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### Cholera in the Americas - Situation summary

Since the beginning of 2015 up to epidemiological week (EW) 22 of 2015, a total of 16,970 cases have been reported in three countries in the Region of the Americas: Haiti (16,696 cases), the Dominican Republic (273 cases) and Cuba (1 case).

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

In the **Dominican Republic**, in 2014 there were 597 suspected cholera cases recorded, including 10 deaths, which represents a 70% reduction in the number of cases and 76% reduction in the number of deaths in comparison to 2013.

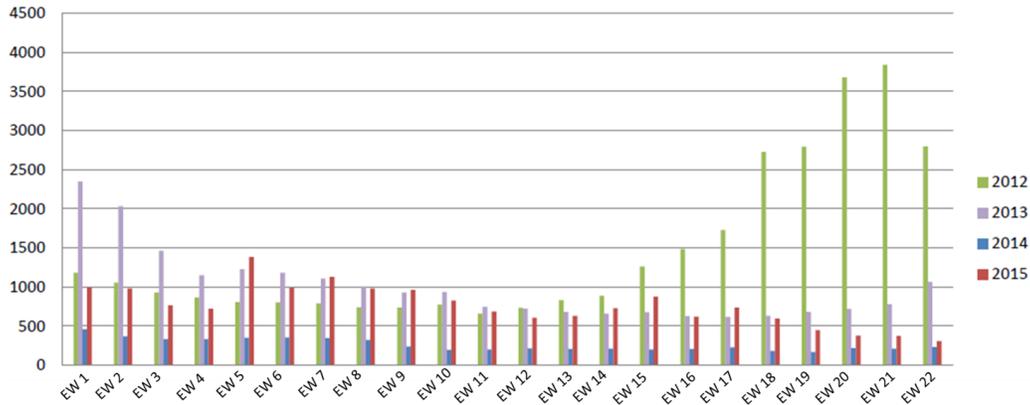
Between epidemiological week (EW) 1 and EW 20 of 2015, there were 273 suspected cholera cases registered, including 10 deaths. This represents an increase of 76% of the cases recorded for the same period of 2014. This situation in the Dominican Republic is linked to the cholera trends registered in Haiti during the same period.

Since the beginning of the epidemic (November 2010) to EW 20 of 2015, a total of 32,358 suspected cholera cases, including 488 deaths, have been recorded in the Dominican Republic.

In **Haiti**, since the beginning of the epidemic (October 2010) through 31 March 2015, there were 738,528 cholera cases, of which 421,013 were hospitalized (57% cumulative hospitalization rate), and 8,925 deaths. The cumulative case fatality rate remains at 1.2%.

From EW 1 to EW 22 of 2015, there were 16,696 cholera cases, including 13,304 hospitalizations (80% hospitalization rate), and 140 deaths (case fatality rate of 0.8%). The number of cases and deaths reported by epidemiological week in 2015 are showing an increase in comparison to the number recorded in the same period of 2014. In addition, in some weeks of 2015 the number of cases recorded is greater than what was recorded in 2012 as demonstrated in Figure 1. Between the months of May and June, the Haiti Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) has reported outbreak alerts in 4 out of 10 departments in the country.

**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'Epidémiologie 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 (DELRL). Rapport du Réseau National de Surveillance. Sites Choléra. Epidemiological Week 22 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%20semanal)
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](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](http://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](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/](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](http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&Itemid=0&gid=10813&lang=fr)