

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

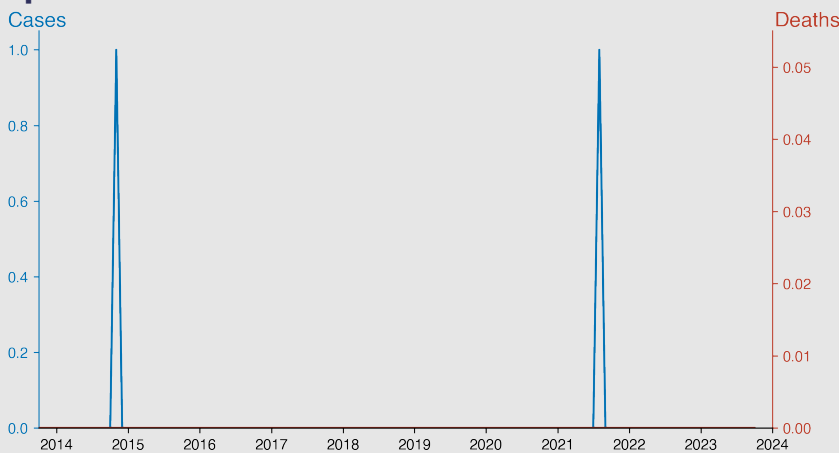
Filariasis

October 2023

Introduction

Filariasis is a group of tropical parasitic diseases caused by infection with filarial worms, transmitted to humans through the bites of infected mosquitos. There are three primary types: lymphatic filariasis, subcutaneous filariasis, and serous cavity filariasis. These worms occupy the lymphatic system, subcutaneous tissue, or body cavities, respectively. Infection can lead to various conditions, including lymphedema, elephantiasis, and onchocerciasis (river blindness). The disease is prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Global eradication efforts have centered around mass drug administration and vector control strategies.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

Filariasis in mainland China from January 2010 to October 2023 demonstrates a remarkably low incidence, with only three recorded cases occurring in the months of August 2011, November 2014, and August 2021.

- There have been no reported deaths associated with Filariasis during this period, indicating either a low mortality rate for the disease or effective clinical management of cases.
- The data suggest successful control and possibly near-elimination of Filariasis in China, congruent with the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF) targets.
- Absence of reported cases for the majority of the time-span and no increase in case numbers over the 13-year period reflects a stable epidemiological situation with minimal public health impact as of October 2023.

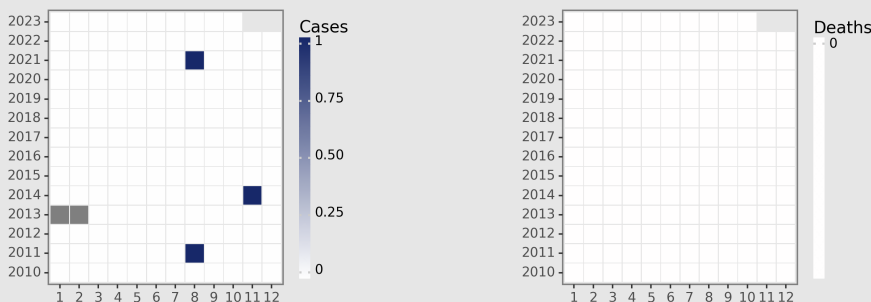
Cases Analysis

From January 2010 to October 2023, the data reflect zero reported cases of Filariasis in mainland China each month, with only two exceptions. In August 2011 and August 2021, there was one case reported each of these months, which indicates isolated occurrences over a span of nearly 14 years. The extremely low incidence reflects the success of China's filariasis elimination programs, potentially indicating effective preventive measures, surveillance, and control strategies that have kept the disease at bay.

Deaths Analysis

During the same period, the number of deaths due to Filariasis in mainland China was consistently reported as zero. This suggests that, in the rare instances where Filariasis cases were detected, they did not result in mortalities, which can be attributed to early detection, effective treatment, and the non-lethal nature of the disease in the reported cases. The data confirm the successful management of Filariasis in China and echo the World Health Organization's validation of China's elimination of Filariasis as a public health problem in 2007.

Distribution



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