

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

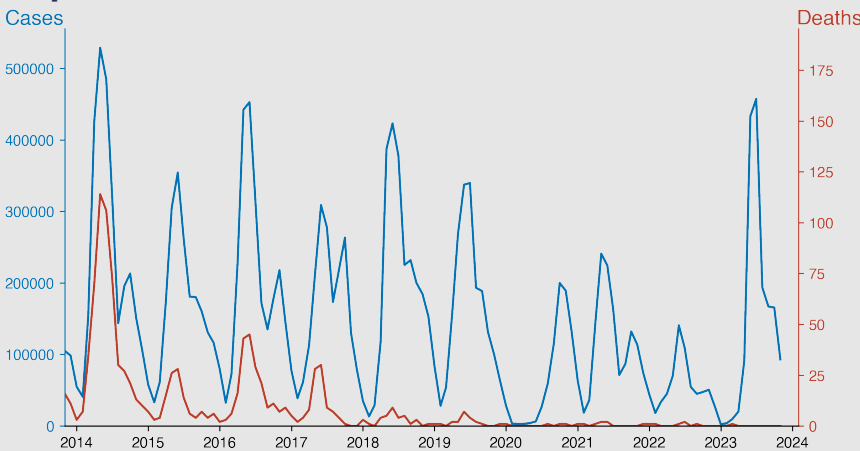
Hand foot and mouth disease

November 2023

Introduction

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) is a contagious illness typically caused by the Coxsackie virus. It primarily affects children and is characterized by sores in the mouth, as well as a rash on the hands and feet. HFMD is transmitted through direct contact with nasal secretions, saliva, blister fluid, and feces of infected individuals. It generally occurs in epidemics during the summer and early autumn. Mild self-limiting symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, malaise, and may be accompanied by respiratory symptoms.

Temporal Trend



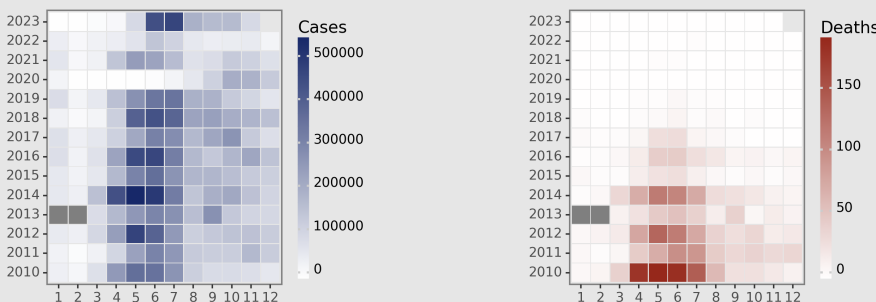
Cases Analysis

The data signals a cyclic pattern in the incidence of Hand Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) in mainland China. It typically shows an increasing trend at the start of the year, with a notable peak generally around May or June, followed by a gradual decrease towards the end of the year. This trend may have a strong correlation with the climatic changes since the disease is more prevalent in warmer weathers. A remarkable exception is observed in the data for 2020 where there was a significant dip in the cases, possibly due to preventive measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deaths Analysis

Death rates from HFMD are relatively low, with the highest recorded in April 2010 at 175. There is no distinct pattern in the fatality rates, but they generally appear to follow the trend of case occurrence, albeit at a much lower frequency. The number of deaths seems to decrease over time, which suggests an improved response to the disease, possibly due to better healthcare provisions and public awareness. It's also noteworthy that no fatalities were reported from 2020 onwards, potentially representing the positive impact of stricter hygiene measures during the COVID-19 crisis.

Distribution



CNIDs

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Version: 2023-12-27 (UTC+)

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