Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Malaria

February 2024

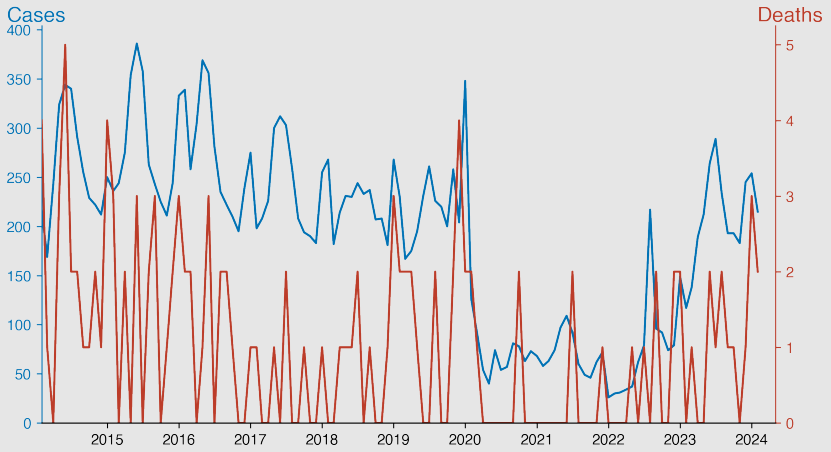
Introduction

Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites transmitted to humans through the bites of infected Anopheles mosquitoes. The most severe and prevalent form of malaria is caused by Plasmodium falciparum, but other species such as P. vivax also contribute to the disease burden. Symptoms include fever, headache, chills, and can lead to severe illness and death if untreated. Prevention and control measures include insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying, and antimalarial drugs. Despite ongoing efforts, malaria remains a major public health challenge, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions.

Highlights

- Malaria in China has been experiencing a downward trend from 2014 to 2022, with a significant decrease seen particularly in 2020.
- However, a gradual resurgence in cases is observed from late 2022 and throughout 2023, into early 2024.
- The average number of deaths has remained relatively low, averaging one to three a month, signifying high disease management.
- As of February 2024, there were 215 cases and 2 deaths, showing that despite recent increases, the situation is far improved from a decade earlier.

Temporal Trend



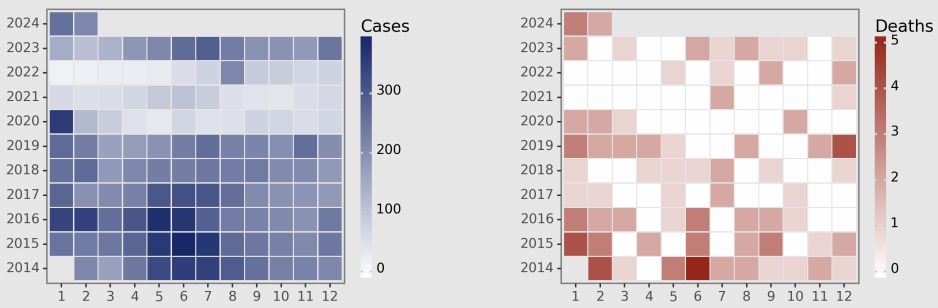
Cases Analysis

Malaria cases in the Chinese mainland showed a fluctuating trend from 2014 to 2024. The highest number of cases was reported in June 2015 (386), while the lowest was seen in April 2020 (54). There's a noticeable overall decline in cases from 2014 to 2020, followed by a gradual increase from 2021 onward. Peaks are typically seen in the summer months, especially between May and August, indicating that malaria transmission might be seasonal in this region. However, year-to-year variability is present, indicating that other factors such as climate anomalies, control measures, and migration may be affecting malaria incidence.

Deaths Analysis

Malaria-related deaths in the same period display a downward trend with no fatalities in several months post-2019. The reduced lethality could be attributed to improved healthcare, effective control measures, and awareness. The initial yearly fatalities were low but sporadic with occasional peaks (June 2014). The post-2020 decline in cases likely contributed to reduced death incidence. The few reported deaths even with lower case counts may indicate persistent focal areas of transmission or challenges in access to treatment for specific populations.

Distribution



CNIDs

Free, Lightweight, Open-source, Smart Surveillance for Chinese Infectious Diseases

Version: 2024-03-20 (UTC+)

The text in report is generated automatically by generative AI.