

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Leptospirosis

April 2024

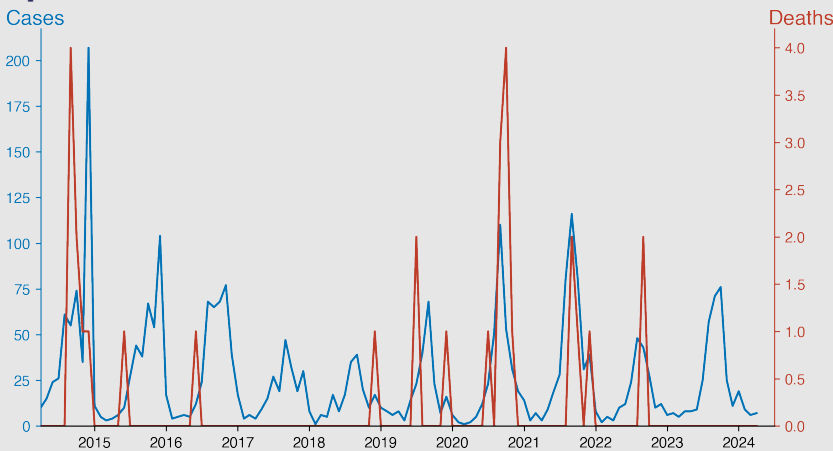
Introduction

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects both humans and animals. It is caused by bacteria of the genus *Leptospira*. In humans, it can cause a wide range of symptoms, and some infected persons may have no symptoms at all. Symptoms of leptospirosis include high fever, severe headache, chills, muscle aches, and vomiting, and may include jaundice, red eyes, abdominal pain, diarrhea, or rash. If the infection is not treated, the patient could develop kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, and respiratory distress. In rare cases, death occurs.

Highlights

- Leptospirosis cases in mainland China exhibit a distinct seasonal pattern, with cases typically peaking between August and October each year.
- The disease total case count has seen a significant reduction over the past decade, with case numbers in 2024 being consistently lower than in 2014.
- Despite the decreasing trend, there are occasional sudden increases such as the one observed in September 2020.
- Mortality seems very low in proportion to the number of cases, suggesting effective treatment protocols, but intermittent deaths are noted.

Temporal Trend



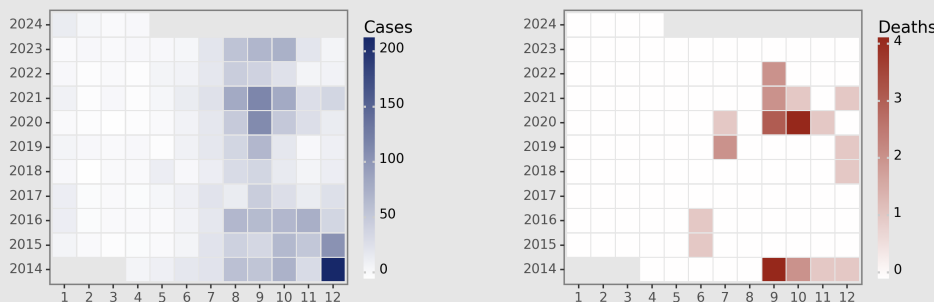
Cases Analysis

Leptospirosis cases in mainland China demonstrates seasonal patterns from 2014 to 2024, typically peaking in autumn. An initial yearly peak of 207 cases is observed in December 2014, followed by a downward trend until March 2015. The pattern then repeats annually, with case numbers consistently rising mid-year, peaking in late summer to autumn, and regressing thereafter. The highest peak of cases was seen in December 2014 (207 cases), with smaller surges in other years. Over the decade, there seems to be a decline in peak case numbers, indicating possible progress in disease control.

Deaths Analysis

Despite the fluctuations in case numbers, the death rate remained generally low, with no deaths in most months. During the period analyzed, the highest number of Leptospirosis-related deaths in a single month was 4 in September 2020 and October 2020. But generally, the fatality rate from Leptospirosis appears to be quite modest, and it doesn't show a specific trend or pattern over time. This might be attributable to effective healthcare interventions as well as prompt diagnosis and treatment procedures.

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Version: 2024-05-31 (UTC+)