

### Cholera in the Americas - Situation summary

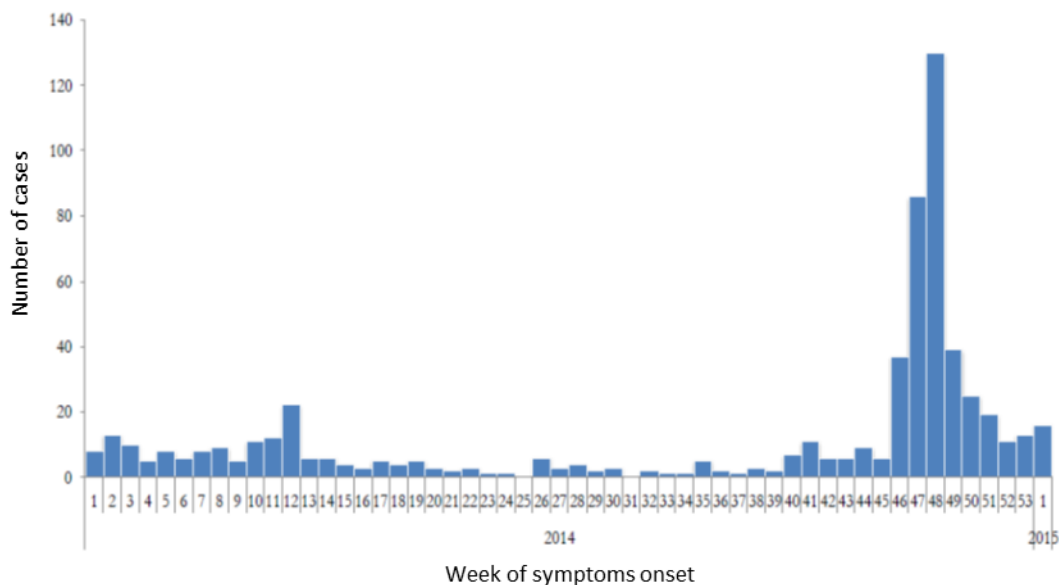
In **Cuba**, at the beginning of January 2015, the International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point of Canada reported a case of cholera with history of travel to Cuba. Health authorities in Cuba are conducting an epidemiological investigation to determine the source of infection and implementing appropriate public health action. No additional cases have been reported in the country.

In the **Dominican Republic**, between epidemiological week (EW) 1 and EW 53 of 2014, there were 597 suspected cholera cases, including ten deaths registered. This represents a 69.5% reduction in the number of cases and 76% reduction in the number of deaths compared to 2013.

There was a peak in cases registered between EW 46 to EW 49 of 2014. Figure 1.

Thus far in 2015, there have been 16 suspected cholera cases reported; 13 reside in the province of Santiago, two in San Pedro de Macoris and one in Monte Plata.

**Figure 1.** Cholera epidemiological curve. Dominican Republic EW 1 of 2014 to EW 1 of 2015.



**Source.** Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin. EW 1 of 2015. Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic.

In **Haiti**, from EW 1 to EW 53 of 2014, there were 27,753 cholera cases and 296 related deaths recorded; this represents a decrease of 53% and 50% respectively, compared with the numbers recorded in 2013.

While the overall cases registered in 2014 were well below the numbers recorded in previous years, between EW 37 to EW 47 of 2014 there was a comparative increase in cases. In fact, between EW 1 and EW 36 of 2014, the weekly average of new cholera cases recorded had been 251, and it jumped to 918 new cholera cases weekly nationwide for EW 37 to EW 47 of 2014. Four departments, Artibonite, Centre, Ouest and Nord, accounted for 90% of the cases registered in 2014; Ouest had the highest number of cases registered, with 36% of the total. Between EW 37 and EW 47, these four departments reported an average hospitalization rate of 70%, signifying 7 out of every 10 cases recorded required hospitalization.

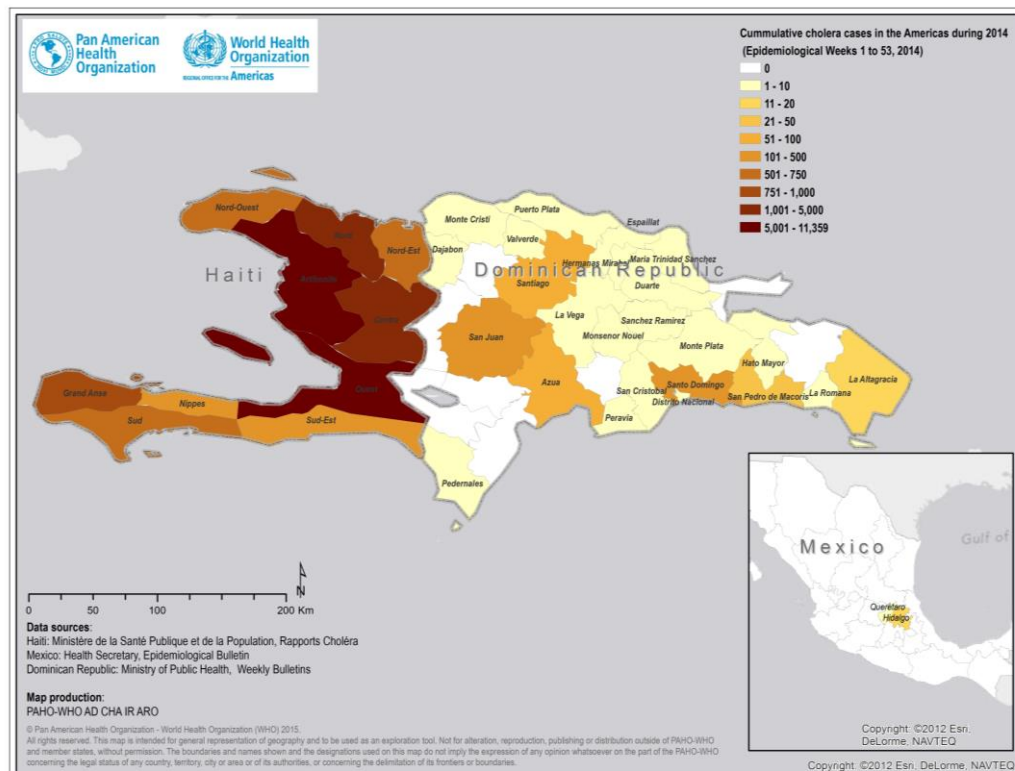
From December 2014 a decrease in the number of new cases and deaths was recorded.

In **Mexico**, since EW 24 to EW 53 of 2014, the number of cholera cases registered in Mexico reached 14, with 13 in the state of Hidalgo and one in the state of Querétaro. As of EW 34 of 2014, there were no new cholera cases registered.

## Advice to national authorities

Given recent resurgence of cases in the last months on the island of Hispaniola, the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) encourages Member States to remain vigilant and continue implementing the recommendations of the 2 November 2012 [Epidemiological Alert](#) on cholera.

**Map:** Cumulative cholera cases in the Americas from Epidemiological Week 1 to 53, 2014



## References

1. Haiti, Ministère de la Santé Public et de la Population. Rapports journaliers du MSPP, 2014. Available at: <http://mspp.gouv.ht/newsite/documentation.php>
2. Dominican Republic, Epidemiological Bulletins, 2014 - 2015. Available at: <http://digepisalud.gob.do/boletines/boletines-semanales.html>
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>