

# Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

## Tuberculosis

April 2024

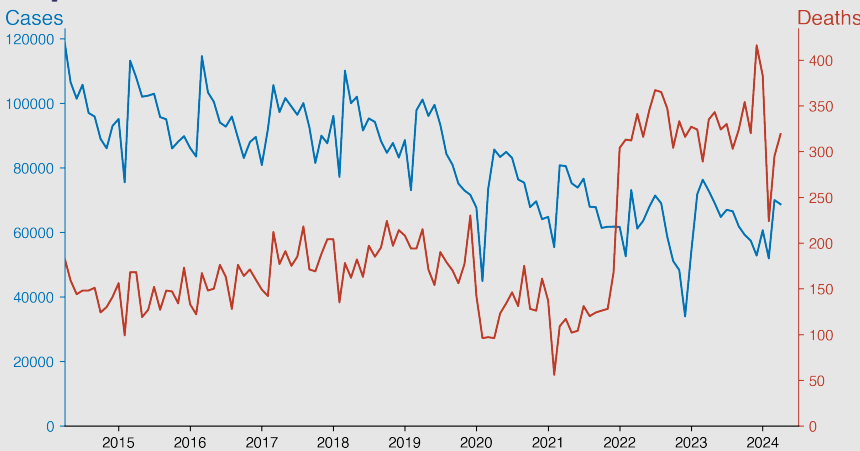
### Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious infection primarily affecting the lungs, caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It's spread through airborne droplets when an infected individual coughs or sneezes. TB can also impact other organs and is distinguished by symptoms like prolonged cough, weight loss, fever, and night sweats. Despite it being a preventable and curable disease, TB remains a significant global health issue, affecting millions of individuals annually. Early detection and immediate treatment are crucial to control its spread.

### Highlights

- A steady downward trend in Tuberculosis cases was observed from 118,849 cases in April 2014 to 68,732 cases in April 2024, signifying successful control measures.
- Contrarily, an upward trend was noted in deaths, from 183 in April 2014 to 319 in April 2024, indicating the need for improved medical strategies.
- Seasonal trends with case peaks typically seen in March each year suggest a possible pattern of disease spread.
- A significant case and death reduction in February 2020 could be tied to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdown measures.

### Temporal Trend



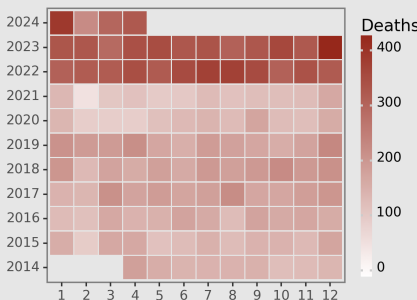
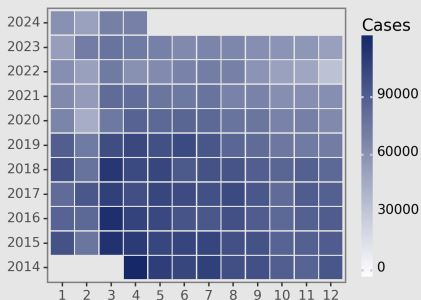
### Cases Analysis

Between April 2014 and April 2024, Tuberculosis (TB) cases in mainland China exhibited an overall decreasing trend. TB case counts were usually high in the spring, especially in March, potentially due to seasonal factors related to the transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The lowest TB cases were consistently observed in the winter months, such as in January and February. The year 2020 marked a substantial decrease, possibly due to healthcare shifts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The recovery and subsequent stabilization seem to indicate that the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on TB reporting and diagnosis started to wane in 2021/2022.

### Deaths Analysis

Unlike the number of cases reported, the number of deaths due to Tuberculosis in mainland China has shown a slight increasing trend from 2014 to 2024. In 2014, deaths rarely rose above 150 per month, but in 2024, reported deaths were consistently over 200 per month, with the highest recorded in December (416). Even though there's a decrease of TB cases, the increase in the number of deaths suggests a possible need for improved TB treatment and care in mainland China.

### Distribution



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