

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

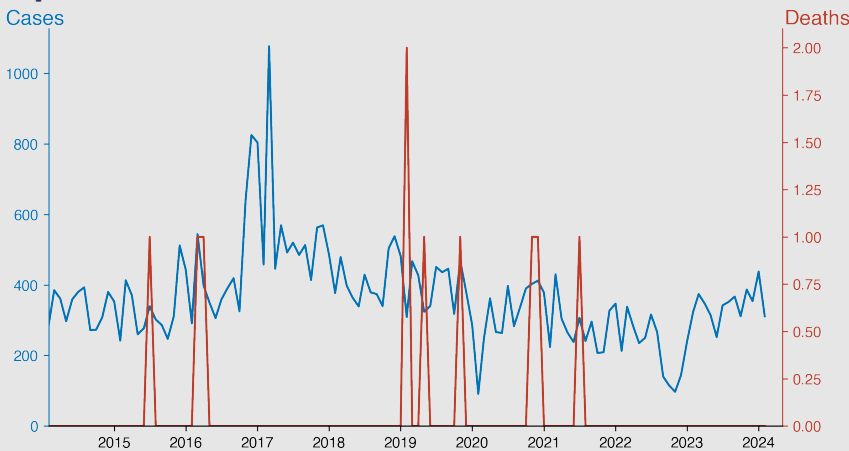
Echinococcosis

February 2024

Introduction

Echinococcosis, also known as hydatid disease, is a zoonotic infection caused by tapeworms of the genus *Echinococcus*. Humans become accidental hosts through ingestion of eggs found in the feces of infected definitive hosts, typically dogs and other canines. Larvae then develop into cysts in organs such as the liver and lungs. The two main types of the disease are cystic echinococcosis (CE) caused by *Echinococcus granulosus* and alveolar echinococcosis (AE) caused by *Echinococcus multilocularis*. It is a global public health concern, especially in pastoral communities and areas where hygiene practices are inadequate.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Echinococcosis cases in mainland China peaked significantly in March 2017 at 1,077 cases, exhibiting a fluctuating trend over the 10-year span.
- A notable reduction in case numbers began in 2020, with the monthly figures consistently lower thereafter compared to previous years.
- Fatalities remained exceptionally low despite case count variations, with only 6 deaths recorded between 2014-2024.
- Seasonal trends suggest higher cases in warmer months from March to July; however, this pattern has diminished in recent years.

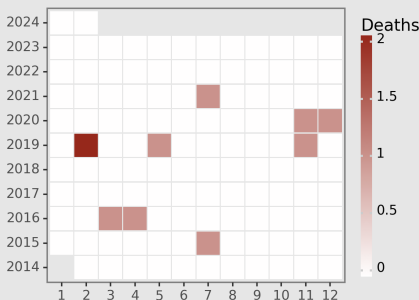
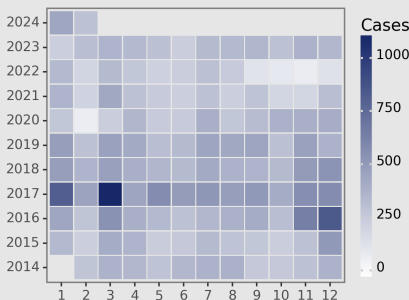
Cases Analysis

Echinococcosis cases in the Chinese mainland saw several fluctuations over the studied timeframe. The number of reported cases annually has been somewhat inconsistent, yet displaying an overall upward trend till 2017 with a peak of 1077 cases reported in March 2017. This was followed by a general decrease after 2017, which might be attributed to increased awareness, prevention measures or better treatment availability. The lowest number of cases recorded was 91 in February 2020, potentially indicating successful control measures.

Deaths Analysis

Deaths due to Echinococcosis were rare between 2014 and 2024, with a total of six recorded deaths. The first death was reported in July 2015, with subsequent fatalities occurring irregularly in single units. No pattern in terms of seasonality or increase over time is discernible for the reported deaths. The relatively low mortality count suggests either a low fatality rate for the condition, potentially effective clinical management, or underreporting. Notably, February 2019 saw the highest mortality (2 deaths), an anomaly within the dataset.

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