

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

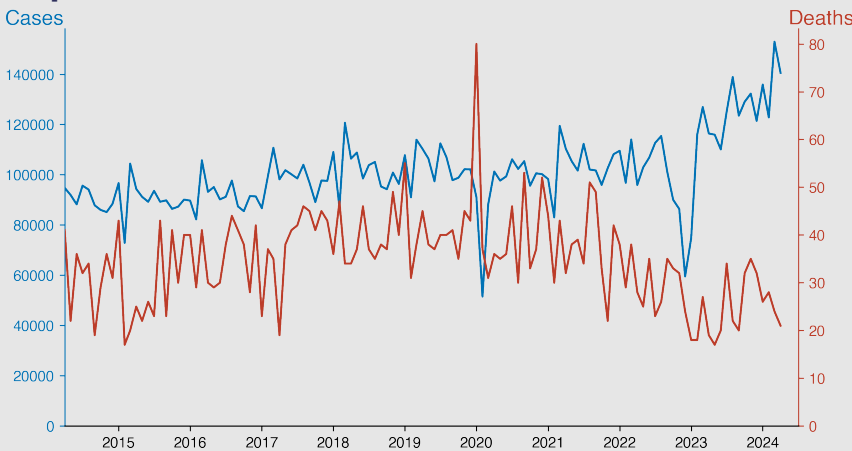
Hepatitis B

April 2024

Introduction

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that attacks the liver, causing acute or chronic disease. The virus is transmitted through exposure to blood, semen, or other body fluids of an infected person. High-risk groups include those who have unprotected sexual contact, share needles, or are exposed to it at birth. Symptoms include jaundice, fatigue, nausea, and liver damage. Since the late 1980s, a vaccine has been available to prevent the spread of the disease. Despite these preventive measures, Hepatitis B remains a global health problem, particularly in parts of Asia and Africa.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

1. There is a noticeable increase in reported Hepatitis B cases from 2014 to 2024.
2. The disease incidence peaks in some months indicating seasonal trends; for example, there is a relatively high number of cases in the month of March in different years.
3. Mortality rates, in contrast, do not show a clear increase over time and relatively remain steady suggesting improvements in disease management.
4. There was a sharp drop in reported cases in February 2020 which could be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic which may have affected healthcare-seeking behaviors and reporting.

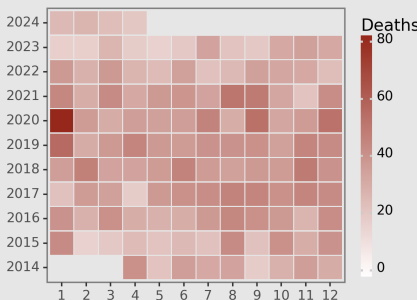
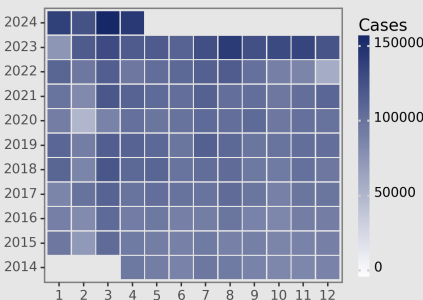
Cases Analysis

The reported data for Hepatitis B cases in Chinese mainland shows a general increasing trend from April 2014 to April 2024. The number of cases fluctuates month-to-month but overall, the number of cases has notably increased over the decade. The lowest recorded monthly case count was 51,506 cases in 2020 February, and the highest was 152,967 cases in 2024 March. The data indicates flexible periods of rise and fall in case numbers but there are no evident seasonal patterns.

Deaths Analysis

The number of deaths linked to Hepatitis B infection in the same period remained relatively consistent from 20 to 55 per month, not directly correlating with the rise in case numbers. This may be attributed to more effective treatments and health interventions, thus reducing fatality rates. Fluctuations in monthly deaths did not display a clear seasonal pattern. An exception was a notable peak of 80 deaths in January 2020. This divergence of trend between case records and deaths signals the importance of investigating case severity and healthcare response over time.

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