

The leprosy burden at the end of 2005 *

During 2006, statistical reports on the leprosy situation were received from 115 countries and territories. As shown in the table below, the global registered prevalence of leprosy at the beginning of 2006 was 222,427 cases while the number of new cases reported during the year 2005 was 298,626. Note that this table excludes the small number of cases reported from Europe.

Rates of prevalence and new case detection (shown in parenthesis) were calculated based on population data for the year 2005 from [United Nations Population Division](#) (2004 Revision: POP/DB/WPP/Rev.2004/2/F1)

WHO Region	Registered prevalence (rate per 10,000 population)	New cases in 2005 (rate per 100,000 population)
Africa	43,425 (0.63)	44,769 (6.48)
Americas	32,910 (0.39)	41,952 (5.00)
South-East Asia	133,422 (0.79)	201,635 (11.99)
Eastern Mediterranean	4,024 (0.08)	3,133 (0.61)
Western Pacific	8,646 (0.05)	7,137 (0.42)
Total:	222,427	298,626

Global new case detection continues to show a sharp decline, falling by over 110,000 cases (27%) during 2005 compared to the new cases reported during the year 2004. The table below shows the burden of the disease for the top six endemic countries, which taken together represent about 23% of the global new case detection and 24% of the global registered cases at the beginning of 2006.

Countries that have yet to reach elimination of leprosy at the national level, beginning of 2006

WHO Region	Registered prevalence ¹			New case detection 2003-2005 ²		
	Start 2004	Start 2005	Start 2006	During 2003	During 2004	During 2005
Brazil	79,908 (4.6)	30,693 (1.7)	27,313 (1.5)	49,206 (28.6)	49,384 (26.9)	38,410 (20.6)
D.R. Congo	6,891 (1.3)	10,530 (1.9)	9,785 (1.7)	7,165 (13.5)	11,781 (21.1)	20,737 (18.7)
Madagascar	5,514 (3.4)	4,610 (2.5)	2,094 (1.1)	5,104 (31.1)	3,710 (20.5)	2,709 (14.6)
Mozambique	6,810 (3.4)	4,692 (2.4)	4,889 (2.5)	5,907 (29.4)	4,266 (22.0)	5,371 (27.1)
Nepal ³	7,549 (3.1)	4,699 (1.8)	4,921 (1.8)	8,046 (32.9)	6,958 (26.2)	6,150 (22.7)
Tanzania	5,420 (1.6)	4,777 (1.3)	4,190 (1.1)	5,279 (15.4)	5,190 (13.8)	4,237 (11.1)
Total:	112,092	60,001	53,192	80,707	81,289	67,614

Notes:

- 1) Prevalence rates (cases per 10,000 population) shown in parentheses
- 2) New case detection rates (cases per 100,000 population) shown in parentheses
- 3) Nepal: new case detection reporting period for 2005 is mid-November 2004 to mid-November 2005

Note: Data for the year 2006 will not be available until mid-2007