

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Human infection with H5N1 virus

April 2024

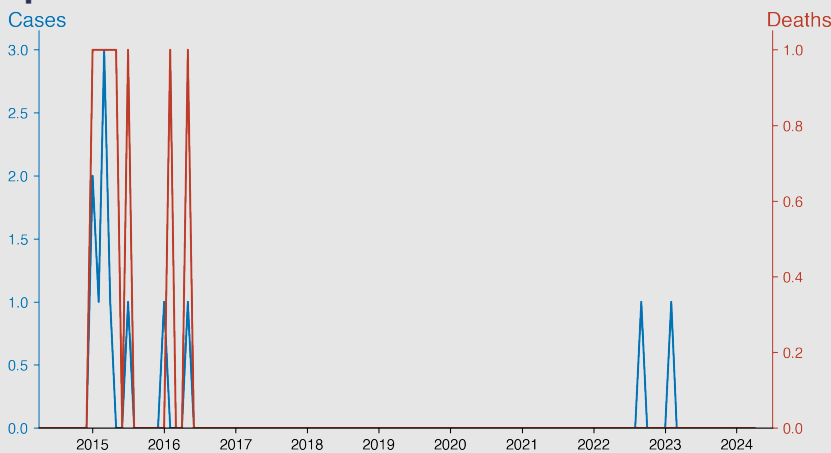
Introduction

Human infection with H5N1 virus, also known as avian influenza or bird flu, is a highly pathogenic disease that primarily affects birds but occasionally crosses species barriers to infect humans. Infected individuals typically present symptoms of severe respiratory illness, such as pneumonia. The World Health Organization reports a high mortality rate for H5N1 in humans with over 50 percent of cases resulting in death. The virus is usually contracted through close contact with live or dead infected birds, or their excretions. There has been limited human-to-human transmission.

Highlights

- Incidences of H5N1 human infection were largely reported in 2015 with sporadic cases thereafter.
- From 2016 onward, the cases became significantly less frequent and ranged from 0-1 case(s) per year.
- Data since 2018 shows a consistent trend of zero cases indicating the likelihood of successful containment and prevention measures.
- As of April 2024, there have been no further reports of H5N1 human infection or deaths on the Chinese mainland.

Temporal Trend



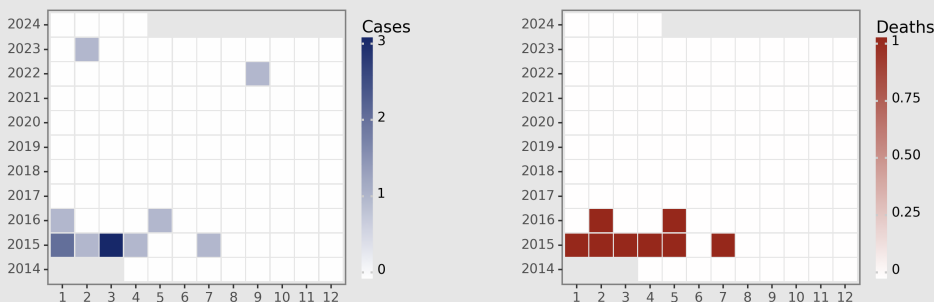
Cases Analysis

From the dataset, there was a recorded surge of H5N1 virus infection cases between January 2015 and May 2016, with a total of 9 cases. During this period, the cases appeared sporadically with no apparent pattern of clustering, suggesting isolated incidents rather than a continuous outbreak. Following this period, the virus cases drastically dropped to zero until September 2022 when a single case was reported. An additional case was reported in February 2023. Overall, the incidents of H5N1 cases in the Chinese Mainland during this observation period have been rather sporadic and infrequent.

Deaths Analysis

The H5N1 virus appeared to have a high mortality rate during the period of review. In 2015, 7 cases resulted in 6 deaths, indicating the severity of this virus. Decrease in mortality rates after 2016 could be due to improved early detection, medical treatment, or both. From then until 2024, there was only one death reported in 2016 indicating that improved disease management processes could be having a positive effect. These mortality rates underscore the importance of maintaining preventive measures against this severe disease, despite low reported cases.

Distribution



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