

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

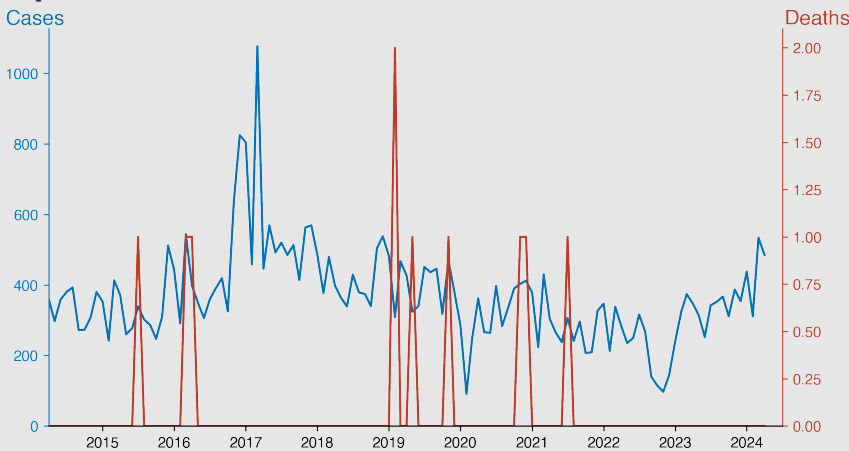
Echinococcosis

April 2024

Introduction

Echinococcosis, also known as hydatid disease, is a parasitic infection caused by Echinococcus tapeworms. The disease occurs worldwide, primarily affecting livestock and humans. It is transmitted by the ingestion of Echinococcus eggs through contaminated food, water or direct contact with an infected animal. The infection often results in cysts in organs like the liver and lungs, causing various symptoms including abdominal pain, cough and chest discomfort. Echinococcosis can be lethal if untreated, requiring surgery or long-term drug therapy for management.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- There's a substantial increase in Echinococcosis cases over the years, peaking in 2017 (1077 cases), and again in 2024 with 534 cases by March.
- A significant drop in case numbers starts from 2022, hitting the lowest in November (97 cases).
- Despite variations in case numbers, fatalities stay low, hinting at an efficient disease management system.
- As of April 2024, case numbers are rising, though the lack of future data prevents trend confirmation.

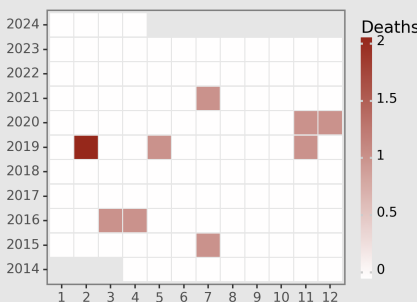
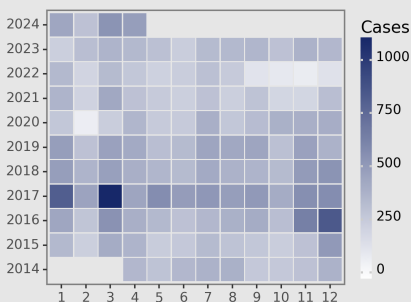
Cases Analysis

The total Echinococcosis cases reported in Chinese mainland increased from 361 in April 2014 to a high of 1077 in March 2017. After this peak, we observe a decrease until a brief upward surge in 2024, reaching 534 cases in March. These fluctuations signify that Echinococcosis is a persisting health concern that requires continued attention to its epidemiology. Seasonal trends are also visible, with increased cases typically observed around March and decreasing towards the end of the year. The general decline seen towards 2022 indicates potential effectiveness of early preventive measures, but also necessitates monitoring for re-emergence.

Deaths Analysis

Deaths from Echinococcosis are remarkably low despite the fluctuation in cases, with only 8 deaths reported over the 10-year period. 2015, 2016, 2019, and 2020 each saw 1 reported death, while 2019 had the highest annual death count of 2. Most months recorded zero deaths, indicating a high survival rate, probably due to effective treatment interventions despite variations in case numbers.

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