

Cholera in the Americas - Situation summary

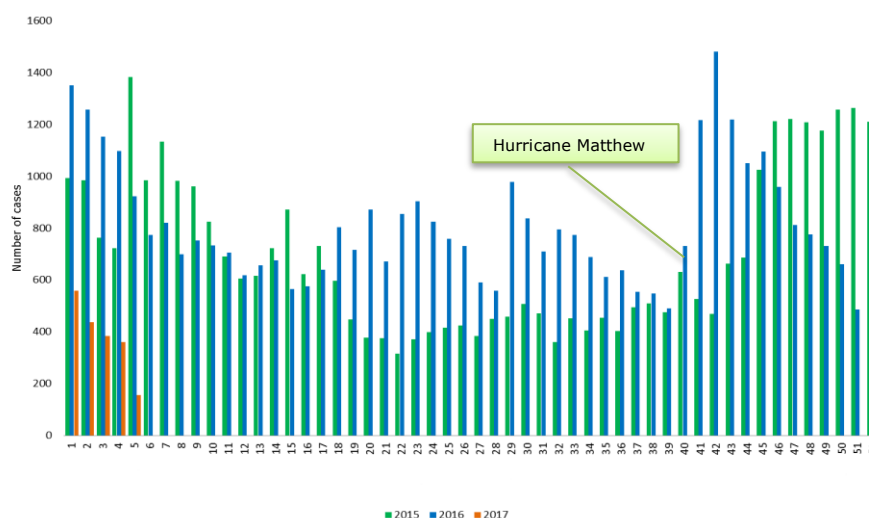
Between epidemiological week (EW) 1 and 5 of 2017, a total of 1,897 cholera cases were reported in Haiti, including 28 deaths. In the Dominican Republic, from the beginning of the year to EW 2 of 2017, there were 7 suspected cholera cases and 2 confirmed cases reported, including one death.

In 2016, four countries of the Americas: the Dominican Republic (1,159), Ecuador¹ (1), Haiti (41,421), and Mexico (1) reported suspected and confirmed cases.

In **Haiti**, in 2017 up to EW 5, a total of 1,897 cholera cases, including 28 related deaths (case fatality rate: 1.5%) were reported.² In this period, the number of reported cases is lower than reported in 2015 and 2016. In relation to the in-hospital case fatality rate (CFR), it has remained around 1% since 2011.

At the sub-national level, the departments with the highest reported cases in EW 5 in descending order are: Artibonite, Centre, Nord, Nord-Ouest, and Ouest (which includes Port-au-Prince). In the departments of Grand Anse and Sud, areas affected by the passing of Hurricane Matthew on 4 October 2016, there is a low level of suspected cholera cases and a declining trend since their respective peaks in EW 43 and 42, respectively (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1. Number of suspected cholera cases per day by epidemiological week. Haiti. EW 1 of 2015 to EW 5 of 2017



Source: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) de Haïti/ Direction d'Epidémiologie de Laboratoire et de Recherches (DELR)

¹ Isolated cholera case, *Vibrio cholerae* serogroup 01, serotype Ogawa, biotype El Tor no toxigenic

² Preliminary data subject to change as new information is received.

Suggested citation: Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization. Epidemiological Update: Cholera. 24 February, Washington, D.C.: PAHO/WHO; 2017

In the **Dominican Republic**, as of EW 2 of 2017, there were 9 cholera cases reported; this number is 2.3 times lower than in the same period of 2016. In contrast, between EW 1 and EW 52 of 2016, there were 1,159 suspected cholera cases reported, and 27 related deaths (CFR 2.3%). The total number of cases notified in 2016, represents an increase in comparison to the number of cases observed in 2014 and 2015.

Table 1 shows the number of cholera cases reported by year, between 2010 and 2017, in the island of Hispaniola.

Table 1. Cholera cases in the island of Hispaniola, 2010-2017

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*	447*	1.1
2017	9**	1**	11.1	1,897***	28***	1.5

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

* Data up to EW 52 of 2016

** Data as of EW 2 of 2017. Published by the Dominican Republic Ministry of Public Health, General Department of Epidemiology. Available at:

http://digepisalud.gob.do/documentos/?drawer=Boletines%20epidemiol%C3%B3gicos*Boletines%20semanales*2017

*** Data as of EW 5 of 2017; provided to PAHO/WHO by the Haiti Ministry of Public Health and Population (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) de Haïti/ Direction d'Epidémiologie de Laboratoire et de Recherches (DELR))

Advice to national authorities

Given the cholera situation on the island of Hispaniola, the PAHO / WHO recommends that Member States strengthen active surveillance systems for early detection of suspected cases and conduct rapid diagnostic laboratory confirmation of cases, in order to provide adequate treatment and prevent the spread of cholera. PAHO/WHO encourages Member States to continue with their efforts to ensure and maintain adequate sanitation and access to safe drinking water, in order to reduce the impact of cholera and other waterborne diseases.

References

1. Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin, Epidemiological week 52 of 2016. Dominican Republic Ministry of Public Health. Available at:
http://digepisalud.gob.do/documentos/?drawer=Boletines%20epidemiol%C3%B3gicos*Boletines%20semanales*2016

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. Washington D.C., November 2010:
http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&Itemid=0&gid=10813&lang=fr