## Lessons Learned in Implementing a Cocoon Program to Prevent Infant Pertussis at Four Kansas Hospitals

Elizabeth Lawlor, MS
Epidemiologist
Coauthor: Martha Siemsen, ARNP-BC, Medical Investigator
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

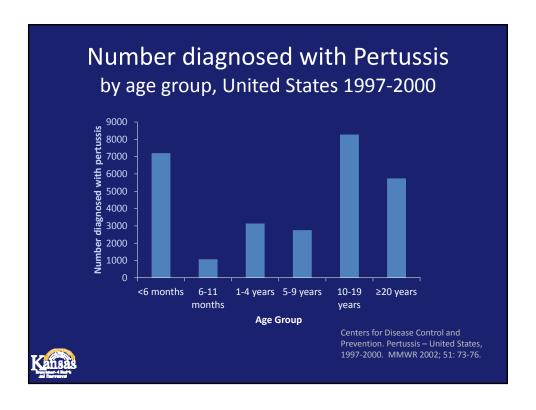


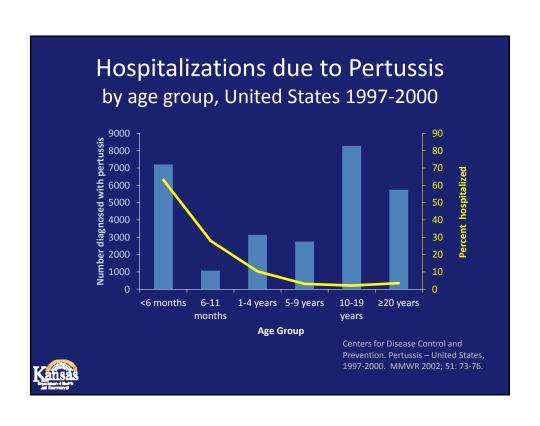
## What is pertussis?

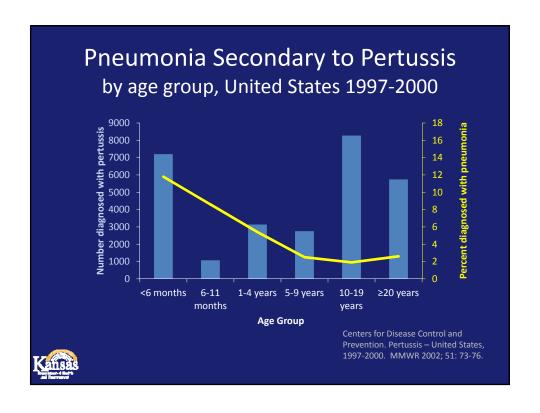


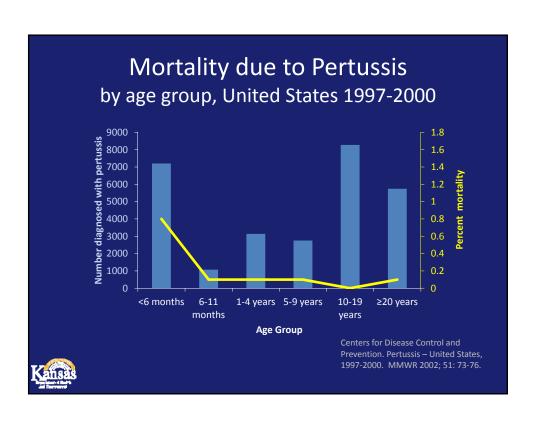
- Caused by bacterium Bordetella pertussis
- Known as whooping cough
- Highly contagious
- Symptoms: uncontrollable, violent coughing can result in difficulty breathing
- Can be fatal
- Immunization can be used to protect against pertussis

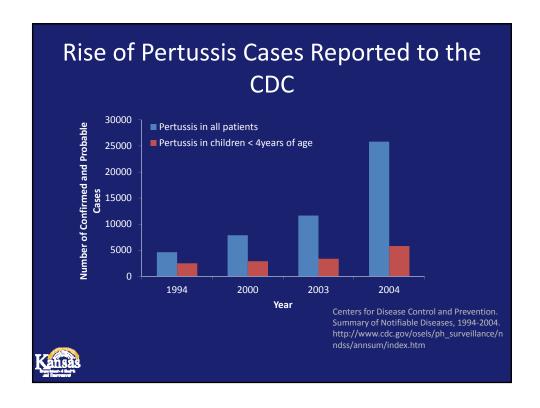


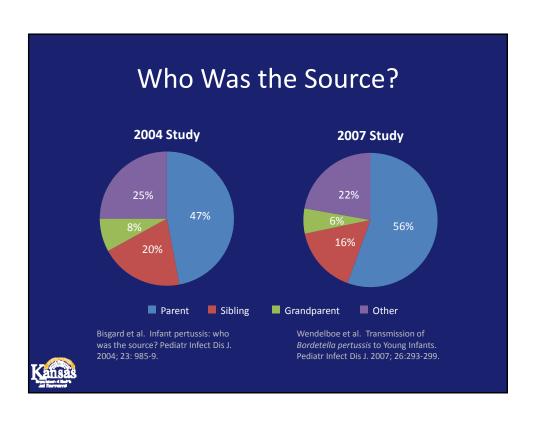












#### Cocooning

- 2001 The Global Pertussis Initiative (GPI) recommended cocooning:
  - Immunization of family members and close contacts of the newborn
- 2006 ACIP recommended Tdap booster immunization
- Two groups are targeted:
  - Postpartum women before hospital discharge
  - Contacts of infants age < 1 year</li>



## **Objectives of Pilot Program**

- Increase pertussis awareness through education
  - Health care providers
  - Families of newborns
- To immunize 80% of postpartum women delivering at project hospitals
- To immunize 1 primary caregiver designated by the new mother



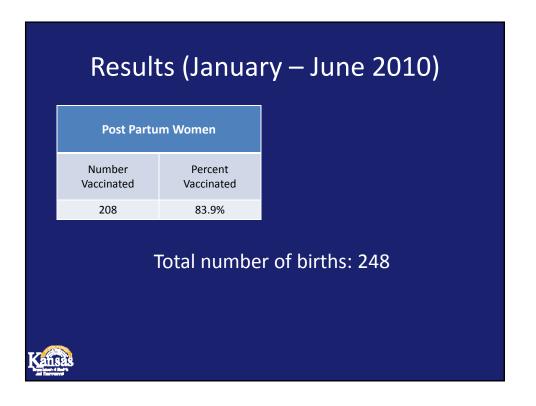
# The chosen ones • Number of births • Vaccines for Children (VFC) enrollment • Location • Willingness to participate

# **Initial Implementation**

- January 2010: Presentations to hospitals and local health departments
- Goals:
  - Mom
    - Standing orders for postpartum Tdap
    - Tdap administered on hospital discharge
  - Caregiver
    - Voucher given during pre-registration or during hospital stay

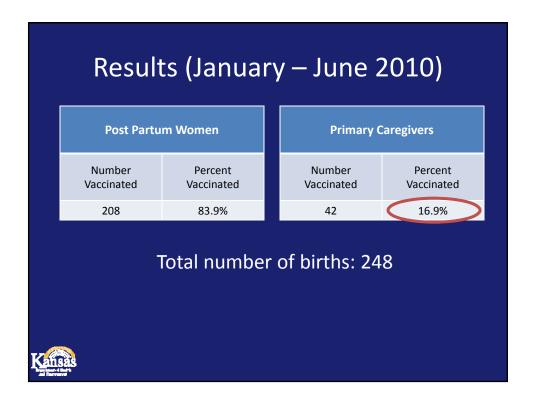


| Voucher                   |  |         |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|---------|--|--|
| Pertussis Vaccine Voucher |  |         |  |  |
|                           | Mom's Initials:  | Date:   |  |  |
|                           | Relationship to newborn: ☐ Parent ☐ Grandparent  | ☐ Other |  |  |
|                           | Franklin County Health Depar<br>1418 South Main St, Ottawa,<br>(785) 229-3530<br>M, T, R, F 7 – 4:30, W 7 – 6:15 |         |  |  |
|                           | ,,,,,,   |         |  |  |
|                           |  |         |  |  |
| Kansas                    |  |         |  |  |









# Time for a Change

- Postpartum vaccination on target
- Primary caregiver vaccination rate lower than expected
- Barriers identified:
  - Fear of Needles
  - Time
  - Lost voucher



# Local Health Department Differences

|   | County 1             | County 2                    |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Appointment Needed?                             | No                   | Yes                         |
| Administration Fee Charged?                     | No                   | Yes                         |
| Local health department resources used          | Healthy start nurses | Packets sent to new parents |
| Proximity to hospital                           | Across the street    | Across the street           |
| Caregiver Immunization Rates,<br>January – June | 27.9%                | 14.3%                       |



# Local Health Department Differences

|   | County 1             | County 2                    |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Appointment Needed?                             | No                   | Yes                         |
| Administration Fee Charged?                     | No                   | Yes                         |
| Local health department resources used          | Healthy start nurses | Packets sent to new parents |
| Proximity to hospital                           | Across the street    | Across the street           |
| Caregiver Immunization Rates,<br>January – June | 27.9%                | 14.3%                       |



#### **Process Enhancements**

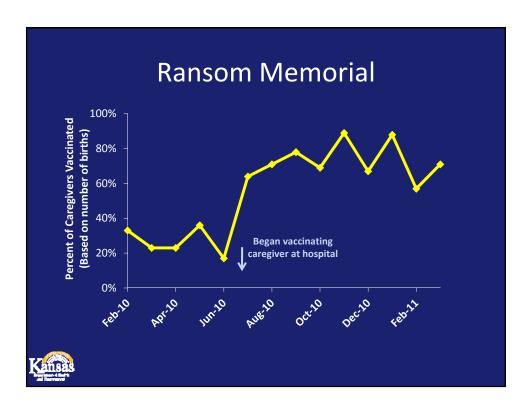
- Standing order for family member vaccination prior to mother and infant discharge
- Involve stake holders
  - Medical Records, Nursing staff, Pharmacists,
     Pediatricians, OB/GYN, Local Health Departments



## **Stumbling Blocks**

- Admission to the hospital versus no admission for designated family member
  - Liability concerns
  - Tracking methods
  - Cost
- Hospital conglomerates





#### **Lessons Learned**

- The best laid plans
- There's more than one way to skin a cat
- Get them while they're hot
- Don't throw the baby out with the bath water
- It takes a village



#### **Current Activities**

- Local health departments offered Tdap to vaccinate new parents
- Tdap offered to hospitals to vaccinate mom and caregiver



#### **Needed Actions**

- Continued education of hospitals and OB/Gyns about importance of vaccinating
  - New recommendations by ACIP
- Educate new moms on pertussis
  - Brochures, etc.
- Work with hospitals to overcome barriers to vaccinating caregivers



# Acknowledgements

- KDHE Staff
  - Martha Siemsen, ARNP-BC
  - Sue Bowden, RN, BS
  - Immunization Staff
- Franklin County Health Department
  - Midge Ransom Administrator
  - Rebecca Hastings Immunizations
  - Montgomery County Health Department
    - Ruth Bardwell Administrator
    - Carolyn Mueller Immunizations
- Dickinson County Health Department
  - Linda Davies Administrator
  - Brenda Weaver Immunizations
- All HCP's who care for pregnant women and their newborn infants

- Ransom Memorial Hospital
  - Larry Felix Administrator
  - Justine Fine OB Nurse Manager
- Coffevville Memorial Hospita
  - Jerry Marquette Administrator
  - Carla Robson OB Nurse Manager
- Memorial Hospital-Abilene
  - Mark A Miller Administrator
  - Teresa Hudson OB Nurse Manager
- Mercy Hospital Independence
  - Eric Ammons Administrator
  - Jenn Wintjen OB Nurse Manager





Elizabeth Lawlor, MS

Epidemiologist

Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

785-368-8208

elawlor@kdheks.gov

