

## Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control in Imo State LGA: Factors Affecting The BCG Vaccination Programme

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### **Background:**

A single dose of BCG vaccine given to a neonate at birth or as soon as possible thereafter is key element for successful protection against mycobacterial infections including tuberculosis, leprosy and other non-tuberculous mycobacterium infections.

### **Aim:**

This study aimed to contribute to the vision of 'the End TB Strategy 2016-2035' through the determination of the current BCG policy implementation on vaccine uptake by estimating the BCG vaccination rate in IMO State, Southeast Nigeria.

### **Method:**

A cross-sectional and community-based study was conducted in Ideato-North local government area (LGA) of IMO State, south east Nigeria; from 2013-2017. Cluster sampling method was used for household selection. A total of 210 children aged 0-11 months and their mothers/caregivers were included in the study. Data was collected using a pre-tested, interviewer administered questionnaire, and from review of vaccination records in the national program on immunization unit, public health department of the LGA of study and analyzed using SPSS version 25.

### **Result:**

Only a minority of the children (21.9%) were vaccinated with BCG by card-plus history whereas none at all (0%) was vaccinated with BCG from the review of the vaccination records. The factors responsible for the poor BCG vaccination were BCG multi-dose vial policy/fear of vaccine wastage, poor turn-out for vaccination, place of child's birth, mothers' and healthcare personnel's knowledge on vaccination and mother's education level.

### **Conclusion:**

There is need for a review of the multi-dose vial policy, ensure implementation of reviewed policy; periodic training and re-training of the health care personnel, human capacity development, data monitoring/evaluation, as well as sensitization campaigns among others, as ways to improve the people's awareness on and uptake of BCG vaccination, a key component of the very first pillar in the End TB Strategy.

### **KEYWORDS:**

BCG, End TB Strategy, BCG Vaccine Policy/Recommendation, Tuberculosis and non-Tuberculosis Mycobacterium Infections.

### **Biography:**

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