

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

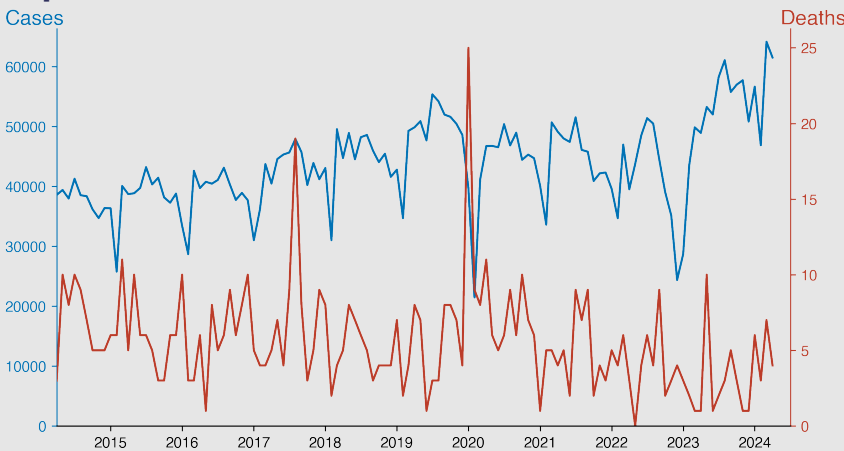
Syphilis

April 2024

Introduction

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted bacterial infection caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. It progresses in four distinct stages: primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary. Symptoms vary with each stage, starting from sores and rashes in the early phases to serious organ damage in the later stages. Additionally, a special form, congenital syphilis, can be passed from pregnant women to their fetus. Syphilis is typically diagnosed via blood tests and can be effectively treated with antibiotics, specifically penicillin. It's crucial to detect and treat syphilis early to prevent its severe consequences.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Syphilis cases in mainland China show a cyclical annual trend, often peaking from March to August and decreasing from December to February.
- There is upward trend in reported cases from 2014 to 2024, highlighting an escalating disease situation. Rapid growth is noted from 2023.
- Despite rising case numbers, Syphilis-related deaths remain relatively low and stable, suggesting improved diagnosis and treatment.
- As of April 2024, there are 61,511 reported cases and 4 deaths, continuing the trend of high cases and low mortality.

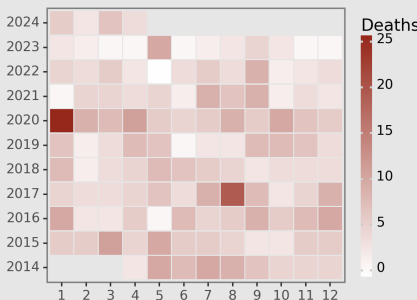
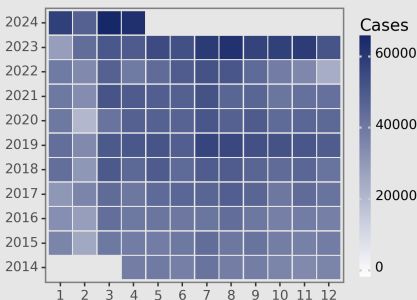
Cases Analysis

Syphilis case reports for the Chinese mainland showed variability over the approximate 10-year period. New cases ranged from around 21,000 to 64,000 per month. Notably, there was a noticeable dip in reported cases in February each year, potentially due to fewer reporting days or reduced sexual activity during the Lunar New Year holiday. A general upward trend can be observed with several peaks, most significantly in March 2024 when the highest number of cases (64,161) was reported.

Deaths Analysis

The reported deaths due to Syphilis demonstrate a generally very low mortality rate, staying in the single digits in most months. The deaths peak slightly in some summer months, which could coincide with the infection peaks. However, the correlation is not strongly consistent across the years. The highest number of deaths occurred in January 2020, with 25 reported deaths. Despite the increase in reported cases across the years, there's not a similar progressive increase in deaths, indicating effective management and treatment strategies for the disease.

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