

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Poliomyelitis

October 2023

Introduction

Poliomyelitis, commonly known as polio, is a highly infectious viral disease caused by the poliovirus. Primarily affecting children under the age of five, the virus spreads from person to person, predominantly through the fecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (for example, contaminated water or food). Once it enters the body, the virus multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis. While there is no cure for polio, it can be prevented by immunization with a polio vaccine. Polio cases have diminished significantly due to global vaccination efforts.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

No cases or deaths due to Poliomyelitis reported from January 2010 to July 2011, suggesting successful control or elimination efforts.

- An outbreak occurred in August 2011, with a total of 20 cases and 1 death reported through December 2011, indicating a temporary lapse in polio-free status.
- Subsequent to the 2011 outbreak, no further cases or deaths have been reported from January 2012 to October 2023, demonstrating the effectiveness of response measures and immunization campaigns.
- As of October 2023, mainland China appears to have maintained its polio-free status for over a decade, assuming no unreported cases exist, showing a strong public health system and vaccine coverage.

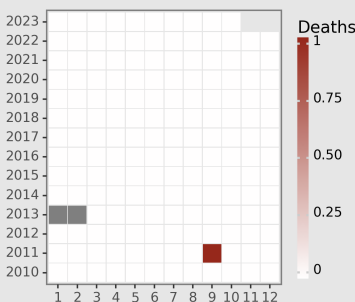
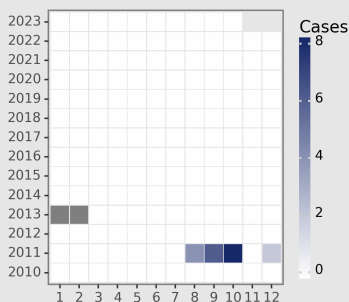
Cases Analysis

From January 2010 to October 2023, mainland China reported poliomyelitis cases only between August 2011 and December 2011, with a total of 20 cases. The outbreak peaked in October with 8 cases. The absence of cases in the remaining years suggests effective polio surveillance and vaccination programs, contributing to the interruption of virus transmission and maintaining polio-free status in subsequent years, as per World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

Deaths Analysis

The reported deaths due to poliomyelitis in mainland China during the same period occurred only in September 2011, with 1 death out of the 6 reported cases. The low mortality rate (5% of the cases that year) and its restriction to a single month indicate rapid containment and response measures were effective. Continuing polio-free, as evidenced by zero reported deaths since then, reflects the strength of China's public health interventions in preventing and controlling vaccine-preventable diseases.

Distribution



CNIDs

Free, Lightweight, Open-source,
Smart Surveillance for
Chinese Infectious Diseases

All rights reserved.

Version: 2023-12-24 (UTC+)

IMPORTANT: The text in boxes is generated automatically by ChatGPT.