

Infection

following

mass casualty situations

Humanity has but three great enemies:  
fever, famine and war;  
of these by far the greatest,  
by far the most terrible, is **fever**

Sir William Osler

# Cause of disasters

- Environment
  - Floods
  - Hurricanes
  - Volcanic activity
  - Earthquakes
  - Tsunami
  - Fires
  - Malnutrition

# Causes of disasters

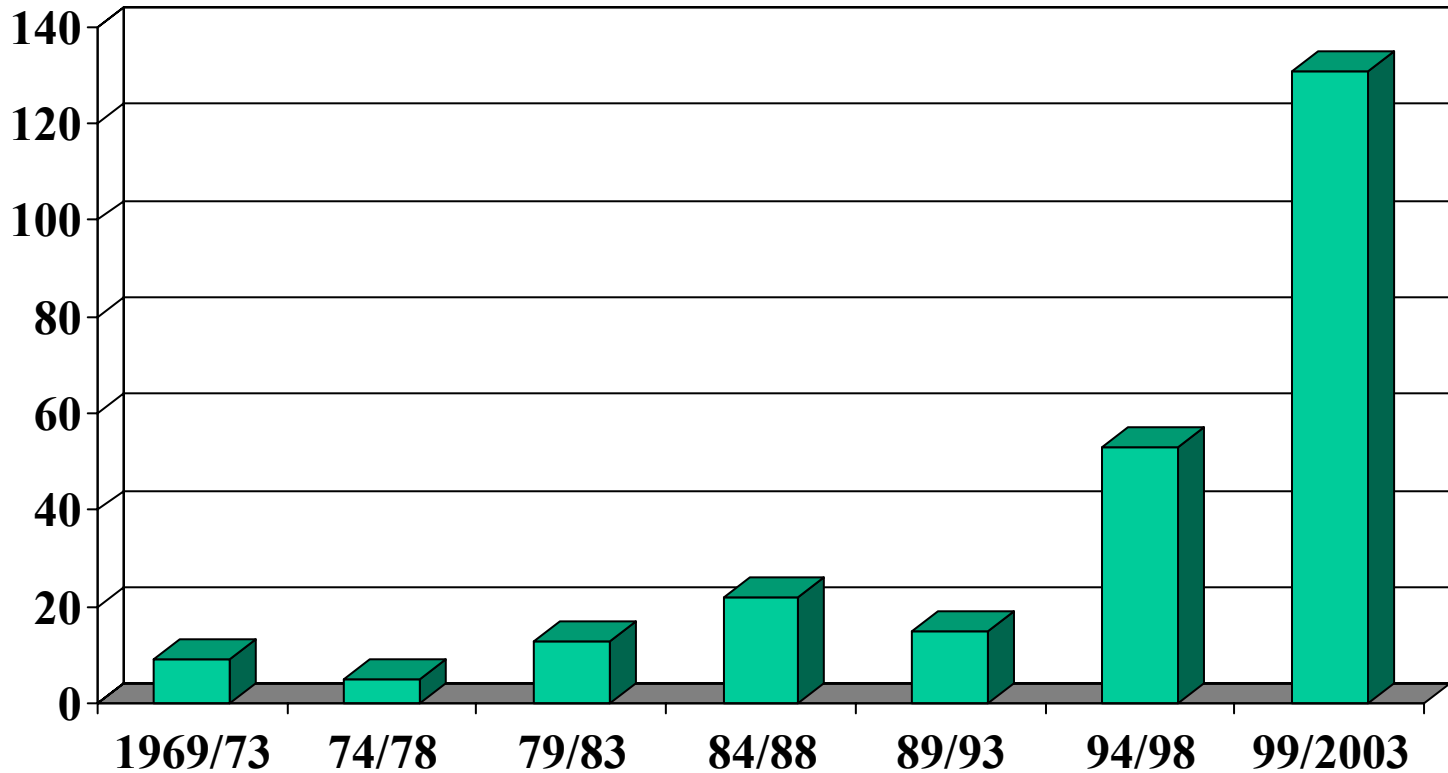
- Epidemics
  - Plague
  - Black death
  - Influenza
  - HIV / AIDS
  - SARS
  - Avian flu

# Causes of disasters

- Man-made
  - Transport
    - road, rail, shipping, air
  - Industry
    - chemical leaks, explosions, fires, mining, nuclear accidents
  - War
  - Terrorism

US Dept of State

# Significant Terrorist Incidents 1969-2003



# Incidence

Are events increasing in number –  
or is it just that we are more aware of them?

Media

Internet

Charity pressure

Reporting of Armed Forces activity

‘We are left in the hands of generations  
(of doctors) which, having heard of  
microbes....suddenly concluded that the  
whole art of healing could be summed up in  
the formula: find the microbe and kill it.’

George Bernard Shaw 1906

# Aspects of surgical management

- Problems after an earthquake
- Antibiotics and warfare
- Infection after a terrorist attack
- Short and long term effects of a tsunami