

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

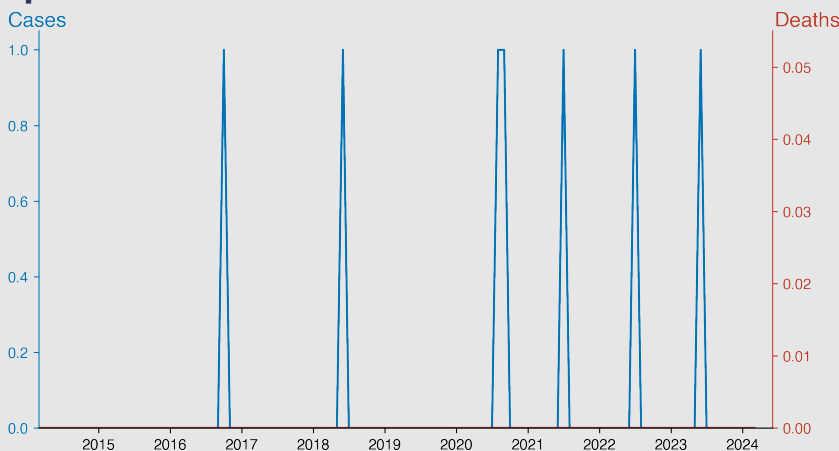
Diphtheria

March 2024

Introduction

Diphtheria is a serious infectious disease caused by *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* bacteria. Its primary symptom is a thick, gray coating in the throat or nose that can lead to difficulty in breathing. Other symptoms include fever, chills, and swollen glands. The bacteria produce a toxin that can damage the heart, nerves, and kidneys. It spreads through direct contact or contaminated objects. Vaccination is effective for prevention, and it's part of routine childhood immunizations. It is less common now, but remains significant in regions with low immunization coverage. Treatment typically involves antitoxins and antibiotics.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Diphtheria cases have been extremely rare in mainland China, with data indicating isolated occurrences in 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, each reporting a single case.
- There have been no Diphtheria-associated fatalities reported from 2014 to the present day.
- Incidences of the disease appear to be sporadic and fatalities are absent, suggesting effective control measures.
- As of March 2024, mainland China reported zero new cases or deaths relating to Diphtheria.

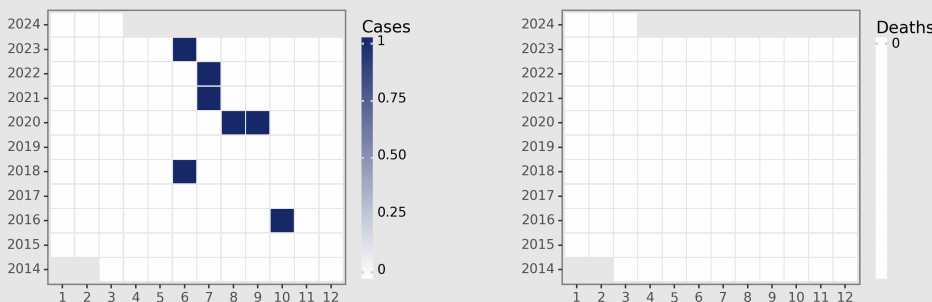
Cases Analysis

In mainland China, the reported cases of Diphtheria from March 2014 to March 2024 were sparse and sporadic over a 10-year duration. The majority of months recorded zero cases, with isolated occurrences in October 2016, June 2018, August and September 2020, July 2021, July 2022, and June 2023. It is notable that the few cases that arose were evenly spread over time, suggesting a low but persistent risk of infection. The sporadic nature may suggest individual imported cases or localized, short-lived outbreaks that were effectively controlled.

Deaths Analysis

Throughout the decade-long period from 2014 to 2024, there were no recorded deaths from Diphtheria in the Chinese mainland. The absence of fatalities could suggest a variety of things, such as effective treatment protocols or early detection of the illness. Despite a few recorded cases of the disease, 100% survival could indicate the successful implementation of public health interventions. It also may signal low severity in the presented cases. Therefore, from the standpoint of mortality, Diphtheria does not represent an urgent public health crisis in mainland China during this period.

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