

# World Health Organization Wild Polio Virus Update

## Week ending 17 November

Total cases	Year-to-date 2015		Year-to-date 2014		Total in 2014	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Globally	56	17	290	47	359	56
- in endemic countries	56	0	271	44	340	52
- in non-endemic countries	0	17	19	3	19	4

### Headlines:

In 2015, wild poliovirus transmission is at the lowest levels ever, with fewer cases reported from fewer areas of fewer countries than ever before. In 2015, 56 wild poliovirus cases have been reported from two countries (Pakistan and Afghanistan), compared to 290 cases from nine countries during the same period in 2014.

However, in the end stages of polio eradication, with most of the world polio-free, the risks posed remaining vaccination coverage gaps anywhere is becoming more evident. On extremely rare occasions, in areas of chronic vaccination coverage gaps, circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses (cVDPVs) can emerge to cause outbreaks of polio cases. This is not a side effect of the oral polio vaccine, but rather an effect of low vaccination coverage in a community, which is enabling such strains to emerge. Though typically less virulent than wild polioviruses (ie typically causing fewer cases and having a lower profile for geographic spread), such strains nevertheless are this year causing paralysis in children at a rate greater than wild polioviruses. More countries are affected by cVDPV outbreaks (Ukraine, Guinea, Lao, Nigeria, Madagascar) than wild polioviruses (Pakistan and Afghanistan); 3 WHO Regions are affected by cVDPV outbreaks.

**Afghanistan** **Three new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week**, from Faryab and Nangahar provinces. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 27 October, from Nangahar. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2015 is 16.

**Pakistan:** **One new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case was reported in the past week**, with onset of paralysis on 22 October. It is the most recent WPV1 case in the country, from Peshawar in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The total number of WPV1 cases for 2015 is 40.

Countries	Year-to-date 2015		Year-to-date 2014		Total in 2014		Onset of paralysis of most recent case	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Afghanistan	16	0	20	0	28	0	27-Oct-15	NA
Pakistan	40	0	245	20	306	22	22-Oct-15	13-Dec-14