

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

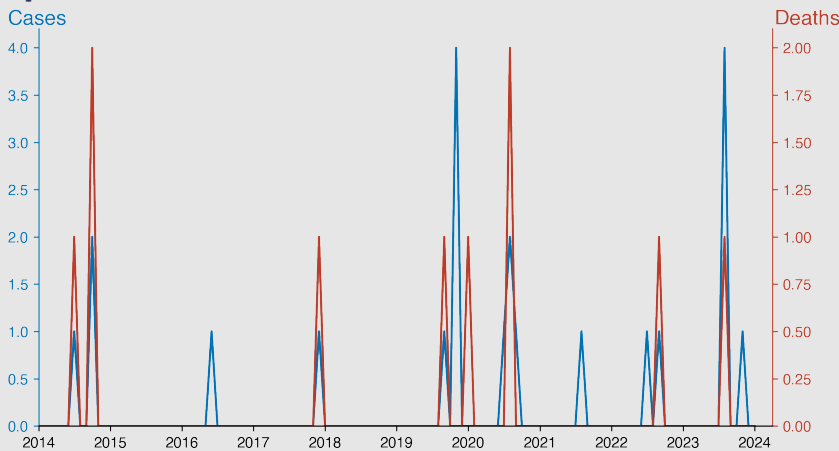
Plague

January 2024

Introduction

Plague is a serious bacterial infection caused by *Yersinia pestis*, transmitted to humans through the bite of infected fleas, direct contact with infected animals, or inhalation of infected respiratory droplets. Historically notorious for causing several pandemics, including the Black Death in the 14th century, it presents in three forms: bubonic, septicemic, and pneumonic, each varying in symptoms and severity. Despite its historical lethality, modern antibiotics have made plague treatable, significantly reducing mortality rates. However, outbreaks still occur, emphasizing the importance of surveillance and preventive measures in at-risk areas.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Plague occurrences in the Chinese mainland are infrequent, with isolated cases and deaths over the years.
- A peak of 4 cases was noted in November 2019 and August 2023, hinting at minor outbreaks or enhanced detection.
- The case fatality rate often equals the number of cases, indicating high lethality among detected infections.
- No cases or deaths were reported in January 2024, suggesting a current pause in plague activity in the region.

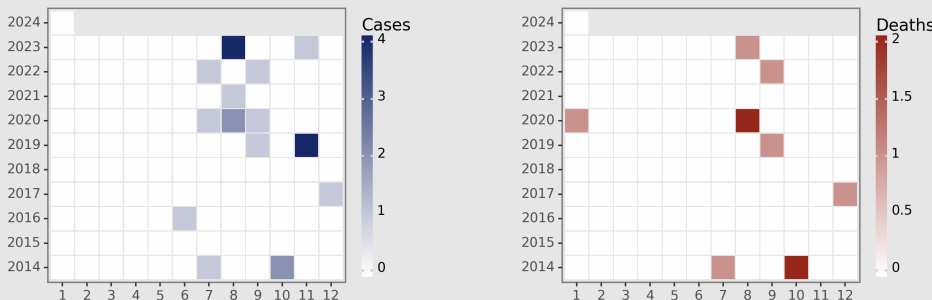
Cases Analysis

The data from Chinese mainland over a decade shows sporadic outbreaks of Plague, with cases rarely exceeding one or two incidents per reported month. Notably, the pattern lacks consistency, with years like 2019 witnessing a slight increase in cases, notably in November with four cases, but zero deaths. The highest concentration of cases in a single month occurred in August 2023, with four reported cases. This data suggests that Plague remains a low-incidence disease within this region, with control measures effectively preventing widespread outbreaks.

Deaths Analysis

The data reveals a total of 9 deaths associated with the plague over the same period, indicating a high case-fatality rate for the reported cases. Deaths occurred in July 2014, October 2014, December 2017, September 2019, January 2020, August 2020, August 2023, and September 2022. The fatality rate suggests that either cases were identified late or they were severe, possibly pneumonic or septicemic plague, which are more deadly if not treated promptly.

Distribution



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