

# Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

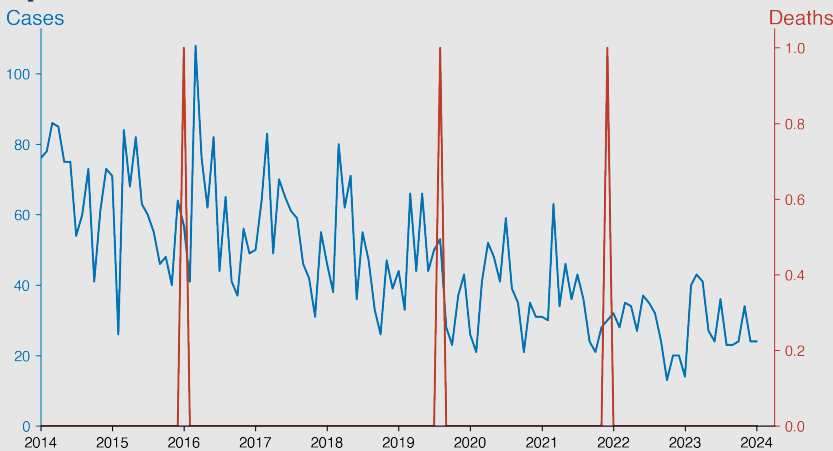
## Leprosy

January 2024

### Introduction

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*. Primarily affecting the skin, nerves, respiratory tract, and eyes, it can lead to significant disability and disfigurement if untreated. Transmission is believed to occur through close contact with an infected person, although the exact mechanism is not fully understood. Leprosy is characterized by long incubation periods, which can last up to 20 years. While it is curable with a course of multidrug therapy, early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to prevent long-term damage.

### Temporal Trend



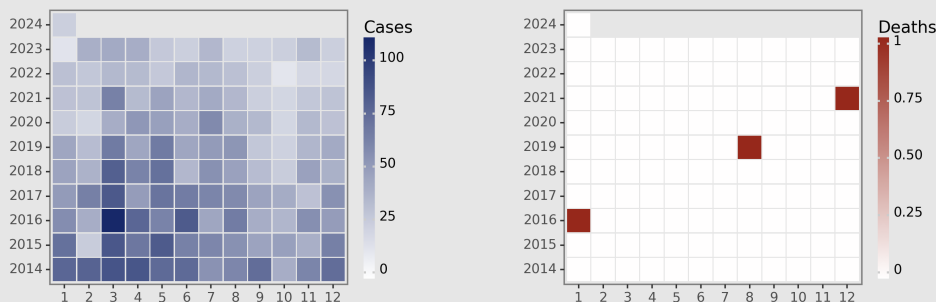
### Cases Analysis

The data on leprosy in Chinese mainland from 2014 to 2024 shows a fluctuating trend with a noticeable peak in March 2016 (108 cases). Despite these fluctuations, there has been a general decline in the number of cases over the years, with the lowest numbers observed in the later years, particularly from 2022 onwards. This suggests effective measures might be in place for controlling the disease, including early detection, treatment advancements, and public health interventions. Seasonal variations are evident, with some months like March typically showing higher case numbers, potentially due to increased disease surveillance or reporting practices.

### Deaths Analysis

The reported deaths from leprosy in Chinese mainland are extremely rare, with only three occurrences over the ten-year span: one in January 2016, another in August 2019, and the last one in December 2021. This low mortality rate is indicative of effective treatment and management of the disease, highlighting the success of the public health strategies in place. Nonetheless, the presence of deaths, even in such small numbers, underscores the importance of sustained efforts in leprosy detection, treatment, and education to prevent mortality and further reduce the incidence of the disease.

### Distribution



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