

Cholera in the Americas - Situation summary

Since the beginning of 2015 up to epidemiological week (EW) 30 of 2015, a total of 20,388 cases have been recorded in three countries in the Region of the Americas: Haiti (20,043 cases), the Dominican Republic (344 cases) and Cuba (1 case). To date, no cholera cases have been reported in **Mexico** in 2015.

The last confirmed case of cholera in **Cuba** was reported in January 2015 by the Canada International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point, indicating the case was an individual with history of travel to Cuba.

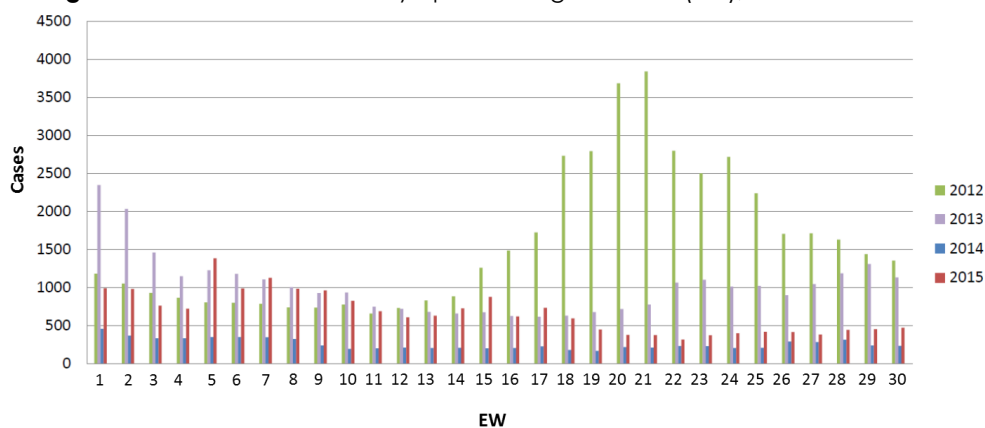
In the **Dominican Republic**, since the beginning of the epidemic (November 2010) to EW 28 of 2015, a total of 32,764 suspected cholera cases, including 489 deaths, were recorded.

Between EW 1 and EW 28 of 2015, 344 suspected cholera cases were registered, including 11 deaths. This represents the double of the cases recorded for the same period in 2014. This situation in the Dominican Republic is linked to the cholera trends registered in Haiti during the same period.

In **Haiti**, since the beginning of the epidemic (October 2010) through 25 July 2015, there were 744,698 cholera cases, of which 426,884 were hospitalized (57% cumulative hospitalization rate), and 8,826 deaths, with a national cumulative case fatality rate of 1.4%.

From January up to 25 July 2015 (EW 30), there were 20,043 cholera cases, including 15,921 hospitalizations (79% hospitalization rate), and 171 deaths (case fatality rate of 0.7%). In 2015, the number of cases and deaths recorded by epidemiological week show an increase in comparison to the corresponding week in 2014. In addition, in some weeks of 2015, the number of cases recorded is greater than what was recorded in 2012, as seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1. New cholera cases by epidemiological week (EW), 2012-2015. Haiti.



Source: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP). Direction d'Epidemiologie de Laboratoire et de Recherches (DELRL). Rapport du Réseau National de Surveillance.

Advice to national authorities

Cholera is closely related to adequate access to sanitation and drinking water, and for this reason, controlling the disease remains a challenge in countries where there is poor access to sanitation and drinking water.

The Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) encourages Member States to remain vigilant and continue implementing the activities PAHO/WHO has recommended since November 2012, see the [Epidemiological Alert](#).

References

1. Haiti, Ministère de la Santé Public et de la Population (MSPP). Direction d'Epidémiologie de Laboratoire et de Recherches (DELR). Rapport du Réseau National de Surveillance. Sites Choléra. Epidemiological Week 30 of 2015.
2. Dominican Republic, Epidemiological Bulletins. Weekly Bulletins, 2015. Available at: [http://www.digepisalud.gob.do/?page_id=93&drawer=Boletines epidemiológicos*Boletín semanal](http://www.digepisalud.gob.do/?page_id=93&drawer=Boletines+epidemiológicos*Boletín+semanal)
3. Mexico, Secretaria de Salud de México. Boletín Epidemiológico de la Dirección General de Epidemiología. Available at: http://www.epidemiologia.salud.gob.mx/dgae/boletin/intd_boletin.html

Related links:

- WHO cholera fact sheet: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs107/en/index.html>
- PAHO cholera health topic: www.paho.org/cholera
- Information on WHO's statement relating to international travel and trade to and from countries experiencing outbreaks of cholera: <http://www.who.int/cholera/technical/prevention/choleratravelandtradeadvice231110.pdf>
- Atlas of Cholera outbreak in La Hispaniola. PAHO/WHO. Available at: http://new.paho.org/hq/images/Atlas_IHR/CholeraHispaniola/atlas.html
- WHO. Cholera epidemic outbreaks: evaluating the response and improving preparation. Available in Spanish at: http://www.who.int/topics/cholera/publications/cholera_outbreak/es/
- Recommendations for the clinical management of cholera. Washington D.C., November 2010: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&Itemid=0&gid=10813&lang=fr