

# Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

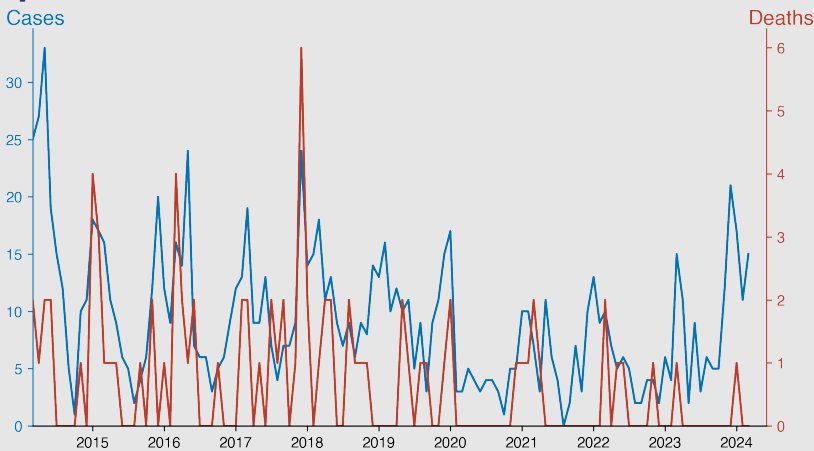
## Meningococcal meningitis

March 2024

### Introduction

Meningococcal meningitis is a severe bacterial infection of the meninges, the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*. This infection is highly contagious, frequently fatal if not treated promptly, and can cause serious complications, like brain damage or hearing loss. It primarily affects babies, children, and young adults. The disease is characterized by sudden onset of symptoms such as fever, a stiff neck, a severe headache, nausea, confusion, and sensitivity to light. Vaccines are available and recommended in areas with high incidence rates.

### Temporal Trend



### Highlights

- Overall decrease in Meningococcal meningitis cases from 2014 to 2024; highest incidence in 2014 with 33 cases in May, and the lowest in 2021 with 0 cases in August.
- Noticeable seasonal trends; higher number of cases generally reported from January to April and in December, aligning with China's colder months.
- Significant reduction in deaths since 2020, with zero deaths reported most months from 2020 onwards.
- Despite the overall reduction, there was a slight uptick in cases in December 2023 and early 2024, but with fewer fatalities.

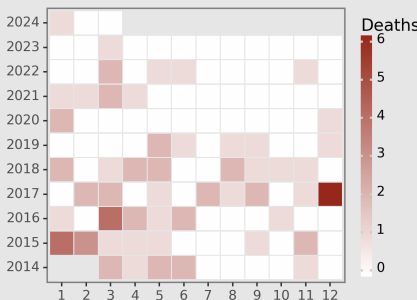
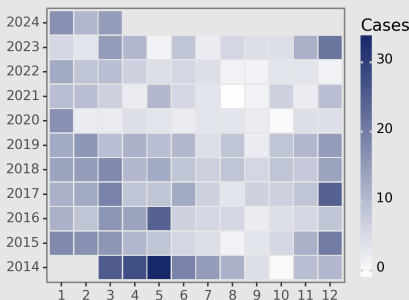
### Cases Analysis

During the reported period (2014-2024), there seems to be a seasonality pattern in Meningococcal meningitis cases on the Chinese mainland, with peaks in Spring and Winter. The highest count was seen in 2014 May with 33 cases; the lowest in 2021 August with no reported case. The year 2020 witnessed a significant reduction in cases, with less than 10 cases reported per month. This could be due to infection control measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the trend has been slightly downward.

### Deaths Analysis

The mortality rate due to Meningococcal meningitis scattered across the years with tiny spikes in January 2015 and December 2017, each recording 4 and 6 deaths respectively. Impressively, the reported deaths have been relatively low in recent years, demonstrating an efficient response and effective utilization of healthcare resources. The mortality trends indicate better disease management but continuous monitoring is necessary due to irregular instances of multiple deaths in a month.

### Distribution



CNIDs

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

Version: 2024-04-24 (UTC+)