

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Influenza

November 2023

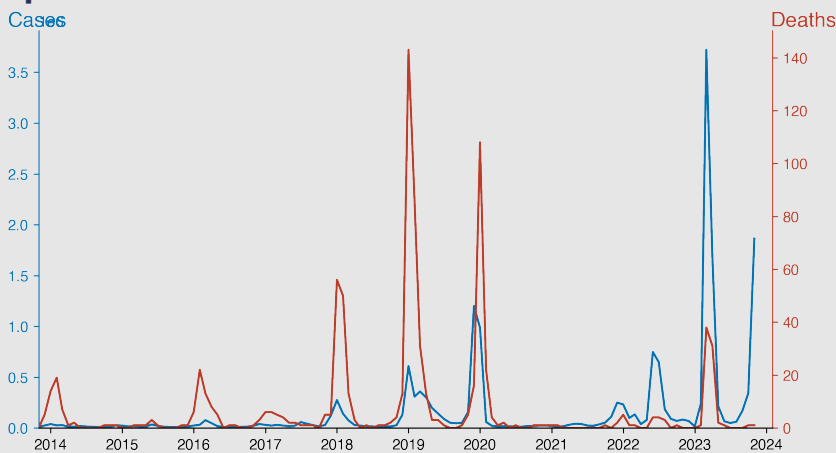
Introduction

Influenza, commonly known as the flu, is a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory system. It affects millions annually, with symptoms ranging from mild fever, cough, and body aches to severe complications such as pneumonia. While it can affect people of all ages, senior citizens, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic conditions are at greater risk. Influenza is typically seasonal, with major outbreaks occurring in late fall and winter. Vaccination and public health measures play critical roles in preventing and controlling influenza spread.

Highlights

- A significant surge in Influenza cases was observed in March 2023, with a recorded 3,721,370 cases and 38 deaths, indicating a major outbreak or heightened surveillance.
- From March to November 2023, case numbers remained elevated with another peak in November (1,862,998 cases), although deaths remained comparatively low with only 1 death reported that month.
- Despite high case numbers in 2023, the case-fatality ratio appears to be low, with a total of 70 deaths against 5,633,712 reported cases from January to November.
- The data suggests a cyclic trend of Influenza with peaks often occurring in the early and late months of the year, highlighting the need for seasonally adjusted surveillance and vaccination campaigns.

Temporal Trend



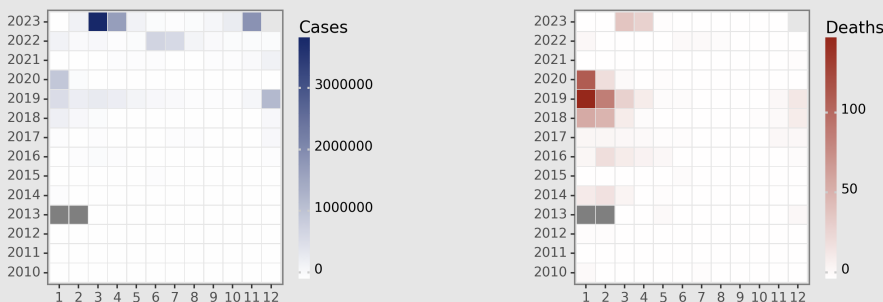
Cases Analysis

Influenza cases in mainland China depict a seasonal pattern with peaks generally in the colder months, reflecting global influenza trends. Interestingly, there is a stark increase in the number of cases over the years, with significant spikes observed from 2018 onwards. For instance, cases jumped from 273,949 in January 2018 to an all-time high of 3,721,370 in March 2023. This drastic rise warrants further investigation into potential contributing factors such as changes in surveillance sensitivity, viral evolution, population density, health-seeking behavior, or reporting practices.

Deaths Analysis

The number of deaths due to influenza shows considerable variation over the years, with notable peaks in January 2019 (143 deaths), January 2020 (108 deaths), and a substantial increase to 38 deaths by March 2023. Despite the rising trend in cases, the fatality rates remain relatively low, suggesting improvements in medical care or vaccination coverage. Nevertheless, the escalation of deaths in recent years, particularly during the 2023 outbreak, emphasizes the need for enhanced public health interventions and pandemic preparedness to mitigate the impact of future influenza seasons.

Distribution



CNIDs

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

All rights reserved.

Version: 2024-01-04 (UTC+)

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