

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Hepatitis A

February 2024

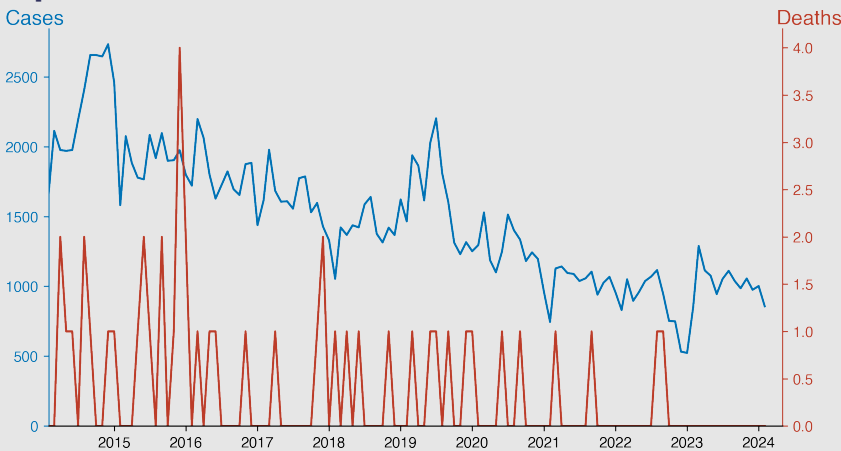
Introduction

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. Typically transmitted through the ingestion of contaminated food or water or close contact with an infected person, it can cause a range of symptoms from mild, flu-like symptoms to severe liver damage. The illness is usually self-limiting, with most people making a full recovery within weeks or months. Prevention can be effectively achieved through good hygiene practices and vaccination. Outbreaks are more common in areas with poor sanitation and unsafe water.

Highlights

- Over the past decade, Hepatitis A cases in mainland China have significantly decreased, from monthly cases of 2000-3000 in 2014 to below 1000 in early 2024.
- Intermittent spikes in case numbers can be noted, such as the 1289 cases in March 2023.
- Despite case fluctuations, fatality rate remained extremely low, with most months showing zero deaths.
- As of February 2024, Hepatitis A situation indicated 857 cases and zero deaths, reinforcing the continued decreasing trend and low mortality rate.

Temporal Trend



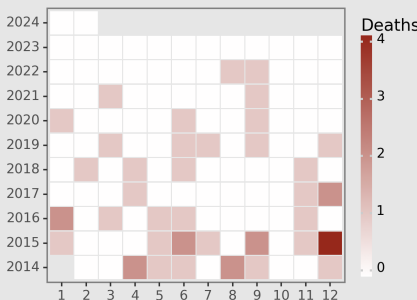
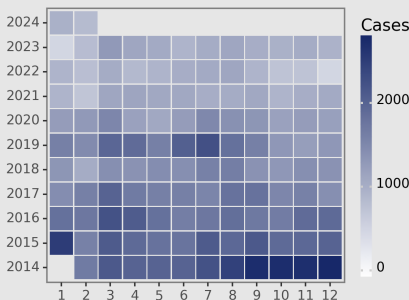
Cases Analysis

The analysis of Hepatitis A cases from February 2014 to February 2024 indicates a fluctuating, but overall decreasing trend in the number of reported cases in the Chinese mainland. Initially, case counts were high, with peaks surpassing 2,400 cases. However, after 2017, a marked decrease became apparent, with cases typically ranging below 1,500. The lowest numbers were observed at the beginning of 2021, continuing through to 2024, where fewer than 1,000 cases were routinely reported, with minimal monthly variations.

Deaths Analysis

Regarding fatalities, the Hepatitis A situation in China appeared relatively mild. Despite minor surges, the death count remained remarkably low throughout the entire timeframe, with no more than 4 fatalities in any given month (December 2015). A number of months had no Hepatitis A related deaths at all. The low fatality rate could be attributed to early detection, effective treatment and preventive measures like vaccination. Despite the fluctuating incidence of Hepatitis A cases, the maintained low mortality suggests successful management of the disease.

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