

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

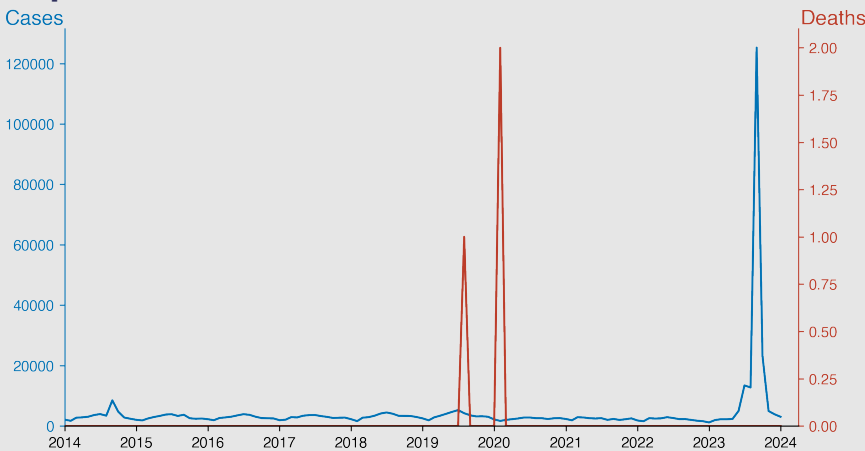
Acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis

January 2024

Introduction

Acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis (AHC) is a highly contagious, viral eye infection characterized by sudden onset of painful, red eyes, often with bleeding under the conjunctiva and severe eyelid swelling. It's typically caused by enteroviruses, specifically Coxsackie A24 and Enterovirus 70. Outbreaks are common in tropical and subtropical regions, and the infection spreads rapidly in crowded conditions. While AHC usually resolves within 1-2 weeks without long-term effects, supportive treatments like cold compresses and artificial tears can alleviate symptoms. Rarely, neurological complications such as acute flaccid paralysis may occur.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis (AHC) cases in the Chinese mainland have shown significant fluctuations over the years, with a dramatic peak in September 2023 (125,264 cases).
- The trend reveals a generally increasing pattern in the number of cases, especially noticeable from mid-2023, indicating a possible outbreak or increased transmission during this period.
- Despite the high number of cases, the disease has maintained a low mortality rate, with only 3 deaths recorded since the data collection began, all occurring between 2019 and 2020.
- As of January 2024, there has been a decrease in cases to 3,039, suggesting a potential reduction in transmission or effective control measures being implemented.

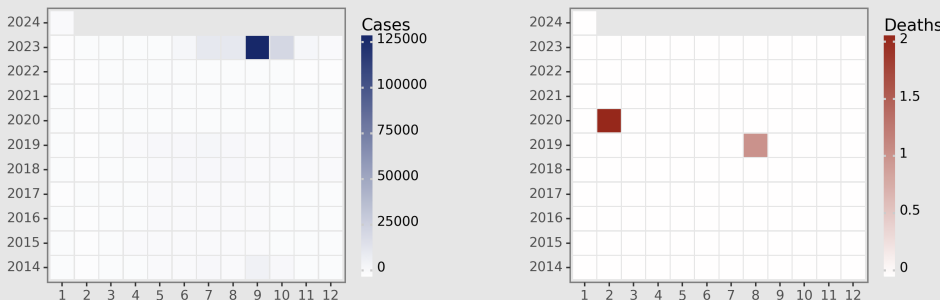
Cases Analysis

The data from 2014 to 2024 for Acute Hemorrhagic Conjunctivitis (AHC) in the Chinese mainland shows a generally increasing trend in cases, with seasonal peaks typically in the warmer months, reflecting the viral spread patterns of conjunctivitis. A significant spike is observed in September 2023, with 125,264 cases, unprecedented in the dataset. This outlier suggests a major outbreak or change in reporting methods. Overall, the data indicates fluctuating but increasing AHC incidence over the years, with notable spikes suggesting periodic outbreaks or increased transmission rates during certain periods.

Deaths Analysis

Deaths associated with AHC in the Chinese mainland were extremely rare, with the first death recorded in August 2019 and two more in February 2020. Despite the significant increase in case numbers, particularly in 2023, there were no subsequent deaths reported. This suggests that while AHC can spread rapidly, resulting in large outbreaks as seen in 2023, the condition remains non-fatal in most instances. The low mortality rate might reflect effective public health responses, the self-limiting nature of the disease, or both. The data underscores the importance of surveillance and prompt response to control outbreaks while highlighting the non-lethal risk profile of AHC.

Distribution



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