

Abstract

This study assessed the capacity of public secondary facility-based laboratories in conducting diagnostic tests for selected epidemic-prone diseases in Oyo State, Nigeria. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in 17 secondary facility-based laboratories in Oyo State. Capacity was assessed on a 100-point scale in which scores were rated low ($\leq 49\%$), fair (50–79%) and good ($\geq 80\%$). Diagnostic testing capacity for bacterial meningitis, cholera, and measles was “low” in all the laboratories. The reasons reported for laboratories not conducting diagnostic tests for the selected diseases included inadequate instruments, unavailable reagents, and clinicians' failure to request those diagnostic tests. Laboratory capacity to perform diagnostic tests for the selected diseases was low in Oyo State secondary hospitals. There is a need for the provision of modern instruments and reagents, as well as clinician laboratorian quality assurance programs, to improve diagnostic services relating to the selected diseases.

Keywords: Laboratory scientists, Diagnostic testing capacity, Epidemic-prone diseases

Secondary facility-based laboratories

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