Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Diphtheria

February 2024

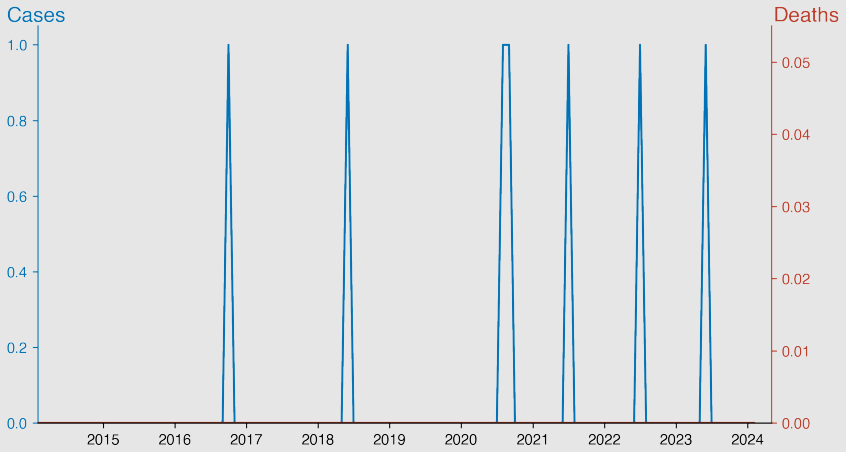
Introduction

Diphtheria is a serious bacterial infection caused by Corynebacterium diphtheriae. It primarily affects the mucous membranes of the respiratory tract, producing a thick, gray coating in the nose, throat, or airway, which can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, or even death. Diphtheria is highly contagious and is spread through respiratory droplets or close contact. Thanks to widespread vaccination, diphtheria is now rare in many parts of the world. However, it can still occur, especially in areas where immunization rates are low. Vaccination remains the most effective means of prevention.

Highlights

- Over the past decade, Diphtheria has been exceptionally rare in mainland China, reflecting a highly effective national vaccination program.
- The data suggests a sporadic occurrence rate, with only 5 reported cases between 2014 and 2024. The cases occurred in 2016, 2018, twice in 2020, and in 2021.
- There were no recorded Diphtheria-induced deaths in China from 2014 right through to February 2024.
- What is notable is a repeated pattern; minimal cases of infection were observed consistently around July and August over the years 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2023. More data and investigations are needed to determine if this pattern holds significance.

Temporal Trend



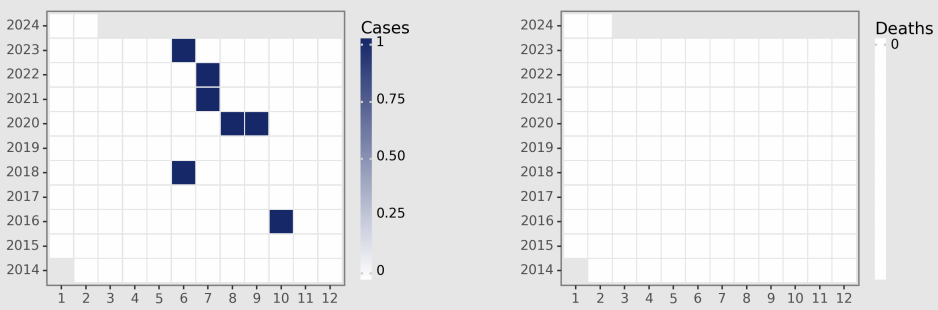
Cases Analysis

The reported data from the Chinese mainland for Diphtheria from February 2014 until February 2024 shows a remarkably low incidence rate with a total of just 6 cases over a decade. In fact, there are multiple years of no reported cases at all. The cases that do appear are sporadic with a single case reported in October 2016, June 2018, August and September 2020, July 2021, and June 2023. No discernible pattern exists for these individual cases as they occur at different times of the year.

Deaths Analysis

The mortality rate for Diphtheria in the Chinese mainland between 2014 and 2024 was consistently zero, as no deaths were reported throughout this ten-year timeline. Given the incidences of the disease over the same period, this suggests a robust health response and effective treatment of identified cases. This zero fatality rate could be attributable to factors such as timely diagnosis and intervention, access to adequate healthcare resources, and the use of efficient therapeutic protocols. Regardless, the data reveals a promising trend and encourages the continuation of current health strategies aimed at Diphtheria management.

Distribution



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