

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

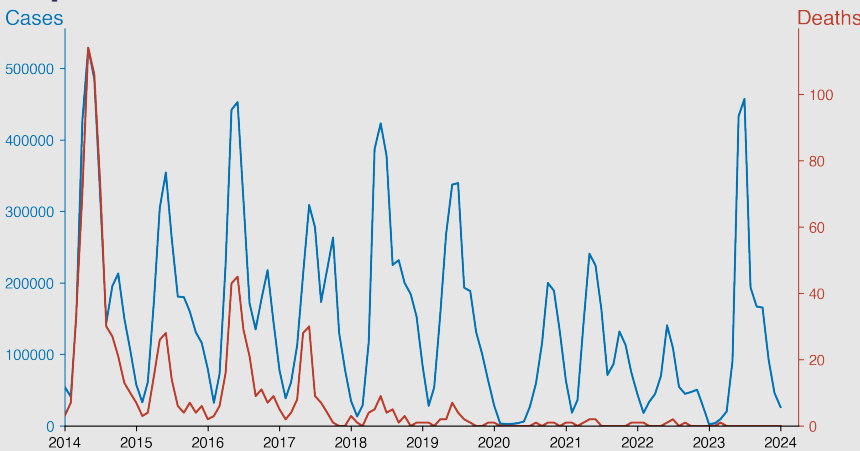
Hand foot and mouth disease

January 2024

Introduction

Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) is a contagious viral illness mainly affecting children under 5, though adults can catch it too. Symptoms include fever, sore throat, painful mouth sores, and a rash on hands and feet. It's caused by viruses like Coxsackievirus A16 and Enterovirus 71, spreading through direct contact with infected bodily fluids or feces. HFMD is typically mild, resolving in 7 to 10 days without treatment. The disease is prevalent in childcare settings, emphasizing the importance of good hygiene practices to prevent transmission.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Significant seasonal patterns observed, with peaks in cases typically during warmer months (May to July), indicating a higher transmission rate during these periods.
- A dramatic reduction in cases and deaths from 2020 onwards, likely due to public health interventions and possibly changes in reporting during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The highest number of cases recorded in June 2016 and July 2023, with 452,668 and 457,212 cases respectively, showcasing periodic spikes in infection rates.
- The number of deaths has significantly decreased over time, with no deaths reported from February 2023 onwards, suggesting improved disease management and prevention strategies.

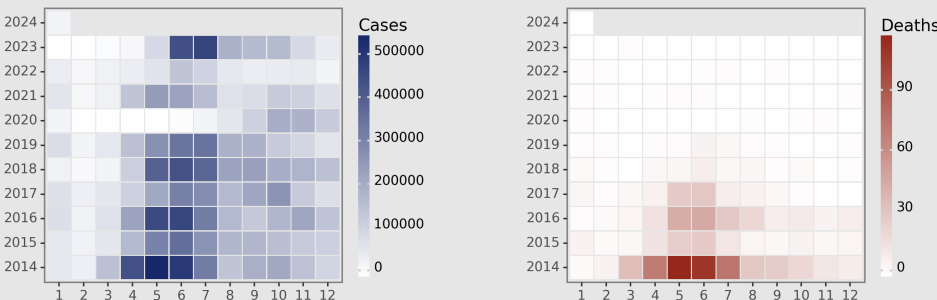
Cases Analysis

The data shows a seasonal pattern of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) in China, with peaks typically in May and June each year, reflecting the disease's higher transmission rates in warmer months. Notably, there was a sharp decline in cases starting from 2020, likely due to COVID-19 related public health measures such as lockdowns and improved hygiene practices. The most significant outbreaks occurred in 2014 and 2016, with over 400,000 cases reported at their peaks. Since 2020, the numbers have dramatically decreased, indicating effective control measures.

Deaths Analysis

The death toll from HFMD in Chinese mainland also presents a notable trend, with the highest numbers recorded in the peak years of 2014-2019, directly correlating with the high case counts. Deaths dramatically dropped to near zero starting from 2020, paralleling the decrease in case numbers. This reduction could be attributed to improved disease management, public health interventions, and possibly the impact of pandemic containment measures. The consistently low mortality rate in recent years highlights progress in HFMD control and treatment, even as case numbers begin to rise again post-pandemic.

Distribution



CNIDs

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

Version: 2024-03-04 (UTC+)