

# MERS SITUATION UPDATE | MARCH 2021

## Highlights

- At the end of March 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 March 2021, two laboratory-confirmed case of MERS were reported from Saudi Arabia. Both cases are within the 50-59 age group and have co-morbidities. The reported cases were not linked to any clusters. One of the cases reported was a female. No healthcare worker infections were reported this month.
- 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

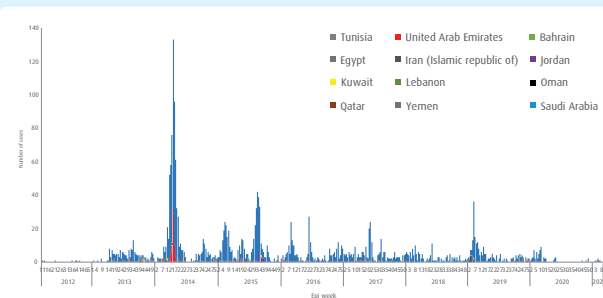
**2574**  
Laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 2012

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

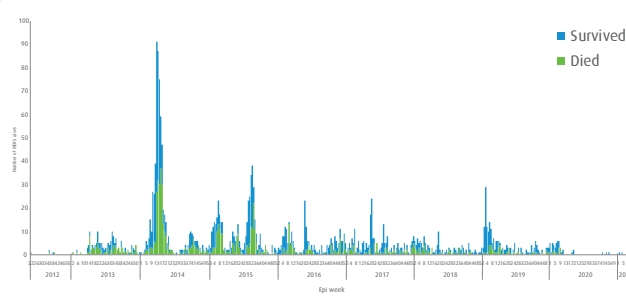
**886**  
Deaths reported since April 2012

**27**  
Countries reported cases globally

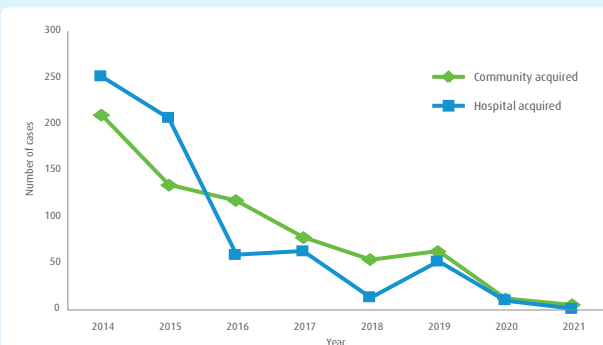
## Distribution of MERS reported cases from Eastern Mediterranean Region by week of onset, June 2012 – March 2021



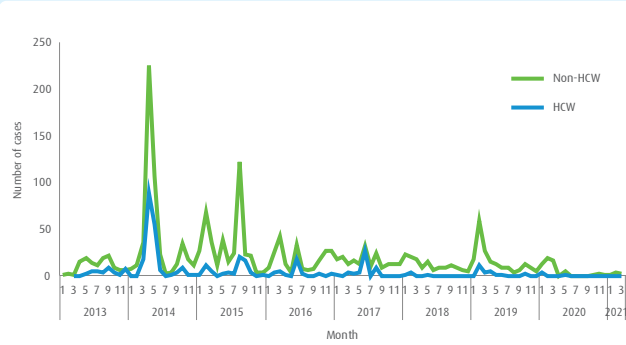
## MERS cases per week of onset in Saudi Arabia, June 2012 – March 2021



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



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



## Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between October 2015 - March 2016 and October 2020 - March 2021

Characteristic	Oct 15 - Mar 16	Oct 16 - Mar 17	Oct 17 - Mar 18	Oct 18 - Mar 19	Oct 19 - Mar 20	Oct 20 - Mar 21
Number	123	130	105	149	85	12
Median age in years	53	56	55	51	57	56
Gender (% male)	71	76	76	77	80	92
% of Primary Cases	35	66	72	40	26	78
% of Secondary cases	59	28	28	60	11	0
(%) of Unknown Contact History	5	7	0	0	63	22
% of HCW	11	6	4	11	6	0
% Fatal	36	33	35	19	29	42

## Characteristics of MERS cases reported from Saudi Arabia, June 2012 - March 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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2174</b>

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

