

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

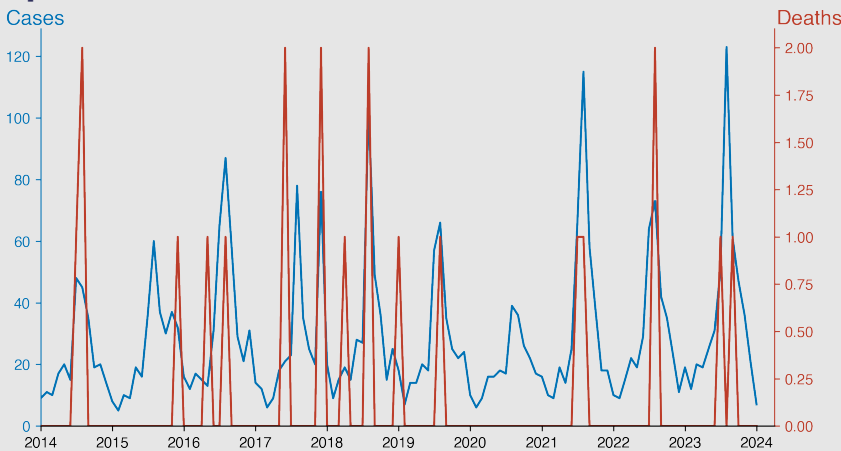
Anthrax

January 2024

Introduction

Anthrax is a serious infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. It primarily affects livestock and wild animals, but humans can become infected through direct or indirect contact with sick animals. Human infection can occur via three routes: cutaneous (skin), inhalation, and gastrointestinal. Symptoms vary by infection route but can include skin lesions, respiratory distress, and severe gastrointestinal issues. Anthrax is not contagious from person to person. Effective vaccines and antibiotics exist for prevention and treatment. Control measures focus on vaccinating livestock and handling potentially infected animal products with care.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- ****Seasonal Peaks****: Anthrax cases in China show clear seasonal trends, peaking in July and August, suggesting links to climate or agricultural practices.
- ****Rising Trend Over Time****: A general increase in cases over the years, with significant spikes observed in 2016, 2018, and 2021, highlights the need for better surveillance and prevention.
- ****Low Mortality Rates****: Despite case fluctuations, anthrax mortality rates remain low, with deaths sporadic and not exceeding two per peak season.
- ****Recent Decline****: As of January 2024, there's a noticeable decline in cases to just 7, indicating potential improvements in control or reporting.

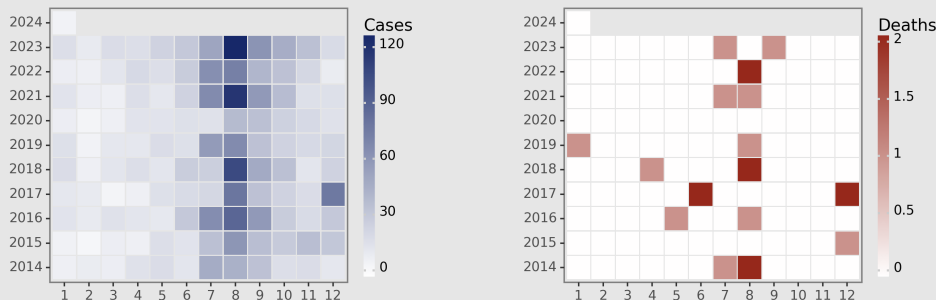
Cases Analysis

The data shows fluctuating anthrax cases in Chinese mainland from 2014 to 2024, with notable peaks during summer months, particularly in August, which suggests a seasonal pattern. Cases gradually increased over the years, with the highest recorded in August 2021 (115 cases) and August 2023 (123 cases). This trend could indicate evolving environmental conditions or changes in human-animal interactions, possibly due to agricultural practices. The data underscores the need for targeted public health interventions during peak transmission periods.

Deaths Analysis

The death toll from Anthrax, while relatively low, indicates lethal potential, primarily occurring in peak transmission months like July, August, and December, aligning with increased case counts. The fatalities recorded are sporadic but persistent over the years, underscoring the disease's ongoing risk to public health. This pattern necessitates enhanced diagnostic facilities, prompt treatment protocols, and robust reporting mechanisms to prevent mortality and control the spread of this zoonotic disease within susceptible populations.

Distribution



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