

# Increasing DTP3 coverage tied to drop in diphtheria cases in under 15s

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(HealthDay)—The proportion of diphtheria case-patients younger than

15 years of age decreased as diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) 3 coverage increased, according to a study published in the October issue of *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, a publication of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Kristie E.N. Clarke, M.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues analyzed incidence data and data from the literature to describe the epidemiology of diphtheria.

Surveillance data from the World Health Organization were 81 percent complete, with completeness varying by region indicative of underreporting. The researchers found that as coverage of DTP3 increased, there was a decrease in the proportion of case-patients

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