

MERS SITUATION UPDATE | MAY 2021

Highlights

- At the end of May 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 May 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

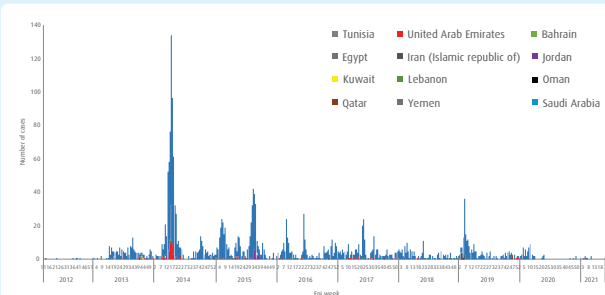
2574
Laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 2012

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

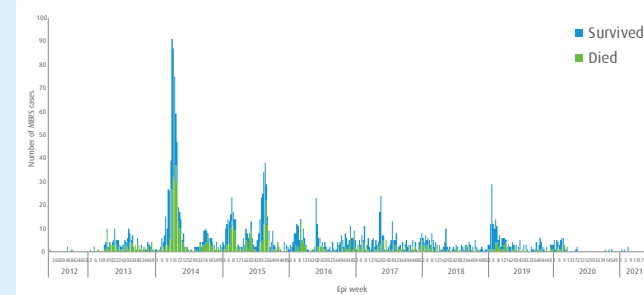
886
Deaths reported since April 2012

27
Countries reported cases globally

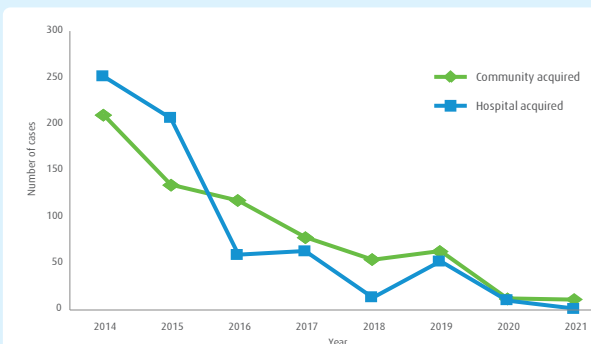
Distribution of MERS reported cases from Eastern Mediterranean Region by week of onset, June 2012 – May 2021



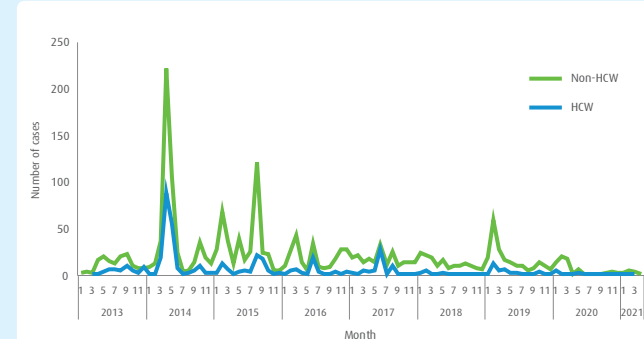
MERS cases per week of onset in Saudi Arabia, June 2012 – May 2021



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 – May 2021



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

Characteristic	Dec 15 - May 16	Dec 16 - May 17	Dec 17 - May 18	Dec 18 - May 19	Dec 19 - May 20	Dec 20 - May 21
Number	108	123	104	168	65	9
Median age in years	56	55	54	51	58	58
Gender (% male)	82	78	79	76	82	89
% of Primary Cases	50	57	56	34	23	71
% of Secondary cases	45	34	44	66	16	0
(%) of Unknown Contact History	5	9	0	0	61	29
% of HCW	89	90	95	81	94	89
% Fatal	34	30	33	23	35	44

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

