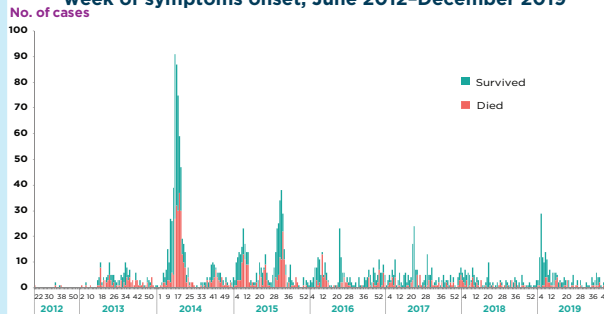


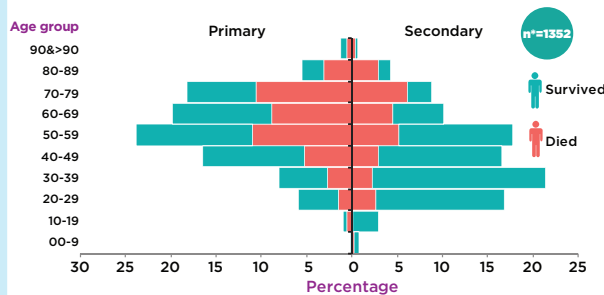
HIGHLIGHTS

- At the end of December 2019, a total of 2502 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), including 861 associated deaths (case-fatality rate: 34.4%) were reported globally; the majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia (2106 cases, including 783 related deaths with a case-fatality rate of 37.2%).
- Since the last update was published, a total of eight new laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS were reported globally. Four cases were reported from Saudi Arabia with three associated deaths, one case was reported from the United Arab Emirates and a cluster of three cases was reported from Qatar. No infections were reported among health care workers this month.
- The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases do not show any significant difference or change when compared with the same corresponding periods between 2014 and 2019. The number of cases reported in this period was less than all other corresponding periods except for 2018.
- The age group of 50–59 year-olds continues to be at the highest risk of acquiring infection as primary cases. The age group 30–39 year-olds is most at risk as secondary cases. The number of deaths is highest within the age group of 50–59 year-olds when they are primary cases and among 70–79 year-olds when they are secondary cases.

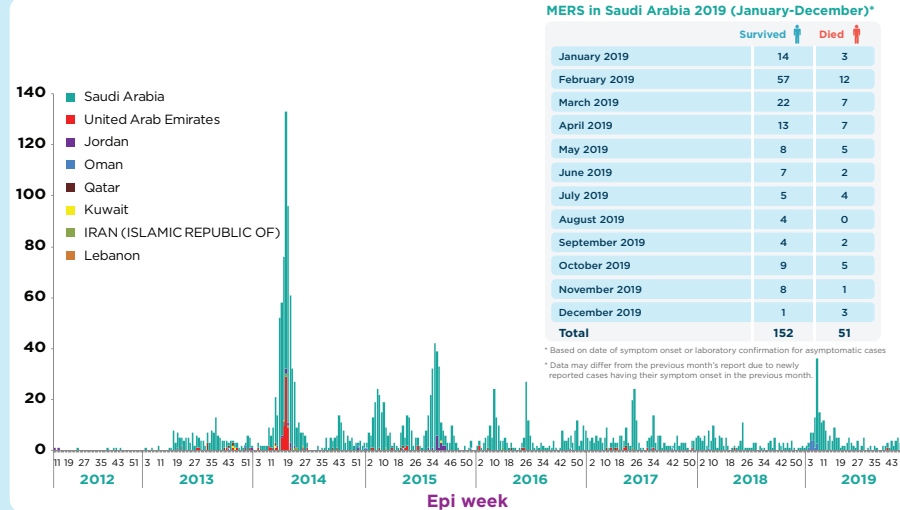
MERS cases reported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by week of symptoms onset, June 2012–December 2019



Age and fatality distribution of primary and secondary cases of MERS reported from Saudi Arabia, 2012–December 2019



Laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS reported in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, July 2012–December 2019



Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between July–December 2014 and July–December 2019

Characteristic	July-Dec 14	July-Dec 15	July-Dec 16	July-Dec 17	July-Dec 18	July-Dec 19
Number	100	257	99	94	50	51
Median age in years	55	53	56	51	56	58
Gender (% male)	78	78	78	78	78	78
% of primary cases	43	6	42	34	50	33
% of secondary cases	35	60	11	21	20	6
(%) of unknown contact history	18	4	0	0	2	31
% of HCW	14	18	6	9	0	4
% of Fatal	48	36	31	35	28	33

Characteristics of MERS cases reported from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, June 2012–December 2019

Type of case	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Grand Total
Primary	3	36	164	52	75	70	54	57	510
Secondary	2	93	264	222	60	90	35	75	841
Missing		1	15	102	103	68	52	56	399
Unknown		28	219	78	11	5	1	15	352
Total	5	158	662	454	249	233	142	203	2106

SUMMARY

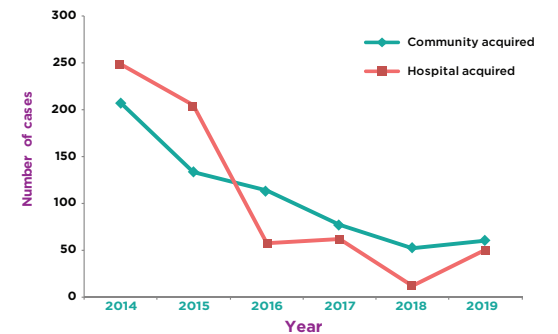
2502 Laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 2012

861 deaths reported since April 2012

27 countries reported cases globally

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

Community versus hospital acquired (symptomatic) MERS cases in Eastern Mediterranean Region, Jan 2014–Dec 2019



Cases of MERS in healthcare workers reported from Saudi Arabia, Jan 2013–Dec 2019

