

# Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

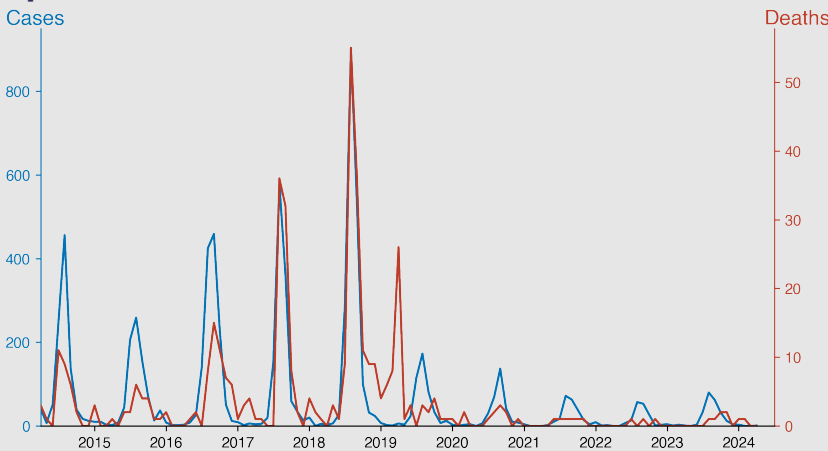
## Japanese encephalitis

April 2024

### Introduction

Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a mosquito-borne viral disease endemic to parts of Asia and the Pacific. Transmission primarily occurs in rural agricultural regions where flooding irrigation is used. The JE virus can cause inflammation of the brain leading to high fever, disorientation, coma, seizures, and even death. Vaccines are available for protection against JE, but no specific antiviral treatments exist. Human cases can be reduced by controlling mosquito populations and avoiding bites. JE is a major cause of viral encephalitis in Asia with thousands of cases reported annually.

### Temporal Trend



### Highlights

- Japanese encephalitis shows a seasonal trend in China, peaking in summer (June-August) and declining in winter (December-February).
- A consistent decrease in reported cases is evident from 2014 through 2024, especially in peak months. Compared to 456 cases in August 2014, 80 were reported in August 2023.
- The mortality rate has also reduced significantly over recent years. In 2024, the disease shows a low prevalence and mortality rate.
- Japanese encephalitis, despite recurring annually, appears to be better managed, suggesting effective control measures in place in China.

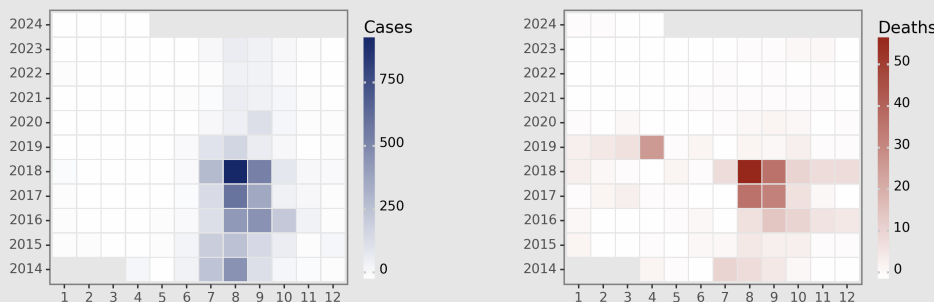
### Cases Analysis

Between the years 2014 to 2024, cases of Japanese encephalitis in mainland China followed a seasonal trend, peaking in summer months from July to September and reaching their lowest in the winter. The highest number of cases was observed in August 2018 with 904 cases. While there has been a general decline in cases over the years, from a total of 1023 cases in 2014 to an estimated 135 cases in 2024, periodic spikes still occur, predominantly in summer and early fall, aligned with increased mosquito activity, the primary transmitter of this disease.

### Deaths Analysis

Similar to the cases, the deaths from Japanese Encephalitis tend to peak in the summer months. The highest number of deaths occurred in August 2018 with 55 fatalities. However, there have been exceptions, like April 2019, which saw 26 deaths, significantly higher than ordinary spring months. The death count has generally decreased over the years, showing vector control efforts or healthcare management improvements. The last recorded death was in February 2024, and a declining trend of fatalities is noticeable in recent years.

### Distribution



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