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# WHO: Monkeypox cases drop 21%, reversing month-long increase

August 25, 2022



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monkeypox cases reported globally

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rising infections and signaling that Europe's outbreak may be starting

to decline, the World Health Organization said Thursday.

The U.N. health agency reported 5,907 new weekly cases and said two countries, Iran and [Indonesia](#), reported their first cases. To date, more than 45,000 monkeypox cases have been reported in 98 countries since late April.

The Americas accounted for 60% of cases in the past month, WHO said, while cases in Europe comprised about 38%. It said infections in the Americas showed “a continuing steep rise.”

At a press briefing on Thursday, WHO Director General Tedros



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Europe, which once accounted for

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now causing concerns elsewhere.

“In Latin America in particular, insufficient awareness or public health measures are combining with a lack of access to vaccines to fan the flames of the outbreak,” Tedros said.

In late July, Tedros declared the unprecedented spread of monkeypox to dozens of countries to be a [global emergency](#), despite a lack of consensus on his expert committee.

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### MONKEYPOX

WA COVID,  
monkeypox  
levels down,

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detects 5  
more cases of



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The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday the continent had 219 new cases in the past week, a jump of 54%. Most were in Nigeria and Congo.

British health authorities said last week there were “early signs” the country’s monkeypox outbreak was slowing. The U.K.’s Health Security Agency downgraded the country’s monkeypox outbreak last month, saying there was no evidence the once-rare disease was spreading beyond men who were gay, bisexual or had sex with other men.

Since monkeypox outbreaks in

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spread was almost exclusively in

men who have sex with men

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parts of [Africa](#) for decades and experts suspect the outbreaks in Europe and North America were triggered after the disease started [spreading via sex](#) at two raves in Spain and Belgium.

WHO's latest report said 98% of cases are in men and of those who reported sexual orientation, 96% are in men who have sex with men.

"Of all reported types of transmission, a sexual encounter was reported most commonly," WHO said.

Among the monkeypox cases in which the HIV status of patients was known, 45% were infected with HIV.

WHO has recommended that men

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retraining from group or anonymous

sex

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TO-SKIN OR SKIN-TO-MOUTH CONTACT

with an infected patient's lesions to spread. People can also become infected through contact with infected clothing or bedsheets.

With globally limited [vaccine supplies](#), authorities in the [U.S.](#), Europe and [the U.K.](#) have all begun rationing doses to stretch supplies by up to five times.

WHO has advised countries that have vaccines to prioritize immunization for those at high risk of the disease, including gay and bisexual men with multiple sex partners, and for health workers, laboratory staff and outbreak responders.

While [Africa has reported](#) the most suspected deaths from monkeypox



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study in Congo.

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topical, but there are not enough doses of vaccines,” Nigeria Center

for Disease Control Director-General Ifedayo Adetifa said this week. “Potentially, a lot more more doses will become available, but because of challenges with manufacturing factories and unexpected uptick in monkeypox cases, the vaccine may actually not be available until 2023.”

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Chinedu Asadu in Abuja, Nigeria, and Jamey Keaten in Geneva contributed reporting.  
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