



Reducing Pertussis Among Infants through Parental Vaccination

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A PROBLEM

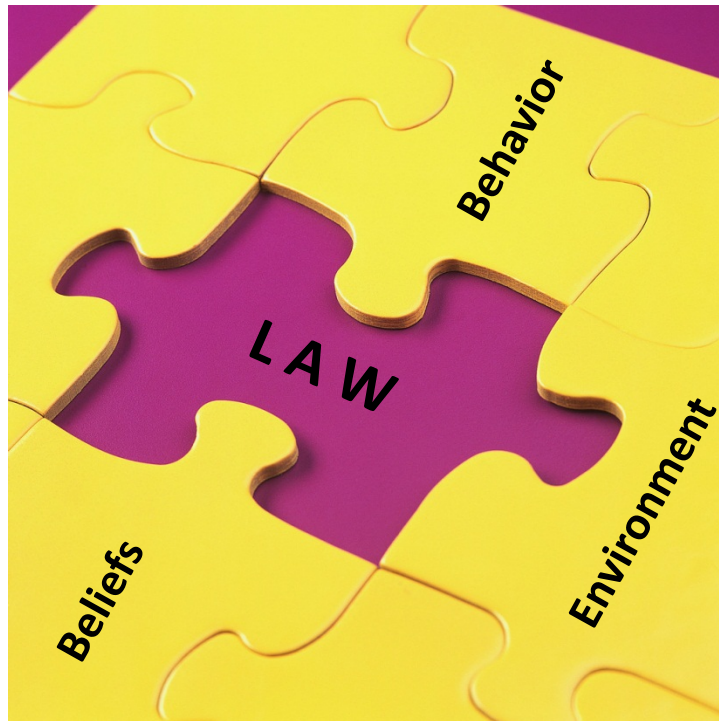
- *Among vaccine-preventable diseases, pertussis is one of the most commonly occurring ones in the United States.*
- *Since the 1980s, there's been an increase in the number of cases of pertussis, especially among teens (10-19 years of age) and babies younger than 6 months of age.*
- *In up to 80% of infant pertussis cases, babies caught the disease from a family member, primarily a parent.*

THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT PERTUSSIS IS TO GET VACCINATED!

- *Vaccine recommendations to protect infants:*
 - *Prenatal vaccination*
 - *Immediate postpartum vaccination*
 - *Vaccination for caregivers*

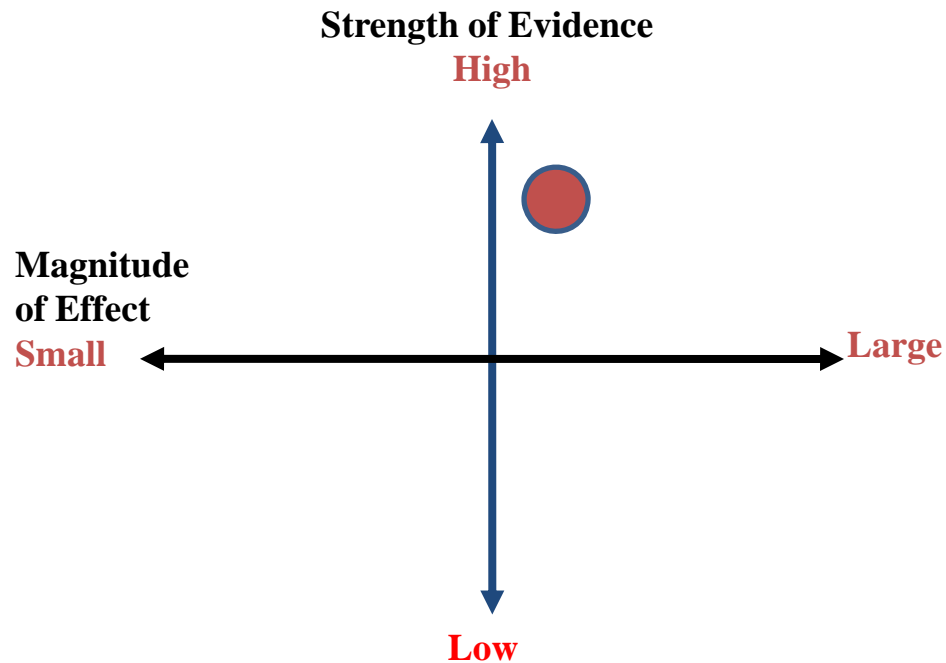
HOW DOES LAW FIT INTO THIS PICTURE?

Public Health Law Research:
Making the Case for Laws that Improve Health



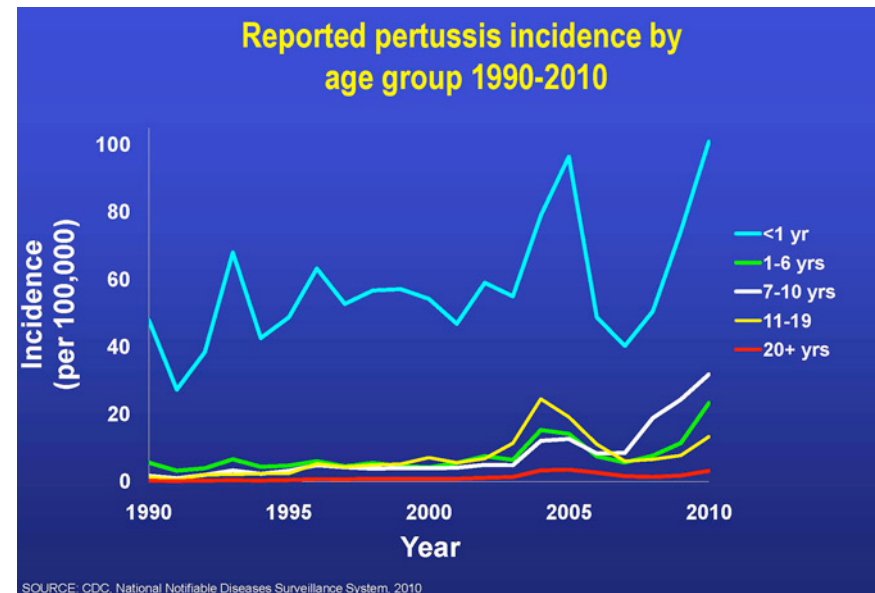
- *Providers should be required to offer pertussis vaccination prior to new parents leaving the hospital/birth center with a newborn.*
- *Similar interventions include: HIV tests, Group B strep, car seats.*

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE REFORM

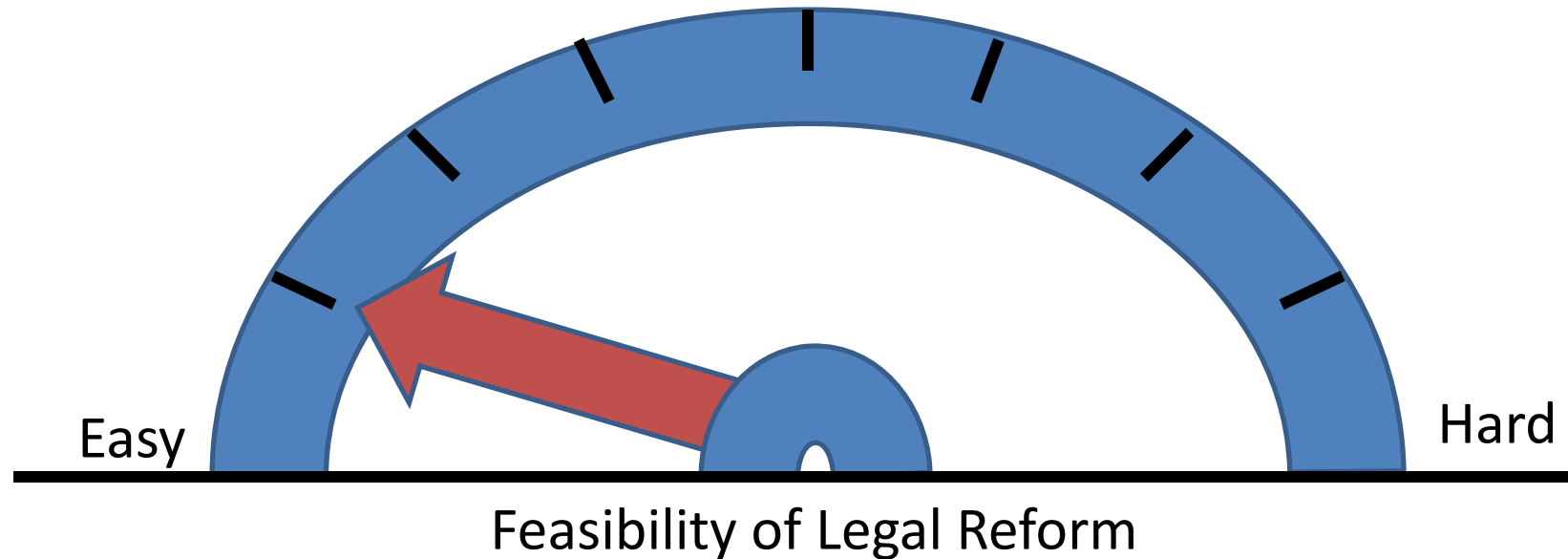


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- *School vaccination mandates have been successful at reducing a variety of public health threats.*
- *This is more likely to work because parents want to protect kids!*



SOURCE: CDC, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, 2010



- *Citizens, legislators, and physicians want to protect children from potentially deadly diseases. Protections for children (i.e., car seats) are generally accepted and minimally controversial.*
- *Private and public insurers already pay for the vaccine.*
- *Including waivers for religious and philosophical opposition protects those who want to opt-out.*