

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Hand foot and mouth disease

April 2024

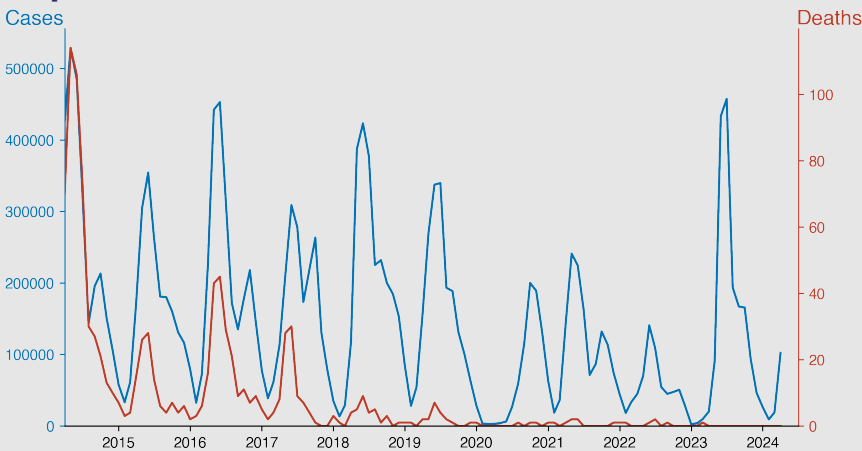
Introduction

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) is a contagious viral illness primarily affecting young children. It's most commonly caused by Coxsackievirus A16. Symptoms include sores in or on the mouth and rashes on hands and feet. It spreads through coughing, sneezing, or close contact, and can also spread through contact with infected stools or surfaces. There is no specific treatment, care focuses on relieving symptoms. Preventive measures include good hygiene practices such as frequent handwashing. Most people recover in 7 to 10 days without medical treatment.

Highlights

- A significant drop in the number of Hand, Foot and Mouth disease cases was noted in 2020, potentially due to the extensive disease control measures implemented for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A drastic uptick was observed in June 2023, reaching levels comparable to the 2014-2016 period, before falling again.
- Deaths from the disease dramatically decreased over the years, with no fatalities recorded from April 2020 onwards.
- As of April 2024, the case count seems to be on the rise again, reaching 102,204 with no associated deaths.

Temporal Trend



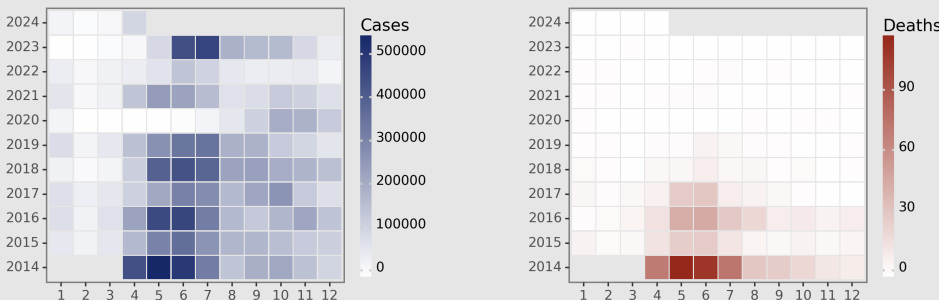
Cases Analysis

The available data on Hand Foot and Mouth Disease cases in mainland China fluctuates throughout 2014-2024 with a distinct pattern of peaks in spring-summer months followed by valleys during the winter. This pattern indicates a seasonal nature of the disease. A significant drop in case numbers is observed in 2020. The highest count is seen in 2023 with 457212 cases in July. The lowest count occurs in 2023 in January with only 2484 cases. The overall trend reveals a slight reduction in reported cases after 2023.

Deaths Analysis

Despite the large number of HFMD cases, the number of deaths remained relatively low over the observed period. Deaths showed a similar seasonal pattern as cases, peaking in May-June each year. The highest number of deaths was reported in May 2014 with a count of 114. Interestingly, the number of deaths decreased dramatically after 2019 and no deaths were recorded from January to April 2020. From May 2020 through until the latest data point in April 2024, deaths remained very low with many months reporting zero fatalities. This could signal improvements in healthcare response over this period.

Distribution



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Version: 2024-05-31 (UTC+)