

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

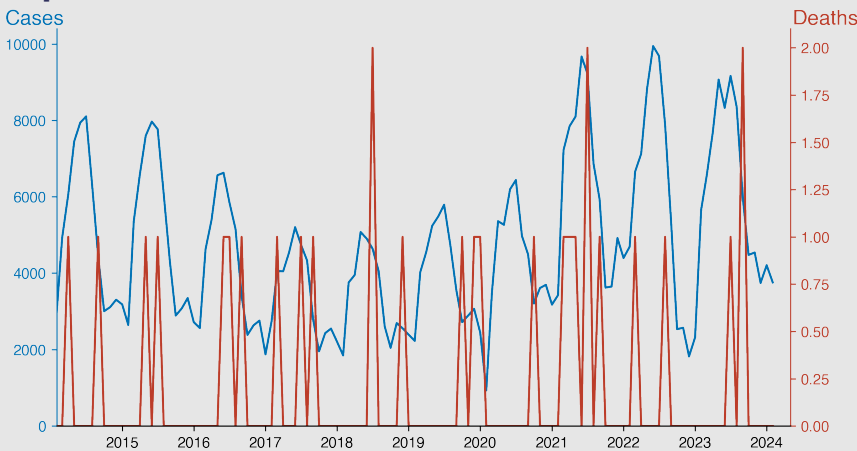
Brucellosis

February 2024

Introduction

Brucellosis, also known as Malta fever or undulant fever, is a zoonotic infection caused by the bacterial genus *Brucella*. It primarily affects various animals, including sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, and dogs. Humans can contract the disease through direct contact with infected animals, or by ingesting contaminated animal products, particularly unpasteurized milk or cheese. The bacterium induces a range of symptoms such as fever, sweats, malaise, anorexia, headache, muscle pain, and joint involvement. The infection can become chronic and may involve multiple organ systems, potentially leading to more severe complications if not appropriately treated.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Despite occasional lulls, the overall trend of Brucellosis appears to be an increase in case numbers annually, with significant peaking occurring typically in the mid-year months.
- The disease's mortality rate remains incredibly low, rarely resulting in more than one death per month, and often none at all. This could indicate an effective management of the infection.
- Interestingly in the latest data from 2024, the case numbers have shown a noticeable decline compared to the previous year for the same period (February).
- Despite the recent drop, continuous vigilance and Proactive measures are paramount as Brucellosis remains significantly prevalent in mainland China.

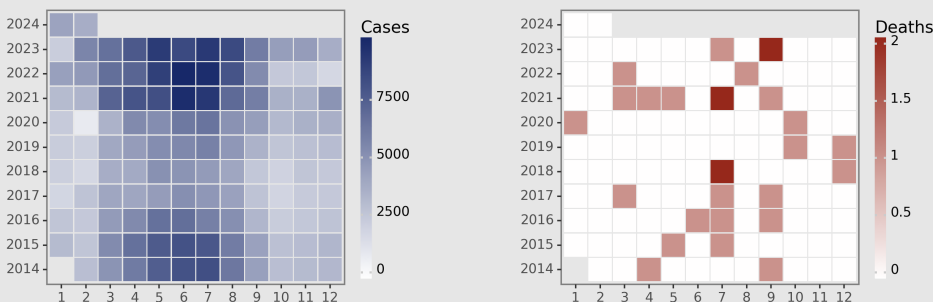
Cases Analysis

The data spanning from 2014 to 2024 shows a distinct annual pattern of fluctuating Brucellosis cases in mainland China. Incidences generally increase from February to peak in the summer months, primarily June and July, before declining towards the end of the year. The pattern suggests a possible link with heat-affected zoonotic transmission or seasonal variations in human activities that might expose individuals to Brucellosis. There are occasional exceptions, such as the sharp surge in cases in March 2021. Although no discernible long-term trend over the decade, an overall increase in cases seems to be evident in recent years (2022-2023).

Deaths Analysis

The number of deaths due to Brucellosis throughout the years remained relatively low despite the growth in the number of cases. From the data, 99.9% of cases resulted in recovery, emphasizing how rarely Brucellosis is fatal. However, 2021 represented the year with the most deaths, totaling at 5. It's worth noting that deaths didn't follow the seasonal pattern observed in cases, suggesting that the timing of fatalities doesn't necessarily correlate with peak case incidence. In conclusion, while Brucellosis posed a growing health challenge in terms of morbidity, it is infrequently lethal.

Distribution



CNIDs

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

Version: 2024-03-20 (UTC+)