

# 2012 was worst year for whooping cough since 1955

January 4 2013, by Mike Stobbe

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Health officials say 2012 was the nation's worst year for whooping cough in nearly six decades.

About 42,000 cases were reported last year, the most since 1955. But the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) is still [gathering information](#), and the number could rise to as much as 50,000.

Whooping cough tends to run in multi-year cycles, and experts say last year appears to have been a peak. Also, a newer version of the [whooping cough](#) vaccine doesn't last as long as expected.

The good news: Deaths from the disease were down last year, to 18. Experts think that doctors were faster at diagnosing and treating the disease during outbreaks.

Whooping cough used to be a bigger problem until a vaccine was developed in the 1940s.

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