

# Meningitis C kills 282 in Nigeria amid shortage of vaccines

March 30 2017

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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.

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Citation: Meningitis C kills 282 in Nigeria amid shortage of vaccines (2017, March 30) retrieved 25 April 2024 from

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

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