

DESCRIPTION

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a disease that affects the lungs. Pertussis bacteria are spread from person to person through the air. A person with pertussis develops a severe cough that usually lasts four to six weeks or longer. Pertussis in infants is often severe, and they are more likely than older children or adults to develop complications. The disease can lead to bacterial pneumonia, and in rare circumstances, seizures, brain inflammation and even death.¹

HOW WE ARE DOING

The number of reported cases of pertussis in Minnesota increased by 150 between 2013 and 2016.² In 2016, there were 61 reported cases in Ramsey County, about double that of 2015. The number of pertussis diagnoses in 2016 in Ramsey County made up 6 percent of the state total, and 11.7 percent of the seven-county metro area total. As of Oct. 20, 2017, there have been 41 reported cases in 2017.³ In 2016, the most common age group to be affected were those 19 years and older, followed by 13 to 18 years old. Overall, there was a decrease in diagnoses for all age groups between 2013 and 2017.⁴ Ramsey County has met the Healthy People 2020 objective for infants under one year but did not achieve the 40 percent reduction in adolescent cases in 2016.

BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020:

- 1) Reduce cases of pertussis among children under 1 year of age
U.S. Target: 10 percent reduction
- 2) Reduce cases of pertussis among adolescents aged 11 to 18 years
U.S. Target: 40 percent reduction

DISPARITIES

Teens and adults account for more than half of reported pertussis cases. In 2015 the most common age group for pertussis cases reported to the Minnesota Department of Health was among Minnesota teens 13 to 18 years old. Pertussis among school-aged children continues to increase.¹

RISK FACTORS

Anyone of any age can get pertussis. Individuals are at higher risk if not fully vaccinated with DTap or Tdap (age determines which vaccine individuals receive).

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

The Saint Paul- Ramsey County Public Health immunizations clinic offers low cost vaccines for infants, children and adults who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover shots. The clinic is open Monday through Friday and is located along the Green Line in downtown St. Paul.

The rate of pertussis amongst 13 to 18 year olds could be reduced if adolescents receive the Tdap booster that is recommended at the age of 11 or 12 in Minnesota's Immunization Requirements. Ramsey County Child and Teen Checkups Program does outreach and education to adolescents receiving Medical Assistance about the importance of routine checkups and immunizations until the age of 21. When an individual is diagnosed with (continued on back)

Information to note

- As of Oct. 20, 2017, there have been 41 reported cases of pertussis in Ramsey County during 2017.
- In 2015, the most common age group for reported pertussis cases in Minnesota was 13 to 18 years old.

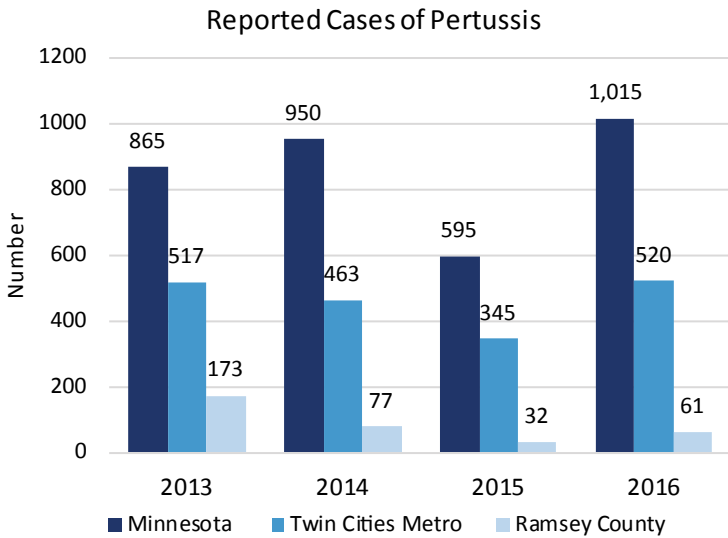
¹Pertussis (Whooping Cough). Minnesota Department of Health. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/pertussis/pfacts.html>. Accessed October 3, 2017.

²Infectious Disease Surveillance. Minnesota Department of Health. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/macros/topics/stats.html>. Accessed September 14, 2017.

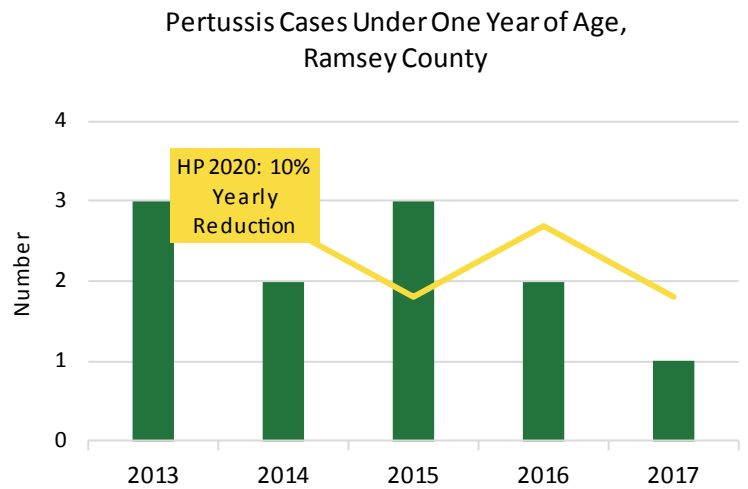
³Pertussis Disease Statistics, 2017. Minnesota Department of Health. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/pertussis/stats/stats17.html#county>. Accessed October 3, 2017.

⁴Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health, Health Protection Division.

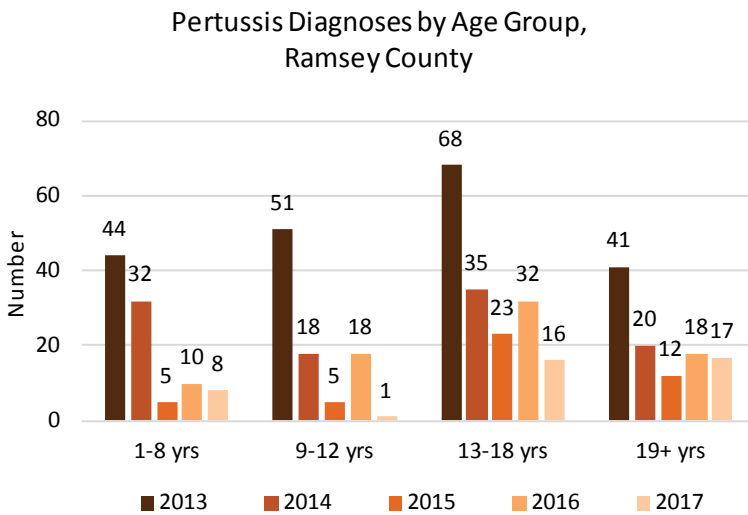
pertussis, epidemiologists at Ramsey County conduct case and contact investigations. Epidemiologists refer contacts to primary care to receive post-exposure prophylaxis and encourage routine immunizations.



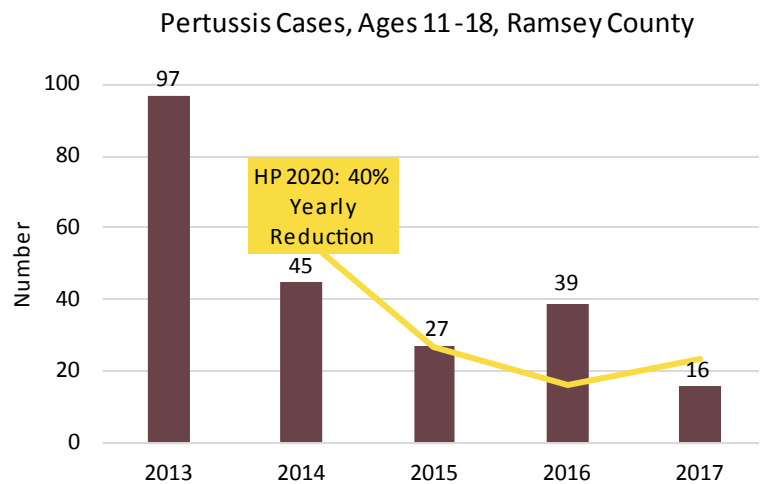
Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Infectious Disease Surveillance.⁵



Source: Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health.



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⁵ Minnesota Department of Health Infectious Disease Surveillance. Minnesota Department of Health Web site. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/macros/topics/stats.html>. Accessed September 14, 2017.