

# Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

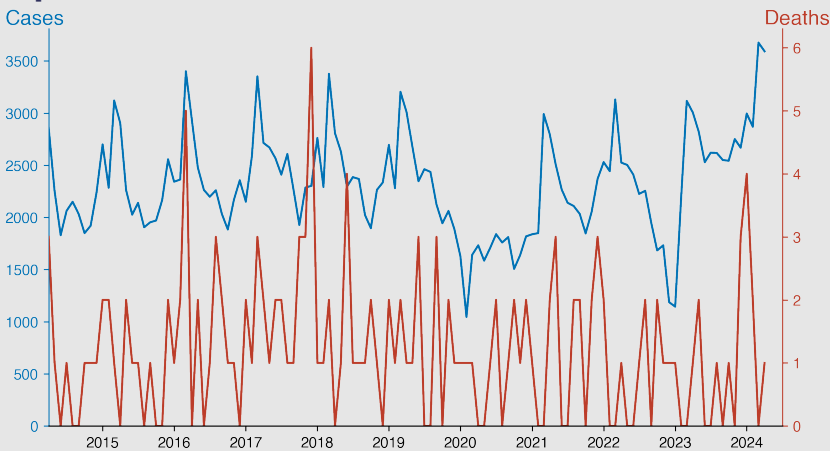
## Hepatitis E

April 2024

### Introduction

Hepatitis E is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis E Virus (HEV). It's typically transmitted through contaminated water or food, particularly undercooked pork or deer meat. Symptoms include jaundice, fatigue, and nausea, sometimes leading to severe complications like liver failure. Although there are four genotypes affecting humans, the disease is most prevalent in East and South Asia. Currently, there's no specific treatment available; instead, supportive care is provided to manage symptoms. Since 2011, a vaccine has been available in China but remains unlicensed elsewhere.

### Temporal Trend



### Highlights

1. Hepatitis E cases in Chinese mainland have steadily decreased from 2014-2020, from around 2150 monthly cases to an average of 1675 monthly cases in 2020.
2. Cases drop below 2000 per month in 2020 possibly due to effective interventions or diminished reporting.
3. Since 2021, a resurgence is observed, escalating to 3593 cases by April 2024.
4. Despite significant morbidity, the lethal nature of Hepatitis E remains consistently low, typically averaging 1-2 monthly deaths.

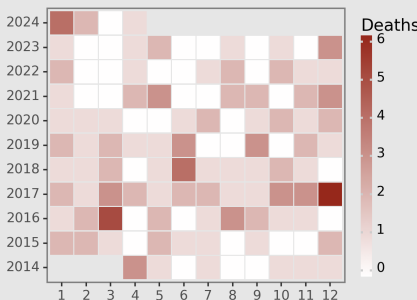
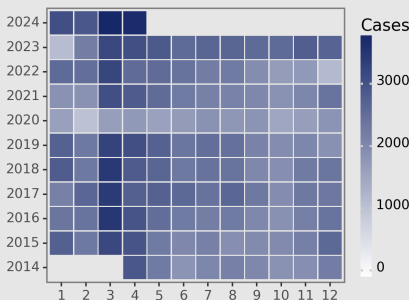
### Cases Analysis

The data collected suggests that Hepatitis E cases in the Chinese mainland show a cyclical pattern peaking in the spring months (March, April), declining in the summer (June through September), and experiencing a moderate uplift in December-January. There were approximately 1900-3600 cases/month between 2014-2023. The peak case month was March 2024, with 3676 reported cases. A persistent decline can be observed starting in 2020 which continues until late 2022 after which the cases again started to rise.

### Deaths Analysis

The death count from Hepatitis E is relatively low compared to the number of reported cases. Over the 10-year period, the highest number of related deaths reported in a month was only 6, occurring in December 2017. More frequently, monthly deaths often ranged between 0-3, indicating a relatively low fatality rate for the infection. The deaths did not show any clear seasonal pattern, suggesting other factors may be influential, such as underlying health conditions of the infected individuals. It's also worth noting a consistent low mortality rate despite the increase in cases, possibly pointing to improved medical interventions or reporting accuracies.

### Distribution



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