

Pertussis - Data Brief

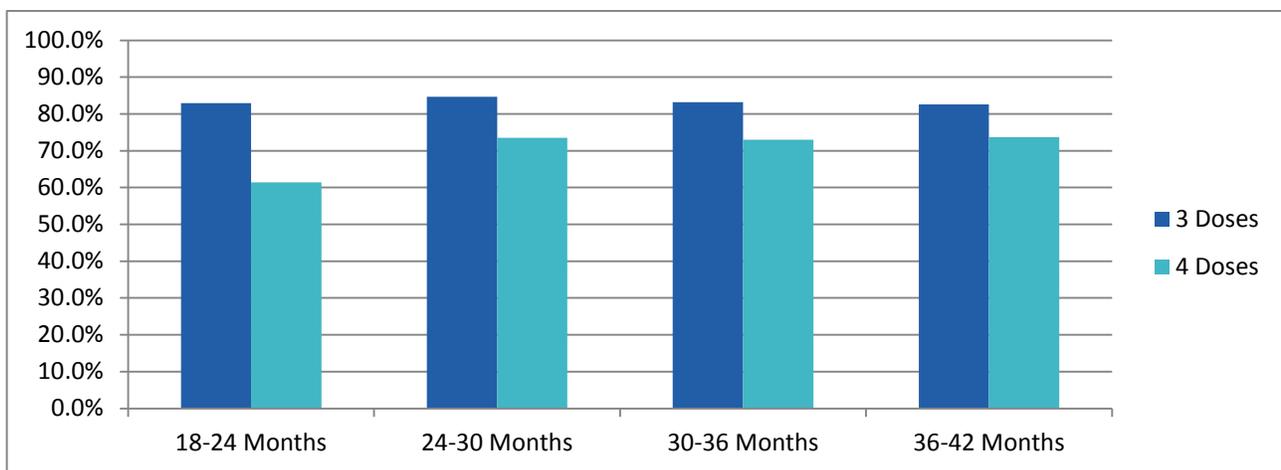
Vermont Immunization Registry

Background

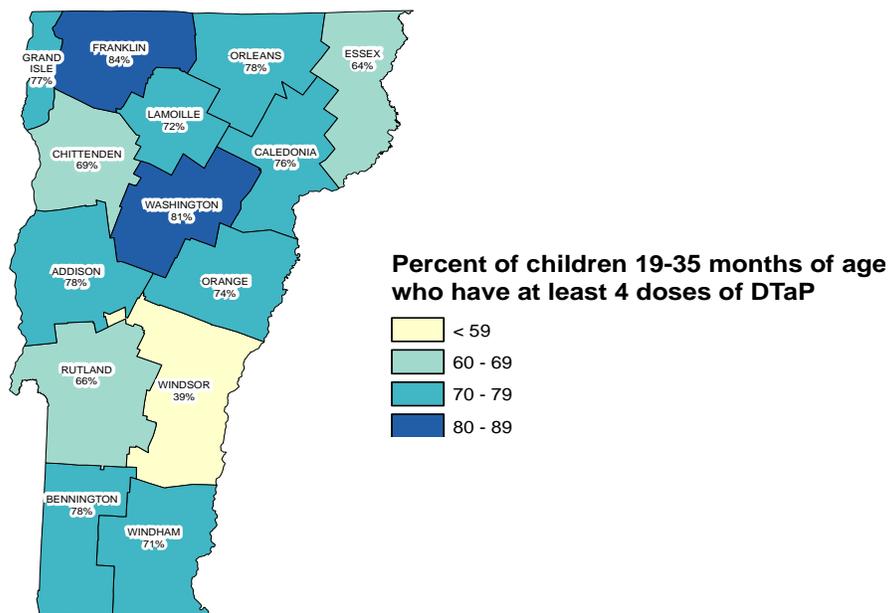
Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a contagious disease characterized by uncontrollable coughing. This coughing can often make it difficult to breathe.¹ It is a disease that affects people of all ages. The best way to prevent pertussis is through vaccination. There are two vaccines that protect against pertussis: DTaP is a vaccine that protects against pertussis, diphtheria, and tetanus, and is recommended for infants and children through age six. The Tdap vaccine also protects against the same diseases, and is a booster for children age 7 or older, adolescents, and adults.²

DTaP Rates

It is recommended that children receive four doses of the DTaP vaccine during the first 18 months of life, beginning at two months of age.³ Data below from the Vermont Immunization Registry (IMR) suggests that some children may not be getting all the recommended doses, which puts these children at risk for pertussis.



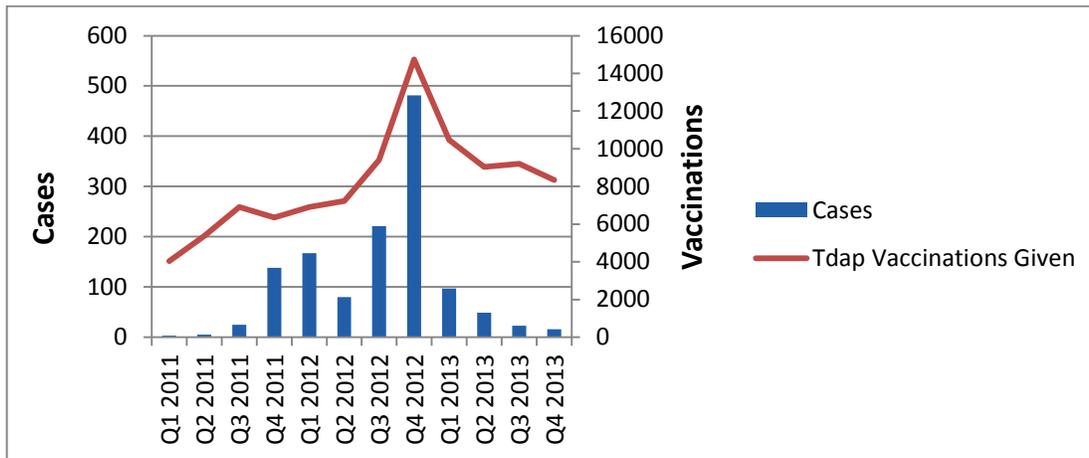
The Immunization Registry also has the capability to provide additional detail on statewide rates, detailing them by county. A review of the data indicates that DTaP rates vary across Vermont counties.



*Windsor County data may be incomplete. Many residents go to New Hampshire for their medical care.

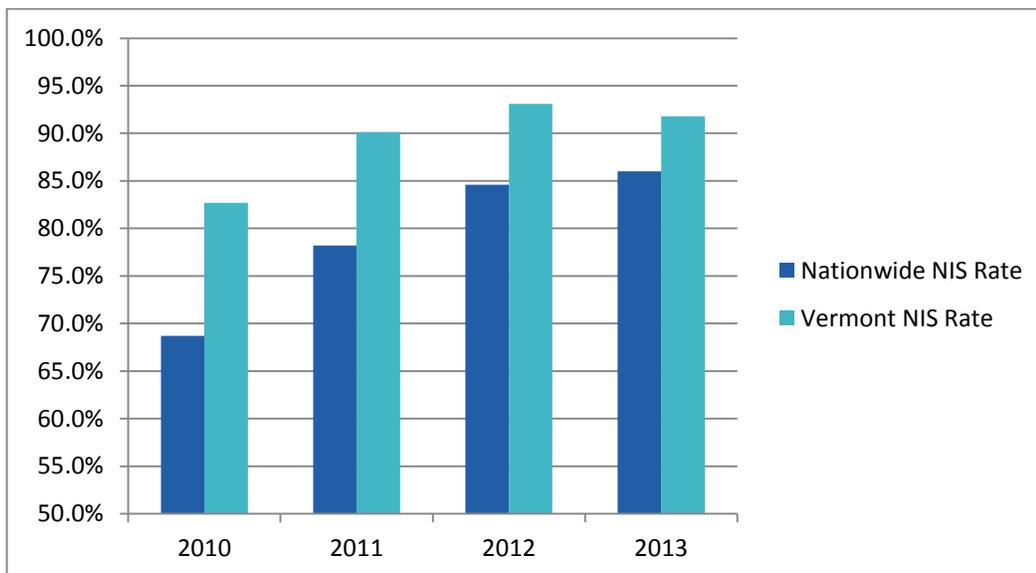
Pertussis Outbreak, 2011-13

Between 2011 and 2013, a pertussis outbreak occurred in Vermont. There were over 1,500 cases of pertussis. During the outbreak, health care providers focused on protecting the youngest and most vulnerable Vermonters by vaccinating parents, grandparents, and caregivers of newborns. Data in the IMR shows the increase in Tdap vaccinations given during the height of the outbreak.



Healthy Vermonters 2020 and the National Immunization Survey (NIS)

Healthy Vermonters 2020 is the state health assessment plan. It documents the health status of Vermonters through more than 100 public health indicators and goals.⁴ One measurement is the percentage of adolescents age 13-17 with at least one Tdap booster. This data comes from the NIS, a nationwide survey conducted yearly. Below is a comparison of the Tdap rates for Vermonters and the nationwide rates. For more information about Healthy Vermonters 2020, please visit the website at <http://www.healthvermont.gov/hv2020/>.



For more information, please contact Bridget Ahrens, Immunization Registry Manager, (802) 951-4094.

¹ Pertussis (Whooping Cough), <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>

² Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/prevention/index.html>

³ 2015 Recommended Immunizations for Children from Birth Through 6 Years Old, <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf>

⁴ Healthy Vermonters 2020 State Health Assessment Plan, <http://www.healthvermont.gov/hv2020/report.aspx>