

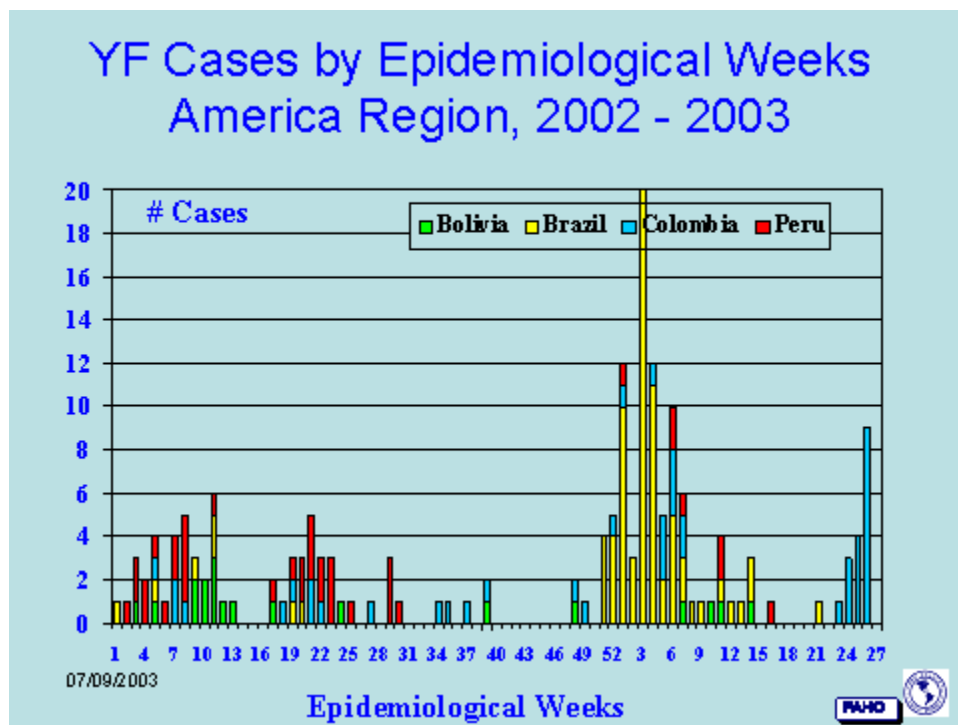
EID WEEKLY UPDATES

Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Colombia: Update on the Outbreak of Jungle Yellow Fever in the Department of Norte de Santander

Up to epidemiological week (EW) 28 of 2003, Colombia reported to PAHO 27 cases of



jungle yellow fever (JYF), with a case fatality rate of 63%. Nine cases occurred in the first seven epidemiological weeks in the Departments of Guaviare (1), Casanare (2), Meta (1) and Norte de Santander (5). The cases reported by the Department of Norte de

Santander belong to the same outbreak that occurred in the Venezuelan-Colombian border early this year that was controlled after coordinated mass vaccination carried out by both countries.

Starting in EW 23, a resurgence of JYF has been detected in the Department of Norte de Santander, affecting the counties of Convención, Tibu, El Carmen and El Tarra. Up to EW 28, a total of 18 confirmed cases have been identified. All but one case have occurred in adult males ranging from 13 to 43 years of age. The case fatality rate is 61%.

The Ministry of Health of Colombia is taking the necessary measures to avert the outbreak by intensifying immunization and strengthening surveillance in the affected and neighboring counties. The Venezuelan authorities are aware of the situation and carrying out similar actions to prevent cases. The local PAHO offices are providing the necessary support.