

Summary of the situation

In 2017, a total of 13,803 suspected cases of cholera were reported on the island of Hispaniola: 13,681 cases (including 159 deaths) in Haiti and 122 cases (including 4 deaths) in the Dominican Republic.

Although the number of cases reported in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic decreased in 2017 compared to 2016, there was a greater decline in the Dominican Republic given that the rate per 100,000 population decreased from 11.5 to 1.20. The rate in Haiti decreased from 374 to 112 cases per 100,000 population between 2016 and 2017.

Similarly, comparing 2016 and 2017, the number of deaths related to cholera decreased by 64% in Haiti (from 446 to 159 deaths) and by 85% in the Dominican Republic (from 27 to 4 deaths).

Up to epidemiological week (EW) 29 of 2018, 2,883 cholera cases were reported on Hispaniola; 99% occurred in Haiti (2,843 cases, including 34 deaths). In addition, Mexico reported a cholera case (*Vibrio cholerae* O1 toxigenic) in a 43-year-old female patient who acquired the infection in Sinaloa. Symptom onset was on 16 June. Additional laboratory analysis is underway to characterize the strain, and no additional cases have been reported.

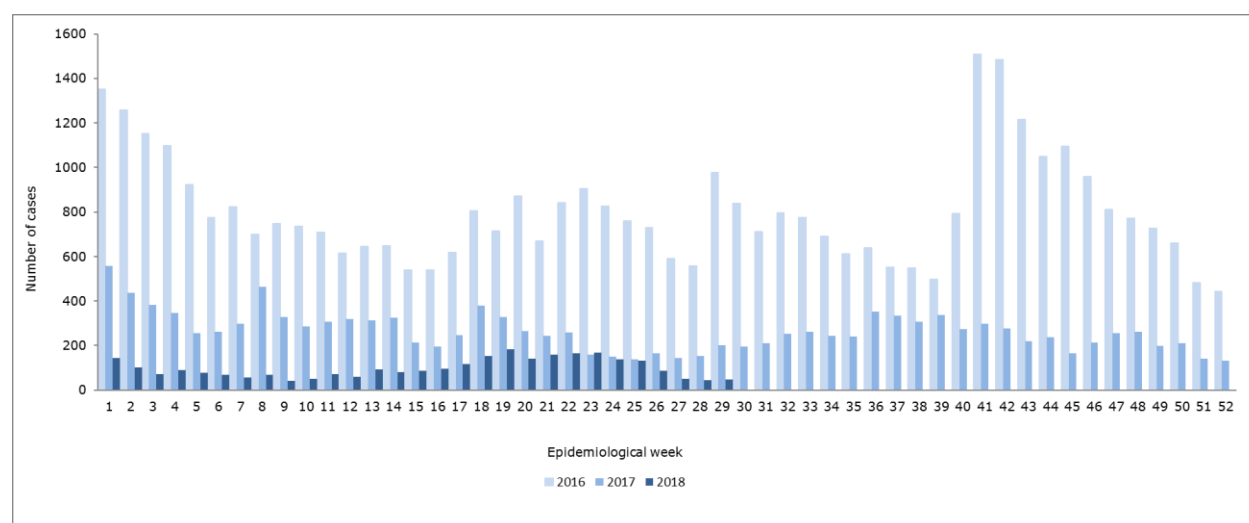
The following is a summary of the situation on Hispaniola.

In **Haiti** between EW 1 and EW 29 of 2018, 2,843 suspected cases were reported, including 34 deaths. The incidence rate for 2018 (until EW 29) is 24 cases per 100,000 population, which is the lowest recorded incidence since the beginning of the outbreak. In the last 8 weeks (EW 22 to EW 29), an average of 103 suspected cases were reported following a peak with 184 cases reported in EW 19. This year, great effort has been made to ensure laboratory characterization of the cases. In 2018, samples for laboratory confirmation were available for 69% of cases; the rate of confirmation varied between 10% and 80% per epidemiological week and department (22% on average).

The cumulative case-fatality rate (CFR) has remained around 1% since 2011.

Most of the cases have occurred in the departments of Artibonite (854 cases), Centre (774), and Ouest (561, which includes the capital city of Port-au-Prince). A similar situation was observed in 2017 in which most of the cases were reported in these same departments, indicating that the focus of circulation persists in these areas.

Figure 1. Suspected cholera cases by epidemiological week. Haiti, 2016–2018 (until EW 29).



Source: Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) / Direction d'Epidémiologie de Laboratoire et de Recherches (DELR), and reproduced by PAHO/WHO

In the Dominican Republic between EW 1 and EW 29 of 2018, 41 suspected cases of cholera were reported, representing a decrease of 57% compared to the total reported during the same epidemiological period in 2017 (96 cases). No deaths have been reported in 2018. Between EW 28 and EW 29, 20 suspected cases of cholera were reported, of which 19 were reported in the municipality of La Descubierta, Independencia Province (bordering Ouest Department in Haiti). Samples were collected for 5 of the cases: 3 were negative for *V. cholerae* and results are pending for the remaining 2 cases.

Table 1 shows the number of cholera cases reported on Hispaniola since the start of the outbreak in 2010 until EW 29 of 2018.

Table 1. Number of suspected cases of cholera on Hispaniola, October 2010–July 2018 (until EW 29)

Year	Dominican Republic			Haiti		
	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
2010 [†]	191	0	0	179,379	3,990	2.2
2011 [†]	20,851	336	1.6	340,311	2,869	0.8
2012 [†]	7,919	68	0.8	112,076	894	0.8
2013 [†]	1,954	42	2.1	58,809	593	1.0
2014 [†]	603	11	1.8	27,753	296	1.1
2015	546	15	2.7	36,045	322	0.9
2016	1,159	27	2.3	41,421	446	1.1
2017*	122	4	3.4	13,681	159	1.1
2018*	41	0	0	2,842	34	1.2

[†] **Source:** WHO, Weekly Epidemiological Bulletins. Available at: <http://www.who.int/cholera/statistics/en/>

* Data published by the Dominican Republic Ministry of Public Health, General Directorate of Epidemiology. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2Hp3C97>

Data published by the Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) / Direction d'Epidémiologie (DELR). Available at: <https://bit.ly/2HrEtPa>

Advice for Member States

Although cholera is at the lowest recorded incidence since October 2010, cholera transmission continues on Hispaniola. Therefore, PAHO/WHO continues to recommend that Member States maintain and strengthen cholera surveillance capacity in order to detect suspected cases early, provide adequate treatment, and prevent its spread. With early and appropriate treatment, the case-fatality rate should remain below 1% among hospitalized patients.

PAHO/WHO encourages Member States to continue their efforts, including hygiene promotion and social mobilization, to ensure adequate sanitation and access to safe drinking water and thereby reduce the impact of cholera and other waterborne diseases.

References

1. Weekly Epidemiological Bulletins. Dominican Republic Ministry of Public Health. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2Hp3C97>
2. Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) / Direction d'Epidémiologie de Laboratoire et de Recherches (DELR). Available at: <https://bit.ly/2HrEtPa>

Related links:

- WHO Weekly Epidemiological Record, vol. 91, EW 38 of 2016. 2015 Annual Cholera Report. Available at: <http://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/250142>
- 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. Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&Itemid=0&qid=10813&lang=fr