



Government of Samoa

Ministry of Health

Pertussis Surveillance Situation Report No.1

Epiweek 48: 25 November - 1 December 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Under the Samoa Health Ordinance 1959, through the national communicable disease surveillance and control guideline, health professionals are required to report cases or clusters of notifiable diseases. The Health Security & Disease Surveillance Division coordinates surveillance and reporting on notifiable diseases. Enhanced surveillance measures for pertussis surveillance include multisource surveillance, strengthening laboratory testing and referral, and monitoring at point of entry. The report was prepared as a collaborative effort of all health professionals and is a work in progress. We thank all contributors to communicable disease surveillance.

SITUATION SUMMARY

A pertussis epidemic was declared on 28th November 2024 following the increase of pertussis cases in Samoa. Pertussis epidemics historically occur every 3–5 years. Pertussis activity in Samoa has been increasing as of October 2024 after years of no to low activity. The Health Security and Disease Surveillance Division (HSDSD) has been investigating any suspected or confirmed cases and contacts to prevent further transmission and reduce the risk of transmission in the population.

Since September 2024, 54 suspected and confirmed cases have been detected.

- A cumulative total of 54 cases (8 confirmed and 46 suspected) were notified in epi week 46, 47, and 48; reflecting an incidence rate of 25.71 cases per 100,000.
- 100% of the cases were reported from Upolu island; 50% female and 44% male
- 34 cases (68%) were less than 1 year of age, of which 31 (62%) were 6 weeks to less than 1 year old
- Earliest onset of cough reported at 16th September 2024.
- 57% of all cases were hospitalized at TTMH

Response

- A clinicians' alert was issued to all clinicians urging them to remain vigilant for the signs and symptoms of pertussis, and to encourage testing and reporting of all suspected and confirmed cases to the HSDS Division for appropriate response.
- Case investigation and contact tracing all suspected pertussis cases is currently under way along with sample collection for testing
- The Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Committee is actively working to promote awareness on preventative measures and vaccination.

TRENDS IN PERTUSSIS CASES

Figure 1: Suspected and confirmed pertussis cases by date of cough onset, September-December 2024

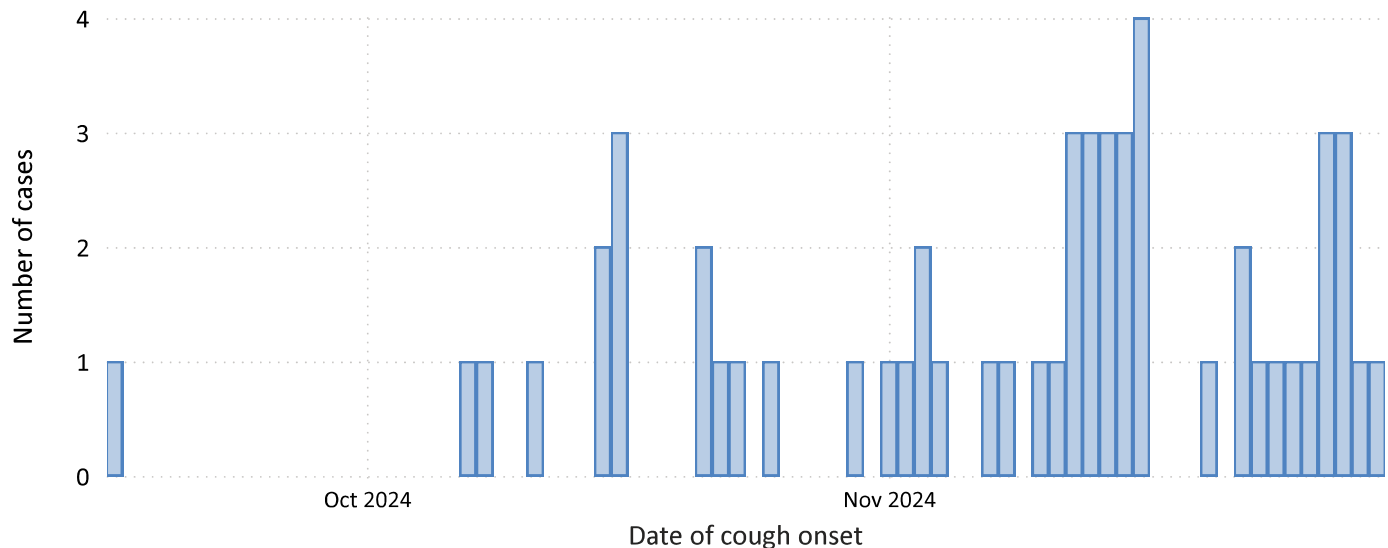


Figure 2: Number of pertussis cases by laboratory confirmation and onset date of cough, Sep - Dec 2024

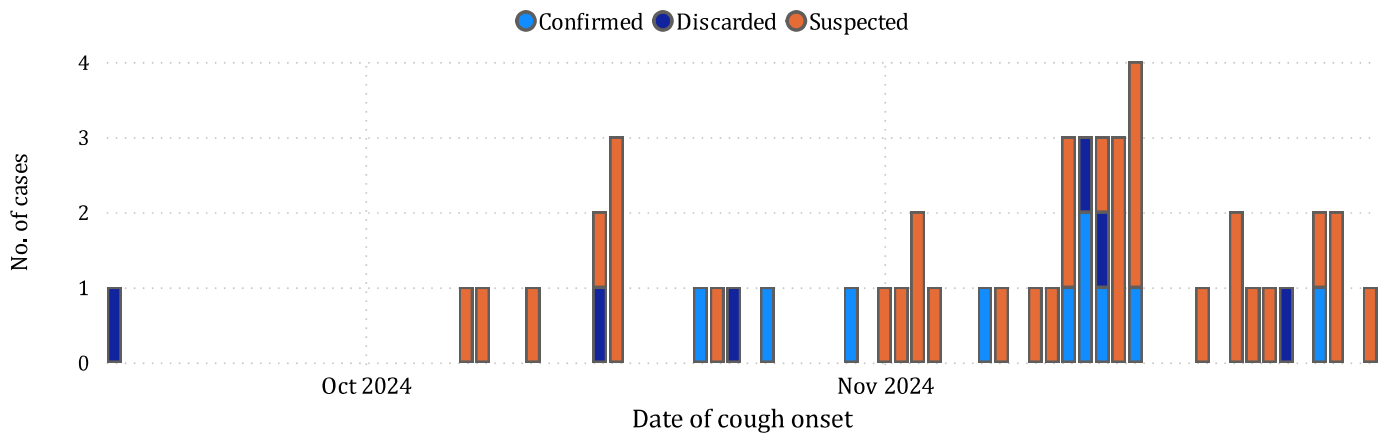


Figure 3: Geographic distribution of cases



Figure 4: Cases by gender

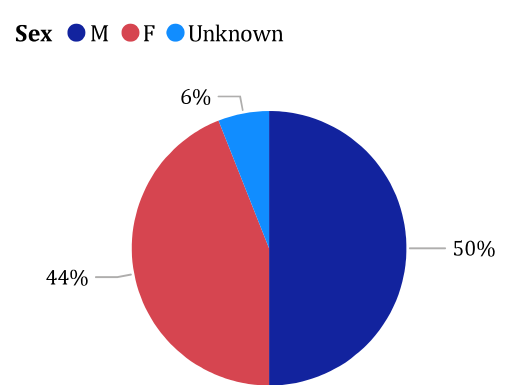
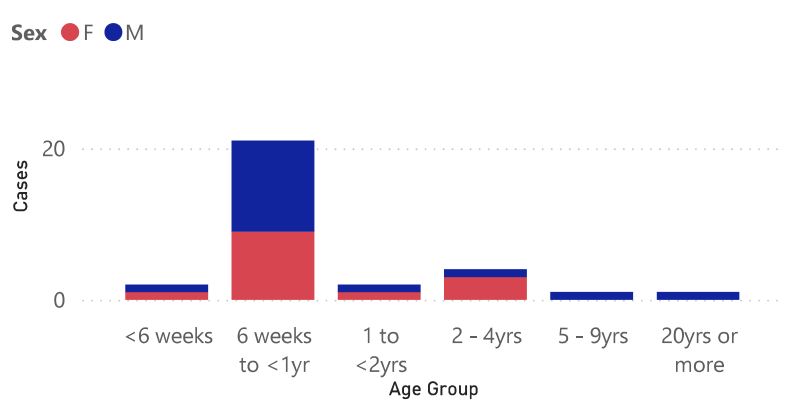


Table 1: Age distribution of pertussis cases, Samoa

No	Age Group	Cases	Proportion
1	<6 weeks	3	6.00%
2	6 weeks to <1yr	31	62.00%
3	1 to <2yrs	3	6.00%
4	2 - 4yrs	5	10.00%
5	5 - 9yrs	2	4.00%
6	10 - 19yrs	3	6.00%
7	20yrs or more	3	6.00%
8	Unknown	2	4.00%
Total		50	100.00%

Figure 5: Admission by age and gender (N=30)



SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE (SARI)

Figure 6: SARI cases, Syndromic Surveillance, Sept 2024 to present

