

Cholera in Haiti

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Outline – Cholera in Haiti

- I. Introduction
 - A. Interest grabber about the topic
 - 1. Imagine a world with clean water, plenty of hygiene products, and all the proper healthcare for all diseases.
 - B. Preview of background, pros and cons
 - C. Thesis--the best solution to cholera is cleaner water, a sanitation plant, and better healthcare.
- II. Body
 - A. Background--January 12, 2010, a catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. Nine months later in October the quick spread of Cholera began. This also was the quick spread of no clean water, no sanitation, and harder ways to reach proper healthcare
 - B. Definition--Cholera is a water-borne disease that develops from the lack of clean water, proper sanitation, and the proper items to be a clean person.
 - C. Facts
 - 1. The number of deaths per year
 - 2. The legal battle in the US: More help for Haiti and better healthcare
 - 3. The timeline of cholera in Haiti
 - D. Pros
 - 1. Vaccine for cholera, finding a cure
 - 2. Building of a sanitation plant
 - 3. More help from other countries
 - E. Cons
 - 1. Why there is no clean water
 - 2. Why they have poor healthcare in Haiti
 - 3. Why there is no sanitation plant/bathrooms
 - F. Finding a cure for cholera
- III. Conclusion
 - A. Review of all main points
 - B. Final restatement of the thesis

Imagine a world with clean water, all the proper hygiene products, and healthcare for all diseases. Cholera is one of many diseases that there is a possible cure for, but not enough supply for the demand. Cholera is a water-borne disease that develops from the lack of clean water, proper sanitation, and the proper items to be a clean person. Cholera is a fast-acting disease if not treated properly and fast. The start of a cleaner world and cure for cholera is cleaner water, a sanitation plant, and better healthcare.

“Cholera is an ancient disease. Throughout history, populations all over the world have sporadically been affected by devastating outbreaks of cholera” (Handa et al., 2016). Since the early 1800’s, nearly ten cholera pandemics have occurred. *Pandemic* means that a disease has spread through large regions of a country. In early 1800’s, more than 150,000 deaths occurred, compared to the late 1800’s, when only 50,000 deaths occurred. “Cholera is a bacterial disease usually spread through contaminated water” (“Diseases and Conditions Cholera,” 2014). Cholera is a very deadly disease that if not treated promptly will kill the patient. Cholera is known as a disease that causes dehydration and diarrhea. This drains the patient’s body of all the fluids and nutrients that it has preserved. Over the years, the number of deaths by cholera steadily increases.

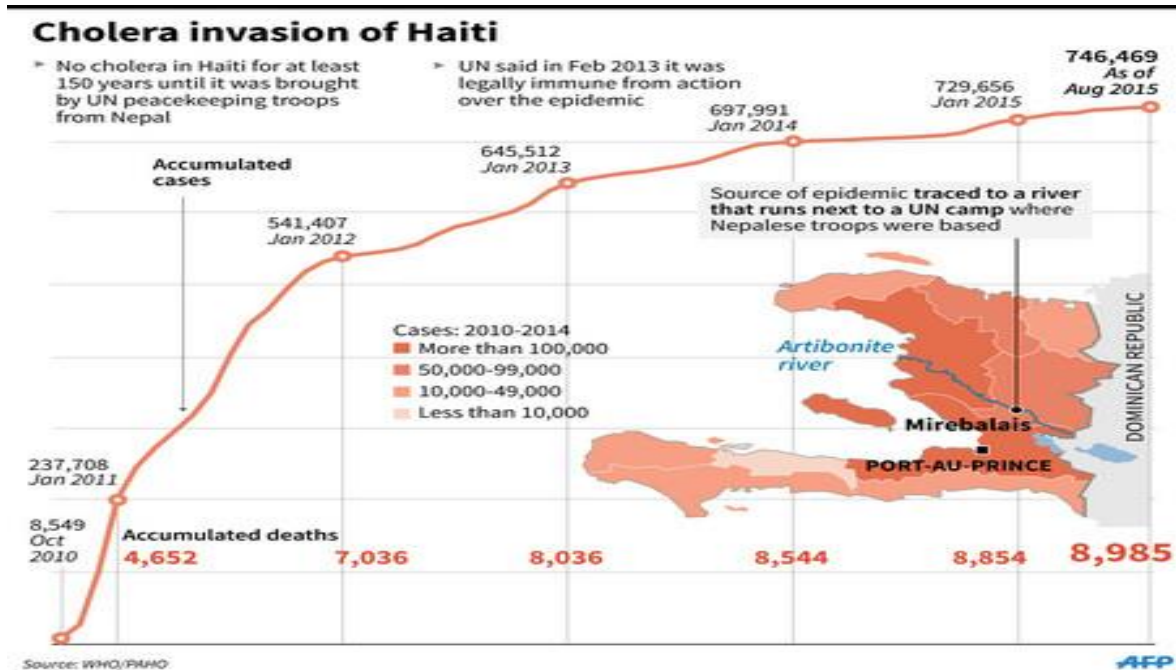


Figure 1.1 Accumulated cases vs. Accumulated deaths (Agence France Presse. 2015).

The chart above shows that the number of deaths do increase, but the number of cases are increased faster than deaths. In January 2010, a catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti; nine months later, the quick spread of cholera began. As cholera has a long history, this has helped many doctors and volunteers be able to explore and find help for cholera patients. Cholera is not a disease that can be taken lightly by a doctor or healthcare workers. Once the patient has been seen by the doctor or healthcare provider in a hospital, it is known best that the patient be kept in incubation for a few hours up to five days. This is measure used in hopes that the disease does not spread to another patient.

Cholera is not a disease that can be cured overnight. This is a disease that has been around for several decades, but doctors and scientists are on the rise of helping these people. "An inexpensive, little-known cholera vaccine appears to work so well that it can protect entire communities and perhaps head off explosive epidemics like the one that killed nearly 10,000

Haitians in 2010” (McNeil & Donald, 2015). A vaccine shot for cholera is one of the many things that are being used to help fight the pandemic. “Health experts say the cholera vaccine must be seen as just one component to be accompanied by other control measures” (“Cholera Vaccine Another Element of Battling Diseases,” 2012). Producing a vaccination for the people of Haiti is not the only measure that will cure this disease. It is one step closer, but there are other measures, such as a sanitation plant and help from other countries, that are needed. Sanitation is another major need in Haiti. Having clean water and places to use the restroom that don’t mix with the drinking water is a major need in Haiti. Having clean water will help fight the disease and also help the disease not spread. Soap will help stop the spread as well. Haitians do not have much money and are not rich people; this means they are not able to buy all the proper hygiene items for them or their family. “We borrow, we buy, but right now, we don't have any soap in the house, I am sorry to say,” said Joceline Jeune, living with three children in a hillside shanty at the edge of a displaced-persons camp, as a gutter filled with greasy, gray water flowed inches from her front door” (qtd. in Booth, 2010). More than 100,000 bars of soap have been taken to Haiti and give to the people. That is a start to a cleaner world, but there are plenty more people still in need of soap. “Clean water and sewage control are still the ultimate weapons against cholera” (McNeil & Donald, 2015).

Many people still ask why is Haiti still in need? Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. “Haiti makes up the western one-third of the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean” (“Haiti Fast Facts,” 2016). Making up one-third of the island, it is very important for this part of the island to continue being clean in order to not have disease and pandemics. Haitians live in the side of the hills, and water flows outside their doors. This water is not clean;

most of the water is *grey water*, which means it has human feces in the water. Having contaminated water near and around the home sites is causing people to become sick and the cholera epidemic to be able to grow larger. “That humid choking stench is everywhere. Unending makeshift shacks stretch from clogged ‘canals,’ through which water the color of petroleum slowly trickles: This is at once the communal latrine and the water supply for washing the evening’s cookware” (Eberstadt, 2006, pp. 23-29). This is all because there is a lack of a sanitation pump or system that filters the water and keeps the clean water separate from the dirty water. Another reason Haiti is still in need is because of the poor level of healthcare. Living in the poorest country in the world, the citizens cannot be expected to have great healthcare. Doctors from other parts of the world come together to try to help by going to Haiti and volunteering their time and efforts to the people of Haiti. Haitians live in a pandemic that started in the 1800’s and still is occurring today.

A world with no diseases, clean water, and the best healthcare is a great dream to live in. Unfortunately, that is not the world we live in today. Many people live as they did many decades ago. Having the best of both worlds is what some people would call it, but others would call it fortunate. The people of Haiti need the best of both worlds; they need clean water and better healthcare. Having cleaner water would be one step closer to finding a cure and ending the cholera epidemic. There are ways to treat cholera, such as vaccines, but the major goal in curing cholera is finding a way to get the people of Haiti clean water and the proper hygiene products they need to live a cleaner lifestyle. A disease that started in the early 1800’s has started a pandemic in today’s society, all starting with an earthquake January of 2010.

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