

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Gonorrhea

April 2024

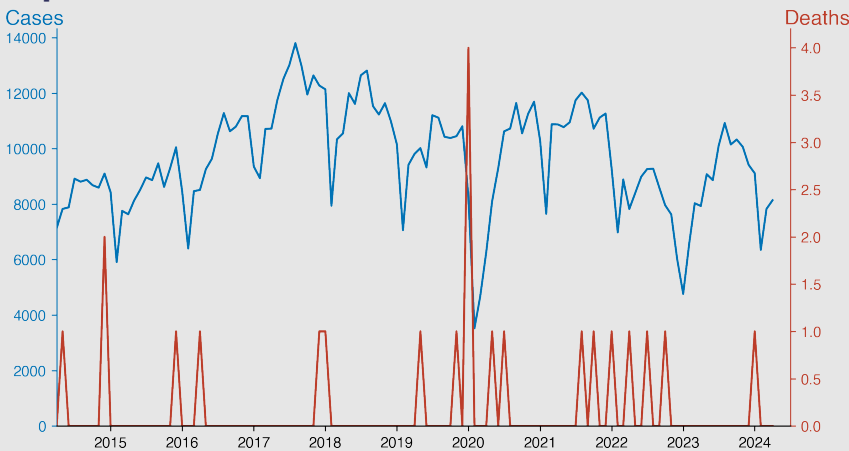
Introduction

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* bacterium. It primarily infects the mucous membranes of the urethra, cervix, rectum, throat, and eyes. Symptoms may include painful urination, abnormal discharge, sore throat, and, in women, pelvic pain. However, many individuals show no symptoms. Without treatment, gonorrhea can lead to serious health problems like pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility. It can be prevented through safe sexual practices and successfully treated with antibiotics.

Highlights

- Gonorrhea cases in China escalated from 2014, peaking in 2017, then generally decreased to April 2024.
- A significant drop in 2020, likely due to COVID-19, was followed by a recovery in cases.
- Deaths from the disease remained extremely low throughout the decade, indicating effective treatment methods.
- Seasonal variation is seen, with summer months often having higher case numbers.

Temporal Trend



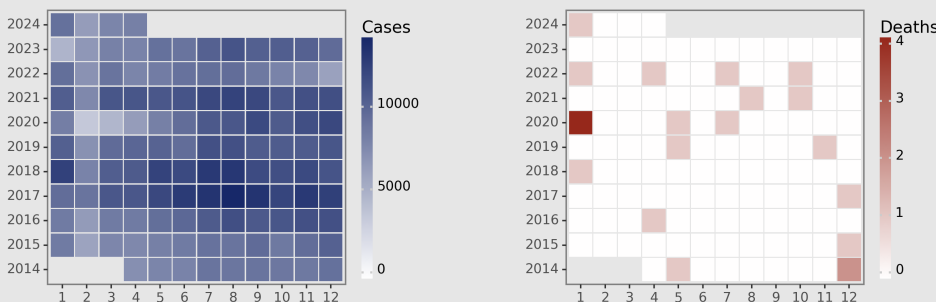
Cases Analysis

From 2014 to 2024, Gonorrhea cases in mainland China showed a gradual increase, with the highest number of cases in August 2021 (12019 cases). Notably, there are more cases generally reported in the summer months (June, July, and August) across all years, indicating a seasonal trend. However, a sudden drop in cases was observed in February 2020 (3524 cases), which might be due to the COVID-19 pandemic's influence on diagnostic testing. After this drop, the number of cases gradually started to increase again, following the initial seasonal pattern. The latest available data from April 2024 recorded 8138 cases.

Deaths Analysis

Over the span of the examined data, deaths due to Gonorrhea were sporadic and noticeably low in comparison to the number of reported cases. Only 15 deaths were registered in total, with the highest count of 4 deaths observed in January 2020. A plausible explanation for this minimal mortality could be effective treatment strategies available for Gonorrhea. Additionally, it was seen that death incidents were not consistently tied to peak case counts, suggesting that deaths might not be directly proportional to case increase and could be influenced by treatment accessibility and healthcare quality.

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