

# Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

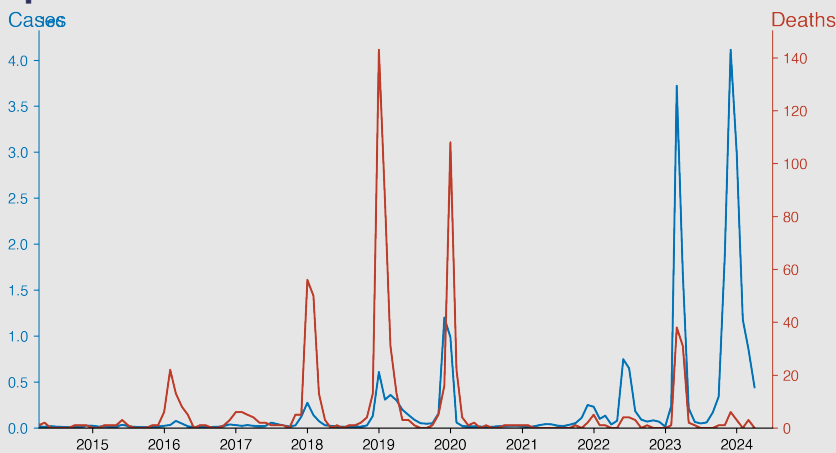
## Influenza

April 2024

### Introduction

Influenza, commonly known as the flu, is a highly contagious viral infection often confused with a common cold due to similar symptoms. It primarily affects the respiratory system, causing fever, sore throat, muscle aches, cough, and fatigue. There are four types of influenza - A, B, C, and D. Influenza A and B are most common in humans and pose serious public health risks, leading to annual epidemics. The virus is primarily spread through tiny droplets when infected people talk, sneeze, or cough, and can also be contracted by touching infected surfaces.

### Temporal Trend



### Highlights

1. Influenza data from mainland China shows sporadic case spikes, with the highest in March and December 2023, exceeding 3.7 million and 4.1 million respectively.
2. Despite these surges, death rates stayed low, notably, only 6 deaths occurred during December 2023's peak.
3. The ten-year trend generally indicates increasing case numbers, notwithstanding the significant drop to 441,711 in April 2024.
4. As the case numbers rose, death toll showed a declining trend, from a peak of 143 in January 1919 to no deaths in April 2024.

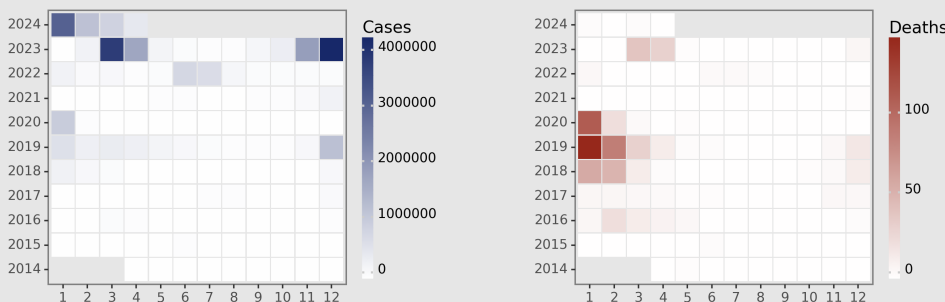
### Cases Analysis

The reported Influenza data for the Chinese mainland indicates an evident seasonal trend in the number of cases detected, with cyclical peaks appearing predominantly in the winter and early spring months, particularly December to March, and noticeable dips in the late spring to early fall period (April to September). From 2014 to 2020, the number of cases witnessed a notable upward trajectory year-on-year, with alarming surges in 2018, 2019 and 2020. However, a sudden significant decrease was observed in 2020's late spring onwards, likely due to strengthened public health measures amidst the global pandemic. Yet, a dramatic rebound followed in late 2023, exhibiting the highest case numbers yet (over 4

### Deaths Analysis

While the case counts were rising, the death toll from influenza during this period remained relatively low. Even during the highest months of reported cases, the numbers of deaths remained in single or low double digits, peaking in January 2019 with 143 deaths. Despite the considerable case count fluctuations from 2020 to 2024, the deaths generally remained below ten each month, except for in the month of March 2023, where there were 38 deaths. This reveals an overall low fatality rate despite the high incidence of influenza.

### Distribution



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