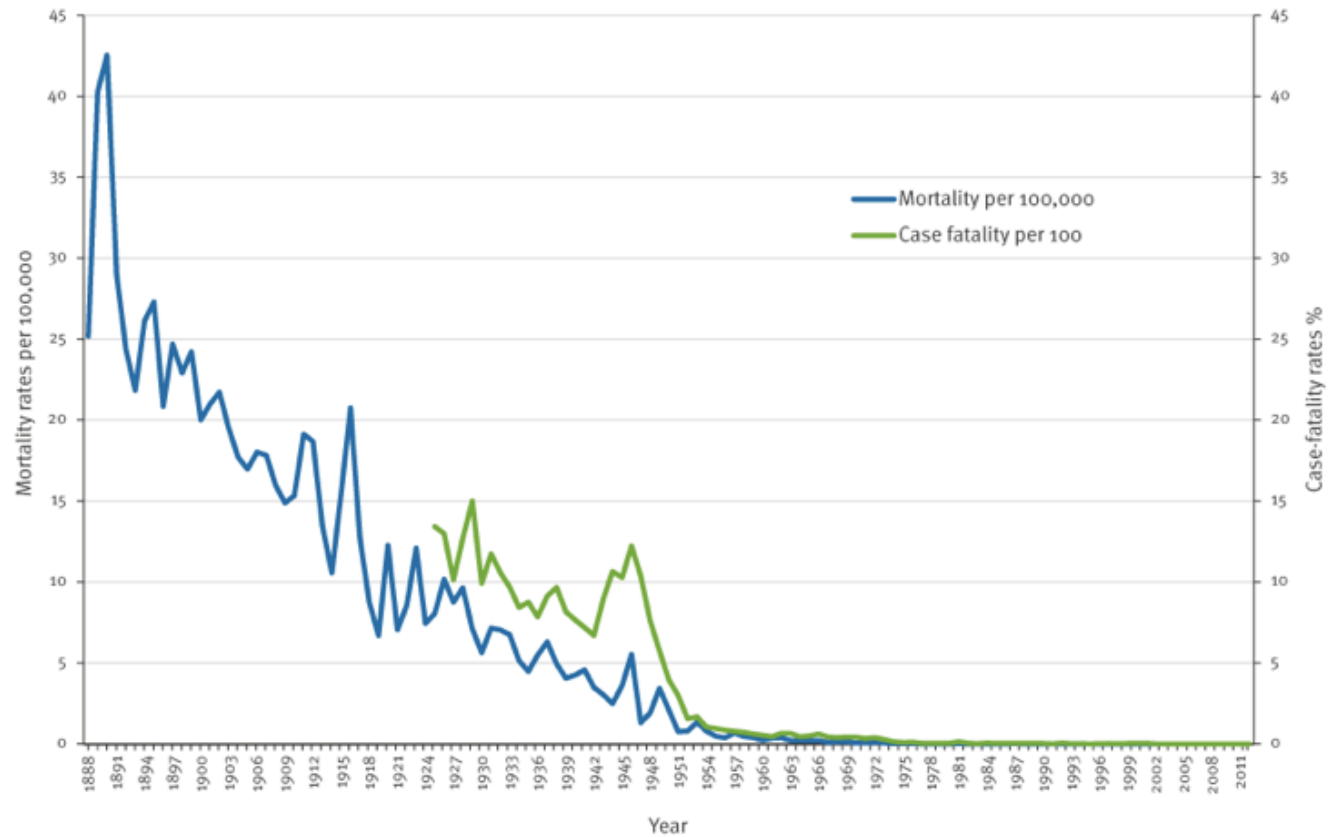




# Epidemiology of pertussis, Italy, 1888-2012

FIGURE 1

Pertussis mortality and case fatality, Italy, 1888–2012 and 1925–2012 respectively



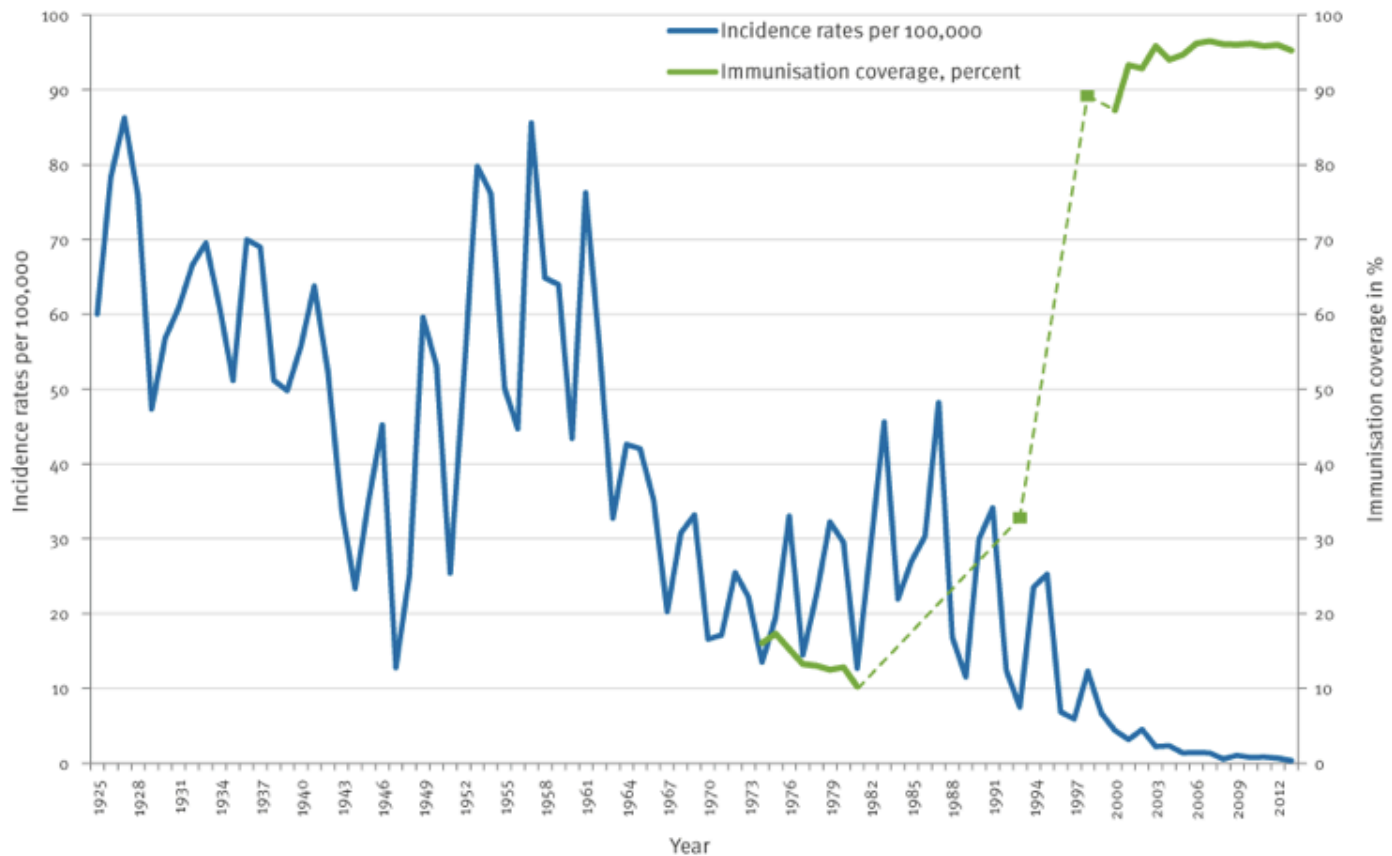
Provisional data for 2012



# Epidemiology of pertussis, Italy, 1925-2003

**FIGURE 2**

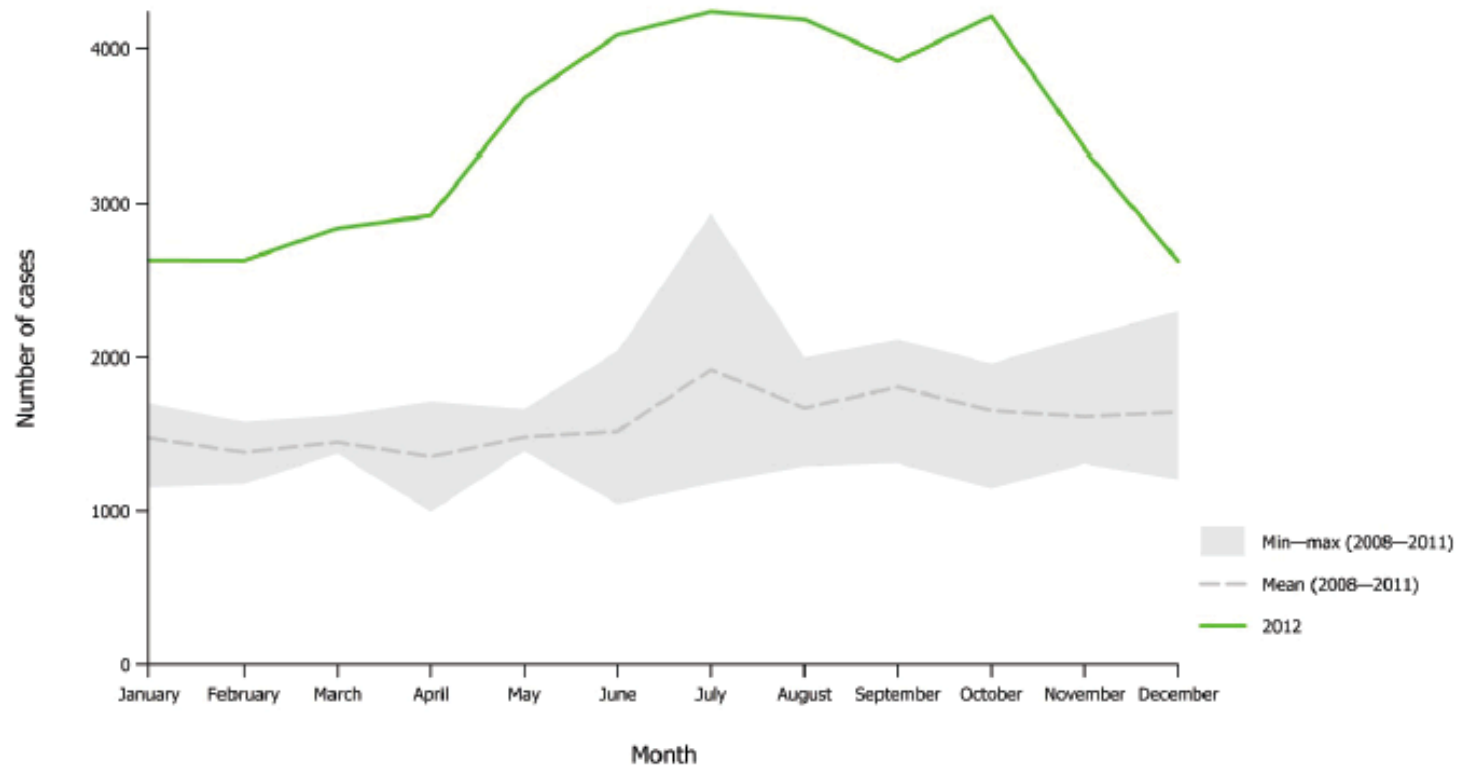
Pertussis incidence and pertussis immunisation coverage at 24 months, Italy, 1925–2013





# Epidemiology of pertussis, Europe 2008-2011

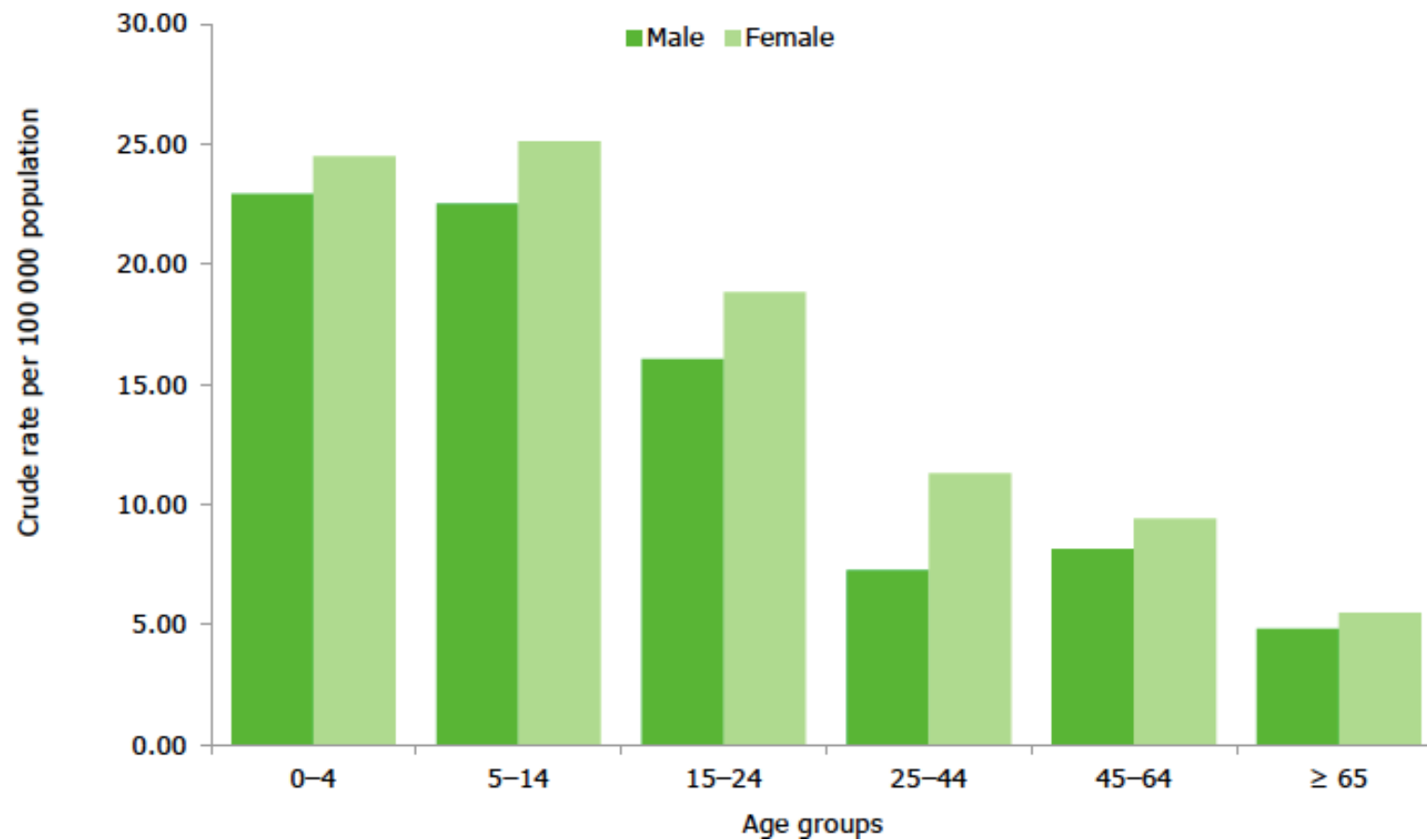
**Figure 3.** Distribution of confirmed pertussis reported cases by month in 2012 compared with 2008–2011 data, EU/EEA





# Epidemiology of pertussis, Europe 2012

**Figure 2.** Rates of confirmed pertussis reported cases by age and gender, EU/EEA, 2012







# Whole-Cell Pertussis Vaccine

- Developed in 1930s and used widely in clinical practice through mid-1940s
- DTP - 70%-90% effective after 4 doses
- Little to no protection after 5-10 years
- Local adverse reactions common



# Pertussis-containing Vaccines

- DTaP (pediatric)
  - approved for children 6 weeks through 6 years (to age 7 years)
- Tdap (adolescent and adult)
  - approved for persons 10 years and older (Boostrix) and 10 through 64 years (Adacel)



## Composition\* of Acellular Pertussis Vaccines

Product	PT	FHA	PERT	FIM
Infarix	25	25	8	--
Daptacel	10	5	3	5
Boostrix	8	8	2.5	--
Adacel	2.5	5	3	5

*\*mcg per dose*



# Interchangeability of Different Brands of DTaP Vaccine

- Series should be completed with same brand of vaccine if possible
- Limited data suggest that “mix and match” DTaP schedules do not adversely affect safety and immunogenicity
- Use different brand of DTaP if necessary



# Routine DTaP Primary Vaccination Schedule

Dose	USA	Italy
Primary 1	2 months	3 months
Primary 2	4 months	5-6 months
Primary 3	6 months	11-12 months
Primary 4	15-18 months	Not indicated
Booster 1	4-6 years	5-6 years
Booster 2	11-12 years	13-14 years
Periodical booster*	Every ten years	Every ten years

*\*for close contact of newborns*



# Tdap Recommendations

A single dose of Tdap is recommended for

- adolescents 11 through 18 years of age
- adults 19 and older
- children 7-10 years of age who are not fully vaccinated against pertussis



# Tdap Recommendations for Pregnant Women

- Providers of prenatal care should implement a Tdap vaccination program for pregnant women who previously have not received Tdap
- Administer Tdap in each pregnancy, preferably at **27 through 36 weeks gestation**
- If not administered during pregnancy, Tdap should be administered immediately **postpartum**, for women not previously vaccinated with Tdap



# Tdap Vaccine and Healthcare Personnel

- Healthcare personnel should receive a **single dose of Tdap as soon as feasible** if they have not previously received Tdap
- Priority should be given to vaccination of healthcare personnel who have direct **contact with infants 12 months of age and younger**





## Tdap For Persons Without A History of DTP or DTaP

- All adolescents and adults should have documentation of having received a series of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td
- Persons without documentation should receive a **series of 3 vaccinations**
- **One dose should be Tdap**, preferably the first



# Pertussis Vaccine Use in Children with Underlying Neurologic Disorders

Undelying condition	Recommendation
Prior seizure	Delay and assess*
Suspected neurologic disorder	Delay and assess*
Neurologic event between doses	Delay and assess*
Stable/resolved neurologic condition	Vaccinate

*\*vaccinate after treatment initiated and condition stabilized*



## DTaP/Tdap Contraindications

- Severe allergic reaction to vaccine component or following a prior dose
- Encephalopathy not due to another identifiable cause occurring within 7 days after vaccination



# DTaP Precautions

- Moderate or severe acute illness
- Temperature ( $40.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or higher within 48 hours with no other identifiable cause
- Collapse or shock-like state (hypotonic-hyporesponsive episode) within 48 hours
- Persistent, inconsolable crying lasting 3 hours or longer, occurring within 48 hours
- Convulsions with or without fever occurring within 3 days



# Tdap Precautions

- History of Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6 weeks after a prior dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine
- Progressive neurologic disorder until the condition has stabilized
- History of a severe local reaction (Arthus reaction) following a prior dose of a tetanus and/or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine
- Moderate or severe acute illness



# DTaP Adverse Reactions

- Local reactions (pain, redness, swelling)  
20%-40%
- Temp of 38° C
  - 3%-5% or higher
- More severe adverse reactions
  - not common
- Local reactions more common following  
4th and 5th doses



# Tdap Adverse Reactions

- Local reactions (pain, redness, swelling)
  - 21%-66%
- Temp of 38°C or higher
  - 1.4%
- Adverse reactions occur at approximately the same rate as Td alone (without acellular pertussis vaccine)