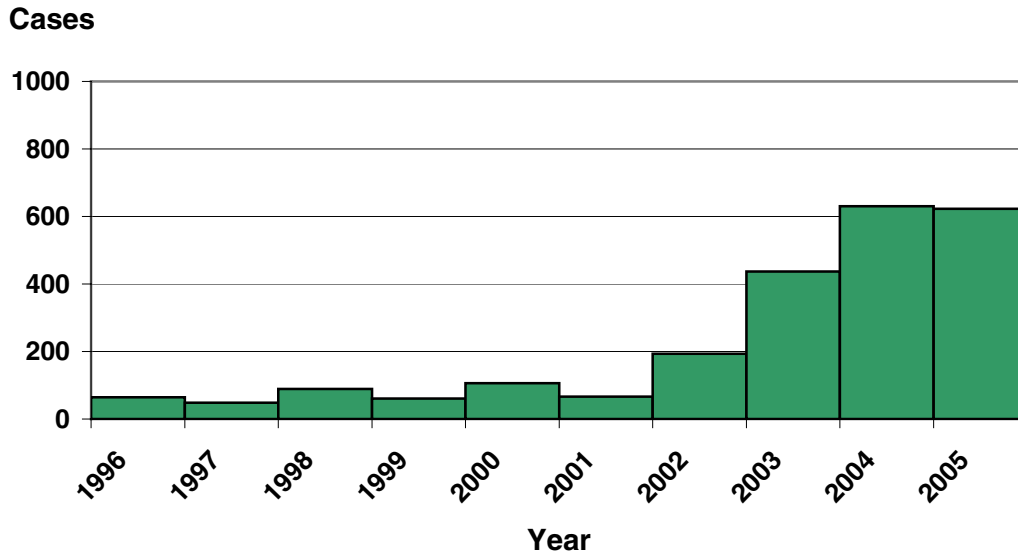


# Pertussis

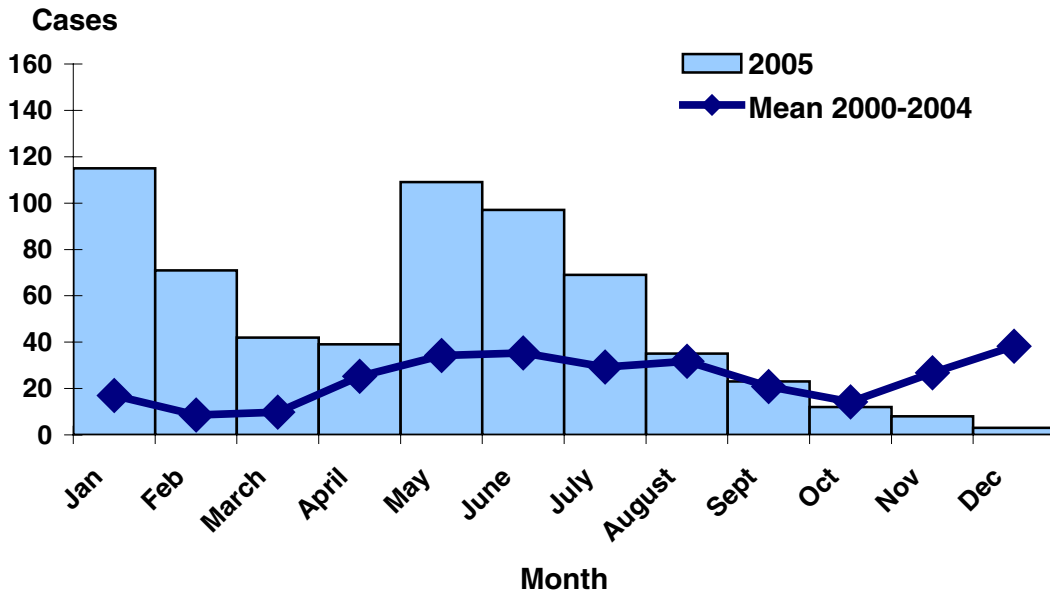
Pertussis is a highly contagious acute bacterial infection of the respiratory tract attributable to *Bordetella pertussis*. It is transmitted from person to person through contact with respiratory secretions (droplet transmission). Illness presents as an irritating cough that gradually becomes paroxysmal (or whooping). In 2004, reported cases reached the highest level since 1959. Although down a bit from levels seen in 2004, pertussis transmission continues.

Despite increasing immunization rates in Oregon children, pertussis holds the dubious distinction of being the only vaccine-preventable disease increasing in incidence. While pertussis is often a mild but lingering illness in adults, it poses significant risk for hospitalization and death of infants (<6 months). Though the highest rates (72 per 100,000) are in children less than 4, those over age 10 now comprise more than 2/3 of reported cases. We'll see how the new adolescent pertussis booster vaccine affects Oregon's pertussis rate.

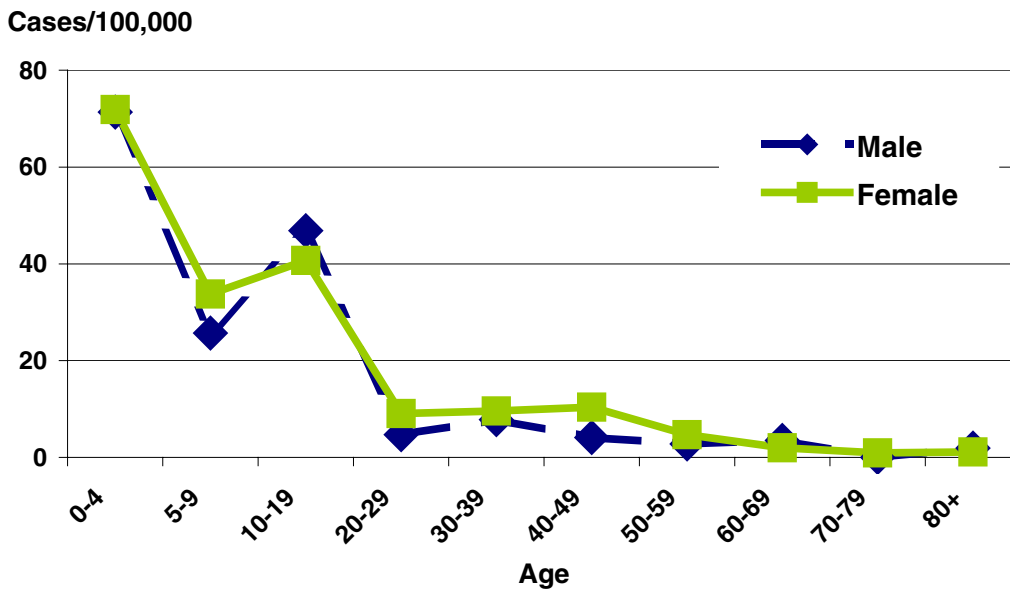
## Pertussis by Year Oregon, 1996-2005



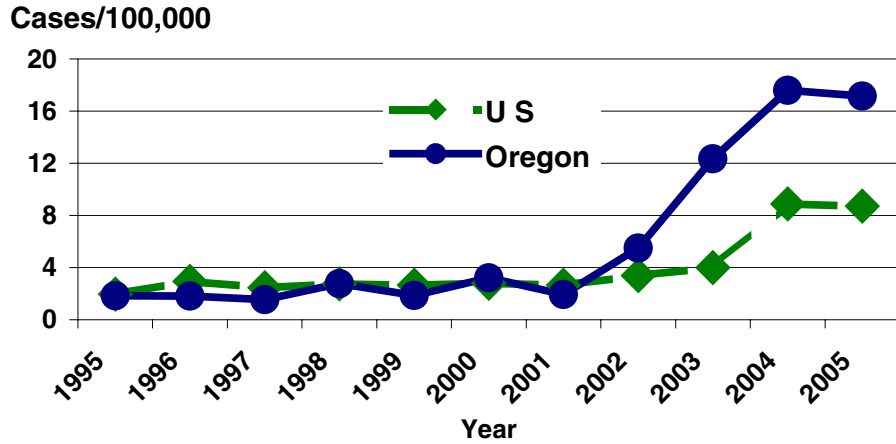
## Pertussis by Onset Month Oregon, 2005



## Incidence of Pertussis by Age and Sex Oregon, 2005



## Incidence of Pertussis Oregon vs. Nationwide 1995-2005



## Incidence of Pertussis by County of Residence Oregon, 2005

