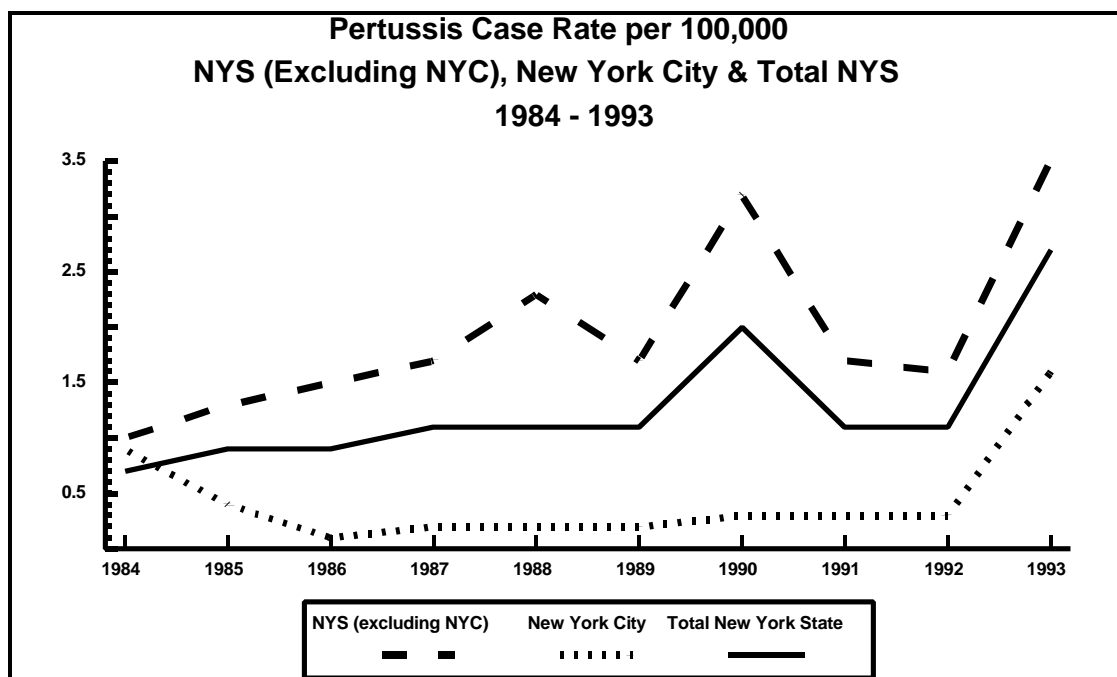


PERTUSSIS

Pertussis is the only vaccine preventable disease in which we saw a dramatic increase in cases in New York State excluding New York City during 1992-1993; 173 cases reported in 1992 and 373 cases in 1993. In the recent past, the high incidence of pertussis was associated with outbreaks among the Amish in areas outside of New York City. In 1993, however, this was not the case. The only identified outbreak in 1993 occurred in Monroe County among a congregation of Jehovah's witnesses. There were no religious objections to immunization in the religious organization. Eighteen cases were reported in this population in August, 1993.

One pertussis related death was reported in New York State outside New York City in 1993; this was in an eight week old infant. He was too young to have been immunized when he became infected with pertussis.

New York City reported 20 cases of pertussis in 1992 and 116 cases in 1993.



Pertussis is typically most severe in children under one year of age. Infection in older children and adults is often mild with a typical manifestations, and is frequently misdiagnosed. However this age group may be an important source of infection for infants and highlights the importance of increased diagnosis and treatment of pertussis in older children and adults.

