

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

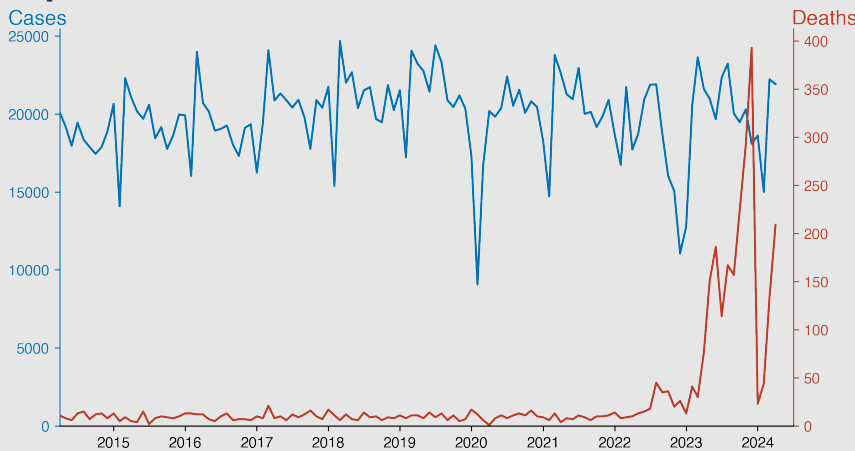
Hepatitis C

April 2024

Introduction

Hepatitis C is a viral infection that primarily affects the liver, leading to both acute and chronic illnesses. It is caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is transmitted through direct contact with infected human blood. Consequences range from a mild illness lasting only a few weeks to serious, lifelong illnesses like cirrhosis or liver cancer. Globally, an estimated 71 million individuals have chronic Hepatitis C infections. Unfortunately, a significant number of those chronically infected will develop cirrhosis or liver cancer. There is currently no vaccine for Hepatitis C.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

1. Hepatitis C cases in the Chinese mainland declined steadily from 2014 - 2022, but rose again in 2023.
2. Death rates escalated markedly from August 2022, peaking at 393 in December 2023, signaling a serious health concern.
3. The erratic pattern of cases and deaths suggests influence by external factors such as healthcare quality or new disease strains.
4. As of April 2024, the disease situation remains alarming with 21,905 reported cases and 209 deaths, showing ongoing difficulties in outbreak management.

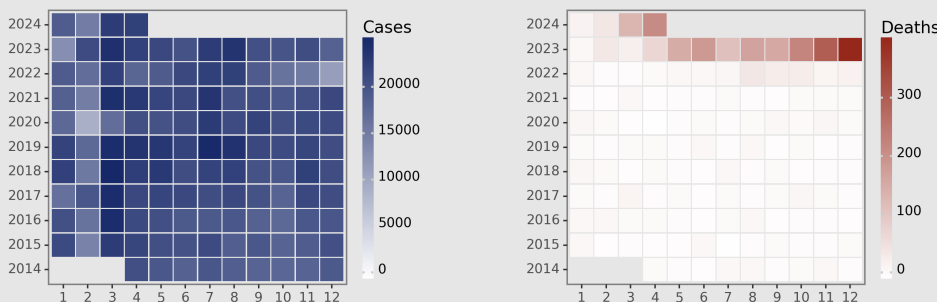
Cases Analysis

Over the reported period from April 2014 to April 2024, there is a notable fluctuation in Hepatitis C's monthly cases in Mainland China. The number of cases ranges between approximately 10K and 24K. The overall trend appears to be cyclical with sporadic spikes, such as the ones observed in March 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. However, these heightened case counts do not seem to follow a rigid pattern. After a significant drop in February 2020, possibly tied to the COVID-19 pandemic, the case numbers rebound but slightly decline through December 2022. From 2023, cases remain relatively steady, roughly between 18K and 23K.

Deaths Analysis

Between 2014 and 2019, the mortality rate remained low, generally ranging between 4 and 14 deaths per month. However, a sharp increase in deaths was observed from August 2022 onward. The most drastic surge occurred in December 2023, accounting for 393 deaths, an approximately 30-fold increase from the highest recorded deaths in the earlier years. The high mortality rate in later years indicates a potential worsening of health navigation, accessibility of health services, and/or effectiveness of treatment or it could be linked to increased severity of incident cases.

Distribution



CNIDs

Free, Lightweight, Open-source,
Smart Surveillance for
Chinese Infectious Diseases

Version: 2024-05-31 (UTC+)