

Weekly Pertussis Update for Washington State

Washington State Department of Health

2024 year-to-date (YTD) confirmed and probable cases reported through 03/30/2024 (week 13).

This update summarizes all reports of pertussis in persons with illness onset dates during [CDC weeks 1 - 13](#). The included reports were received by local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and reported to Washington State Department of Health (DOH) – Communicable Disease Epidemiology. Lab result reporting and case investigations take time, so it sometimes takes 3 to 4 weeks after a positive test for a case to be classified as confirmed or probable pertussis. The data presented in this report is therefore subject to change over time.

There have been a total of 100 cases reported statewide so far in 2024, compared to 20 cases reported by week 13 in 2023. Dates for the 2023/2024 comparison are based primarily on symptom onset dates. For information about pertussis case counts in prior years, please refer to DOH's [Communicable Disease Annual Reports](#) or the [Annual Pertussis Reports](#).

Figure 1: Number of Pertussis Cases Reported in Washington State by CDC Week of Symptom Onset: 2023 (blue) vs 2024 (red)

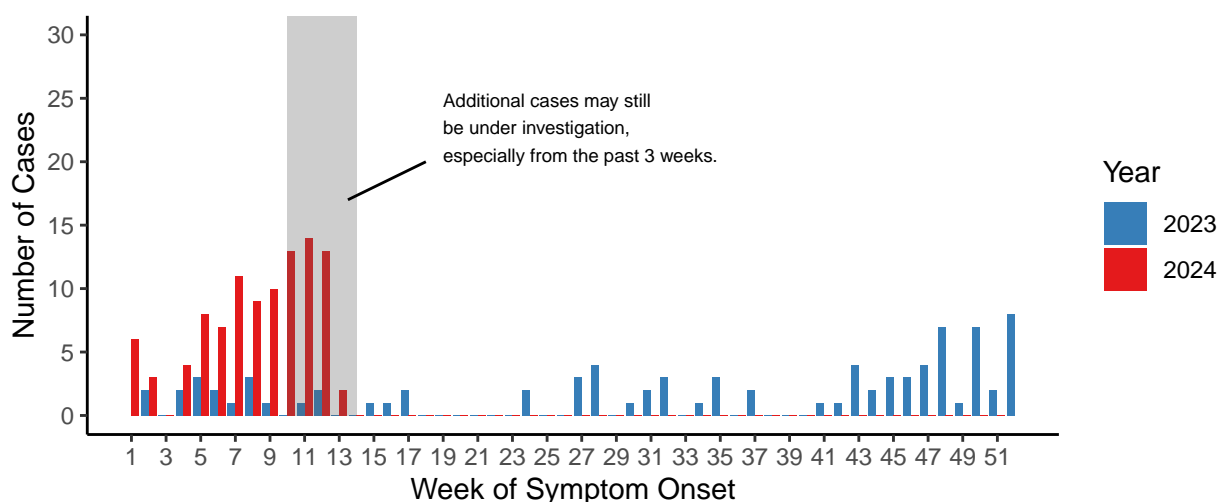


Figure 2: WA State Pertussis Cases Reported by Month and Year (black) with Projected Baseline and Epidemic Thresholds (red dashed lines), 2014 through year-to-date 2024

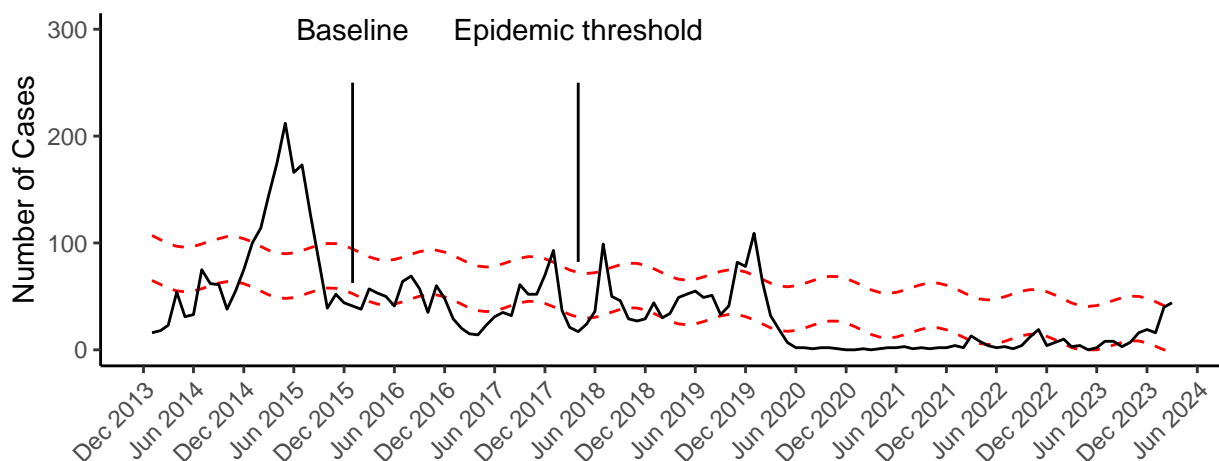


Table 1: WA State Pertussis Cases by Age Group, 2024 weeks 1 - 13

Age Group	OFM 2022 Population	Number of Cases	Rate per 100,000 persons	% of cases by age group*
< 1	88,441	5	5.7	5
1 - 4	349,505	14	4.0	14
5 - 9	476,054	14	2.9	14
10 - 13	396,426	21	5.3	21
14 - 18	480,566	26	5.4	26
19 - 24	588,771	4	0.7	4
25 - 44	2,225,672	14	0.6	14
45 - 64	1,911,375	1	0.1	1
65+	1,347,568	1	0.1	1
All ages	7,864,378	100	1.3	100

**Due to rounding, percentages may not always add up to 100%*

The overall year-to-date incidence rate is 1.3 pertussis cases per 100,000 Washington residents from weeks 1 through 13, with an incidence rate among infants under one year of age of 5.7 cases per 100,000 (see Table 1). Infants under one year of age are among the most vulnerable to severe pertussis disease.

None of the four infants who had pertussis so far in 2024 were up-to-date on pertussis vaccine.

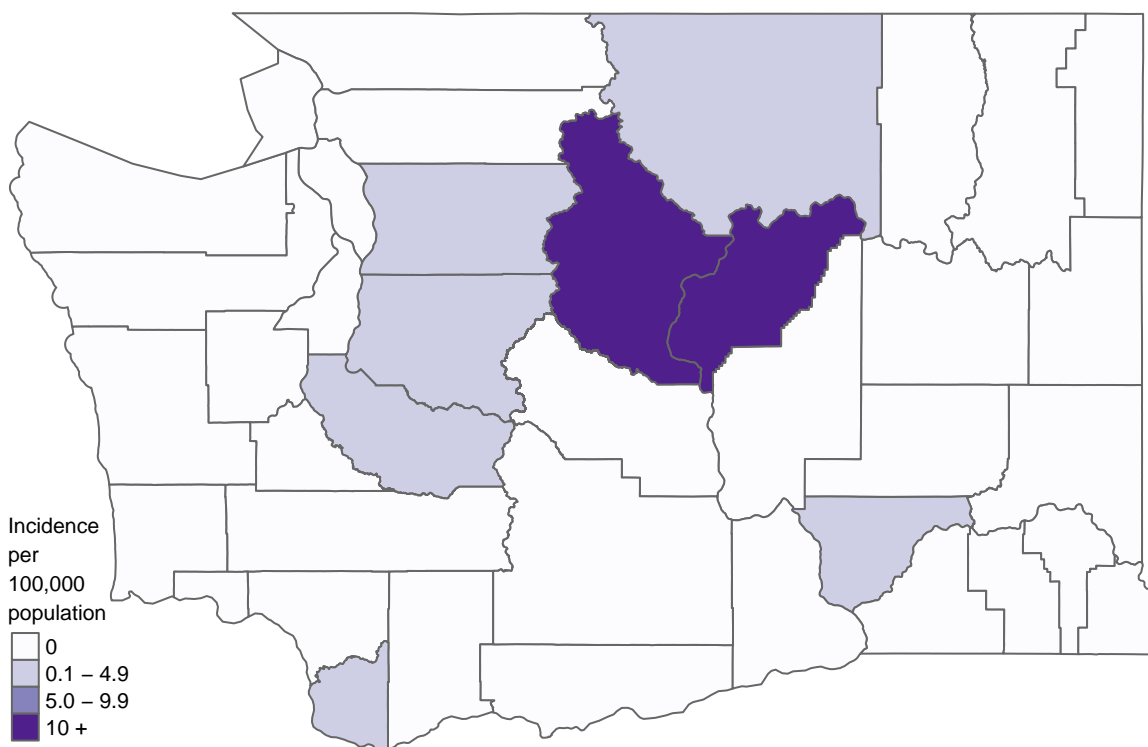
Table 2: WA State Pertussis Cases by County, 2024 weeks 1 - 13

County	Number of Cases	OFM 2022 Population	Rate per 100,000 persons
Chelan	52	80,648	64.5
King	16	2,317,702	0.7
Douglas	15	43,997	34.1
Clark	6	520,898	1.2
Pierce	5	937,403	0.5
Okanogan	2	42,702	4.7
Franklin	1	99,756	1.0
Snohomish	1	847,301	0.1
Spokane	1	550,703	0.2
Whatcom	1	231,648	0.4

Among the 10 counties with reported pertussis activity so far in 2024, the number of pertussis cases in a given county ranges from 1 to 52 and county-level YTD incidence rates range from 0.1 to 64.5 per 100,000 persons (see Table 2).

- The median and mean county-level year-to-date incidence rates in counties reporting pertussis activity are 0.9 and 10.7 per 100,000 persons, respectively.
- 29 counties have reported no pertussis cases as of CDC week 13 of this year.

Figure 3: Six-Week Pertussis Incidence Rates by County, 2024 weeks 7 - 13



The incubation period for pertussis is up to 21 days, so six weeks represents two 21-day incubation periods. Outbreaks of pertussis are usually declared over after six weeks have passed with no additional cases. The map above uses the past six weeks of data to highlight areas where the potential for continuing outbreaks exists based on current patterns of reported pertussis disease.

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