

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Plague

April 2024

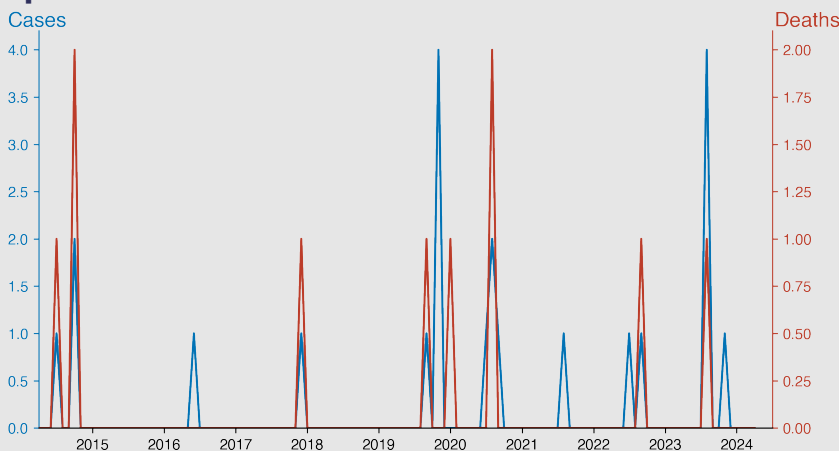
Introduction

Plague is a serious, potentially lethal infectious disease caused by the *Yersinia pestis* bacteria. It primarily affects rodents like rats and spreads to humans through infected fleas' bites. The disease manifests in three forms: Bubonic, characterized by swollen lymph nodes; Septicemic, affecting the blood; and Pneumonic, targeting the lungs. The plague has historically caused widespread pandemics, most notably the Black Death in the 14th century. Today, it can be treated effectively with antibiotics if detected early.

Highlights

- The Plague shows a sporadic pattern in Chinese Mainland with very few Cases occurring over the past decade (2014-2024).
- The notable peak in Cases was in November 2019 with 4 reported Cases but an absence of fatalities.
- A concerning factor is the existence of deaths, which indicates the disease's possible presence in the background population with sporadic case identification.
- Currently, by April 2024, no new cases or deaths have been reported indicating an inactive phase of the disease.

Temporal Trend



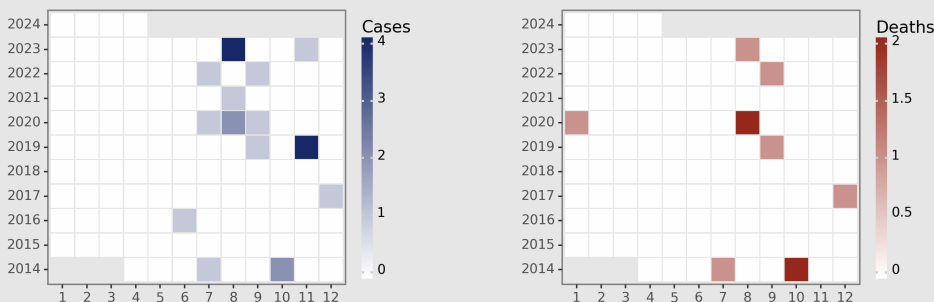
Cases Analysis

From 2014 to 2024 in Chinese mainland, there have been 17 reported cases of Plague. Observing a pattern, there is a negligible incidence of cases with long durations of no cases reported. However, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 all had cases, with the maximum being in November 2019 involving four reported cases. In general, Plague occurrences have been sporadic, with apparent seasonal variance and an annually small case number.

Deaths Analysis

Death records coincide directly with reported cases for most of the time, implying that victims often succumb to the disease. Part probable explanation could be late diagnosis, which is not unusual for Plague due to its rarity. A relatively high mortality rate is visualized in periods like 2014 and 2016-2017 where each reported case results in death. A shift is noticed after 2018 with some survival cases registered, hinting at possible improvements in timely diagnosis and treatment. However, the latest data up to 2024 shows that mortality associated with Plague in China still persists.

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