

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

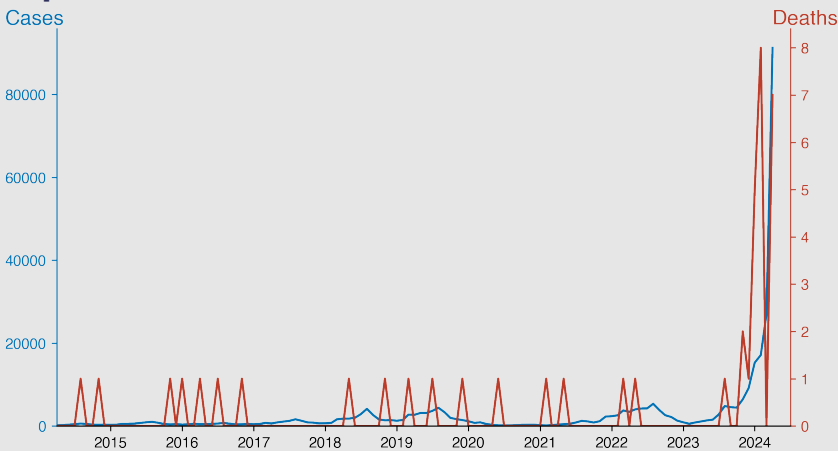
Pertussis

April 2024

Introduction

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious bacterial infection caused by *Bordetella pertussis*. It notably affects the respiratory tract and is characterized by severe coughing fits that often end in a "whooping" sound during the intake of breath. It primarily spreads through droplets from coughing or sneezing. Although vaccines have significantly reduced its prevalence, pertussis remains a public health concern in many parts of the world. High risk groups include unvaccinated infants and people with compromised immune systems. Effective treatment generally involves antibiotics.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- There's a significant upward trend in Pertussis cases in the Chinese mainland, climaxing at 91,272 cases in April 2024.
- Spikes in cases often occur in the second half of years, indicating possible seasonal influences.
- Despite rising case numbers, Pertussis-related deaths remain relatively low, with a peak of 8 in February 2024.
- The fluctuating nature suggests potential reporting biases or varying seasonal transmission factors.

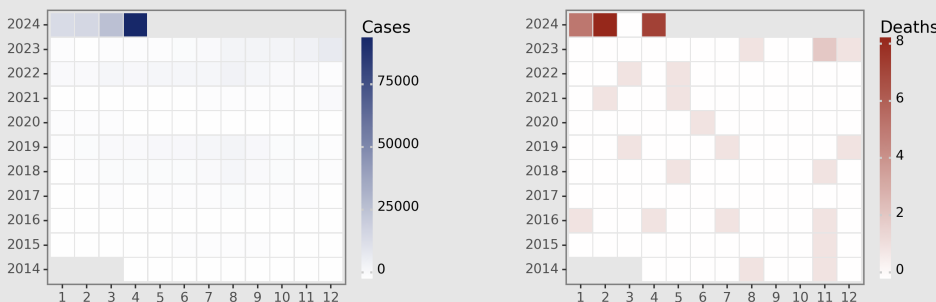
Cases Analysis

The Pertussis cases in the Chinese mainland displayed an increasing trend from 2014-2024. The majority of reported cases were relatively low in early years like 2014-2017, typically not surpassing a thousand monthly. However, noticeable increases occurred starting 2018. Particularly, a sharp surge was evident in 2024, significantly in March and April, with a drastic spike of 91,272 cases reported in April 2024 alone.

Deaths Analysis

In contrast to the escalating trend of cases, the number of deaths remained relatively low over the ten-year period. While there are fluctuations, the total number of reported deaths each year has only occasionally reached above 1. The highest death count is seen in February 2024 with 8 deaths. Generally, a high number of cases with a low death rate may be indicative of a well-managed healthcare system responding to the outbreaks. Despite the increasing disease incidence and potential burden on the healthcare system, the controlled number of fatalities reflects the effectiveness of treatment protocols and public health measures.

Distribution



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Version: 2024-05-31 (UTC+)