

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Typhus

March 2024

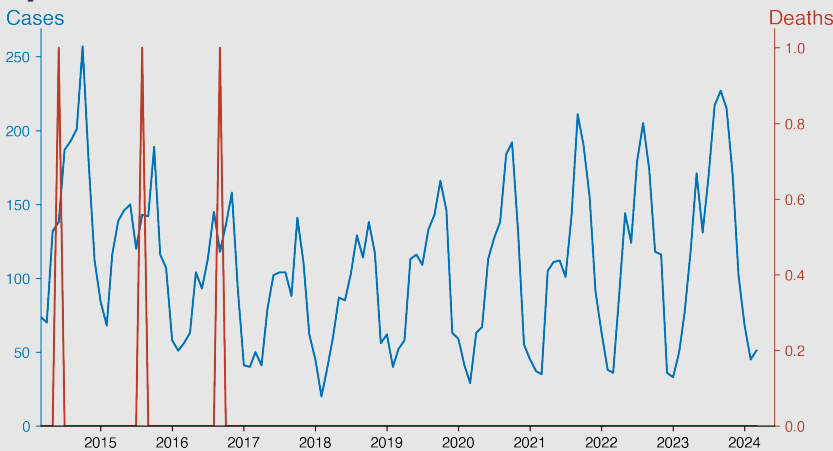
Introduction

Typhus is a group of infectious diseases transmitted by lice, fleas, or mites, caused by Rickettsia bacteria. Epidemic typhus is spread by body lice, while scrub typhus is transmitted by mites and murine typhus by fleas. Symptoms usually include fever, headache, and rash. Outbreaks are often associated with poor sanitation, overcrowding, and war. It can be fatal if untreated. However, antibiotics can effectively treat the disease. Vaccines exist only for epidemic typhus and scrub typhus. Prevention revolves around reducing contact with the vectors.

Highlights

- Data shows decreasing Typhus cases in mainland China after a peak in 2014, with a seasonal trend seeing case counts rise in spring, peak in summer and autumn, and fall in winter.
- Over the ten-year span, only three deaths were registered, showcasing the disease's low fatality rate in the region.
- As of March 2024, the situation is stable with 51 reported cases, aligning with historical data for this part of the year. No deaths were reported within this period.

Temporal Trend



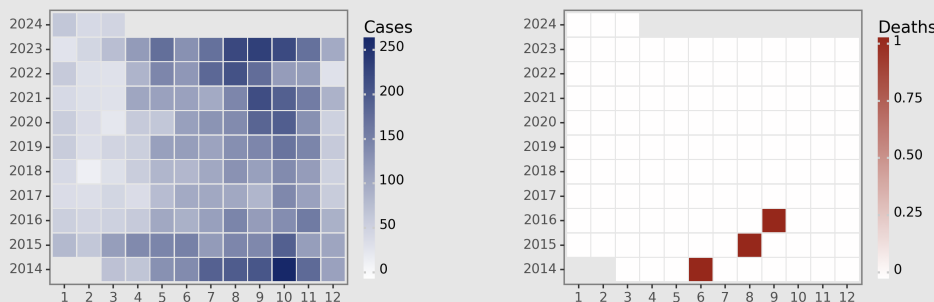
Cases Analysis

The reported data indicate a marked seasonality in the incidence of Typhus in mainland China over the ten-year period from 2014 to 2024. Case numbers generally start to rise in the spring, peak in the late summer or early autumn, and then decline towards the winter months. The exception appears to be in 2017, where despite the general downward trend, a sudden spike is observed in October. As we move from 2014 to 2024, there is also a clear and consistent upward trend in the peak number of reported cases each year, from a high of 257 cases in October 2014 to a peak of 227 cases in September 2023.

Deaths Analysis

The reported mortality rate is relatively low compared to the number of cases. Over the decade, only three deaths have been reported, which occurred in June 2014, August 2015, and September 2016. This low mortality rate may be attributed to early diagnosis, treatment efficiency, or that most cases may be of the less severe form of typhus. No deaths have been reported since September 2016, indicating an effective health system response towards typhus control and management in Chinese mainland.

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