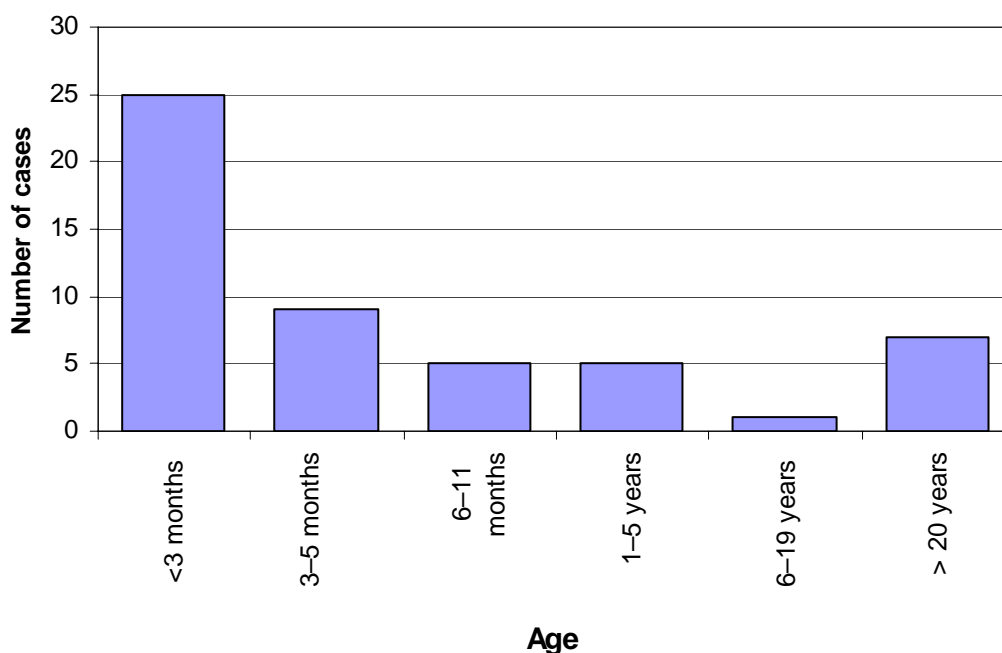


Pertussis on Guam – update as at 19 October 2006

From 12 May to 19 October 2006, a total of 79 suspected pertussis cases were reported to the Guam Department of Public Health. Of these, seven cases have been confirmed by isolation of *Bordetella pertussis*, 45 are considered probable on the basis of clinical symptoms, and eight are still being evaluated and are considered 'suspected' cases (19 cases have been discarded as probably due to other illnesses).

The ages of confirmed and probable cases (age calculated at the time of cough onset) are as follows: <3 months (25), 3–5 months (9), 6–11 months (5), 1–5 years (5), 6–19 years (1), and ≥ 20 years (7).

Age distribution of confirmed and probable cases



Of 23 infants investigated for whom immunisation information was available, 15 had received no diphtheria-tetanus toxoid-acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP), seven had received one dose, none had received two doses, and one had received three doses.

Guam has advised the local medical community and public about the progress of this outbreak and suggested preventive measures through medical alerts and press releases. Three vaccination outreach clinics were conducted at shopping malls and a senior centre between 5 and 12 August 2006. The immunisation records of 1006 individuals were evaluated at these clinics; vaccinations administered included 303 DTaP, 237 Td, 168 Hib, 245 IPV, 70 Hepatitis B and 177 MMR. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta (CDC) will be providing DTaP vaccine for adolescent/adult vaccination. CDC staff have also provided ongoing epidemiologic and laboratory technical assistance.

Cough onset of the last reported suspect case was on September 30.

Based on Guam Pertussis Updates published in the Guam Epidemiology Newsletter produced weekly by the Office of Epidemiology and Research, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Government of Guam. All the newsletters are available online on the routine surveillance page of the PPHSN website at http://www.spc.int/phs/PPHSN/Surveillance/Routine_reports.htm