On February 18, 2014, the California Department of Public Health reported the first infant death (in a Latino) due to pertussis since 2010. Latino infants are especially at risk and with 50% of infants born to Latina mothers in California, it is important to recognize that more than 80% of the state’s infant pertussis-associated deaths since 1990 have been in Latino infants. With pertussis cases on the rise and the serious health risks to young infants, the Santa Barbara Public Health Department reminds you to vaccinate pregnant women with Tdap during every pregnancy; regardless of prior history of receiving Tdap. To maximize the maternal antibody response and passive antibody transfer to the infant, optimal timing for Tdap administration is best when given between 27 and 36 weeks of gestation.

Tdap should also be administered to all unimmunized adolescents, adults, as well as family members of close contacts to infants who have not received Tdap. For more information about Tdap and other immunization information, please visit our website at: www.sbcphd.org/iz

Reporting of suspected and confirmed cases of pertussis by all providers to the Public Health Department is mandated per Title 17, CCR 2500. Timely reports assure necessary public health interventions and promote a healthy community. Recently, as of January, 2014, electronic reporting of communicable diseases is required via the CalREDIE Provider Portal. If you are not already submitting reports through the CalREDIE Provider Portal, please visit the Disease Control website at www.sbcphd.org/dcp for enrollment information or call the Disease Control Office at (805) 681-5280.

We are pleased to share the recently published Community Health Status Report. This report is issued by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department every 2 - 3 years in an effort to update our community on the overall status of our health.

The report for 2014 centers around the 3-4-50 concept: three behaviors (poor diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use), contribute to 4 diseases (vascular disease, cancer, lung disease and diabetes) which cause over 50% of the deaths in our county.

We have focused our data collection and analysis on three behaviors and four chronic diseases. The quality and longevity of life of our residents is greatly influenced by these key factors. Collecting and analyzing these data gives us a better understanding of where we are and how we, as a community and as the Public Health Department, should direct our attention.

You may review an electronic copy of the report at www.sbcphd.org
Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children. Buckling up is the best way to save lives and reduce injuries. To support child car passenger safety the Public Health Department has reactivated the Child Passenger Safety Coalition and is sponsoring three Child Passenger Safety Technician courses in March, 2014. For more information about the upcoming courses contact Mike Hennessey at carsel101@hotmail.com. As a result of these trainings the county will increase the number of qualified child car passenger technicians who are available to assist families in child car seat installations and provide a limited number of low cost car seats. Car seat inspection check-up events are also planned throughout the county. For information on how you can join the child safety passenger coalition or the most current information on child car passenger safety events go to www.countyofsb.org/phd/ems or call (805) 681-5432.

Using the correct car seat or booster seat can be a lifesaver: make sure your child is always buckled in an age- and size-appropriate car seat or booster seat.

Keep children ages 12 and under in the back seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active air bag.

Recommended age ranges for each seat type vary to account for differences in child growth and height/weight limits of car seats and booster seats. Use the car seat or booster seat owner’s manual to check installation and the seat height/weight limits, and proper seat use.