Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

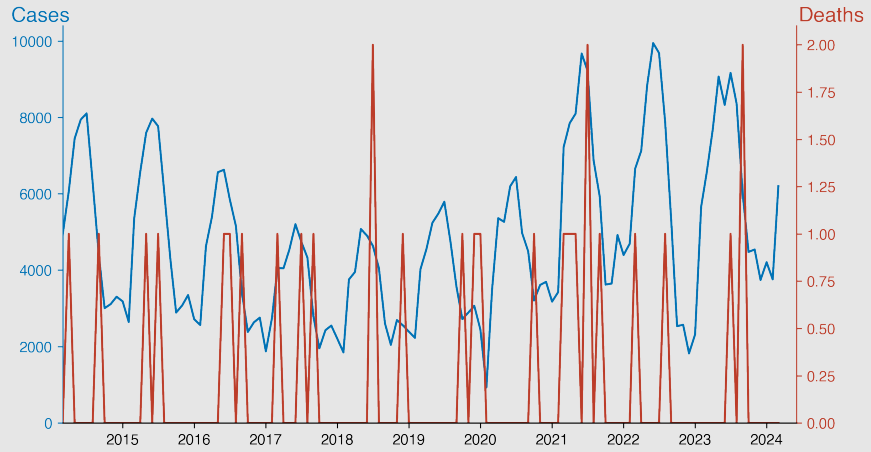
Brucellosis

March 2024

Introduction

Brucellosis is a bacterial infection caused by various Brucella species, commonly transmitted to humans from animals through consumption of unpasteurized milk or undercooked meat, or by close contact with their secretions. Predominantly affecting livestock, it represents a significant agricultural burden. Symptoms in humans range from mild fever, fatigue, and joint pain to severe complications involving the heart and central nervous system. Brucellosis presents diagnostic challenges and requires prolonged antibiotic treatment. Globally, it is considered a neglected zoonosis with higher prevalence in the Mediterranean regions, Western Asia, and Africa.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Resurgence in Brucellosis cases noted from 2019, peaking at 9,670 in June 2021 despite initial decline between 2016-2018.
- A consistent seasonal trend observed with peak incidents occurring in warmer months (May-Jul).
- Fatality remains extremely low; occasional deaths recorded but no significant increase in mortality within the period under review.
- March 2024 data shows 6,197 cases, no deaths; slight case rate decline compared to same period the previous year (6,543 cases).

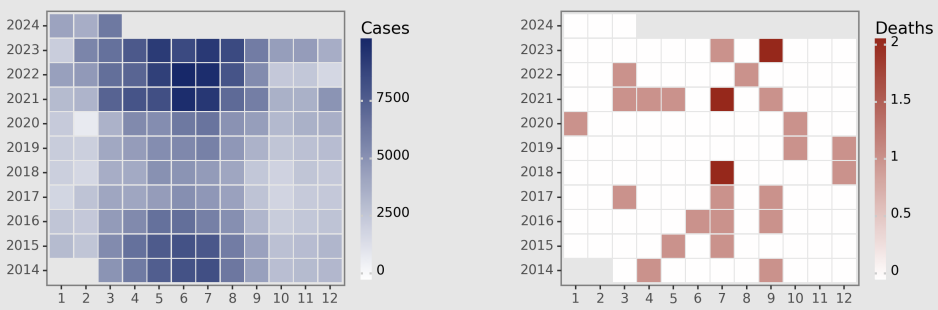
Cases Analysis

Over the span of 10 years (2014-2024) in Mainland China, Brucellosis cases generally showed a cyclical pattern with a surge in the middle of the year from May to August and a decrease towards the end and in the beginning of each year. The period of highest concentration of cases ranged from 7,000 to almost 10,000 during the summer months. There has been a significant overall increase in Brucellosis cases, with reported cases almost doubling from around 4000 cases in early 2014 to approaching 8000 cases in the same time frame in 2024.

Deaths Analysis

Mortality rate due to Brucellosis is remarkably low despite high reported cases, indicating either negligible fatality rate or inadequate recording of death data. Deaths occur sporadically throughout the years without an apparent pattern. The highest number of deaths (2) occurred in July 2018, July 2021, and September 2023. It's worth noting that fatalities do not necessarily correlate with the highest case numbers. For example, despite recording the highest cases in June 2021 (9670) and 2022 (9943), no deaths were reported in these months.(Word count: 101)

Distribution



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