

# SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MONITORING ON COVID-19

13 SEPTEMBER 2020

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# SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MONITORING ON COVID-19

## (ISSUE 224)

Abu Dhabi Public Health Center (ADPHC) is gathering the latest scientific research updates and trends on coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in a daily report. The report provides summaries on breakthrough or updated research on COVID-19 to allow health care professionals and public health professionals get easy and fast access to information.

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Note : All articles presented in this report represent the authors' views and not necessarily represents Abu Dhabi Public Health Center views or directions. Due the nature of daily posting , some minor language errors are expected.

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# RESEARCH UPDATES

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## Treatment

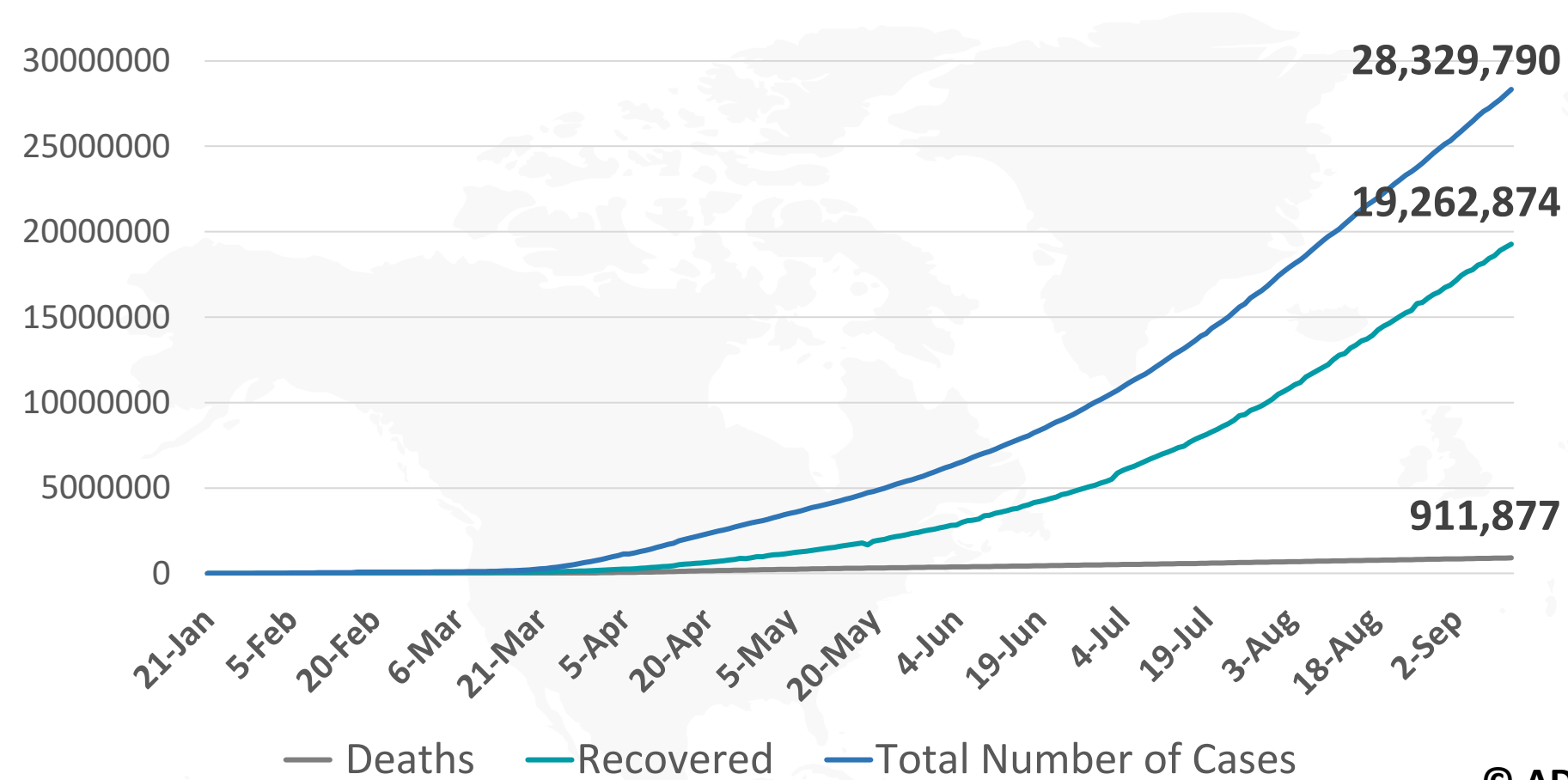
**COVACTA Trial Raises Questions About Tocilizumab's Benefit in COVID-19**

## UAE Research

**The Impact of COVID-19 on Abu Dhabi and its Primary Care Response**

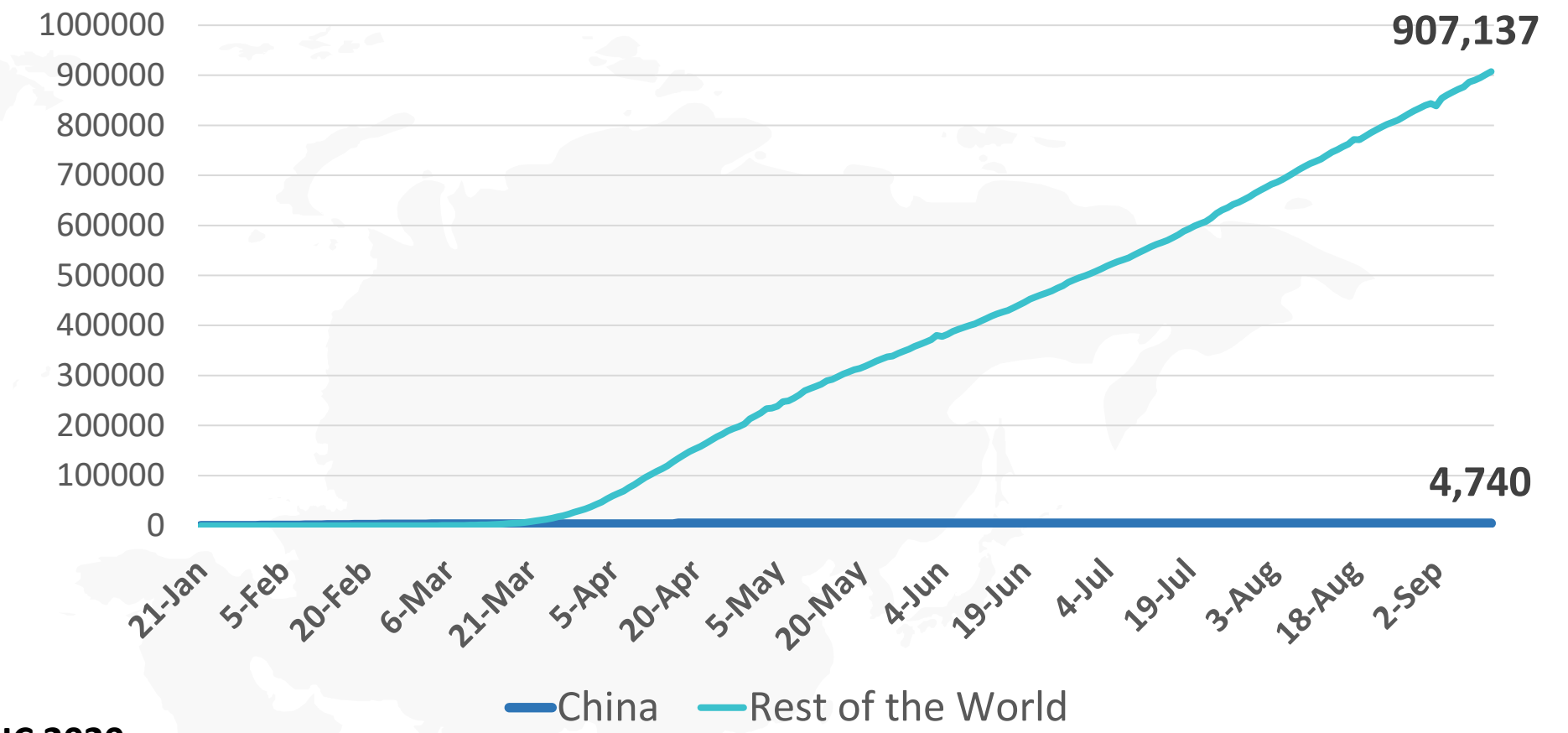


**Figure 1: Total Number of Infected, Recovered, and Death Cases**

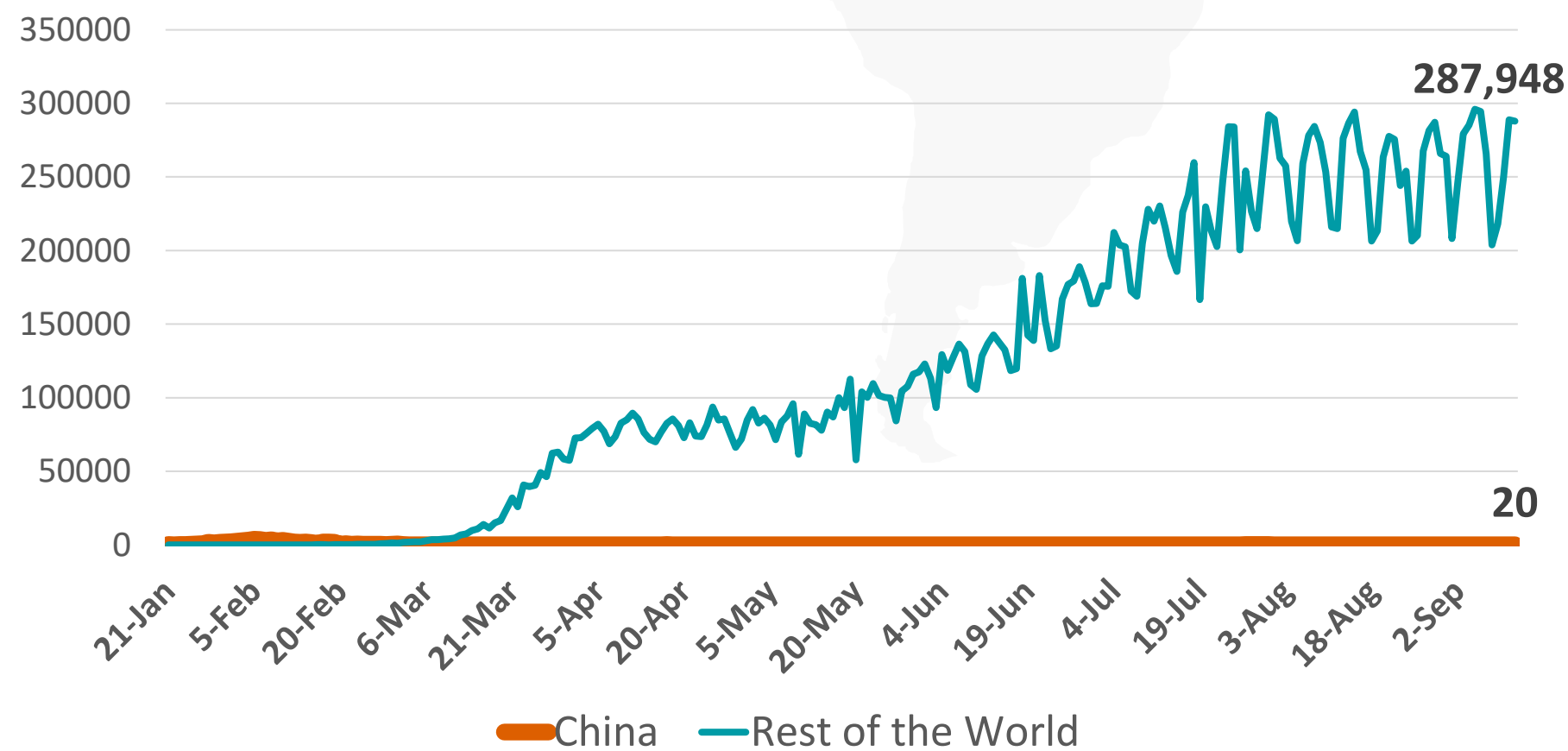


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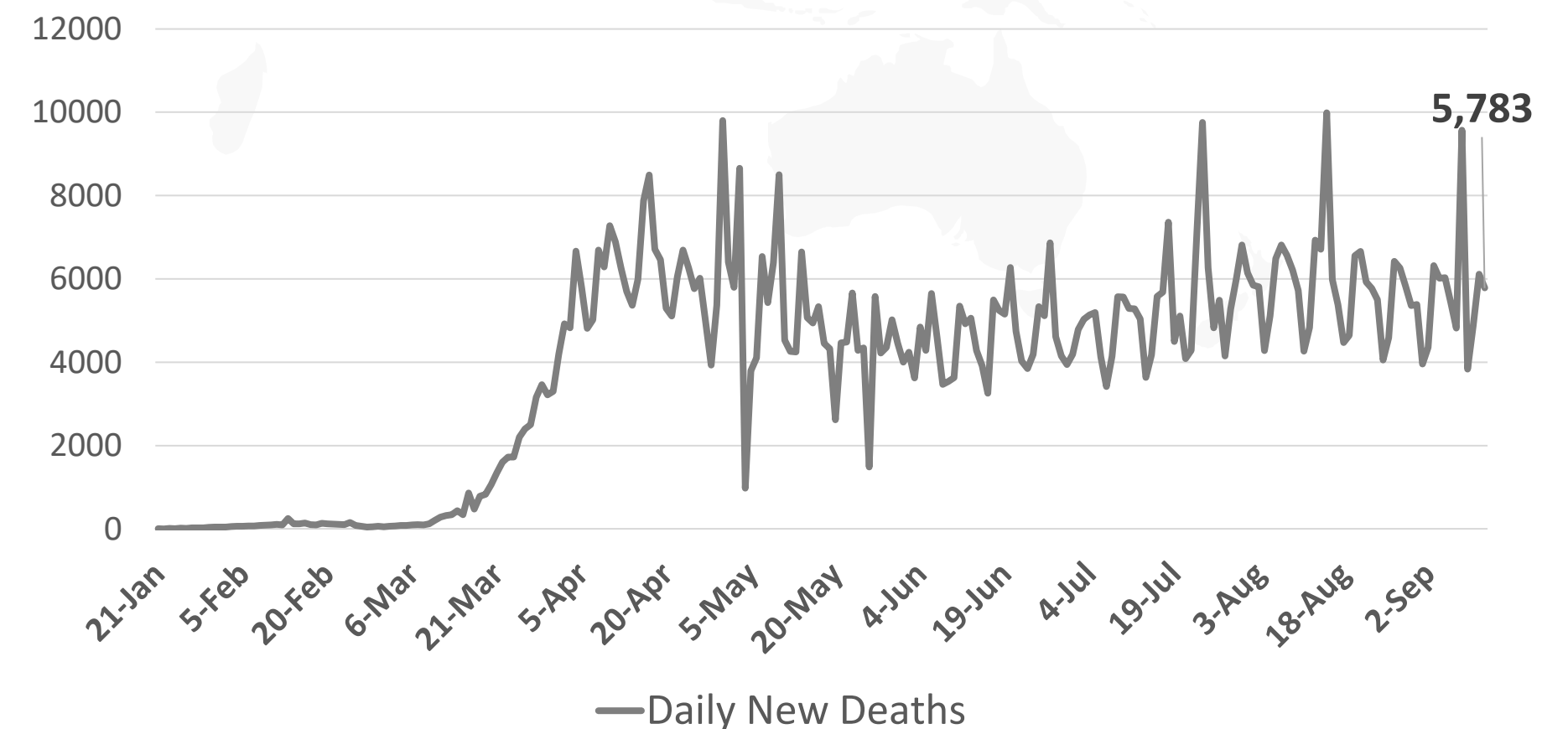
**Figure 3: Total Number of Death Due to COVID-19 (china and result of the world)**



**Figure 2: Daily New Infected COVID-19 Cases (China and rest of the world)**

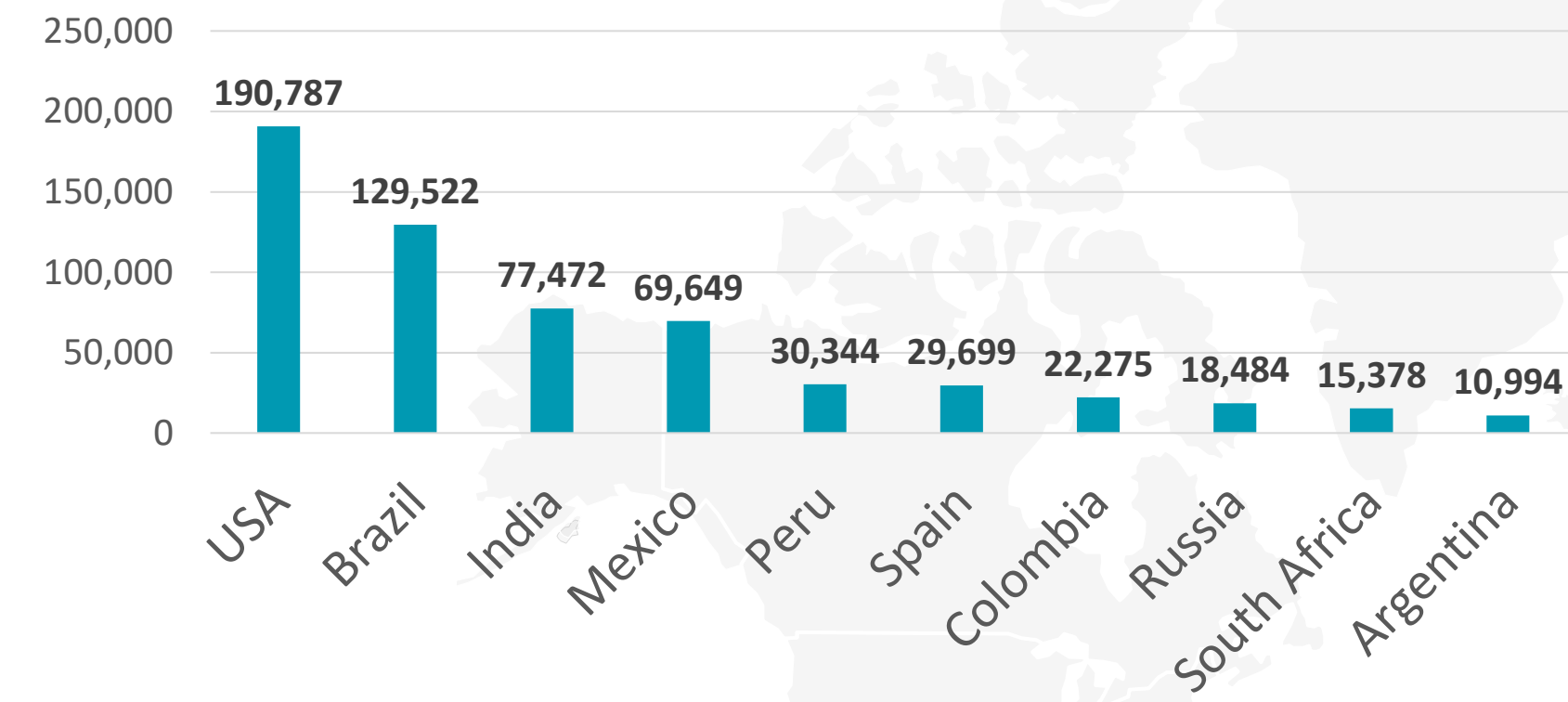


**Figure 4: Global Daily New Deaths Due to COVID-19 (china and rest of the world)**

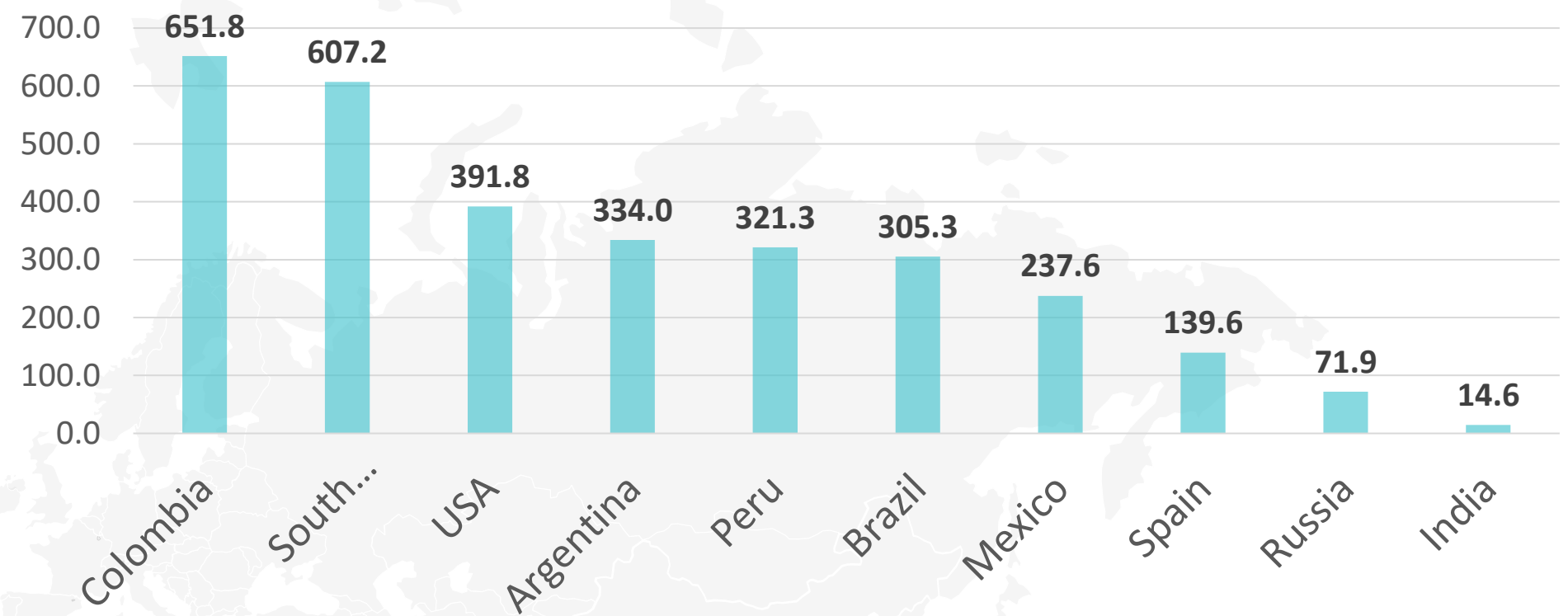


## Figure 5: Top 10 Countries in the Total Number of Cases Due to COVID-19

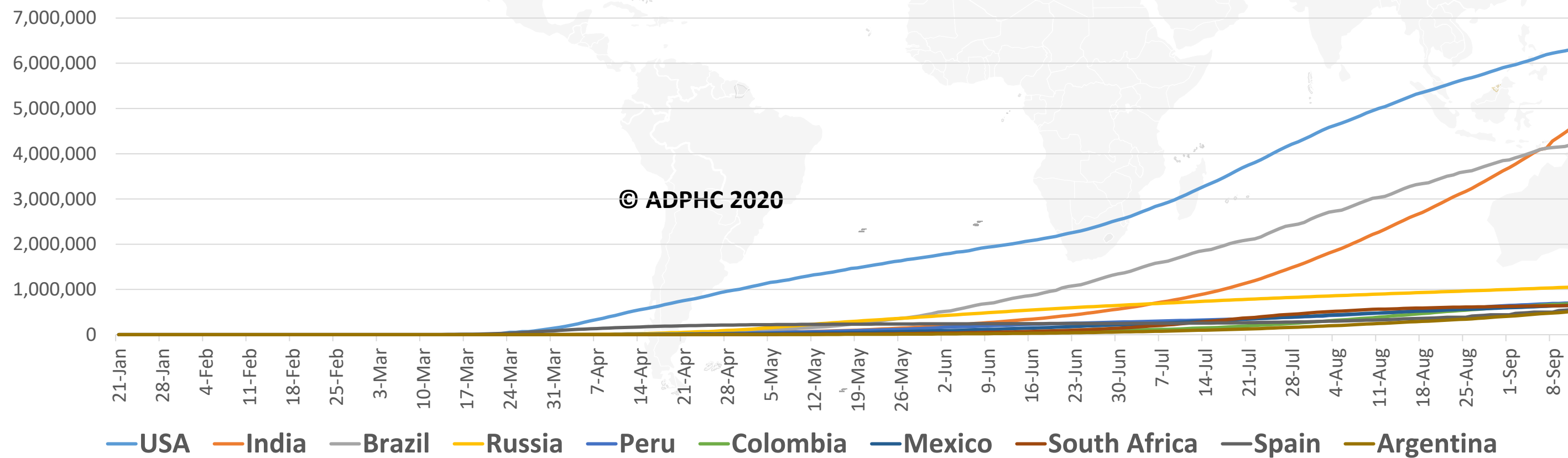
### TOTAL DEATHS



### DEATHS PER MILLION



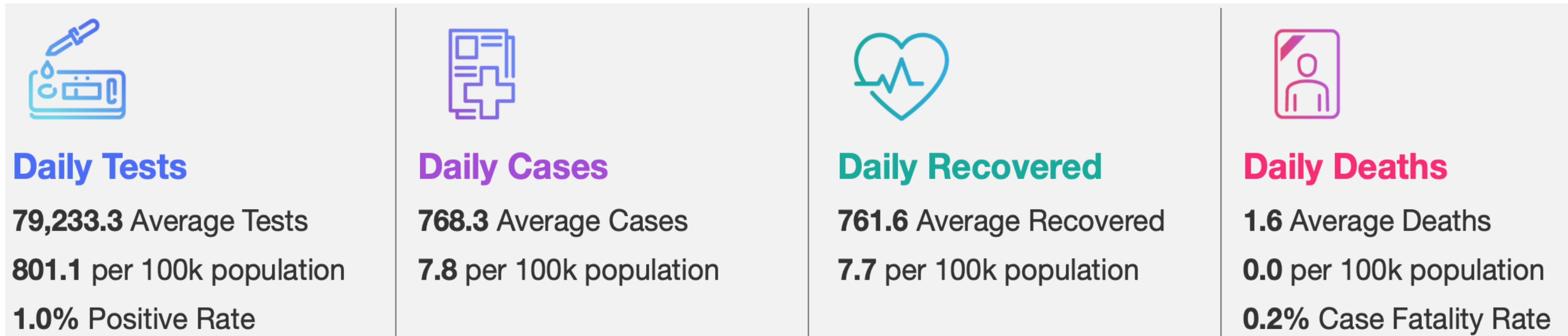
### TOTAL INFECTED CASES



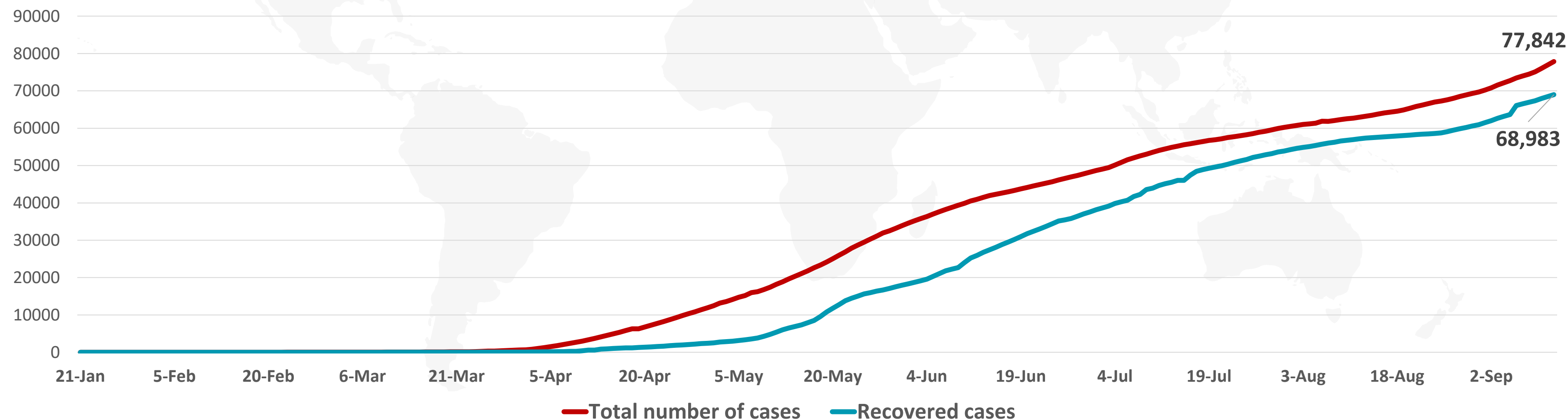
USA	6,341,309
Brazil	4,659,984
India	4,238,446
Russia	1,057,362
Peru	710,067
Colombia	694,664
Mexico	652,364
South Africa	646,398
Spain	554,143
Argentina	524,198



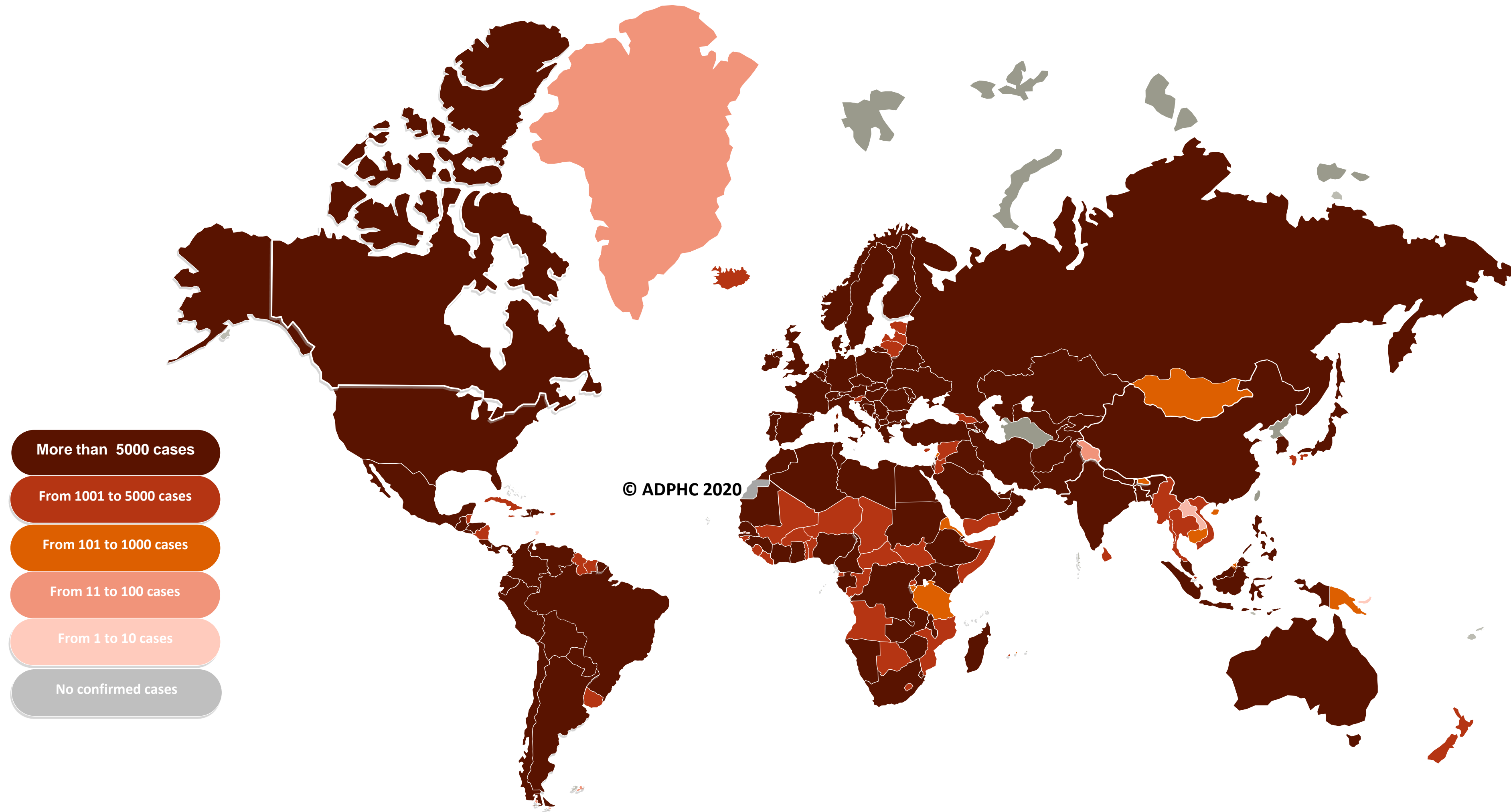
**Figure 6: COVID-19 Status in the UAE** (Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority Dashboard)



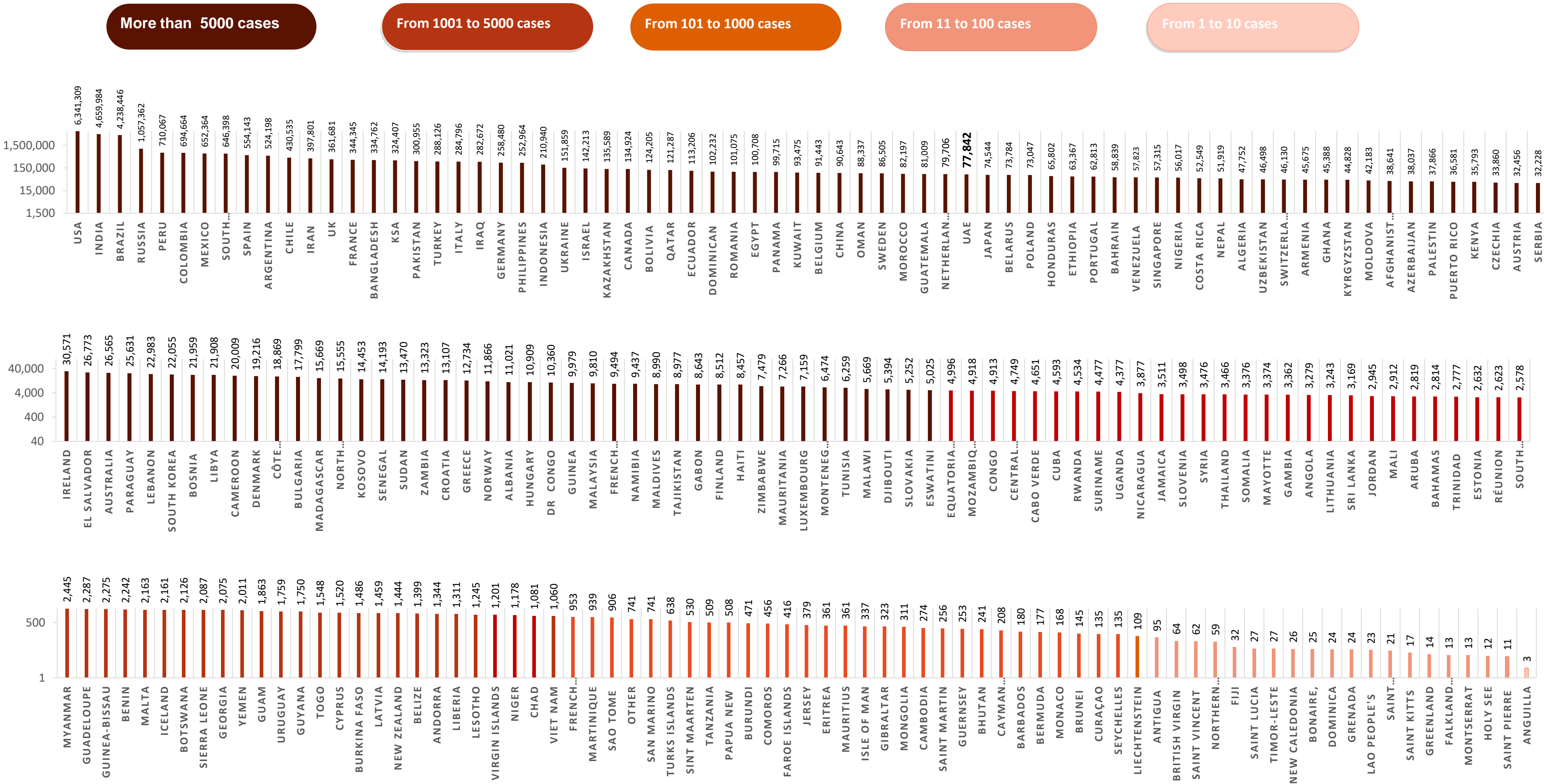
## TOTAL NUMBER OF INFECTED AND RECOVERED CASES DUE TO COVID-19 REPORTED BY THE UAE



## Figure 7A : Global Distribution of COVID-19 Cases



## Figure 7B: Bar Chart Illustrates the Global Distribution of COVID19 Cases

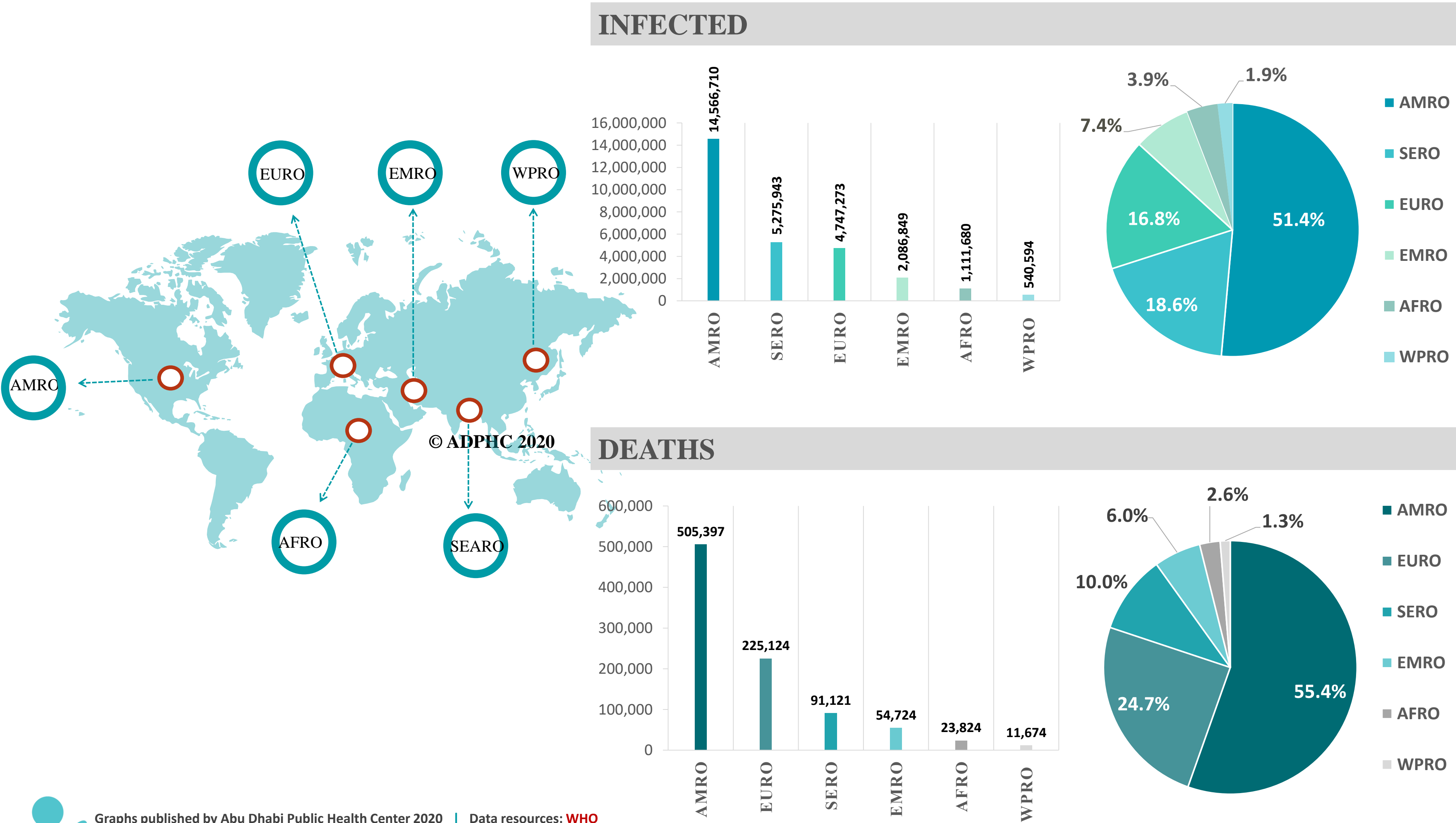


Other\*: includes cases and deaths reported under the international conveyance(Diamond Princess)





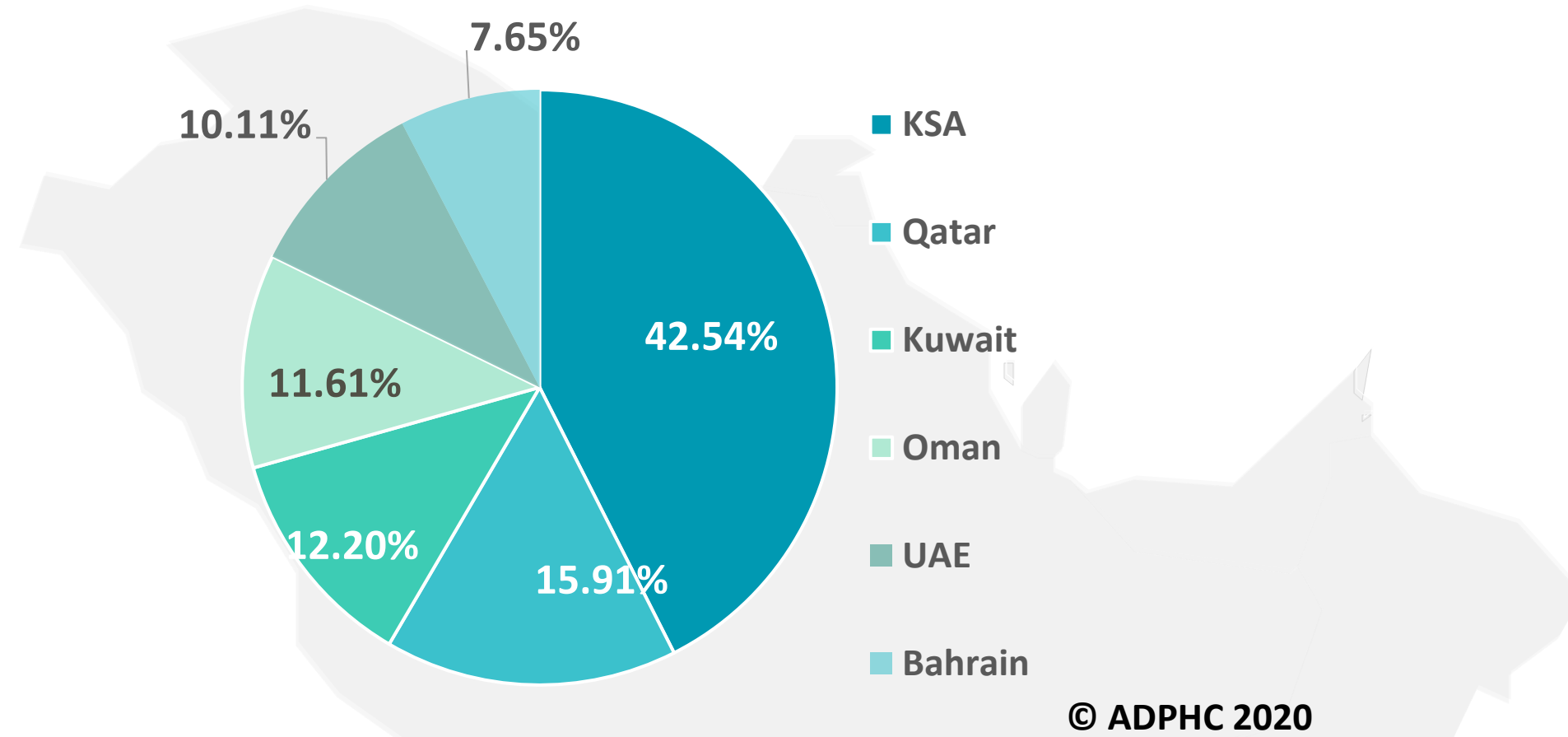
Figure 8: Global Distribution of COVID-19 Cases per Region



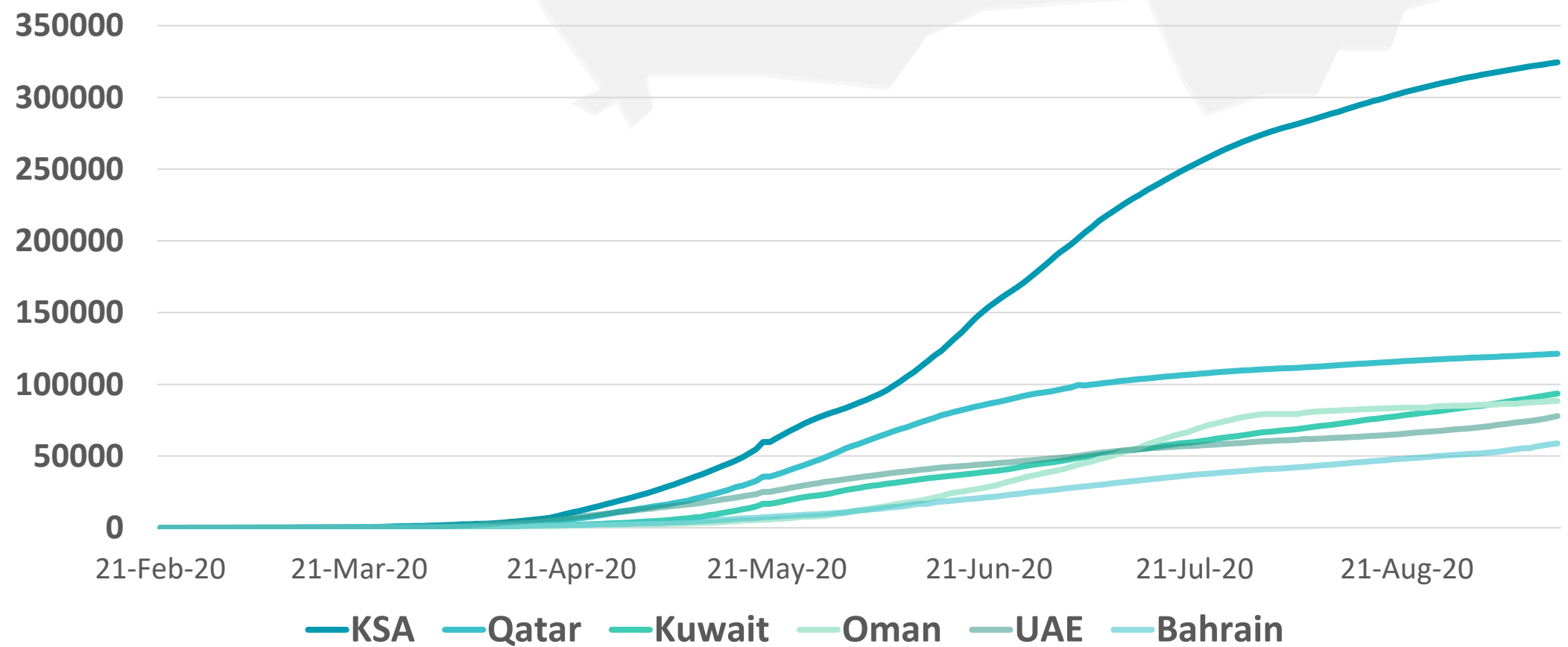
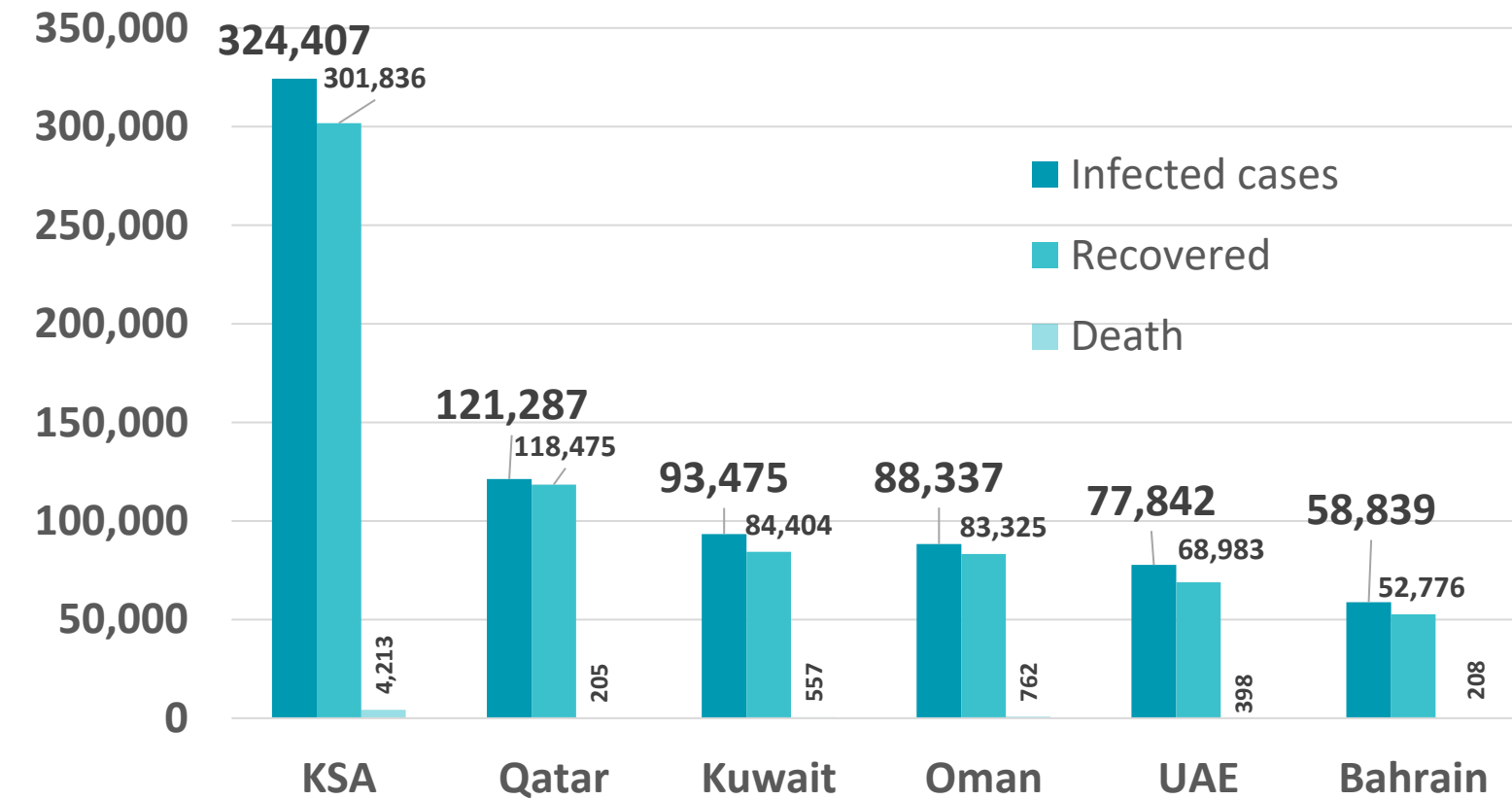
Graphs published by Abu Dhabi Public Health Center 2020 | Data resources: [WHO](#)

## Figure 9: Comparative Analysis of the Distribution of COVID-19 Cases in GCC Countries

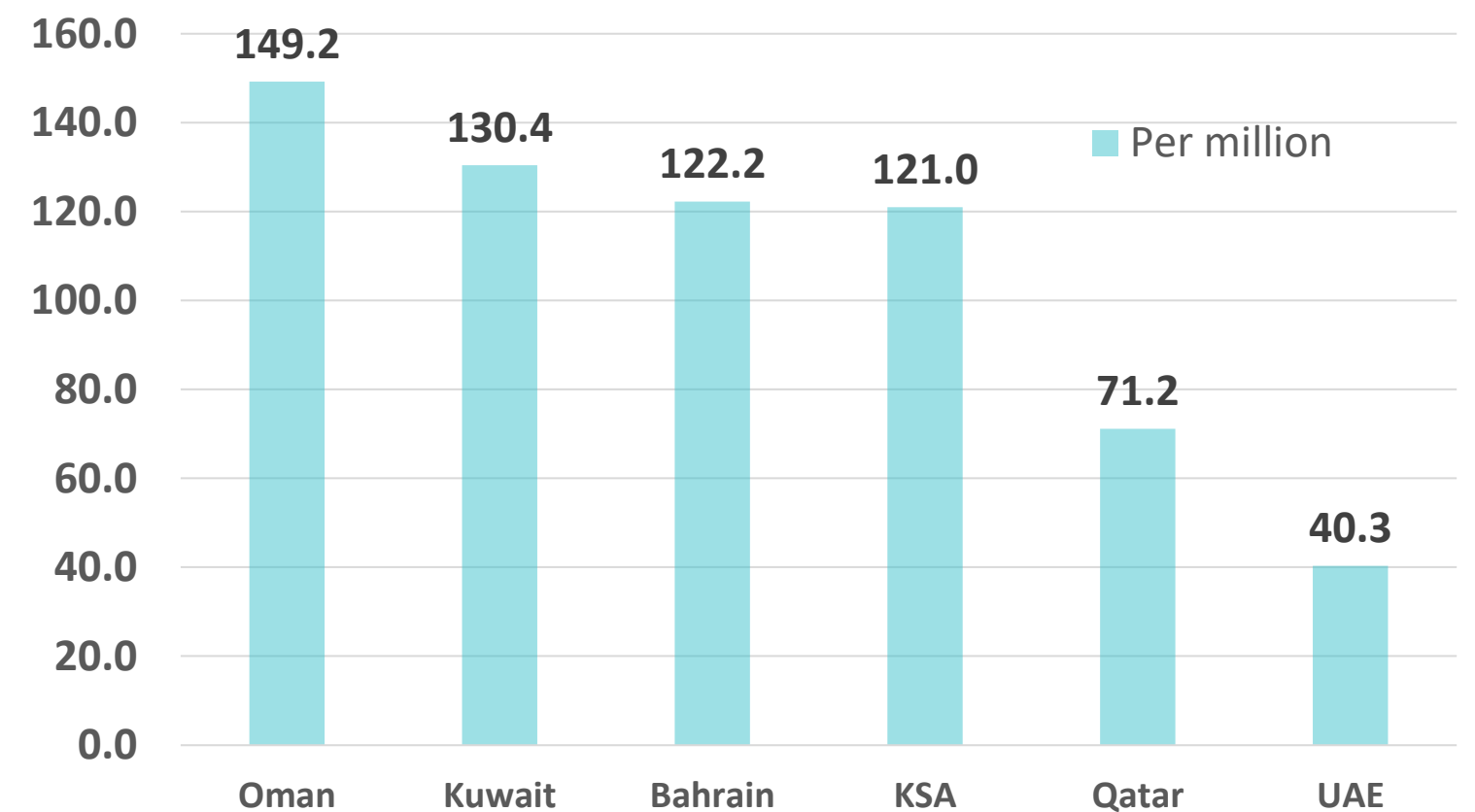
### TOTAL NUMBER OF INFECTED CASES



### TOTAL NUMBER OF INFECTED, RECOVERED AND DEATHS



### DEATHS PER MILLION



Graphs published by Abu Dhabi Public Health Center 2020 | Data resources: [John Hopkins](#), [WHO](#)

## Figure 10: Comparative Analysis of the Distribution of COVID-19 New Cases in GCC Countries

### UAE



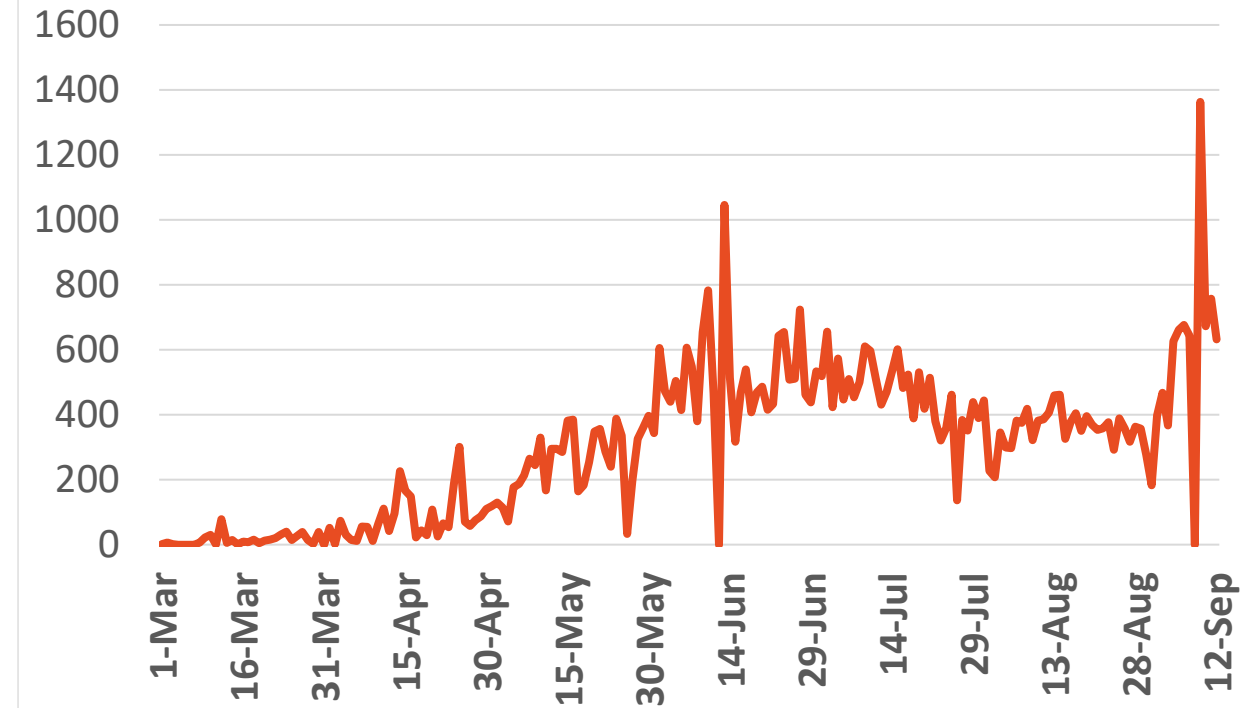
Source : National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority

### KSA



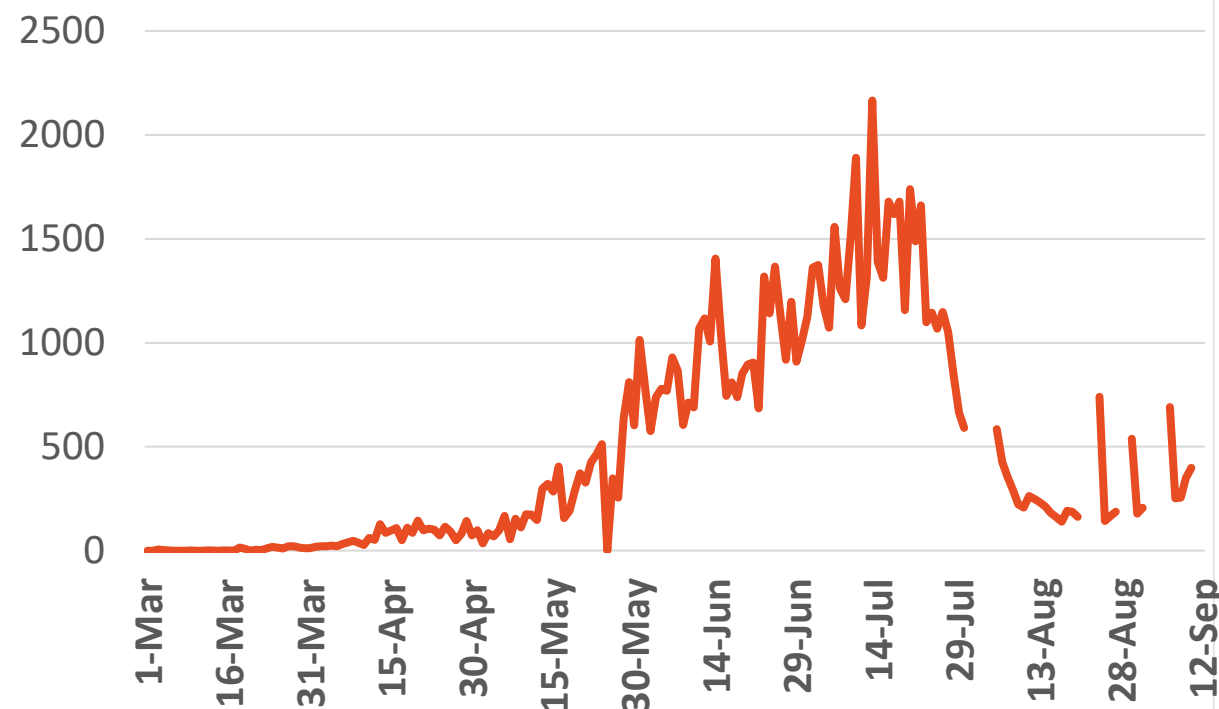
Source : KSA ministry of health

### Bahrain



Source :WHO

### Oman

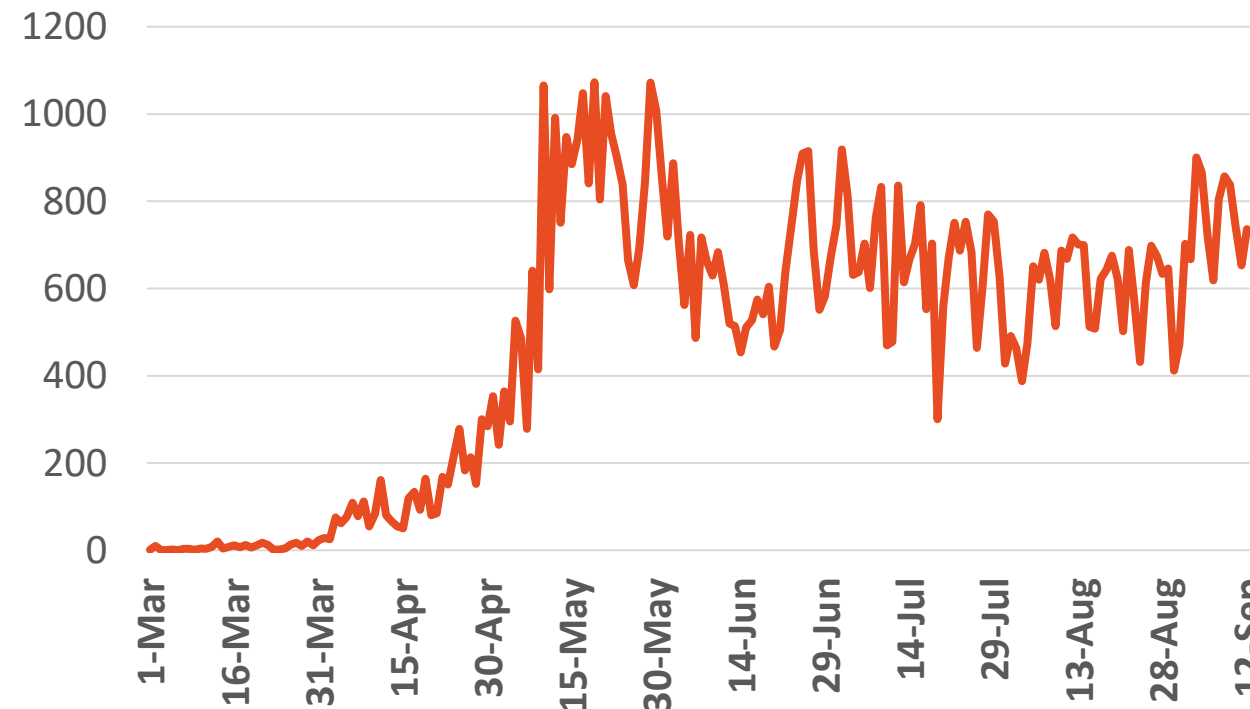


Source :Oman ministry of health

\*No announced statistic data from 31 July to 4 August, 21 to 23 August & from 28 to 30 August, 2, 4, 5, 11 & 12 September  
\*No announced statistic data on weekends and official holidays.

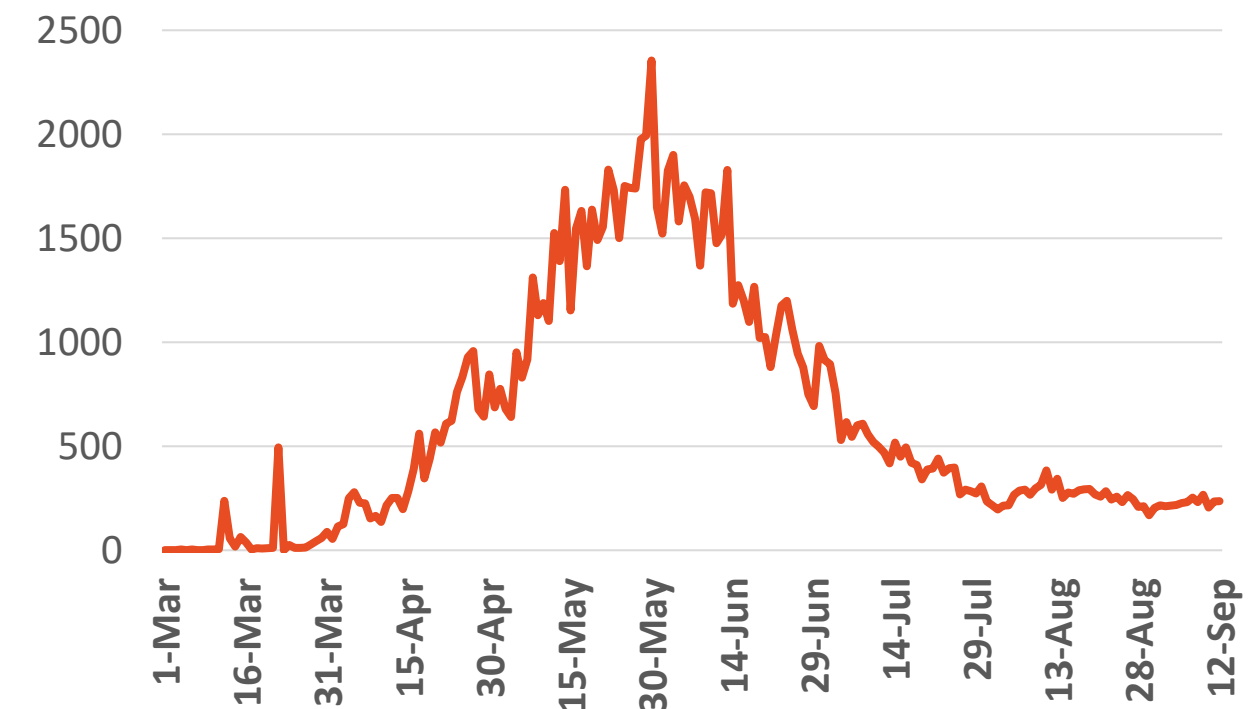
### Kuwait

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Source : Kuwait ministry of health

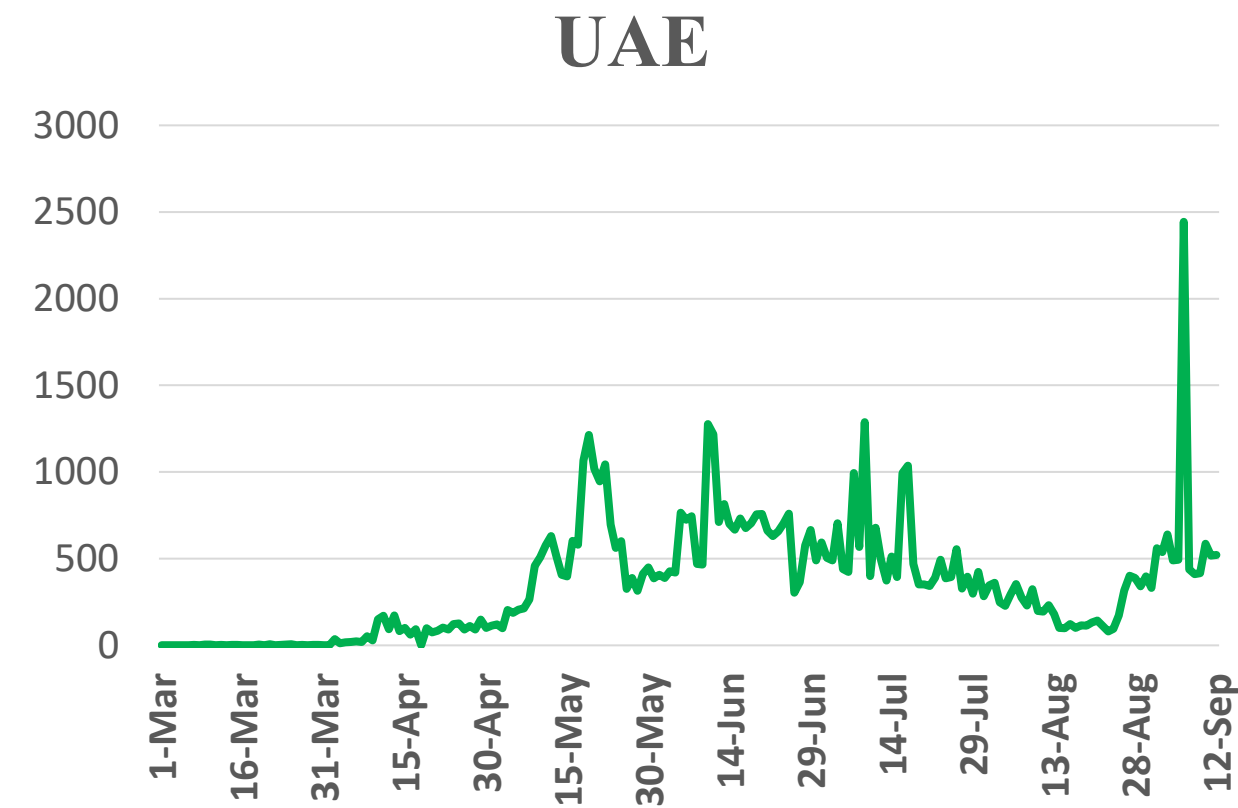
### Qatar



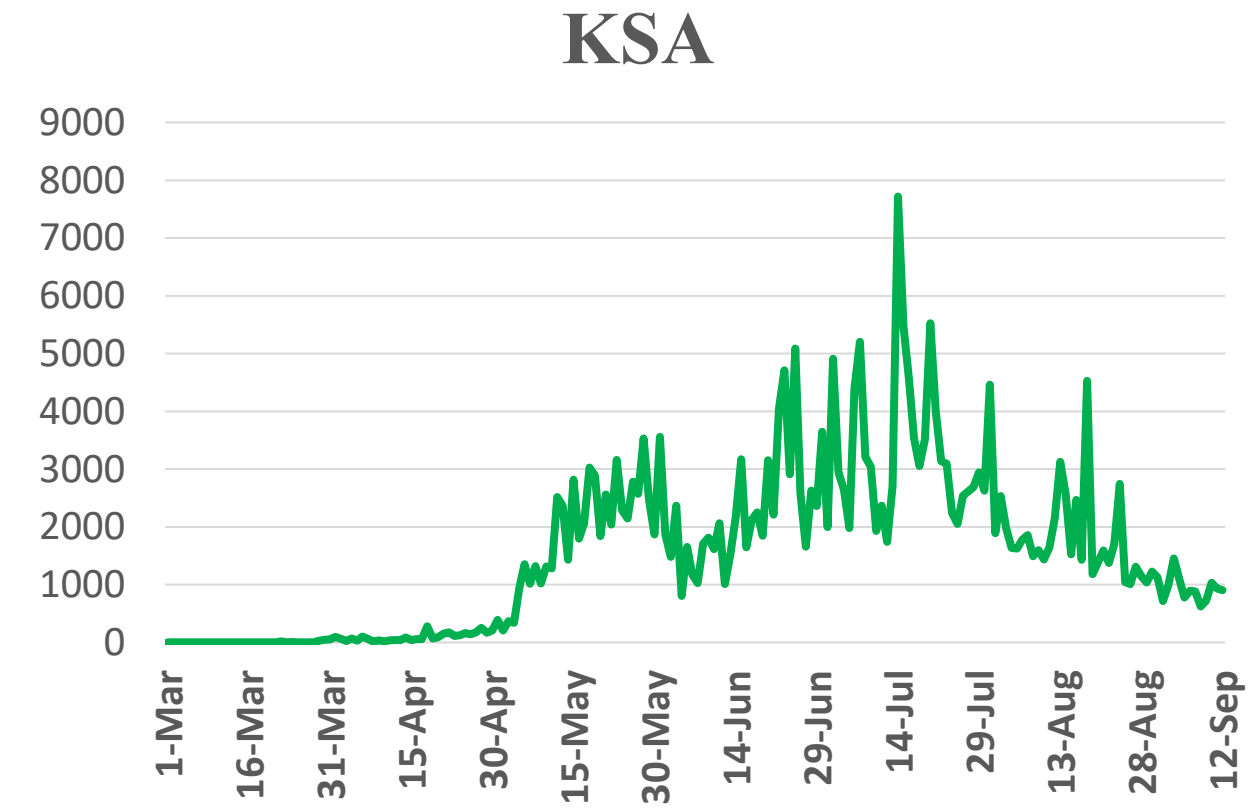
Source : Qatar ministry of health



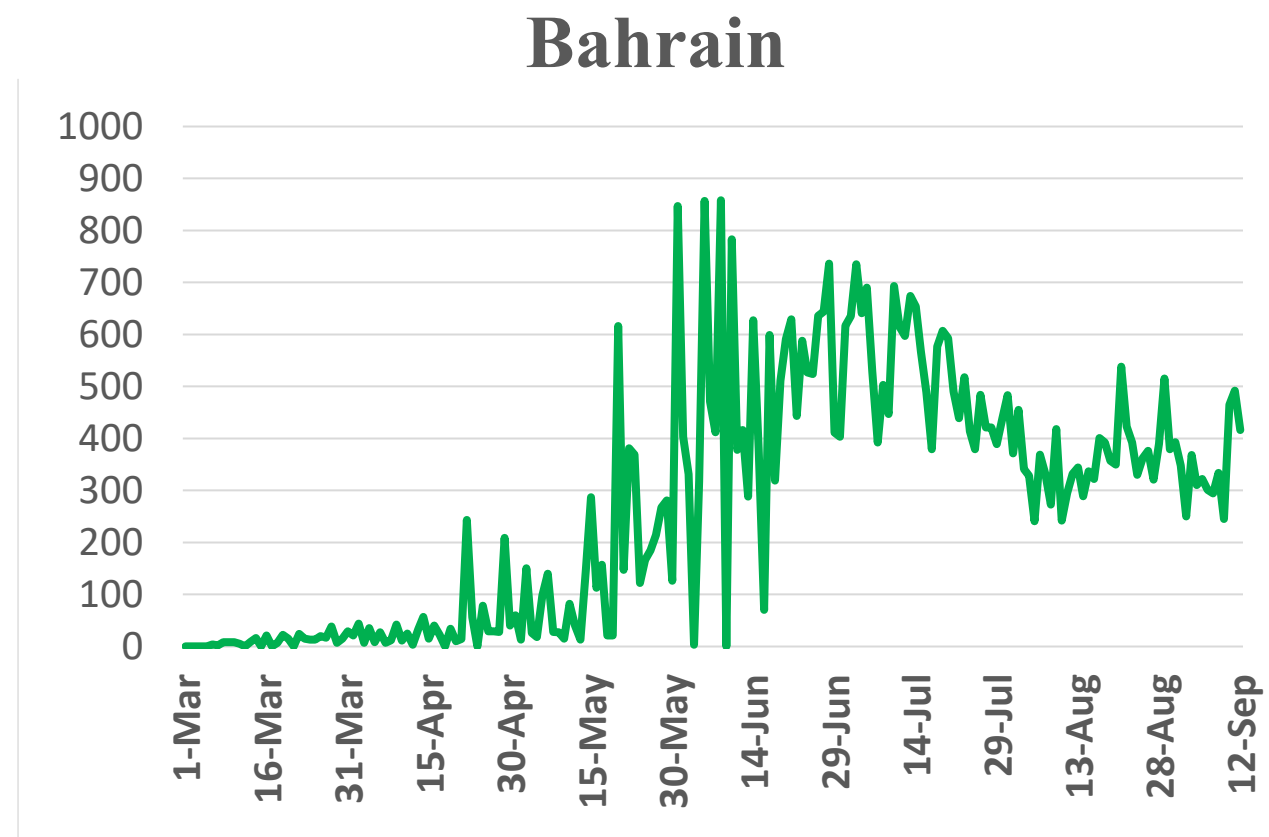
**Figure 11: Comparative Analysis of the Distribution of COVID-19 Newly Recovered Cases in GCC Countries**



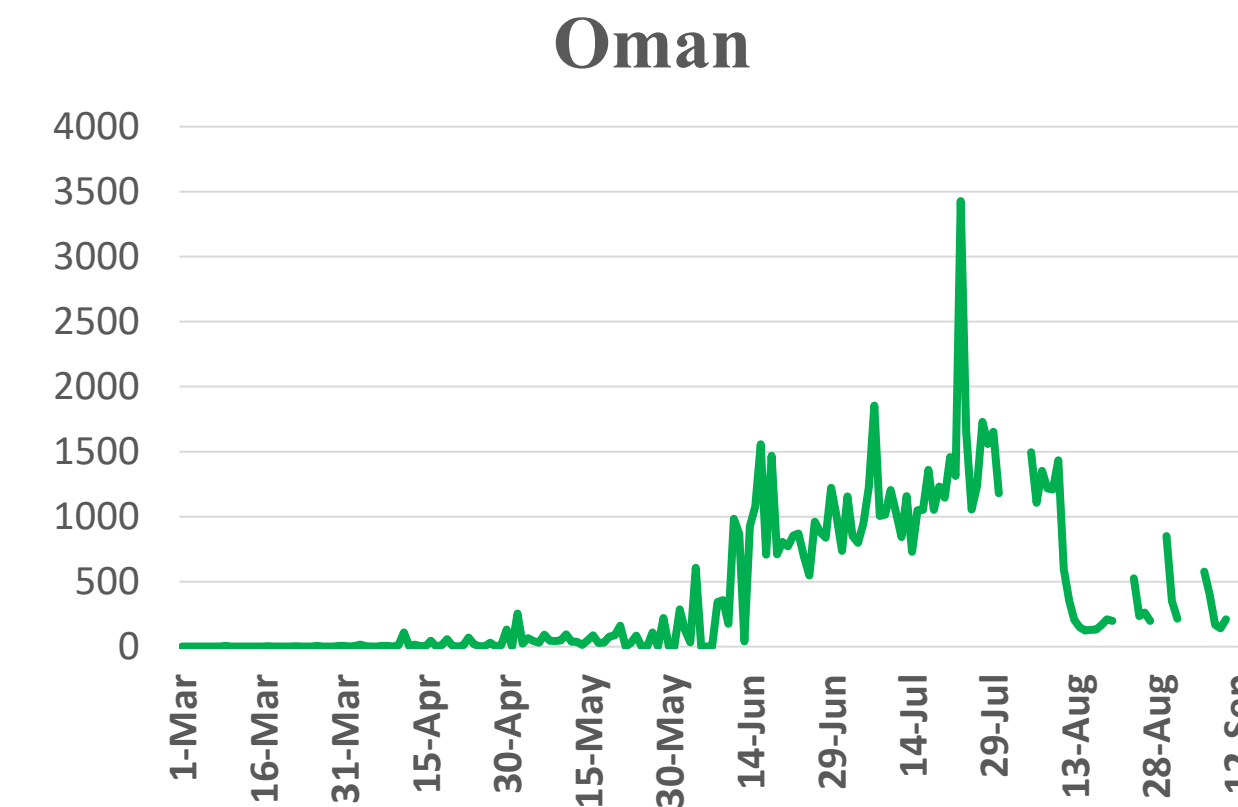
Source : National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority



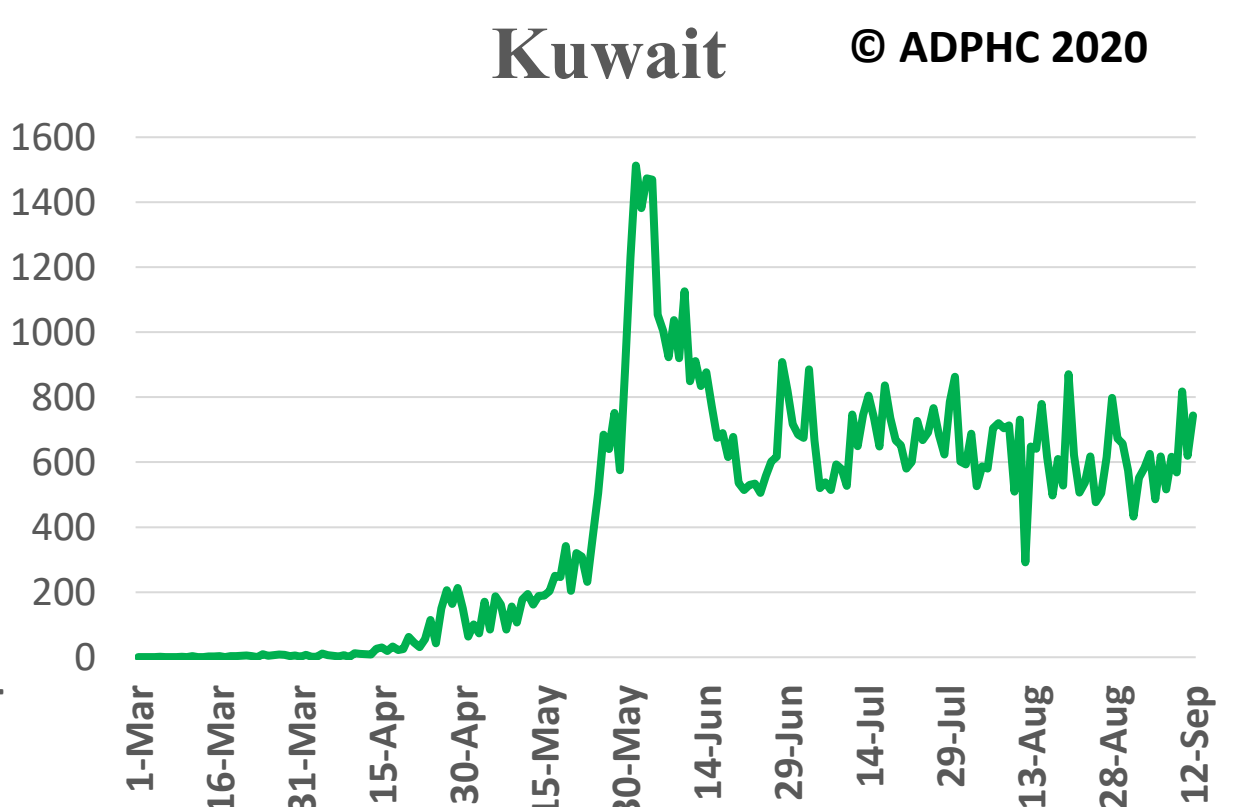
Source : KSA ministry of health



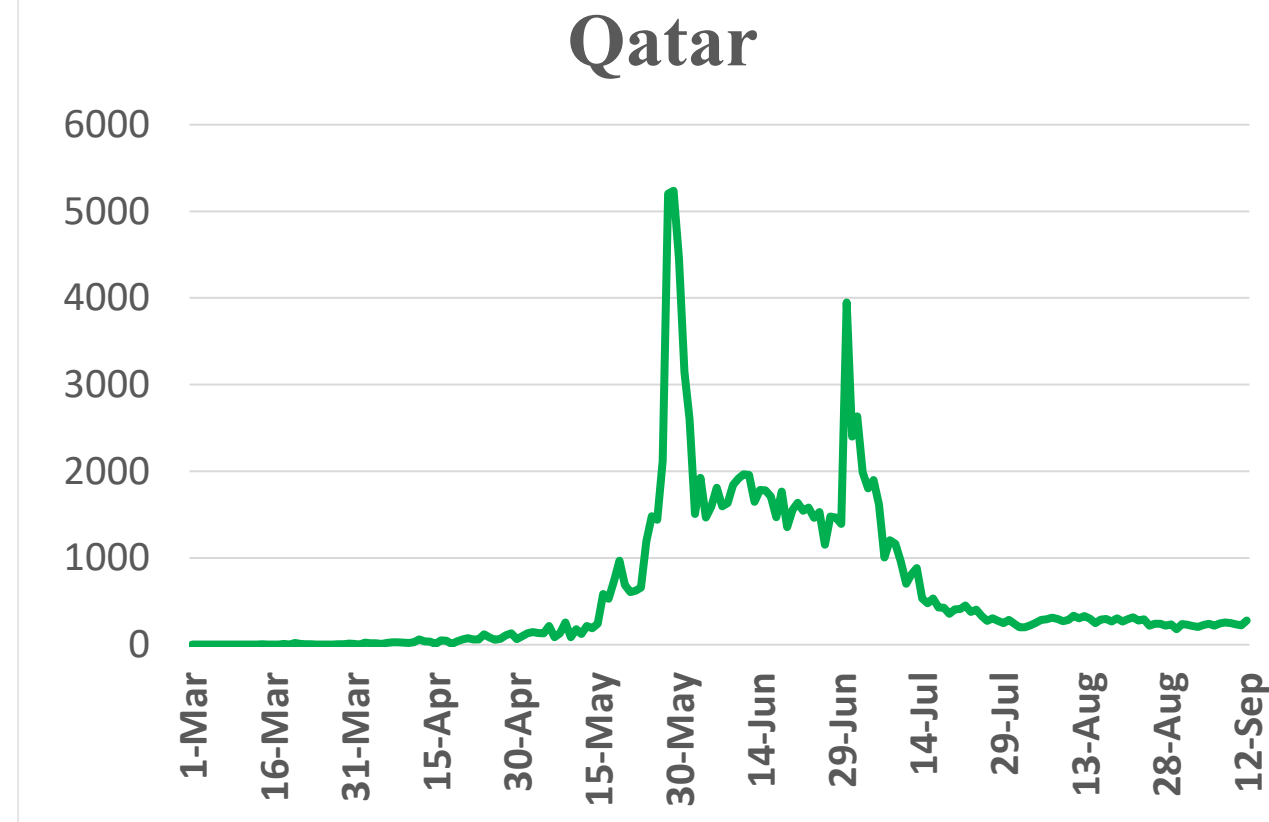
Source : Bahrain ministry of health



Source : Oman ministry of health



Source : Kuwait ministry of health



Source : Qatar ministry of health

\*No announced statistic data from 31 July to 4 August, 21 to 23 August & from 28 to 30 August, 2, 4, 5, 11 & 12 September

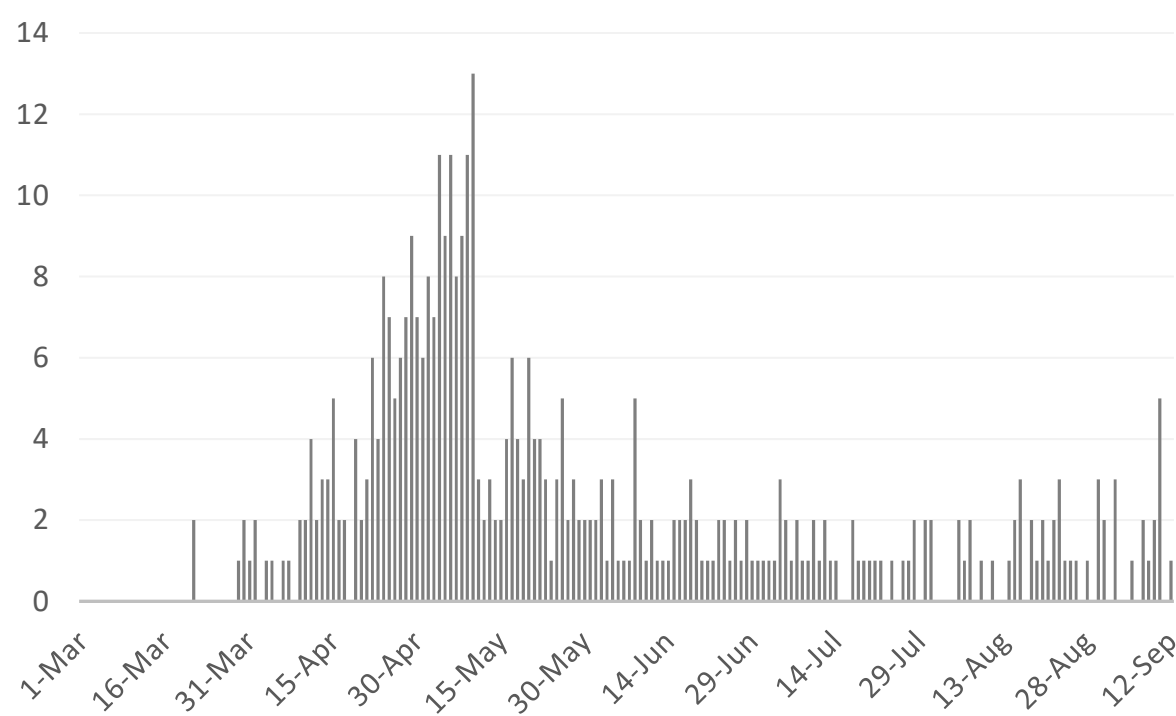
\*No announced statistic data on weekends and official holidays.





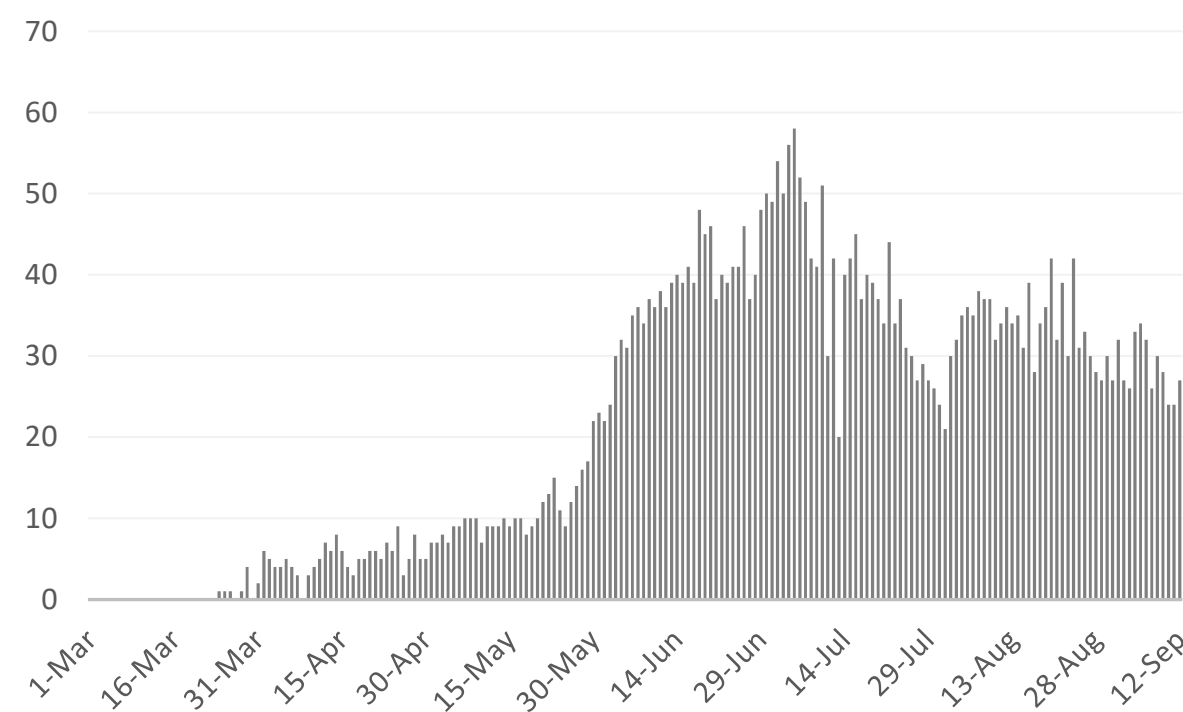
## Figure 12: Comparative Analysis of the Distribution of COVID-19 New Death Cases in GCC Countries

### UAE



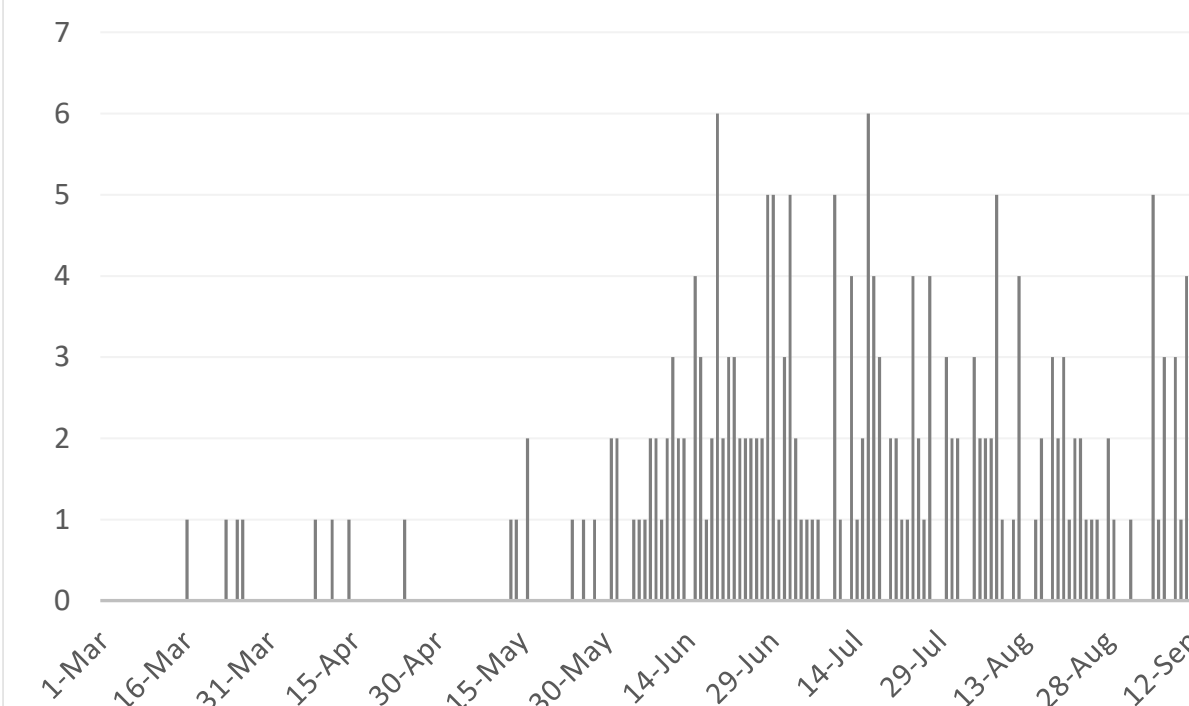
Source : National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority

### KSA



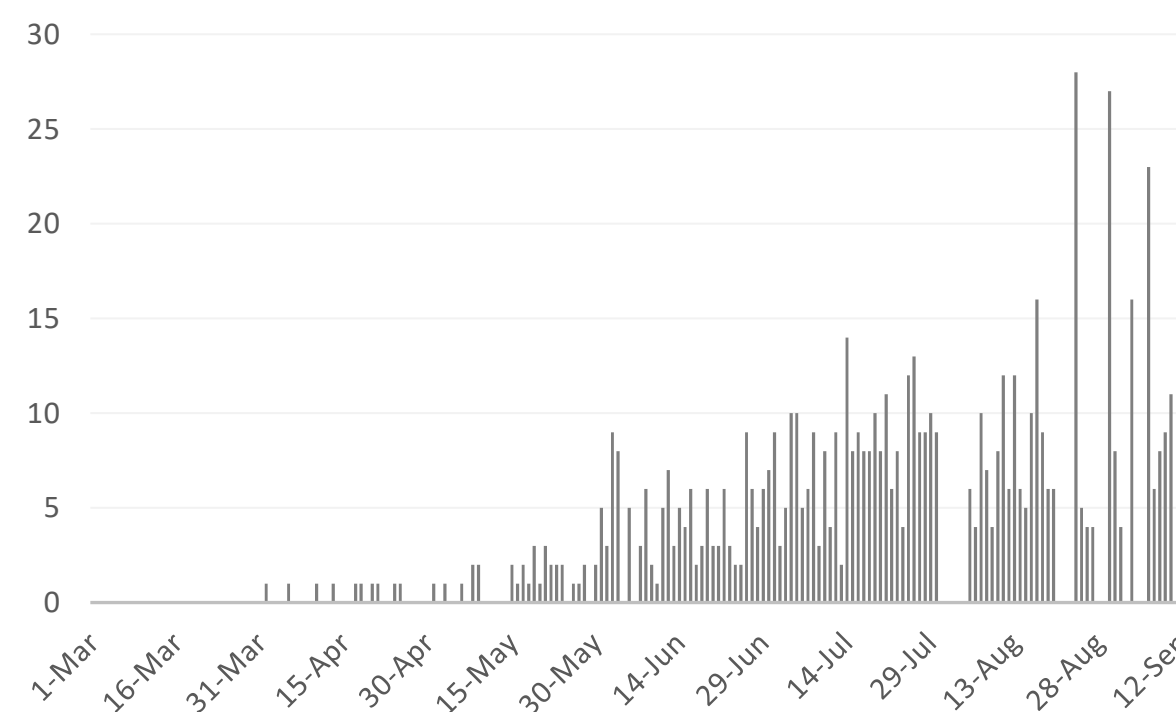
Source : KSA ministry of health

### Bahrain



Source :WHO

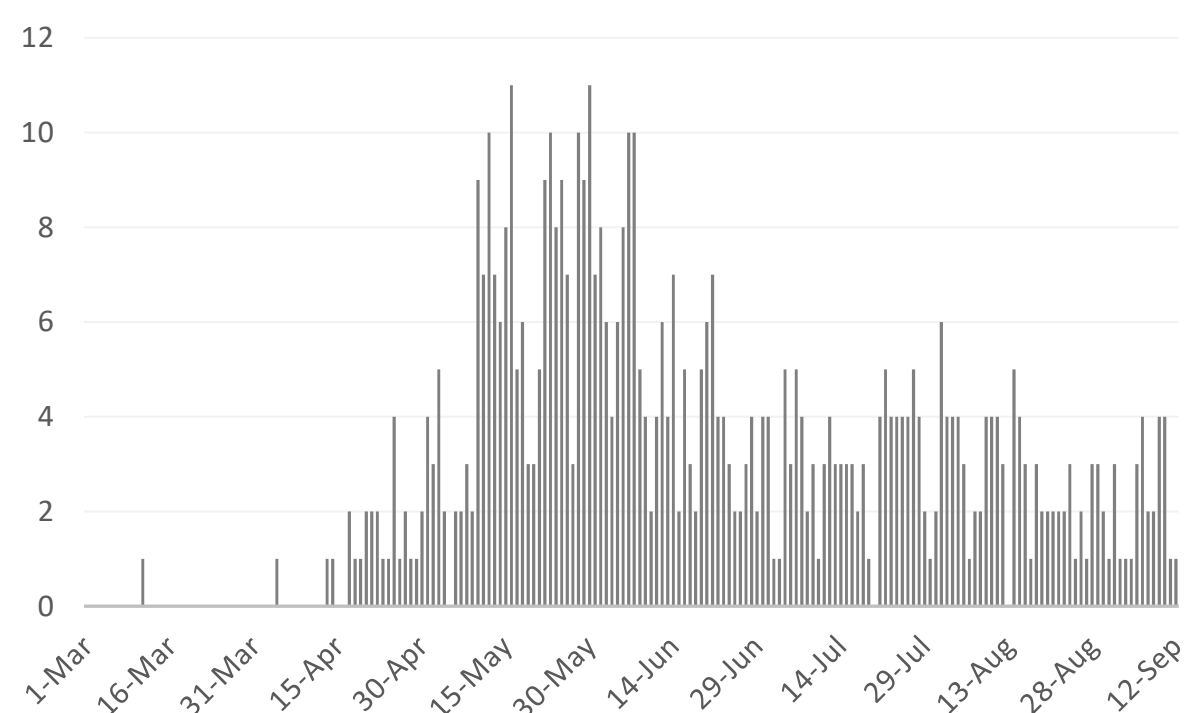
### Oman



Source :Oman ministry of health

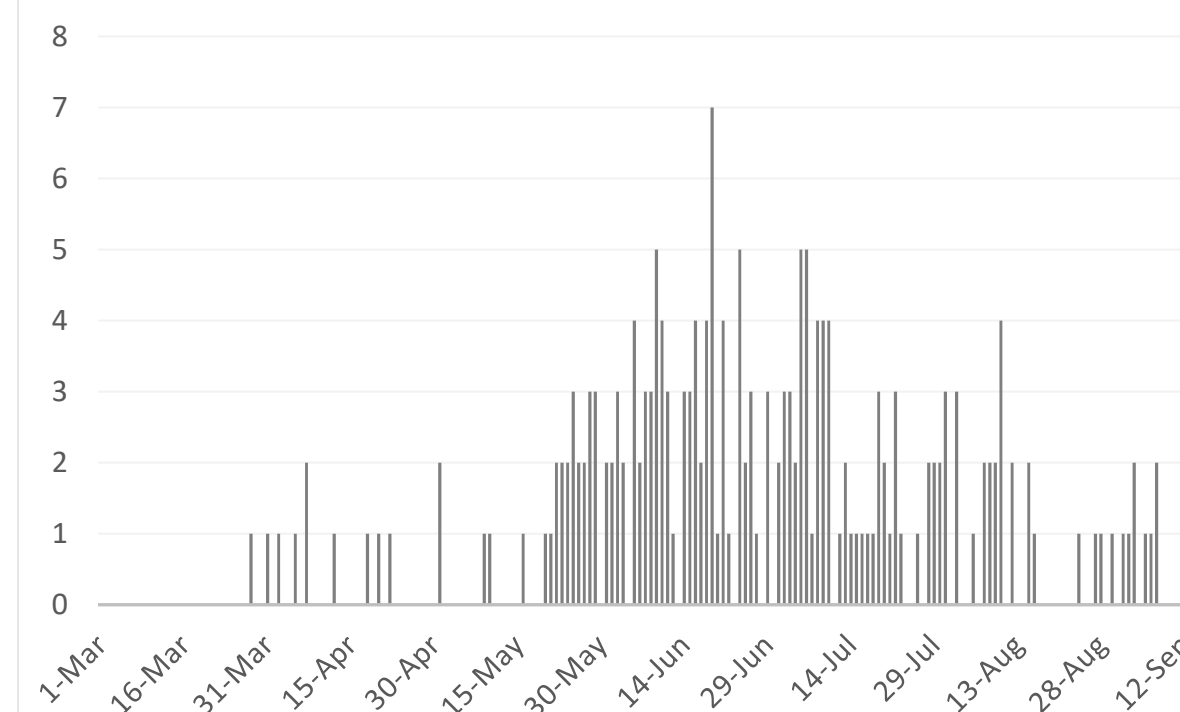
### Kuwait

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Source : Kuwait ministry of health

### Qatar



Source : Qatar ministry of health

\*No announced statistic data from 31 July to 4 August, 21 to 23 August & from 28 to 30 August, 2, 4, 5, 11 & 12 September

\*No announced statistic data on weekends and official holidays.





# TREATMENT

## Article 1

# COVACTA Trial Raises Questions About Tocilizumab's Benefit in COVID-19

Published

September 09, 2020, [The LANCET](#)

This article is commenting of the recently announced preliminary results of the COVACTA trial: The study is the first global, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase III trial investigating Actemra/RoActemra (Tocilizumab) in COVID19 setting.

### Summary of Key COVACTA Clinical and Safety Findings

- Primary endpoint not met: The difference in clinical status between Tocilizumab and placebo in patients at week four was not statistically significant ( $p=0.36$ ; ). There was no difference between Tocilizumab and placebo in the percentage of patients that died by week four Tocilizumab = 19.7% and placebo = 19.4%.
- Time to hospital discharge or 'ready to discharge' was shorter in patients treated with Tocilizumab than in those treated with placebo. The median time to discharge for Tocilizumab was 20 days and for placebo was 28 days : Tocilizumab = 20.0; placebo = 28.0,  $p=0.0370$ ).
- The difference in ventilator-free days between Tocilizumab and placebo was not statistically significant (median of 22 days for Tocilizumab and 16.5 days with placebo).
- At week four, rates of infections were 38.3% and 40.6% in the Tocilizumab and placebo arms, respectively, and the rates of serious infections were 21.0% and 25.9% in the Tocilizumab and placebo arms, respectively.



## Continued

### Comments and Conclusion

- The investigators of this trial have announced disappointing results from its much-anticipated phase 3 COVACTA trial of Tocilizumab.
- Author urge for a cautious interpretation of COVACTA trial, given the study's broad patient selection criteria and other study design factors which have not yet been published.
- The interpretation must consider the timing of anti-inflammatory treatments concerning the stage of the disease; this factor has not been assessed by the COVACTA Trial.
- There is an increased risk of secondary infections with blockage of IL-6, (as Tocilizumab block IL-6, a marker of inflammation ); however, this trial result does not seem to show these findings.
- Tocilizumab continues to be evaluated in RECOVERY trial which is a trial based in the UK and assessing the role of multiple drugs in covid19 including the dexamethasone (this trial recently published the result of dexamethasone and its positive effect in decreasing mortality in covid19 ventilator-dependent patients).
- RECOVERY trial will include over 850 patients assessed on the tocilizumab versus standard of care effect, this is almost twice the size of the COVACTA trial and will provide critical data to confirm or refute the COVACTA results.



## Article 2

Published

September 08, 2020 [AJGP](#)

## Authors

Reem Juma Al Falasi, Moien AB Khan, Ambulatory Health care services , SEHA , AL Ain

# The Impact of COVID-19 on Abu Dhabi and its Primary Care Response

**Dr. Reem Al Falasi describes how the Primary Health Care Services (AHS) in Abu Dhabi Emirate have contributed to the COVID-19 public health response. The author illustrate the AHS role in five key areas aimed to ensure the best possible care for the population.**

### Flattening the Curve

- Conducting screening and surveillance in newly implemented drive-through COVID-19 testing centres across Abu Dhabi.
- Providing targeted testing programs in high-risk overcrowded residential and industrial zones to identify active cases by the PCTs
- Contributing largely in educating the public about prevention measures.

### Improving Care Delivery to Patients with COVID-19

- **COVID-19–dedicated AHS:** These clinics provide services for COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms where they received education and advises to self isolate in the home with follow up treatment.
- **Counselling and virtual support** provided to patients who have mild symptoms with pre-existing diseases (high-risk patients; if they felt unwell, they are referred to hospitals).

### Ensuring Continuity of Care

- Primary care clinics implemented newer healthcare platform to avoid the risks that could occur in patients with co-morbidities.

- §Contacting the patients through the phone, online videos, Medications delivered to their homes, also examination, investigation and treatment in drive-through clinics all done by the PCTs.

### Streamlining Capacity of the Healthcare Centers

- Most of the primary care consultations occur via telephone and video consultations. Those who are unwell or who need urgent treatment are managed at **designated healthcare centers.**
- Drive-through child vaccination services are also being provided.
- The healthcare centers have been reorganized to minimize time patients spend in the clinic.

### Protecting the Physical and Mental Health of Healthcare Workers

- Providing HCW with adequate PPEs and the regular testing for COVID-19 every two weeks.
- The HCW is supported by counselling and support helpline through the SEHA Employees Psychological Support Taskforce and weekly motivational webinars.



# THANK YOU

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