

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

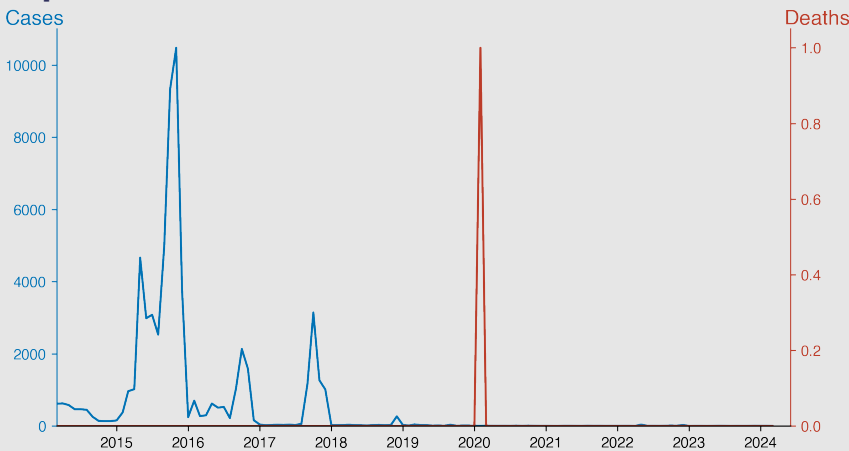
Schistosomiasis

March 2024

Introduction

Schistosomiasis, also known as bilharzia, is a type of parasitic disease caused by Schistosoma flatworms. The parasites inhabit freshwater, penetrating human skin upon contact. Inside the body, they grow into adult worms that lay eggs leading to various symptoms like abdominal pain, diarrhoea, and blood in urine or stool. Chronic cases may result in liver damage, kidney failure or bladder cancer. The disease primarily targets populations in Africa, South America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Asia. It's preventable through the provision of clean water, better sanitation, and regular drug treatments.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

1. A significant decline in Schistosomiasis cases was observed from 2014 to 2024. Case numbers decreased from a peak of approximately 10,481 in November 2015 to a single case in March 2024.
2. The trend shows a drastic reduction after 2015, with occasional minor peaks, notably in 2017. After 2018, new cases reduced to double digits and maintained at a low level.
3. For most of the recorded period, no fatalities were reported. However, in February 2020, a single death was recorded.
4. By March of 2024, the monthly caseload has diminished to only one case signifying a nearly eradicated disease landscape.

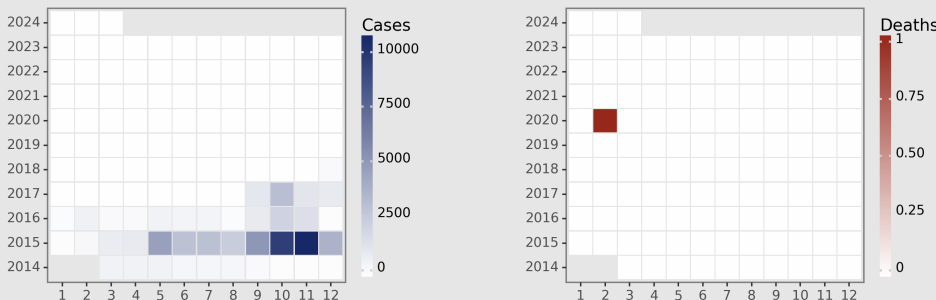
Cases Analysis

The incidence of Schistosomiasis in Chinese mainland shows that the disease has had a generally decreasing trend from 2014 to 2024. However, there have been significant periodic spikes in incidences, especially in Autumn and Winter months, with the highest number of cases reported in November 2015 at 10,481. Since 2015, the fluctuations have reduced considerably with fewer cases annually reported year by year. Most notably, from 2020 to 2024, the monthly numbers are generally below 50, indicating that the disease is increasingly under control.

Deaths Analysis

Interestingly, despite the high level of infections in the earlier years, death cases remained surprisingly low throughout the reported period. Only one death case was recorded in February 2020. The low fatality rate may suggest that, while infections were prevalent, effective treatments and control strategies were implemented to manage the disease's progression. The consistently low death rate even amidst the high infection count signifies a good handling of the disease in terms of treatment administration and health management.

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