



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Update on Yellow Fever in the Americas

For 2003 to 6 December 2003 (Epidemiological Week/EW 49), 226 cases of jungle yellow fever (JYF) were reported to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with 99 deaths. The last reported case occurred during EW 45 in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguan, Department of Caquetá, Colombia.

Two important outbreaks have occurred in the Region to this date, one in Brazil and one on the Colombian-Venezuelan border. These two outbreaks have been responsible for 82% of all reported cases. The outbreak in Brazil occurred at the beginning of 2003 in the Northeast, of the state of Minas Gerais, where 58 cases were reported. Furthermore, Brazil has reported 4 isolated cases in the state of Mato Grosso. The last case reported in Brazil occurred in EW 36, in the state of Pará, Municipality of Gurupá. The case-fatality rate of JYF in Brazil was 36%.

The occurrence of cases on the Colombian-Venezuelan border was initially detected during the last two weeks of 2002 and the first 10 weeks of 2003, in the department of Norte del Santander in Colombia and in Zulia state in Venezuela. After 11 weeks without case reports, during EW 23 new cases started to be diagnosed in the departments of Norte del Santander and Cesar in Colombia. At the same time, on the other side of the border, Venezuela reported cases in the states of Zulia, Táchira, and Portuguesa. The last case of this outbreak was reported in EW 43 in Norte del Santander, Colombia. Colombia also reported isolated cases in the departments of Caqueta, Casanare, Guaviare, and Meta. As of EW 49, according to probable place of infection, 101 cases were reported in Colombia and 34 cases in Venezuela. The case-fatality rates in Colombia and Venezuela were 44% and 41%, respectively.

To date, Perú has reported 22 cases of JYF. The reports were of isolated cases or small outbreaks located in the departments of Cuzco, Madre de Dios, Puno and San Martin. The case-fatality rate was 59%, and the last reported case occurred in EW 34.

Bolivia reported 6 isolated cases, with 4 deaths, in the departments of Beni, Cochabamba, La Paz, and Santa Cruz. The last case occurred during EW 13. The case-fatality rate was 67%.

The widespread distribution of *Aedes aegypti* in the Americas, coupled with the occurrence of extensive outbreaks of JYF, has brought about a risk of reurbanization of the disease. To prevent the occurrence of outbreaks and reurbanization, enzootic countries should implement all the [conclusions and recommendations of the PAHO Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine Preventable Diseases \(TAG\)](#) as well as implement sustainable plans for vector control (document in Spanish).

Table 1: Jungle Yellow Fever, Reported Cases and Deaths (by country, Region of the Americas, to 18 December 2003)

País	Cases	Deaths
Bolivia	6	4
Brazil	63	23
Colombia	101	45
Perú	22	13
Venezuela	34	14
Total	226	99
<i>Source: Reports to PAHO by the Ministry of Health of the respective countries.</i>		

For additional information, see the following:

- [Informe sobre Fiebre Amarilla Selvática, Colombia 2003](#) (Report on Jungle Yellow Fever, Colombia, 2003). Bogota: Ministry of Health of Colombia. (In Spanish.)
- [Vigilância Epidemiológica, Febre Amarela](#) (Epidemiological Surveillance, Yellow Fever). Brasília: Ministry of Health of Brazil. (In Portuguese.)
- [Tendencia semanal de daños sujetos a Vigilancia Epidemiológica: Fiebre Amarilla, SE 48](#) (Weekly Trend of Events under Epidemiological Surveillance: Yellow Fever, EW 48). Lima: Oficina General de Epidemiología / OGE (General Office of Epidemiology), Ministry of Health of Perú. (In Spanish.)
- [Noticias y Eventos \(News and Events\)](#). Caracas: Ministry of Health and Social Development of Venezuela ([Ministerio de Salud y Desarrollo Social](#) / MSDS). (In Spanish.)
- [Panel de Notificación de casos](#) (Panel of Case Reports) [Boletín Epidemiológico semanal, SE 39](#) (Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin, EW 39). Editorial on yellow fever. La Paz: Ministry