

Meningitis C kills 282 in Nigeria amid shortage of vaccines

March 30 2017

A Nigerian official says a meningitis strain new to the West African nation has killed 282 people and infected nearly 2,000 amid a shortage of vaccines.

Chikwe Ihekweazu is in charge of the Nigeria Center for Disease Control. He says efforts to curb the meningitis C outbreak are hampered by a worldwide shortage of vaccine.

He told journalists Thursday that the World Health Organization has delivered 500,000 doses of vaccine but estimates 3 million are needed just in Zamfara, the worst-hit of 15 states in north and central Nigeria.

Ihekweazu says most victims are children aged 5 to 14.

The strain inflames the [spinal cord](#) and brain.

A meningitis epidemic killed 1,100 people and infected more than 10,000 in Nigeria and neighboring Niger in 2015.

© 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Meningitis C kills 282 in Nigeria amid shortage of vaccines (2017, March 30) retrieved 4 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-03-meningitis-nigeria-shortage-vaccines.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.