

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Rabies

March 2024

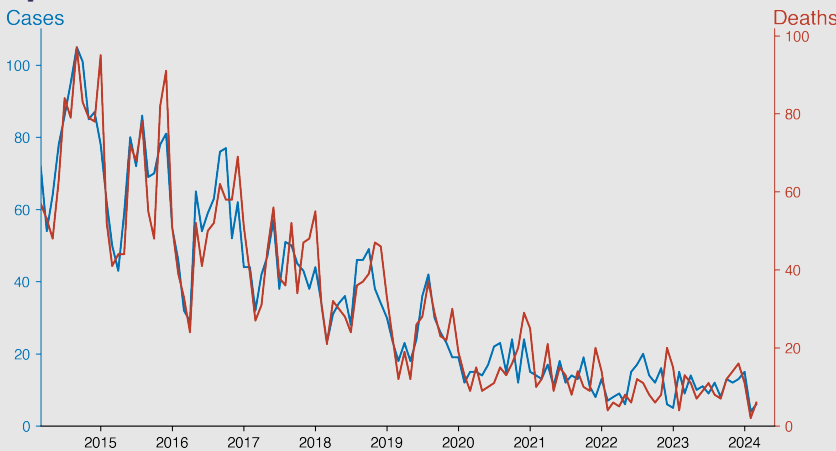
Introduction

Rabies is a deadly viral disease primarily transmitted through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. It affects the central nervous system, eventually leading to disease in the brain and death. Symptoms include fever, headache, excess salivation, muscle spasms, paralysis, and mental confusion. Although rabies is a preventable disease through the administration of a post-exposure prophylaxis, it remains a major public health concern globally, particularly in Asia and Africa, with more than 59,000 people dying of the disease annually.

Highlights

- The incidence and death rates from Rabies on the Chinese mainland have shown a generally declining trend from 2014 to 2024.
- There was a significant drop in cases and deaths since 2017, with numbers from 2014-2016 averaging in the 50s-70s per month, falling to single digits to teens per month by 2024.
- Despite this overall decreasing trend, there have been periodic increases in incidence and mortality, particularly observed during the mid-year and end-year periods.
- However, the situation as of March 2024 indicates stable control over the disease with only 6 cases and 6 deaths reported.

Temporal Trend



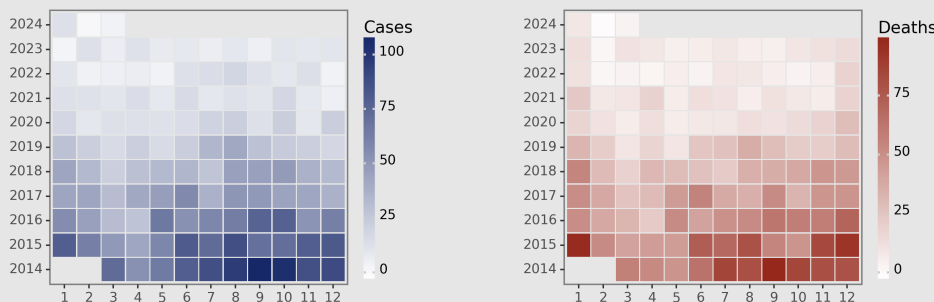
Cases Analysis

The reported data for rabies cases in the Chinese mainland shows a general downward trend between 2014 and 2024. Initially high in numbers (72, March 2014), the cases significantly decline over the years. The peak was noted in September 2014 (105 cases), gradually decreasing in the following years. However, occasional spikes were noticed, especially in the summer months across the years. Some variation in monthly cases counts were observed, but these were less dramatic towards the latter years of the analysis period, stabilizing to lower double-digit counts (as low as 4 in February 2024).

Deaths Analysis

Just like the cases, Rabies-related deaths also portray a declining trend over this decade. The highest recorded deaths occurred in January 2015 with 95 fatalities. The death counts typically correlate with the number of reported cases, indicating a high fatality nature of the disease. However, this correlation seems lesser in later years, potentially due to enhanced treatment availability and response. The figures for Rabies deaths in recent years have mostly stayed under 20 a month, signifying containment efforts' effectiveness. Variation in numbers can be attributed to variable professional healthcare access and vaccination rates.

Distribution



CNIDs

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

Version: 2024-04-24 (UTC+)