

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

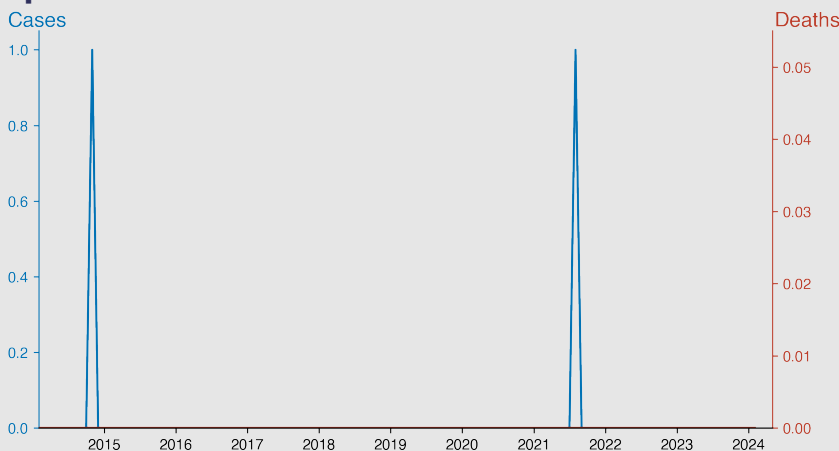
Filariasis

February 2024

Introduction

Filariasis is an infectious tropical disease caused by filarial worms, which are transmitted to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes. The worms primarily infect the lymphatic system, leading to lymphedema and sometimes elephantiasis—extensive swelling of the limbs and genitals. The disease is categorized into two main types: Lymphatic Filariasis, caused by worms like *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Brugia malayi*, and *Brugia timori*, and Onchocerciasis, or River Blindness, caused by *Onchocerca volvulus*. Chronic infection can lead to severe disability and social stigma, significantly impacting the quality of life and economic productivity in affected communities.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

1. Filariasis remains a low-incidence disease in mainland China over the decade, with no report of fatalities.
2. Only two cases were reported during the entire period - one in November 2014 and the other in August 2021, suggesting a sporadic occurrence.
3. Since August 2021, there have been no new cases, indicating a downwards trend or possibly effective disease control measures.
4. As of February 2024, the situation remains stable with no new cases of Filariasis for the past 2.5 years.

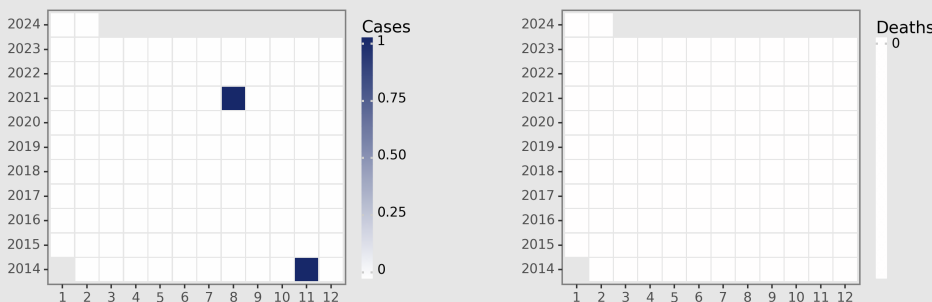
Cases Analysis

From the given data, it is evident that the incidence of Filariasis in Chinese mainland from February 2014 to February 2024 is exceedingly low, with only two reported cases and zero reported cases in all other months. Both cases occurred in separate, distinct years: one in November 2014 and another in August 2021. The nearly seven-year gap between these two cases suggests a sporadic appearance without any sign of an outbreak or sustained transmission within the observed period. This infrequency indicates effective control measures or potential underreporting. Word count: 100 words

Deaths Analysis

Remarkably, throughout the same ten-year period, no deaths were reported due to Filariasis in mainland China, despite the two identified cases. The disease is primarily associated with chronic symptoms like lymphedema and elephantiasis rather than direct mortality, but its absence also suggests effective disease management and possibly successful treatment of the reported instances in the region.

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Version: 2024-03-20 (UTC+)