

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CASES

HIGHLIGHTS

- From April 2012 till October 2023, a total of 2608 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) were reported globally, with 938 associated deaths at a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 36%. The majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia, with 2199 cases and 857 related deaths (CFR: 39%).
- During the month of October 2023, two new cases from September were retrospectively reported.
- The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases do not show any significant differences when compared with the same corresponding period between 2016 and 2023.
- Among primary cases, 50–59 year-olds are at the highest risk for acquiring infection and among secondary cases the 30–39 year-olds are at the highest risk. Among both primary and secondary cases, CFR is higher within the age group of 70–79 years-old.

**Disclaimer: Data are subject to change over time due to lag in reporting.

SUMMARY



2608
Laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 2012



938
Deaths reported since April 2012



2
Newly reported cases



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



27
Countries reported cases globally

Table 1. Number of MERS cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region by month and outcome in 2023

| 2023 | Survived | Died |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| January | 0 | 1 |
| February | 0 | 0 |
| March | 0 | 0 |
| April | 0 | 0 |
| May | 0 | 0 |
| June | 1 | 0 |
| July | 0 | 0 |
| August | 0 | 0 |
| September | 2 | 1 |
| October | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 3 | 2 |

Table 2. Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between May 2018 – October 2018 and May 2023 – October 2023

| Characteristic | May 18 - Oct 18 | May 19 - Oct 19 | May 20 - Oct 20 | May 21 - Oct 21 | May 22 - Oct 22 | May 23 - Oct 23 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Number | 212 | 139 | 21 | 15 | 6 | 4 |
| Median age in years | 52 | 56 | 56 | 60 | 64 | 69 |
| Gender (% male) | 81 | 80 | 86 | 93 | 100 | 50 |
| % of Primary Cases | 54 | 83 | 67 | 100 | 83 | 0 |
| % of Secondary cases | 46 | 17 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (%) of Unknown Contact History | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 100 |
| % of HCW | 10 | 8 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| % Fatal | 27 | 30 | 52 | 33 | 33 | 25 |

Fig. 1. Distribution of MERS reported cases from Eastern Mediterranean Region by week of onset, June 2012 – October 2023

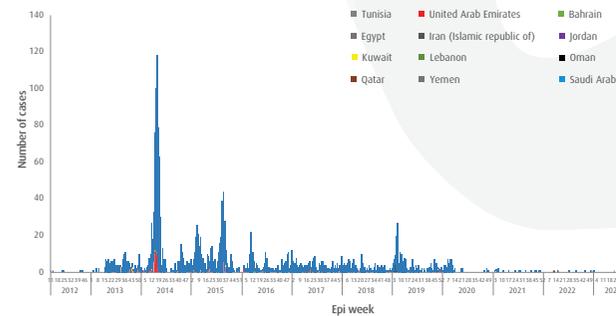


Fig. 2. Community versus hospital acquired MERS cases in Eastern Mediterranean Region, January 2014 – October 2023



KSA CASES

Fig. 3. MERS cases per week of onset in Saudi Arabia, June 2012 – October 2023

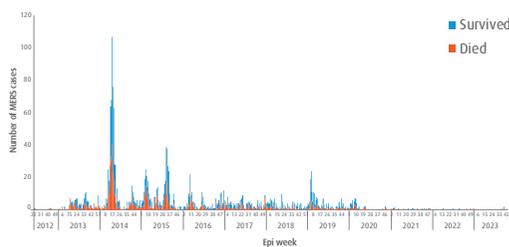


Fig. 4. Cases of MERS in healthcare workers reported from Saudi Arabia, January 2013 – October 2023

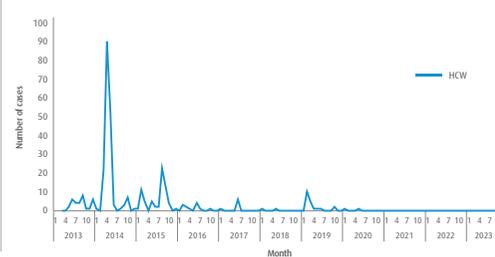


Fig. 5. Age and fatality distribution of primary and secondary cases of MERS reported from Saudi Arabia June 2012 – October 2023

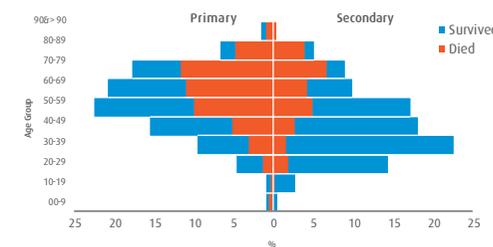


Table 3. Characteristics of MERS cases reported from Saudi Arabia, June 2012 - October 2023

| Type of case | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Grand Total |
|--------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Primary | 4 | 71 | 292 | 234 | 163 | 148 | 102 | 128 | 49 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 1215 |
| Secondary | 1 | 91 | 371 | 219 | 85 | 88 | 39 | 77 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 981 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Grand Total | 5 | 162 | 663 | 453 | 248 | 236 | 141 | 205 | 59 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 2199 |