

Cholera in the Americas - Situation summary

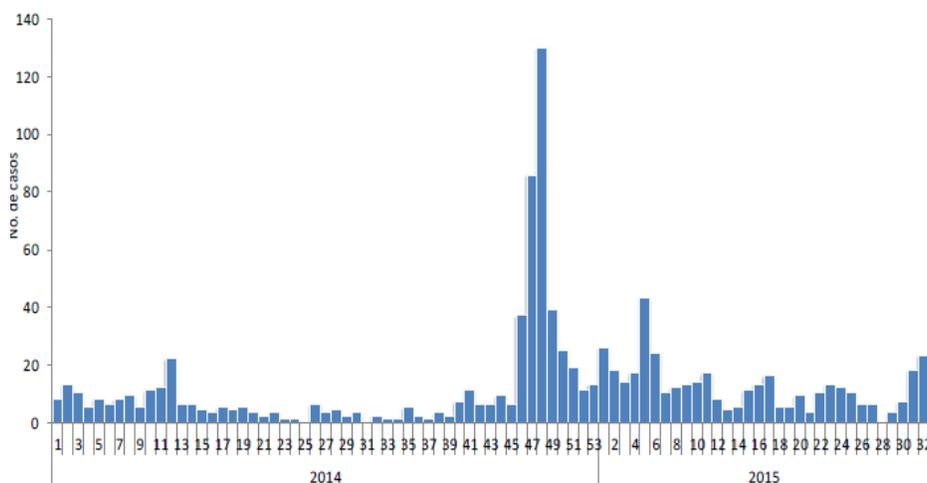
Since the beginning of 2015 up to epidemiological week (EW) 32 of 2015, a total of 21,227 cases have been recorded in three countries in the Region of the Americas: Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti. Haiti alone registered 98% (20,830) of the total cases in the Region of the Americas. Meanwhile in **Brazil**, the isolation of toxigenic *Vibrio cholerae* serogroup O1, serotype Ogawa in samples from a treatment plant wastewater in the Federal District was reported in EW 33 of 2015.¹ The finding was confirmed by the National Reference Laboratory for Diagnosis of Enteric bacterial Infections of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) in Rio de Janeiro.

In **Cuba**, on 29 August 2015 national health authorities reported that isolated cases of cholera have been confirmed in the province of Holguin in the past few weeks. Active control measures are being implemented aggressively.

In the **Dominican Republic**, since the beginning of the epidemic (November 2010) to EW 32 of 2015, a total of 33,160 suspected cholera cases, including 490 deaths, were recorded.

Between EW 1 and EW 32 of 2015, a total of 396 suspected cholera cases were registered, including 12 deaths. This represents the double of the cases recorded for the same period in 2014, as seen in Figure 1. In addition, between EW 31 and EW 32 of 2015, an outbreak was recorded in the Bonao municipality, province of Monseñor Nouel. An irrigation canal was identified as the main source related to that outbreak as indicated in the Dominican Republic Epidemiological Bulletin for EW 32.

Figure 1. New cholera cases by epidemiological week (EW), 2014-2015. Dominican Republic.

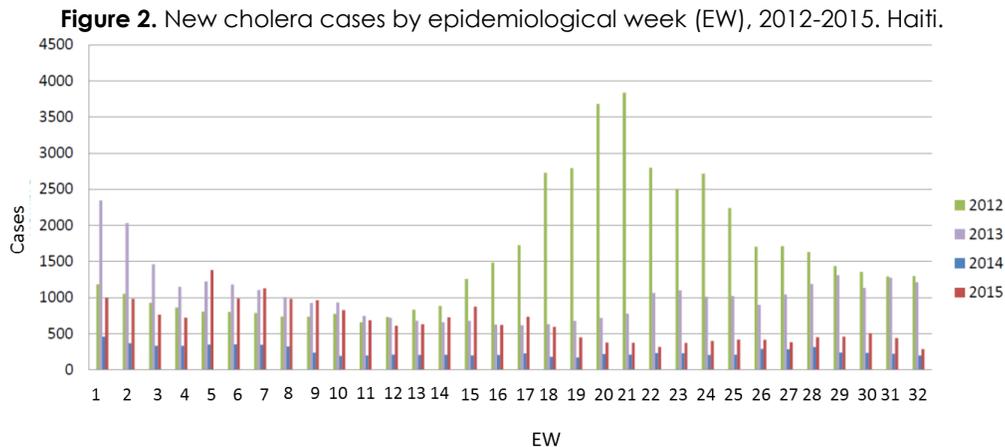


Source: Ministry of Public Health. Department of Epidemiology. Dominican Republic.

¹ The complete information is available at: <http://portalsaude.saude.gov.br/index.php/o-ministerio/principal/secretarias/svs/noticias-svs/19567-monitoramento-ambiental-do-vibrio-cholerae>

In **Haiti**, since the beginning of the epidemic (October 2010) through 8 August 2015, there were 745,401 cholera cases, of which 426,856 were hospitalized (57% cumulative hospitalization rate), and 8,965 deaths, with a national cumulative case fatality rate of 1.2%.

From January up to EW 32 of 2015, there were 20,830 cholera cases, including 16,522 hospitalizations (79% hospitalization rate), and 179 deaths (case fatality rate of 0.9%). On average, there were around 650 new cholera cases and 6 deaths registered by week. In 2015, the number of cases and deaths recorded by epidemiological week show an increase in comparison to the corresponding weeks in previous years, as seen in Figure 1.



Source: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP). Direction d’Epidémiologie de Laboratoire et de Recherches (DELR). Rapport du Réseau National de Surveillance.

Advice to national authorities

The persistence of cholera in and outside of the Americas Region increases the likelihood for the occurrence of imported cases. Information should be provided to travelers about the potential risks of cholera, its symptoms and precautions to avoid the disease, and where to seek health care when symptoms are present. The spread of cholera by an imported case, is closely related to the water and sanitation infrastructure in the area where the imported case is occurring. For this reason, the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) encourages Member States to continue implementing the activities PAHO/WHO has recommended since November 2012. See the [Epidemiological Alert](#).

References

1. Haiti, Ministère de la Santé Publique 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://digepisalud.gob.do/>

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