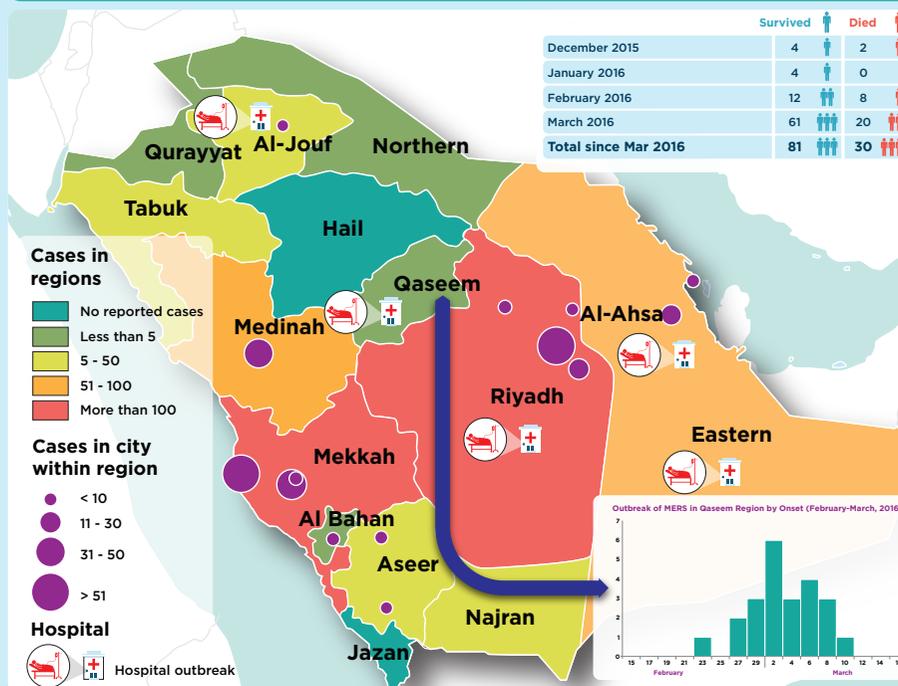


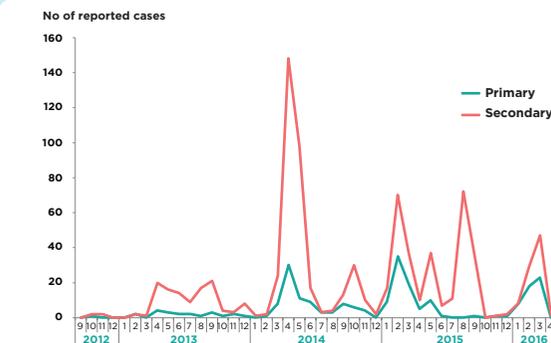
HIGHLIGHTS

- During the month of March 2016, a surge in the number of primary cases was reported from five different regions in Saudi Arabia. These include Riyadh, Najran, Hail, Qaseem and Asir.
- A new cluster of MERS cases linked to a hospital was reported from Buridah city of Qaseem region during the month of March. The hospital outbreak began during the month of February and within about three weeks (22 February to 12 March), a total of 23 cases of MERS including 7 deaths were reported from this region. The cases included 5 primary and 18 secondary cases, of which there were 6 healthcare workers. All the secondary cases had a direct link to the hospital.
- Compared to 2015, there has not been any substantial increase in number of reported cases and the age characteristics of the cases reported in 2016 do not show any significant difference when compared with age characteristics of cases reported from 2012 to 2015 (combined).
- The age group of 50-59 years continues to be main risk group for acquiring infection for primary cases, while the risk group for secondary cases is observed to be 30-39 years. Majority of deaths amongst the primary and secondary cases have been seen to have occurred in the age group of 50-59 and 70-79 years respectively.

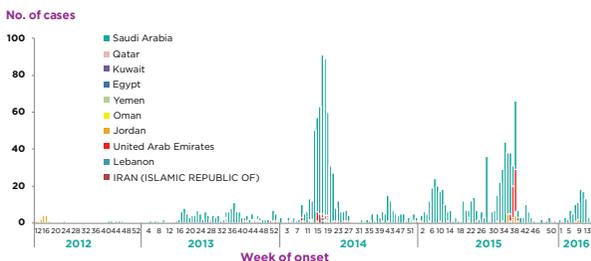
MERS cases in Saudi Arabia 2012- March 2016



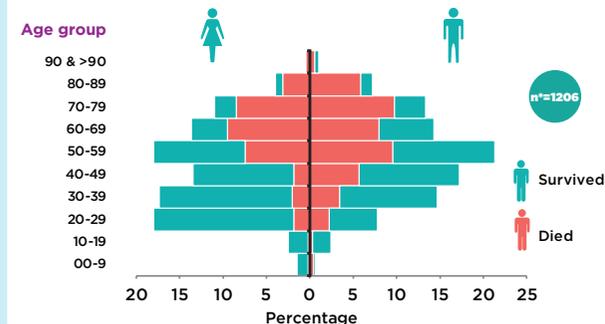
MERS: Epidemic curve of primary and secondary cases reported globally, 2012 to 2016



MERS: Epidemic curve on cases reported from Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2012 to 2016



Age and gender distribution of reported MERS cases from Saudi Arabia, 2012-2016



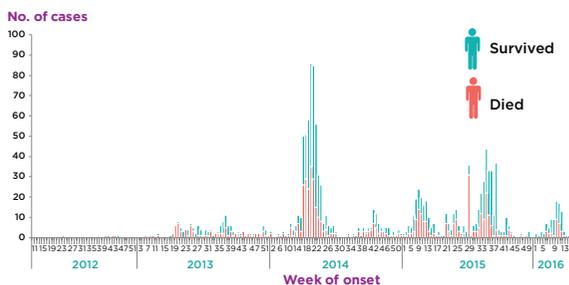
Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between Jan-Mar in 2013 - 2016

Characteristic	Jan-Mar 2013	Jan-Mar 2014	Jan-Mar 2015	Jan-Mar 2016
Number	9	66	152	98
Median age in years	51.2	52.2	55.5	52.3
Gender (% male)	78	86	75	74
% of primary cases	0	9	40	53
% of secondary cases	33	32	41	40
(%) unknown contact history	33	53	17	7
% HCW	11	21	32	28
% Fatal	78	48	44	31

The outcome of reported MERS cases, by year of onset, 2012-2016

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Grand Total
Died	6	100	277	268	30	681
Survived	15	82	400	521	69	1087
CFR(%)	29	55	41	34	30	39

MERS cases reported from Saudi Arabia by week of onset, 2012-2016



Age and fatality distribution of Primary and Secondary cases of MERS reported from Saudi Arabia, 2012-2016

