Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

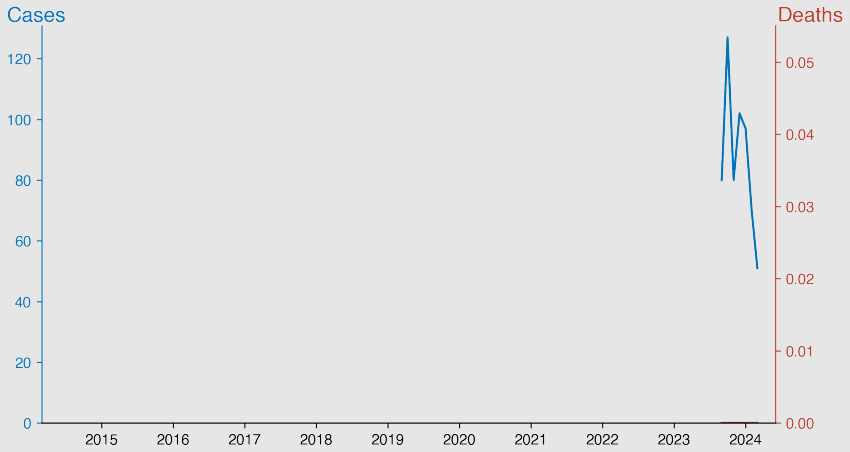
Monkey pox

March 2024

Introduction

Monkeypox is a rare viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in remote parts of Central and West Africa. It is commonly associated with rodents and monkeys, hence the name. The virus, part of the Orthopoxvirus genus, is similar to human smallpox. Individuals infected with monkeypox may exhibit fever, headache, muscle aches, and rash. The disease is usually a self-limiting condition, meaning it typically goes away on its own after a few weeks. However, serious complications, including death, can occur, especially in those with weakened immune systems.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Disease Trend: A general declining trend in Monkey pox cases can be observed since October 2023 in Chinese mainland, with a slight increase in December 2023.
- Recent Statistics: As of March 2024, there have been 51 reported cases- the lowest since September 2023.
- Mortality: Remarkably, despite fluctuations in case numbers, the fatality rate has consistently remained at zero across these months.
- Current Status: In summary, despite an initial surge in cases in late 2023, Monkey pox has been generally decreasing in 2024 and has not caused any reported deaths.

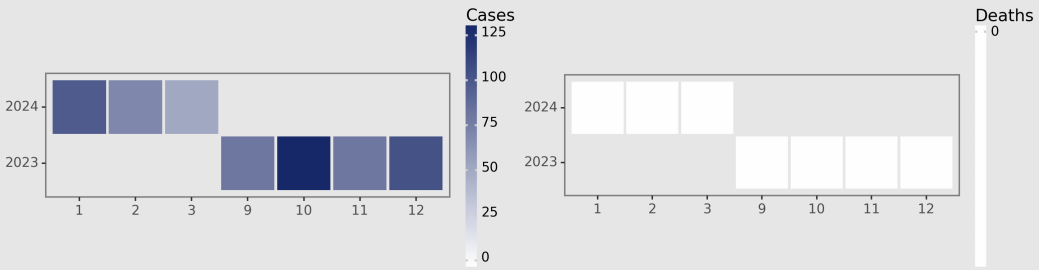
Cases Analysis

Monkeypox cases in the Chinese mainland experienced a remarkable fluctuation between September 2023 and March 2024. A significant increase was observed between September and October 2023, with cases surging by about 59%. This was followed by an identical decline between October and November. The number of reported cases increased slightly in December 2023, before experiencing a gradual decrease over the next three months. The decreasing trend in 2024 seems to suggest stabilization in the number of new cases, a positive indication that containment efforts might be effective.

Deaths Analysis

Interestingly, despite the variability of Monkeypox cases over the seven-month period, there were no reported deaths in the Chinese mainland. This could imply effective medical intervention and patient care preventing the disease's mortality. It could also suggest that the Monkeypox strains in circulation may be less virulent. However, further epidemiological analysis is needed to establish the reasons behind the zero-mortality rate. They could also include efficient case detection and reporting mechanisms or high patient resilience due to previous virus exposures or vaccinations. (Word Count: 104)

Distribution



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