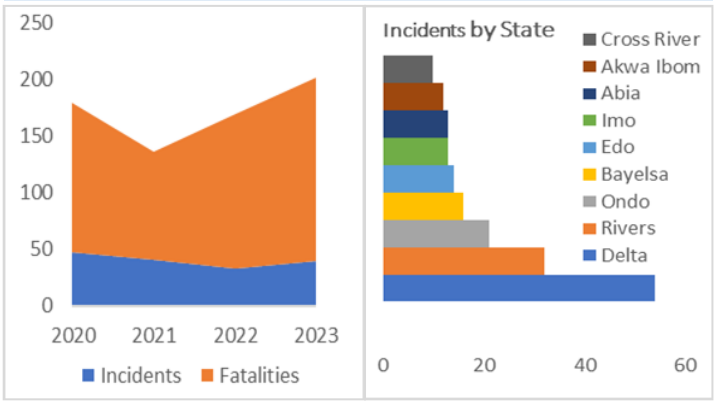
Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing and Mitigating Outbreak of Monkeypox in the Niger Delta

August 18-24, 2024

Background

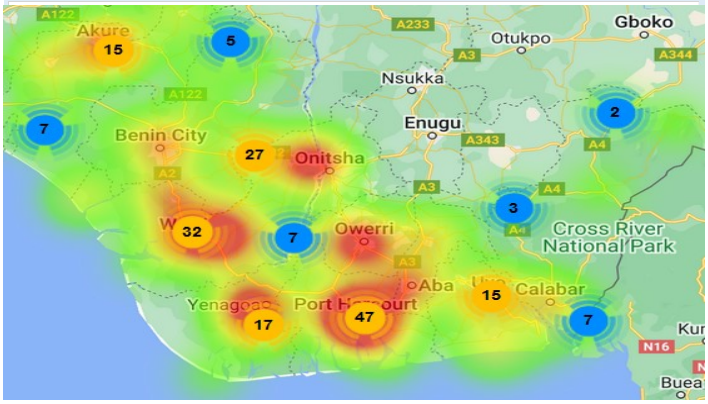
This special edition of the weekly update spotlights emerging threats to public health and human security in the Niger Delta with a focus on Monkeypox outbreak in the region. Monkeypox (Mpox) is a viral zoonotic infectious disease caused by a highly contagious Monkeypox virus. It can be transmitted through direct contact with infected persons, contaminated materials, or infected animals, including rodents and monkeys. Symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, weakness, swollen lymph, and skin rash. Mpox can spread from person to person and from animals to people. The current Mpox Clade 1 strain has reportedly caused fatalities in up to 10% of infected persons in previous outbreaks. According to epidemiological data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), as of August 11, 2024, 39 confirmed cases and 786 suspected cases of Mpox have been reported in 19 States in Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, and all the nine States in the Niger Delta. According to NCDC's Update on Mpox Outbreak, as of August 11, 2022, more than 32% (259) of all suspected cases were reported in the Niger Delta. Over 16% (132) of all suspected cases in the country were reported in Bayelsa and Cross River States.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Disease Outbreaks in the Niger Delta



Data shows that Delta State had the highest number of fatalities caused by infectious disease outbreaks during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Heat Map of Infectious Disease Related Incidents in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of infectious disease outbreaks in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - June 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

Epidemiological data shows that the outbreak of Mpox disease could evolve into an epidemic that could spread across the Niger Delta and beyond. The spread of a new, more contagious and deadly strain of Mpox could pose serious threat to healthcare, economic activities, and political stability, especially against the backdrop of inadequate sanitation facilities in many rural communities, and perennial flooding in the Niger Delta. If not mitigated, the disease could spread in a way that could cause serious public health risk in the Niger Delta.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on historical data and global trends, the infection rate of the disease could increase, especially against the backdrop of widespread contamination of water sources due to heavy rainfall linked to climate change. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMET) recently predicted heavy rainfall in many States in the Niger Delta. Stakeholders should work with the NCDC and other government agencies and media outfits to raise awareness of the disease, and advise residents on appropriate preventive and remedial measures.

Contact Us

Inquiries: PINDfoundation.org

Contacts: info@PINDfoundation.org +234 (0) 9 291 0454

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Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222/0912 233 4455**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.