Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Tuberculosis

January 2024

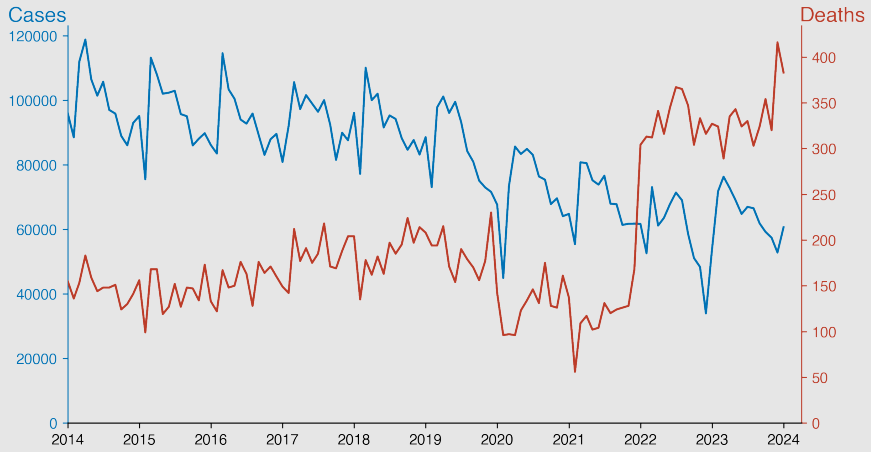
Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) is a highly infectious disease primarily affecting the lungs, caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Despite being preventable and curable, TB remains one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases. Symptoms include persistent cough, fever, weight loss, and night sweats. The disease can be latent, showing no symptoms, or active, leading to serious health issues. Diagnosis involves skin tests, blood tests, and chest X-rays, with treatment requiring a long course of antibiotics. Global efforts focus on vaccination, diagnosis, treatment, and reducing transmission.

Highlights

- A significant decrease in tuberculosis cases from a peak in 2014 (118,849 cases) to 60,660 cases in January 2024, showing a successful reduction over a decade.
- Despite the reduction in cases, mortality has alarmingly increased from 183 deaths in April 2014 to 383 in January 2024, indicating a need for improved treatment outcomes.
- A notable dip in cases and deaths in 2020, likely due to COVID-19 pandemic-related impacts.
- From 2022, mortality rates have more than doubled, marking a concerning upward trend and highlighting a critical area for public health intervention.

Temporal Trend



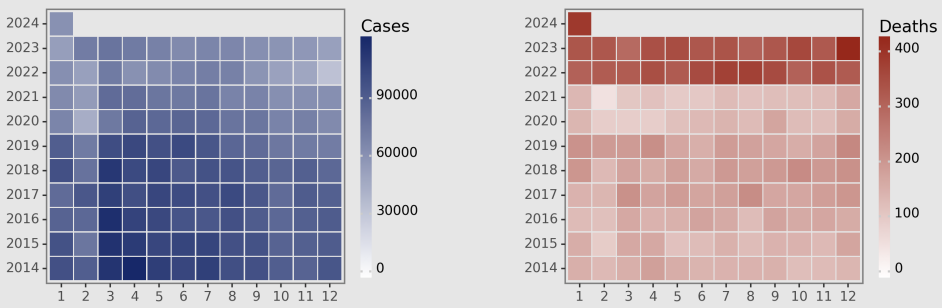
Cases Analysis

The dataset reveals a fluctuating trend in Tuberculosis cases across Chinese mainland from 2014 to 2024, with a notable peak in March annually, suggesting a seasonal pattern. The drastic reduction in cases observed in February 2020 coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic onset, implying potential underreporting or impacts of lockdown measures. A gradual decrease in cases post-2020 suggests improved control measures or reporting changes. However, the significant drop in December 2022 needs further investigation to understand its underlying causes, whether due to enhanced public health interventions or other factors.

Deaths Analysis

Deaths due to tuberculosis in the same period exhibit a generally increasing trend, from 155 in January 2014 to a peak of 416 in December 2023. The sharp increase in fatalities from 2021 onwards, with deaths more than doubling from January 2021 (137) to January 2022 (304), suggests a worsening severity or detection of cases. The fluctuation in death rates, especially the dramatic rise in the last reported year, underscores the need for continued vigilance, improved treatment strategies, and comprehensive public health policies to combat tuberculosis effectively.

Distribution



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