

# Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

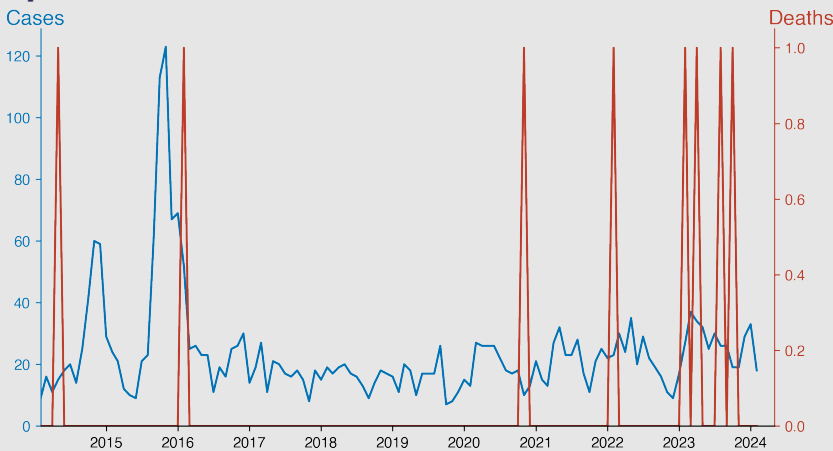
## Kala azar

February 2024

### Introduction

Kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis, is a parasitic disease caused by the *Leishmania donovani* complex transmitted by the bite of infected female phlebotomine sandflies. It primarily affects the visceral organs, especially the spleen, liver, and bone marrow. Symptoms include fever, weight loss, anemia, and swelling of the liver and spleen. If left untreated, it can be fatal due to complications such as secondary infections. This disease is endemic in tropical and subtropical regions, with cases reported in parts of Asia, East Africa, South America, and the Mediterranean basin. Control measures include vector management, early diagnosis, and treatment.

### Temporal Trend



### Highlights

- Over the past decade (2014-2024), Kala azar cases in the Chinese mainland show no distinct pattern or significant trend, fluctuating throughout the years. Notably, each year shows a slight increase in cases from September to November.
- The disease's mortality rate is low, with six recorded deaths in comparison to its incidence.
- The highest case numbers were observed in 2015, particularly October and November. Since then, case numbers significantly decreased.
- Recent data (February 2024) shows a drop in cases (18) with no reported deaths, indicating the disease is currently under relative control.

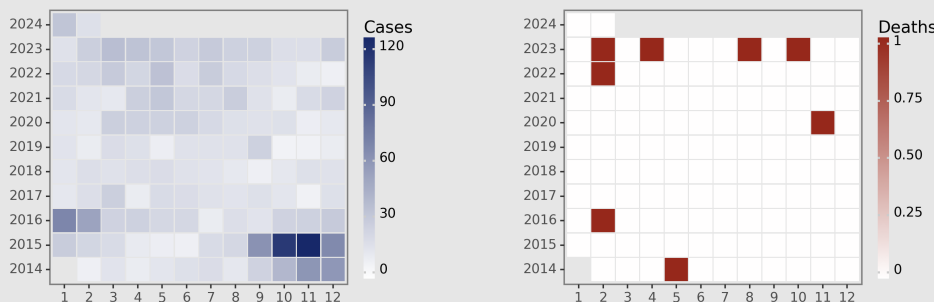
### Cases Analysis

Kala azar cases on the Chinese mainland display a cyclical pattern peaking annually towards the end of the year, notably in October-November 2015 with over 100 cases. A gradual decline in annual peak case numbers is observed post-2015. Early months each year consistently report fewer cases. Noticeably, in February 2023 and April 2023, there's an abrupt increase in cases to mid-30s, deviating from the overall decreasing trend observed since 2015. This increase merits further surveillance and investigation to ascertain risk factors and control measures.

### Deaths Analysis

Kala azar had a low mortality rate on the Chinese mainland from 2014 to 2024, with only five reported deaths over the ten-year period. Interestingly, each death occurred in different years (2014, 2016, 2020, 2022, 2023), depicting that while cases might fluctuate, fatalities remain sparse, implying either relatively effective treatment protocols or case management strategies minimizing deaths or that the strands circulating boasted lower lethality.

### Distribution



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