

THE COVID-19 SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA TRACKER

Eastern Mediterranean Region Data Update

ABOUT THIS BRIEF

This brief presents regional findings from the COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker. The Data Tracker is the world's most comprehensive source of sex-disaggregated data on the direct health impacts of COVID-19 along the clinical pathway, collecting and reporting national data from 205 countries on vaccinations, testing, confirmed cases (including among healthcare workers), hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths. It also reports data on sex and age on key indicators.

Since early in the novel coronavirus pandemic, sex differences have been noted in diagnosis and outcomes. Despite known sex differences in COVID-19 and known sex differences in access to care and treatment in many countries, sex-disaggregated data is not uniformly or universally integrated into COVID-19 data reporting.

Tracking 205 countries worldwide for sex-disaggregated COVID-19 data, we have found consistent global sex differences as well as substantial cross-country variation both in the availability of sex-disaggregated data and in the measured sex differences in clinical indicators. Monitoring these sex differences can help guide the development of COVID-19 policies that address gender-specific needs in a population and help monitor gender equitable access to COVID-19 care and services.

This brief presents sex-disaggregated data for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, which consists of 22 countries (see Table 1 for a full list), providing comparison between the EMRO region and global sex-disaggregated data availability and sex differences in key clinical indicators.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

DATA AVAILABILITY

- 1 The sex of over 11.4 million cases and 242,000 deaths from COVID-19 in the EMRO region is currently unknown. This equates to roughly seven in ten cases (69%) and eight in ten deaths (79%) where the sex is not known.
- 2 There is less sex-disaggregated data available in the EMRO region than globally, where the sex of roughly 35% of cases and 27% of deaths is unknown.
- 3 68% (15 of 22) of countries in the region have ever reported sex-disaggregated (SD) data on either cases or deaths, with 18% (4 of 22 countries) reporting SD data on either cases or deaths in the past month.

OUTCOMES

- 4 Whereas globally more women are vaccinated than men, in the EMRO region men are vaccinated (57%) more and make up more confirmed COVID-19 cases (59%) than women. Men also account for more hospitalisations (60%) and deaths (62%) than women.

National data availability for sex-disaggregated case and death data

At a minimum, countries should report sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19 cases and deaths. Yet across 22 countries in the EMRO region, just five (23%) reported sex-disaggregated data on both cases and deaths in the past month, with one country (5%) reporting on just one of these indicators in the past month. Eleven countries (50%) have previously reported either or both of these indicators but are no longer doing so. Five countries (23%) in the region have never reported sex-disaggregated data on cases or deaths that we could locate.

Table 1 lists the countries from the EMRO region currently included in the tracker with the date of the most recent data available for sex-disaggregated data on cases and deaths.

Table 1. Latest Reporting Date of Sex-Disaggregated Case and Death Data across EMRO Countries

Country	SD Cases Data Available	SD Death Data Available	
Afghanistan	Nov 2021	Nov 2021	Reported in past month
Bahrain	Oct 2021	Oct 2021	Reported in past month
Djibouti	Jun 2020	Never	Last reported over a month ago
Egypt	Never	Never	Never reported
Iran	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Last reported over a month ago
Iraq	Nov 2021	Nov 2021	Reported in past month
Jordan	Nov 2021	Nov 2021	Reported in past month
Kuwait	Never	Never	Never reported
Lebanon	Feb 2021	Jul 2020	Last reported over a month ago
Libya	Never	Never	Never reported
Morocco	Jul 2020	Sep 2020	Last reported over a month ago
Oman	Aug 2021	Aug 2021	Reported in past month
Pakistan	Aug 2020	Aug 2020	Last reported over a month ago
Palestine	Nov 2021	Oct 2021	Reported in past month
Qatar	Sep 2021	Sep 2021	Reported in past month
Saudi Arabia	May 2020	Never	Last reported over a month ago
Somalia	Nov 2021	Aug 2020	Reported in past month
Sudan	Feb 2021	Feb 2021	Last reported over a month ago
Syria	Never	Never	Never reported
Tunisia	Jan 2021	Jan 2021	Last reported over a month ago
UAE	Never	Never	Never reported
Yemen	May 2021	May 2021	Last reported over a month ago

Availability of sex-disaggregated data in the EMRO Region

Of more than 16.5 million cases and 305,000 deaths reported to the WHO by 16 November 2021 in the EMRO Region, the sex of approximately 7 in 10 of all confirmed cases and 8 in 10 deaths is currently unknown. Sex-disaggregated data availability is worse than the global picture for both cases and deaths (see Figures 1 and 2).

Fig 1. Availability of Sex Data for Cases in EMRO Region and Globally, November 2021

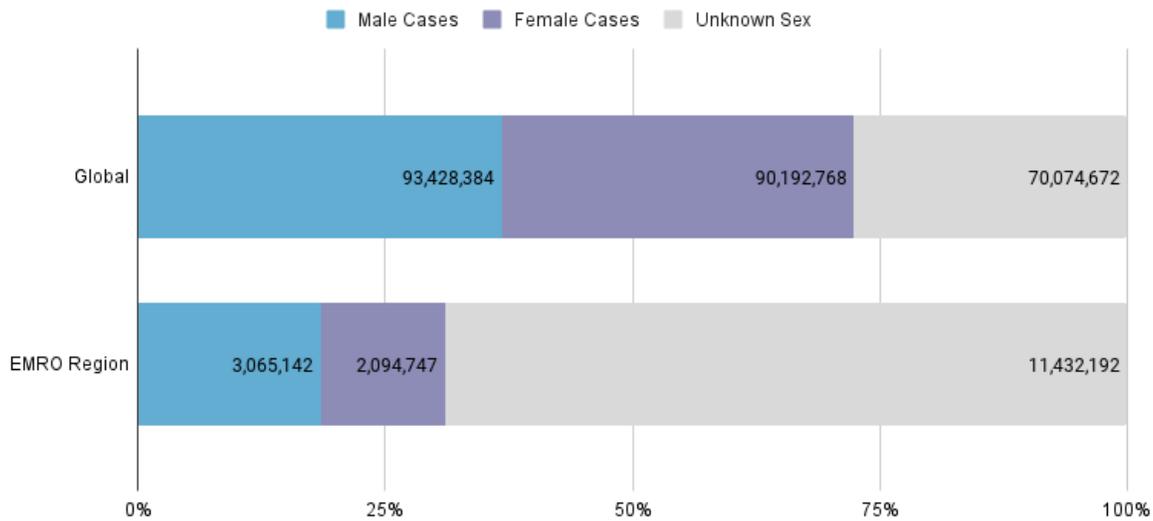
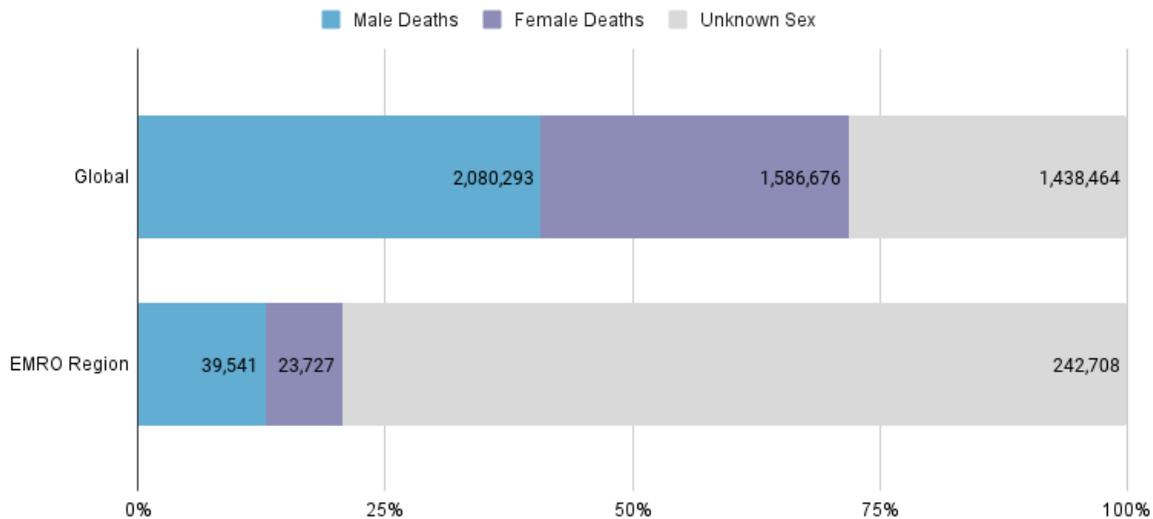


Fig 2: Availability of Sex Data for Deaths in EMRO Region and Globally, November 2021



Data availability along the clinical pathway in the EMRO Region and Globally

The Tracker collects sex-disaggregated data for indicators along the clinical pathway, from vaccinations to testing, cases, hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths. The proportion of countries in the EMRO region reporting sex-disaggregated data is lower than the global picture for all indicators (Figure 3). It has the lowest proportion of countries reporting sex-disaggregated data of any regions.

Across the EMRO region, the most common indicators that countries have reported on in the past month are confirmed cases (23%) and deaths (18%). No countries have reported sex-disaggregated data on ICU admissions or COVID-19 testing in the past month.

Fig 3. Proportion of countries reporting sex-disaggregated data by Indicator in the past month, Globally and for EMRO Region, November 2021

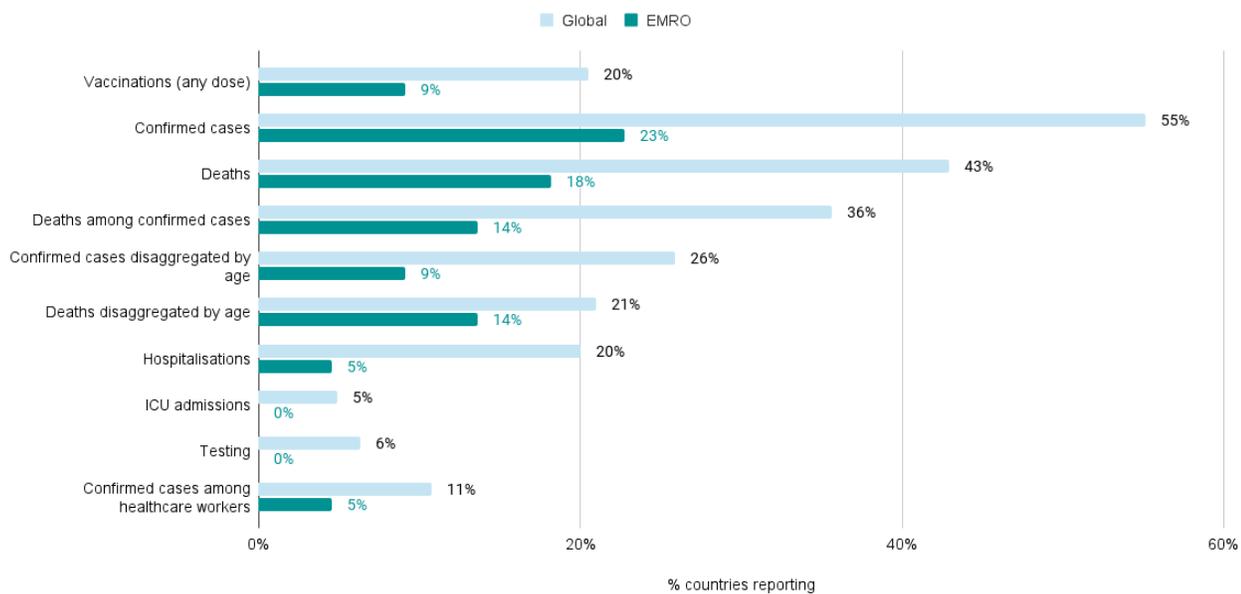
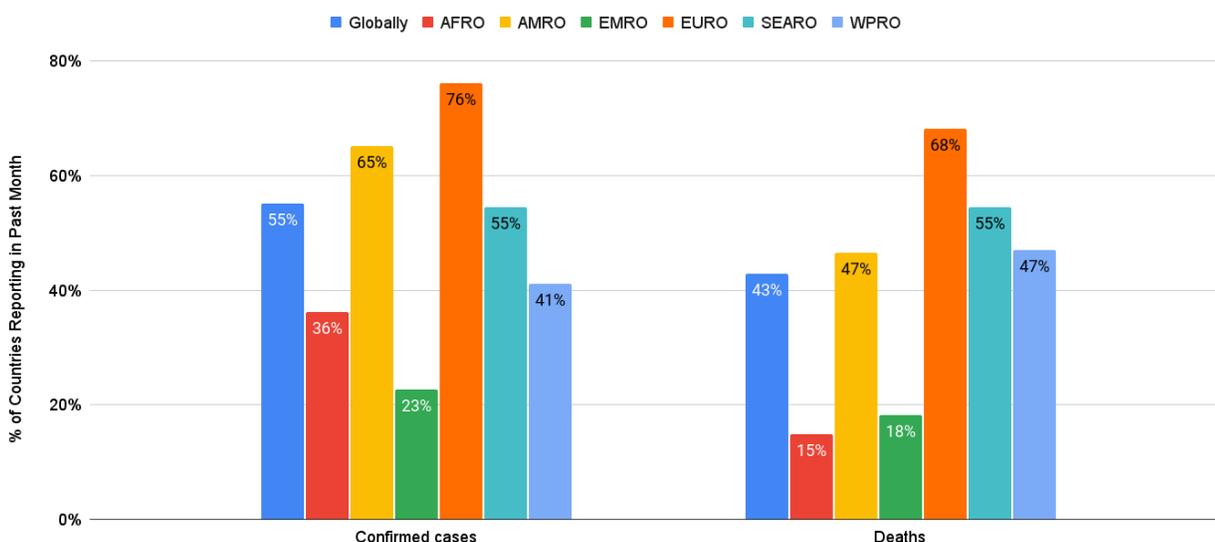


Fig 4. Proportion of countries reporting sex-disaggregated case and death data across WHO regions and globally, November 2021



A look along the Clinical Pathway

The sex differences seen across clinical pathway in the EMRO region are greater than those seen globally (see Figure 5). The EMRO Region is the only region where notably more men have been vaccinated than women (57%, see Figure 6). In the EMRO region and globally, men account for more reported hospitalisations and deaths, although for all these indicators men comprise a higher share in this region than globally. In the EMRO region men makeup 59% of confirmed cases, whereas globally the split is roughly equal between men and women (51% male).

Globally, women make up the majority of infections among healthcare workers, but in the EMRO region this trend is reversed, with men comprising a larger proportion of infections among healthcare workers. However very few countries are providing this data, and the EMRO data is largely influenced by data from Iraq, which is a global outlier.

Fig. 5. Percent of Males Reported for Clinical Pathway Indicators in EMRO Region and Globally, August 2021

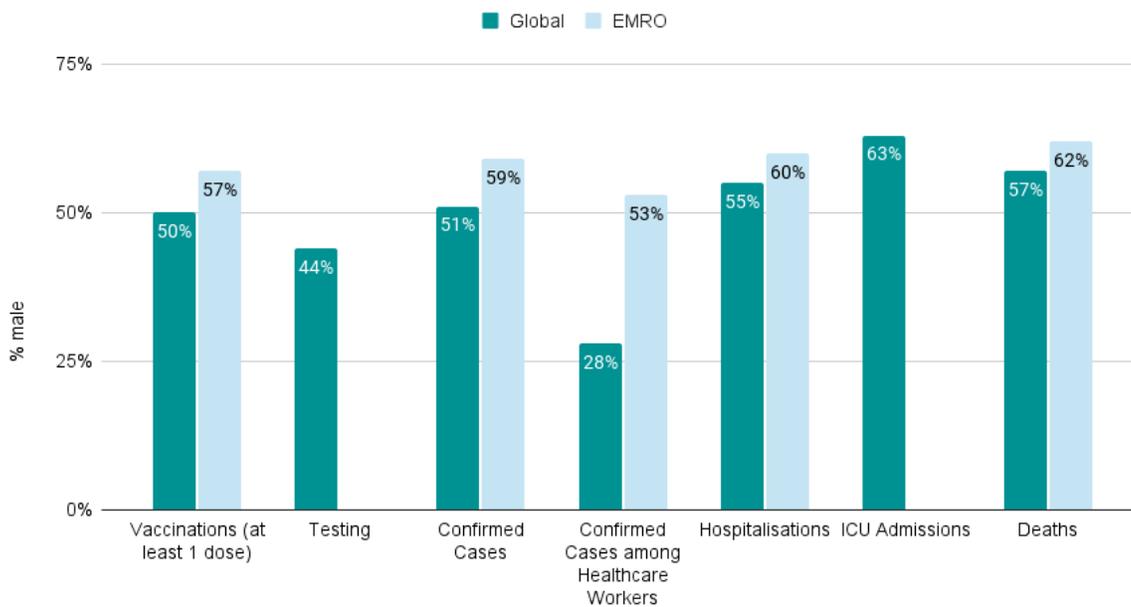
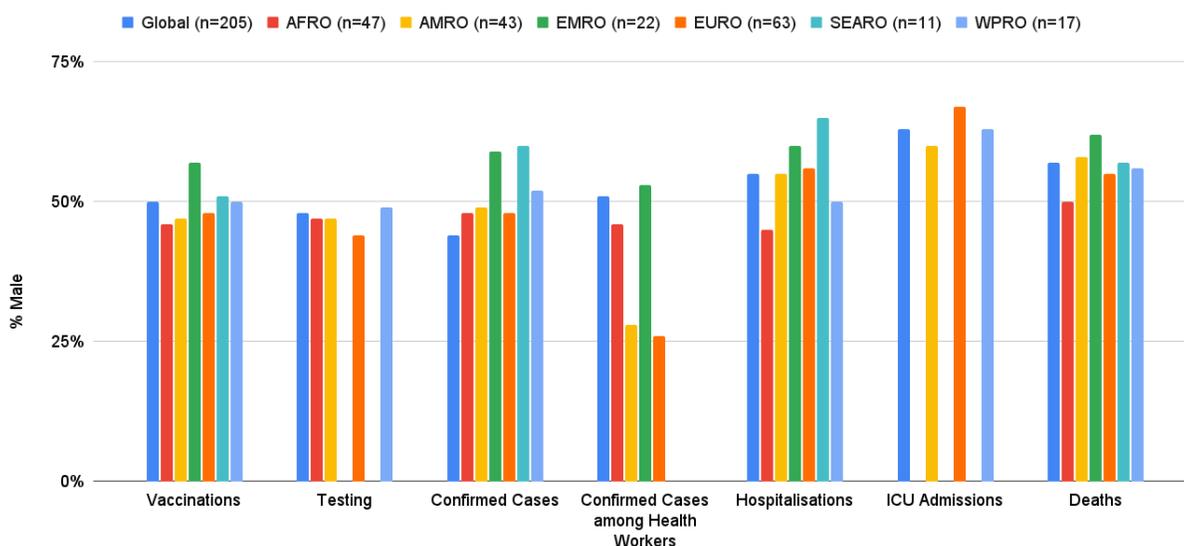


Fig. 6. Percent of Males Reported for Clinical Pathway Indicators by WHO Region, November 2021



About the COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker

The COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker is the world's largest database of sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19 health outcomes. The tracker currently collects data from 200+ countries on testing, confirmed cases (including among health workers), hospitalisations, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, and deaths among women and men. It is also tracking the availability of data disaggregated by other social and demographic characteristics as well as data on pre-existing comorbidities. Data is collected directly from official national sources, including ministry of health websites, national statistics sites, death registers and government social media accounts. The Tracker is updated once a month.

About the Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project

The Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project is a partnership of Global Health 50/50, the International Center for Research on Women and the African Population and Health Research Center. Together, these partners are investigating the roles sex and gender are playing in the outbreak, building the evidence base of what works to tackle gender disparities in COVID-19 health outcomes, and advocating for effective gender-responsive approaches to COVID-19.

Learn more about sex, gender and COVID-19 and explore the Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker here: <https://globalhealth5050.org/the-sex-gender-and-covid-19-project/>

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If you are aware of countries that are reporting data that we have not been able to locate or collect, we would be grateful if you could make us aware by emailing us at info@globalhealth5050.org and sharing a link to where the data can be found.

Engage with us: [@GlobalHlth5050](#) [@APHRC](#) [@ICRW](#)
