

# MERS SITUATION UPDATE | AUGUST 2021

## Highlights

- At the end of August 2021, a total of 2578 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), including 888 associated deaths were reported globally, with a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 34.4%. The majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia (2178 cases) including 810 related deaths (CFR 37.2%).
- During the month of August 2021, four laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS and 2 deaths were reported to WHO from Saudi Arabia. One of the deaths was of a case reported in March 2021. The four reported cases are all male, non-healthcare workers and with co-morbidities. All cases were primary cases with history of contact with dromedaries and consumption of their raw milk in the 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms.
- The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases, when compared to the same corresponding periods from 2016 to 2021, do not show any significant difference or change.
- The age group of 50–59 year olds continues to be at the highest risk for acquiring infection as primary cases. The age group of 30–39 year olds is most at risk for becoming secondary cases. The number of deaths is higher in the age group of 50–59 year olds when they are primary cases, and among 70–79 year olds when they are secondary cases.

## SUMMARY

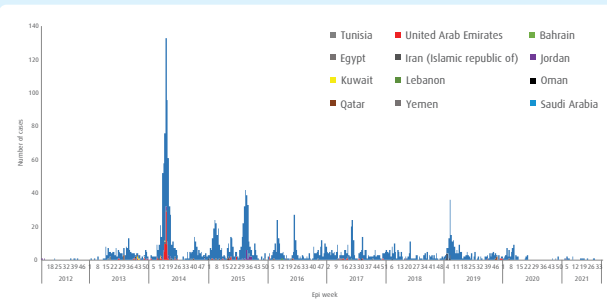
**2578**  
Laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 2012

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

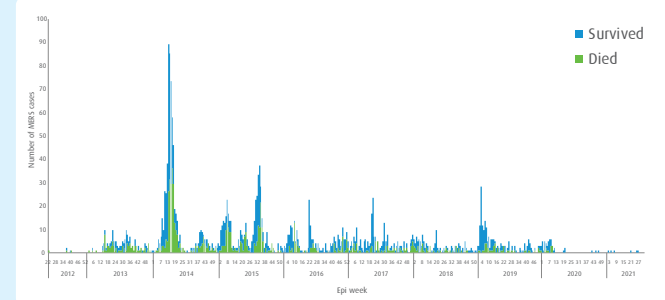
**888**  
Deaths reported since April 2012

**27**  
Countries reported cases globally

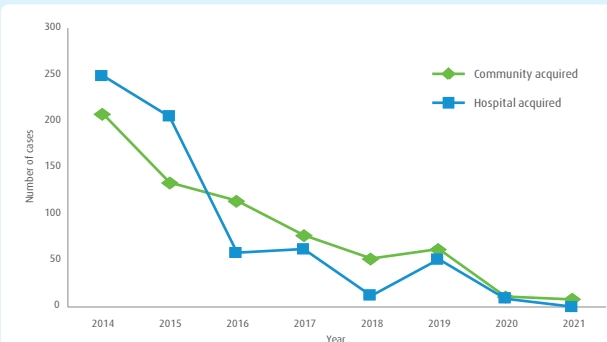
## Distribution of MERS reported cases from Eastern Mediterranean Region by week of onset, June 2012 – August 2021



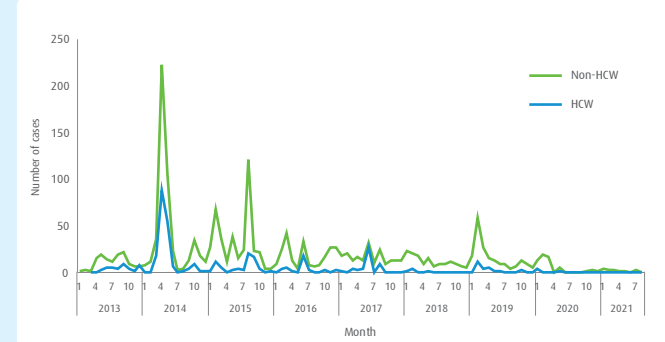
## MERS cases per week of onset in Saudi Arabia, June 2012 – August 2021



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



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



## Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between March - August 2016 and March - August 2021

Characteristic	Mar - Aug 16	Mar - Aug 17	Mar - Aug 18	Mar - Aug 19	Mar - Aug 20	Mar - Aug 21
Number	134	161	67	85	22	6
Median age in years	52	48	56	54	59	57
Gender (% male)	66	70	84	78	86	83
% of Primary Cases	44	28	57	47	11	100
% of Secondary cases	46	69	43	53	26	0
(%) of Unknown Contact History	9	4	0	0	63	0
% of HCW	19	27	1	12	5	0
% Fatal	31	19	27	31	36	33

## Characteristics of MERS cases reported from Saudi Arabia, June 2012 - August 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	7	529
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>11</b>	<b>2178</b>

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

