

MERS SITUATION UPDATE | APRIL 2021

Highlights

- At the end of April 2021, a total of 2574 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), including 886 associated deaths (case-fatality rate: 34.4%) were reported globally; the majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia (2174 cases, including 808 related deaths with a case-fatality rate of 37.2%).
- During the month of April 2021, no laboratory-confirmed case of MERS were reported to WHO.
- The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases, when compared during the same corresponding period of 2015 to 2020, do not show any significant difference or change.
- The age group 50–59 years continues to be at the highest risk for acquiring infection of primary cases. The age group 30–39 years is most at risk for secondary cases. The number of deaths is higher in the age group 50–59 years for primary cases and 70–79 years for secondary cases.

SUMMARY

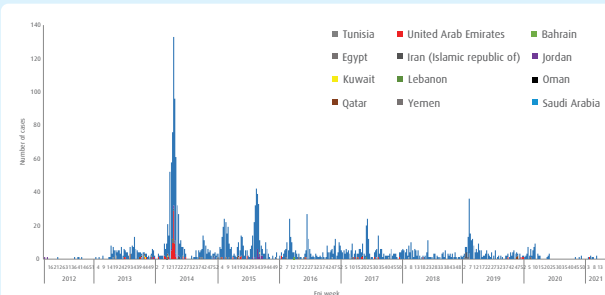
 **2574**
Laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 2012

 **12**
Countries reported cases since April 2012 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

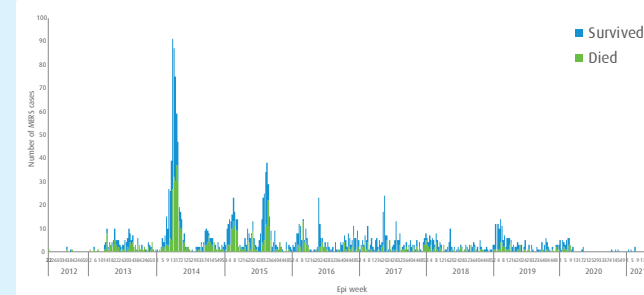
 **886**
Deaths reported since April 2012

 **27**
Countries reported cases globally

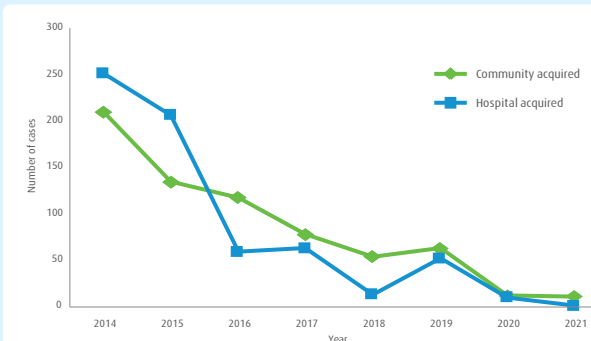
Distribution of MERS reported cases from Eastern Mediterranean Region by week of onset, June 2012 – April 2021



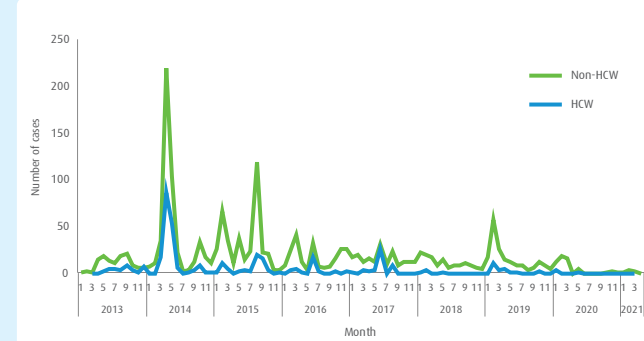
MERS cases per week of onset in Saudi Arabia, June 2012 – April 2021



Community versus hospital acquired MERS cases in Eastern Mediterranean Region, January 2014 – April 2021



Cases of MERS in healthcare workers reported from Saudi Arabia, January 2013 – April 2021



Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between November 2015 - April 2016 and November 2020 - April 2021

Characteristic	Nov 15 - Apr 16	Nov 16 - Apr 17	Nov 17 - Apr 18	Nov 18 - Apr 19	Nov 19 - Apr 20	Nov 20 - Apr 21
Number	112	132	100	161	71	11
Median age in years	55	56	56	51	56	57
Gender (% male)	81	78	75	77	80	91
% of Primary Cases	48	64	67	34	27	75
% of Secondary cases	45	27	33	66	10	0
(%) of Unknown Contact History	7	8	0	0	63	25
% of HCW	10	6	4	13	4	0
% Fatal	34	30	38	21	28	45

Characteristics of MERS cases reported from Saudi Arabia, June 2012 - April 2021

Type of case	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Grand Total
Missing		1	15	102	103	68	52	56	7	2	406
Primary	3	36	164	52	75	70	54	57	11	3	525
Secondary	2	93	264	222	60	90	35	75	9		850
Unknown		28	219	78	11	5	1	16	33	2	393
Grand Total	5	158	662	454	249	233	142	204	60	7	2174

Age and fatality distribution of primary and secondary cases of MERS reported from Saudi Arabia June 2012 – April 2021

