

# Bolivian hospitals under strain as dengue kills dozens

February 15 2023, by Associated Press

---



A city worker fumigates for *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes inside a school in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016. On Feb. 15, 2023, hospitals in this region of Bolivia struggled to keep up with an outbreak of dengue that has killed at least 26 people, the largest outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease since the COVID-19 pandemic. Credit: AP Photo/Juan Karita, File

Hospitals in Bolivia's eastern Santa Cruz region struggled Wednesday to

keep up with an outbreak of dengue that has killed at least 26 people.

It marks the largest outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease since the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the almost 7,000 cases detected since January have been in Santa Cruz, the country's most populous region, where two of the most lethal variants of the illness have been detected.

"The hospital is full, there's no more space, patients sleep in the hall in order to be admitted," Fredy Rojas, a pediatrician at the Santa Cruz Children's Hospital, told a local radio station. "Many children get here in serious condition and there isn't enough time to reverse the situation."

At least 26 people have died, Bolivia's [health ministry](#) said.

Dengue causes flu-like symptoms that most people recover from, but also can rapidly lead to [internal bleeding](#), organ failure and even death. There generally is no specific treatment for the disease, but [vaccines are available](#).

Dengue is endemic in Bolivia and proliferates in the country's east during its December-to-March rainy season. It is a leading cause of serious illness and death in roughly 120 Latin American and Asian countries.

© 2023 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Bolivian hospitals under strain as dengue kills dozens (2023, February 15) retrieved 26 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-02-bolivian-hospitals-strain-dengue-dozens.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.