

Global Cholera Cases and Deaths Reported to the World Health Organization, 1970 to 2004

Description

Annual cases and deaths from cholera are shown here for all continental regions, along with the number of countries reporting. Cholera is one of many waterborne diseases that are a consequence of the lack of sanitation services and access to clean drinking water. Some data on cholera cases and deaths are available as early as 1922 from reports to the League of Nations, but consistent reports are available from World Health Organization (WHO) since 1950 only. The data here are given annually from 1970 to 2004, with a sum of total cases for Asia from 1950 to 1969.

Figure DT 14.1 and Figure DT 14.2 show the annual number of deaths and total cases from 1970 to 2004. These data clearly reflect the rapid and severe spread of cholera in Latin America during the seventh pandemic, starting with the appearance of cholera in Peru in 1991 and spreading rapidly. That sharp spike in cholera was the first manifestation of the seventh pandemic in the Americas (defined as North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean) and was the first time that the Americas has seen more than a handful of indigenous cases in over a century. Figure DT 14.3 shows the total number of countries reporting to the WHO. As shown, the number has fluctuated over time and has dropped significantly in recent years, which may have an important role in the quality of the overall totals (see Limitations).

Limitations

These data are only the cases identified and reported to the WHO and do not include undiagnosed or unreported cases. The number of countries reporting cholera cases and deaths increased in Asia in the 1960s and 1970s, declining in the 1980s and then peaking in the 1990s. The number of countries reporting in the past five years is far below the peak, suggesting that totals shown in the table and figures could seriously underrepresent total cholera cases and deaths.

Source

The WHO maintains surveillance and reporting programs for cholera and provides online data in several places. These data were collected, sorted, and summed from <http://www.who.int/emc-documents/surveillance/docs/whocdscsr2001.html/cholera/cholera.htm>.

All 1999 data: <http://www.who.int/emc/diseases/cholera/choltbl1999.html>.

All 2000 data: <http://www.who.int/wer/pdf/2001/wer7631.pdf>.

All 2001 to 2004 data: <http://www.who.int/topics/cholera/wer/en/index.html>.

DATA TABLE 14 Global Cholera Cases and Deaths Reported to the World Health Organization, 1970 to 2004

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Africa																	
Total no. of cases	11,086	72,654	5,137	6,337	6,074	6,650	3,180	9,502	24,643	21,586	18,742	19,415	46,924	37,383	17,504	31,884	35,585
Total no. of deaths	747	11,427	386	636	582	504	194	462	1,591	1,869	1,185	1,581	2,988	1,903	1,711	3,837	3,490
No. of countries reporting	16	23	18	16	17	14	14	13	20	19	16	18	16	15	19	21	18
The Americas																	
Total no. of cases																	
Total no. of deaths																	
No. of countries reporting																	
Asia																	
1950-1969	1,355,747	103,308	75,064	102,148	89,077	85,316	65,469	52,460	52,511	35,732	24,015	32,343	17,991	27,877	11,809	13,389	17,131
Total no. of cases	6,787	14,701	10,271	9,422	7,019	6,567	3,754	1,694	1,763	1,602	769	860	833	765	119	276	477
Total no. of deaths	23	22	15	16	14	18	19	21	21	22	17	18	14	11	9	11	11
No. of countries reporting																	
Europe																	
1970	726	97	4	303	2,484	1,089	16	8	5	289	16	46	22	12	11	6	52
Total no. of cases	1	4	0	23	48	8	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total no. of deaths	4	6	2	5	6	6	8	6	2	5	5	9	4	5	4	3	5
No. of countries reporting																	
Oceania																	
1970	43	6	1	1	1	0	0	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	1
Total no. of cases	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	17	1	0	0	0
Total no. of deaths	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	1
No. of countries reporting																	
Global Totals																	
1950-1969	1,355,747	176,059	80,248	108,788	97,641	93,055	68,665	63,280	77,692	57,671	42,776	51,810	67,154	65,598	29,344	45,286	52,771
Total no. of cases	6,787	26,132	10,658	10,081	7,650	7,079	3,950	2,177	3,354	3,479	1,954	2,441	3,838	2,669	1,830	4,114	3,967
Total no. of deaths	23	42	38	36	38	38	41	43	46	49	40	47	37	34	34	37	35
No. of countries reporting																	

continues

89 DATA TABLE 14 continued

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Africa																		
Total no. of cases	31,324	23,583	35,951	38,683	155,358	91,081	76,713	161,983	71,081	108,535	118,349	211,748	206,746	118,932	173,359	137,866	108,067	95,560
Total no. of deaths	2,658	1,500	1,445	2,288	13,998	5,291	2,532	8,128	3,024	6,216	5,853	9,856	8,728	4,610	2,590	4,551	1,884	2,331
No. of countries reporting	17	13	16	11	22	20	16	28	26	28	25	29	28	27	27	27	29	31
The Americas																		
Total no. of cases					391,220	354,089	209,192	113,684	85,809	24,643	17,760	57,106	8,126	3,101	535	23	33	36
Total no. of deaths					4,002	2,401	2,438	1,107	845	351	225	558	103	40	0	0	0	0
No. of countries reporting					16	21	21	17	15	18	16	16	12	11	8	4	4	5
Asia																		
Total no. of cases	17,558	20,871	18,007	31,003	49,791	16,299	90,862	106,100	53,159	10,142	11,293	24,212	39,417	11,246	10,340	4,409	3,463	5,764
Total no. of deaths	238	378	224	628	1,286	372	1,809	1,393	1,158	122	196	172	344	232	138	13	10	14
No. of countries reporting	10	12	13	13	16	18	25	26	18	13	18	16	14	12	13	13	8	12
Europe																		
Total no. of cases	14	14	11	349	320	18	73	2,630	937	25	18	47	16	35	58	7	12	21
Total no. of deaths	0	0	0	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of countries reporting	5	4	6	9	6	7	15	20	17	6	6	10	5	2	5	6	4	7
Oceania																		
Total no. of cases	2	1		67		296	5	6	7	4	5	8	5	3,757	19	6	0	2
Total no. of deaths	0	0		1		8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0
No. of countries reporting	2	1	0	5	0	2	1	3	2	3	2	3	2	4	3	2	0	1
Global Totals																		
Total no. of cases	48,898	44,469	53,969	70,102	596,689	461,783	376,845	384,403	210,993	143,349	147,425	293,121	254,310	137,071	184,311	142,311	111,575	101,383
Total no. of deaths	2,896	1,878	1,669	2,919	19,295	8,072	6,779	10,628	5,027	6,689	6,275	10,586	9,175	4,908	2,728	4,564	1,894	2,345
No. of countries reporting	34	30	35	38	60	68	78	94	78	68	67	74	61	56	56	52	45	56

<http://www.who.int/emc-documents/surveillance/docs/whocdscsr2001.html/cholera/cholera.htm>

<http://www.who.int/emc/diseases/cholera/choltbl1999.html> for all 1999 data

<http://www.who.int/wer/pdf/2001/wer7631.pdf> for all 2000 data

<http://www.who.int/topics/cholera/wer/en/index.html> for 2001-2004 data

Global Cholera Deaths Reported 1970 to 2004

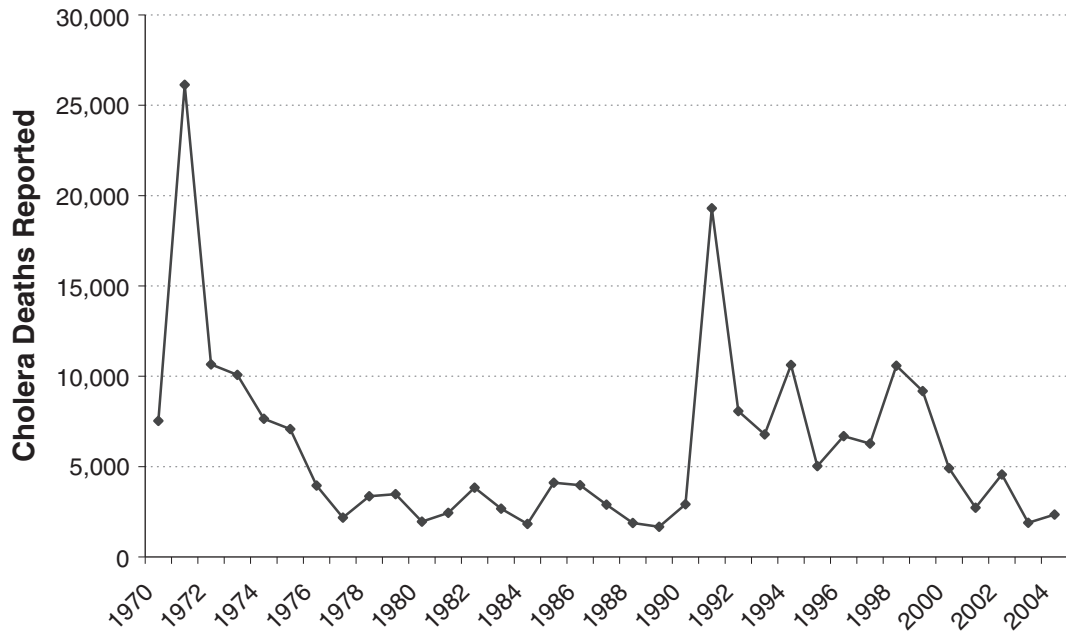


FIGURE DT 14.1 Reported global cholera deaths, 1970-2004.

Global Cholera Cases Reported 1970 to 2004

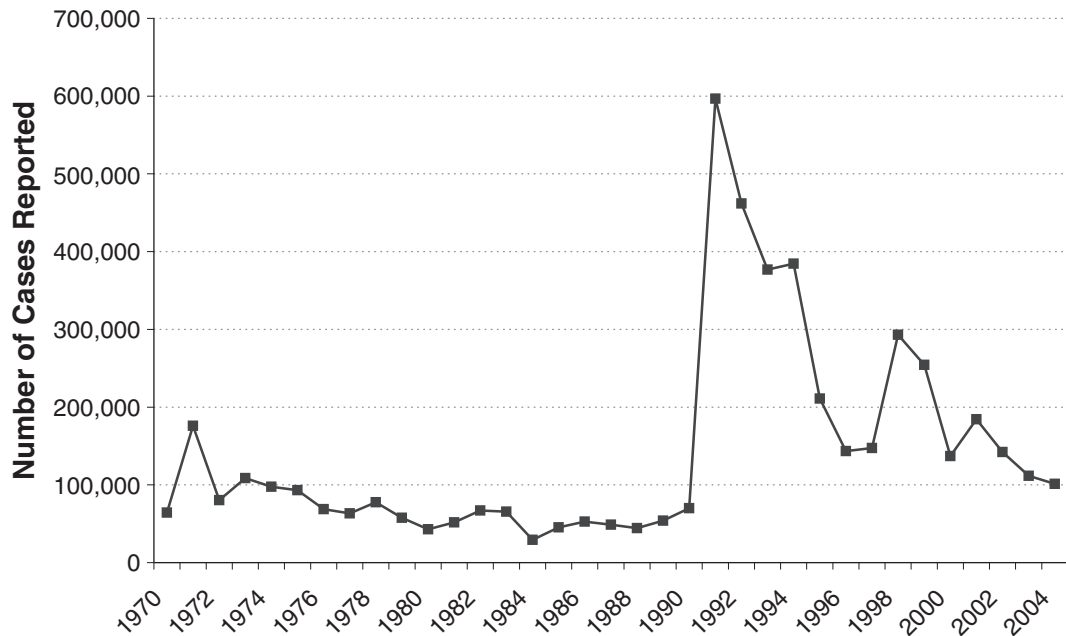


FIGURE DT 14.2 Reported global cholera cases, 1970-2004.

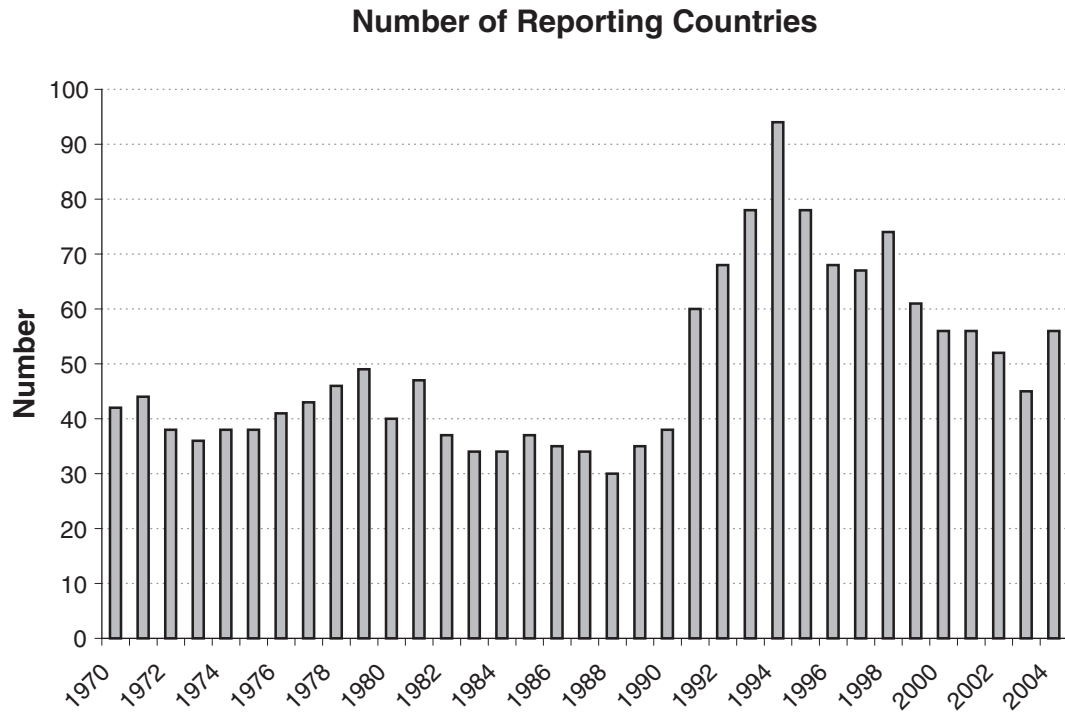


FIGURE DT 14.3 Number of reporting countries, 1970-2004.