

No whooping cough deaths in California last year

January 24 2012

No Californian died from whooping cough in 2011, the first year since 1991 that there have been no deaths in the state from the highly infectious illness.

Public health officials credit greater awareness, faster diagnosis and a new state law requiring that middle and [high school students](#) get a booster shot.

The news Tuesday comes after the state experienced a [whooping cough](#) epidemic in 2010 in which 9,000 people were infected and 10 infants died.

Though infections remained high last year, no deaths were reported.

Dr. Gil Chavez of the state Department of Public Health says authorities are waiting to see how this year goes before declaring the epidemic over. But he says the state is headed in the right direction.

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Citation: No whooping cough deaths in California last year (2012, January 24) retrieved 29 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-01-whooping-deaths-california-year.html>

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