

# Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

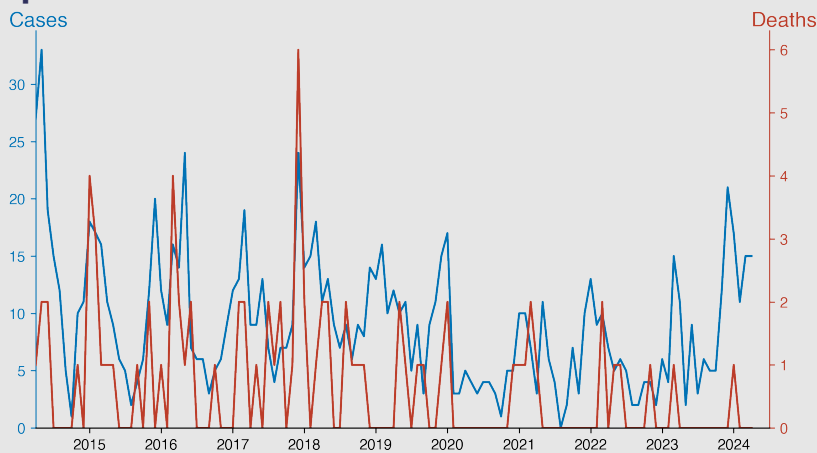
## Meningococcal meningitis

April 2024

### Introduction

Meningococcal meningitis is a severe bacterial infection of the membranes that enclose the brain and spinal cord, known as the meninges. It's caused by the *Neisseria meningitidis* bacterium. The disease is associated with high mortality rates and serious health complications among survivors. It spreads mainly through respiratory droplets or close contact, often causing outbreaks in crowded conditions. Although it can occur at any age, it primarily affects infants, adolescents, and young adults. Its symptoms include fever, headache, and a stiff neck. Vaccination provides the most effective prevention.

### Temporal Trend



### Highlights

1. There has been a significant decrease in reported Meningococcal meningitis cases in China since 2014, with no upward trend observed.
2. The mortality rate due to Meningococcal meningitis has also decreased, with fewer deaths reported since 2017.
3. There was a dramatic reduction in cases and deaths in 2020 which continues till 2024, indicating effective control measures may have been implemented.
4. Monthly case count and deaths vary throughout the years, but cases typically seem higher in the first half of the year.

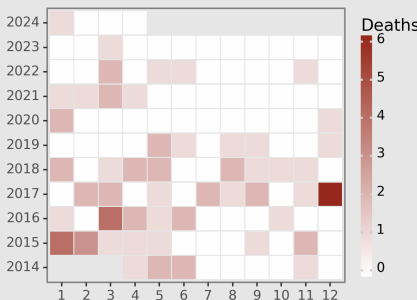
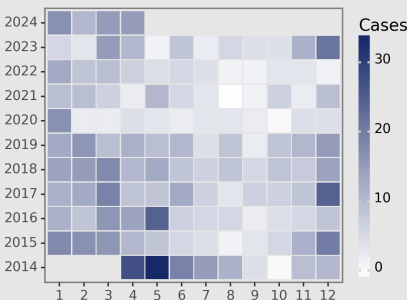
### Cases Analysis

From 2014 to 2024, Meningococcal meningitis cases in Chinese mainland appear to exhibit a cyclical trend with higher incidences around the turn and peak of a year (December and January), slowly decreasing over subsequent months and reaching a low point around the middle of the year. Cases seem to marginally rise in the latter half of the year leading up to December. Additionally, there is a trend of gradual decrease in total cases, particularly apparent from 2020 onward, where there is a noticeable drop compared to previous years.

### Deaths Analysis

The death count from Meningococcal meningitis, although relatively low, follows a similar cyclical pattern to the cases but with a lesser degree of correlation. The peak death count observed is 6 in December 2017 and is not noticeably tied to the highest case numbers. Deaths, on average, declined significantly from 2015 onward, suggesting improved treatment or prevention methods. Strikingly, zero deaths are reported onwards from December 2023, indicating significant advancements in handling the disease despite the slight increase in case numbers.

### Distribution



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