



## Cholera Outbreak, Stockholm, 1853

### Context

This is part of research work on the history of Stockholm in the 19th century. Since Sweden has well-preserved church archives this permits getting detailed information about e.g. pandemic events. In this data collection, I will start gathering information about the large cholera outbreak in late August 1853. About 3% of the population died within a couple of weeks. Poor parts of the city, such as S:t Catherine parish was hit very hard.

This is a page from the church records in the worst period in September: [https://sok.riksarkivet.se/bildvisning/C0055812\\_00226](https://sok.riksarkivet.se/bildvisning/C0055812_00226)  
For more information see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1853\\_Stockholm\\_cholera\\_outbreak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1853_Stockholm_cholera_outbreak)

### Content

The data is collected from hand-written church records. The church was responsible for all population registration until around 1870. Only death records have been analyzed. Since Cholera has around 40% CFR we can assume a larger number of affected but surviving individuals.

### Data Sources

- All data can be found at the National Archive of Sweden. See <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/digitala-forskarsalen> (press "Other languages" for an English version).
- Another important source for further analysis is "Sundhets-collegii underdåniga berättelse om Kolerafarsoten i Sverige, 1853" which is a broad overview of the epidemic situation in all of Sweden. This contemporary report can be found at Statistics Sweden (SCB) : See [this link](#).

### Inspiration

I hope the data (and upcoming code/notebooks) can illustrate the speed of a cholera pandemic in the 19th century in an urban environment with very rudimentary sanitation, and related traumatic effects on society and individuals.

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