

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

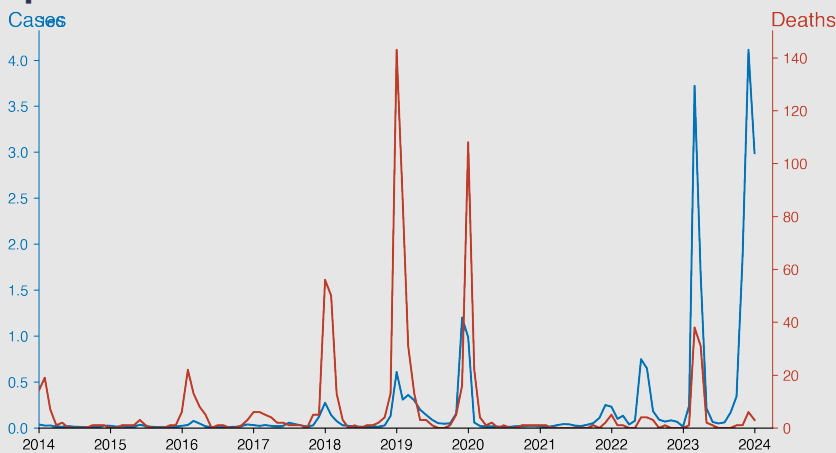
Influenza

January 2024

Introduction

Influenza, commonly known as the flu, is a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract caused by influenza viruses. It spreads through respiratory droplets when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Symptoms can range from mild to severe and typically include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, and fatigue. Annual vaccination is recommended as the primary prevention strategy. Influenza outbreaks can occur globally, affecting people of all ages, and can lead to complications, hospitalizations, and even death, especially in high-risk groups.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- A significant surge in cases was observed in March 2023, reaching 3,721,370 cases, indicating an unprecedented outbreak.
- January 2024 shows a slight decrease in cases to 2,988,914 from December 2023's peak of 4,113,326, suggesting a downward trend in the current outbreak.
- Despite high case numbers, mortality remains relatively low, with January 2024 reporting only 3 deaths.
- The data highlights recurring seasonal patterns, with peaks generally in the colder months, but the scale of outbreaks has grown over time, particularly noticeable in recent years.

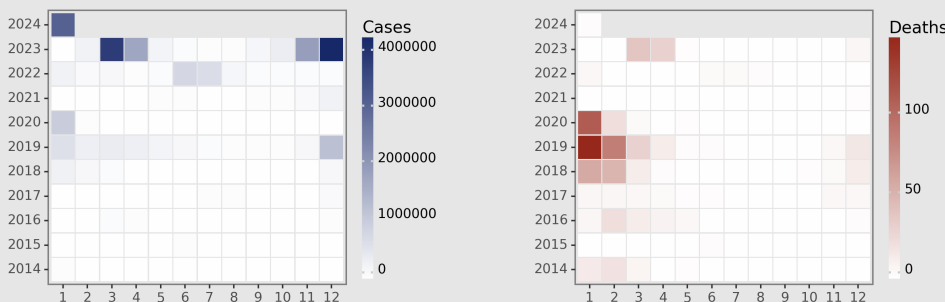
Cases Analysis

The data illustrates fluctuating influenza case numbers in the Chinese mainland from 2014 to 2024, with notable surges in 2019, 2022, and a significant peak in 2023. Initial years show moderate figures, but from 2018, a marked increase is observed, peaking in 2019. After a brief decline in 2020, possibly due to global health measures, cases surged again in 2022 and reached unprecedented levels in March and December 2023. The pattern indicates sporadic outbreaks with varying intensities, highlighting the need for ongoing surveillance and vaccination strategies.

Deaths Analysis

The death toll associated with influenza in the Chinese mainland shows variability but remains relatively low compared to the total number of cases, indicating a low mortality rate. Notable peaks in deaths occur in January 2018, January 2019, and January 2020, suggesting possible seasonal patterns or more virulent strains during these periods. However, despite the massive surge in cases in 2023, the mortality rate does not proportionally increase, which could suggest improved medical interventions or the predominance of less lethal strains.

Distribution



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