



Epidemiological Alert: Update on Cholera in Haiti

(7 November 2010)

Current Situation of the Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

From the time when the first cholera cases were confirmed in Haiti, to Epidemiological Week (EW) 44, a total of 8,138 hospital admissions and 544 deaths have been recorded. Artibonite, Central, Ouest, Nord Ouest and Nord, remain the only departments where cases have been recorded. The department of Artibonite registers the highest case incidence rate with 49 cases for every 10,000 inhabitants, followed by Nord with 11 cases for every 10,000 inhabitants, and Central with 10 cases for every 10,000 inhabitants. Some conglomerates of suspected cases in Port-au-Prince and its surroundings are currently under investigation.

As of EW 44, and at the national level, a total of 544 deaths have been recorded, 57% of which have occurred at the health services level, and 43% at the community level. The daily case fatality rates observed in health services at the national level have ranged from 2.2% to 6.0% (3.8% average). Alternatively, in the department of Artibonite, this rate has ranged from 1.2% to 6.8% (3.5% average). The impact of efforts undertaken to improve case management and access to health services on recorded case fatality rates is being analyzed.

Of 5,074 hospitalized cases, where information by age group is available, 11% corresponds to children under 5 years of age, while 89% corresponds to people 5 years of age and older.

Tropical Storm "Tomas" has added a new challenge to the response activities in Haiti. Currently, the impact of floods on patients' care, as well as the development of the cholera outbreak in various localities of the department of Artibonite is being assessed.

This outbreak has unleashed responses from part of most countries of the region, who have taken measures to update their preparation and response plans, and have strengthened their surveillance systems for the timely detection of outbreaks.

An updated report on response activities undertaken by the Pan American Health Organization is available on the web by [clicking here](#).

References

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