

Report of the profile of COVID-19 cases in healthcare workers in Ireland

week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020) - week 47(15/11/2020-21/11/2020)

Report prepared by HPSC on 24/11/2020

This report includes data on healthcare worker (HCW) cases of COVID-19 (all case classifications – confirmed, probable, possible) notified to the national infectious disease surveillance system (CIDR) from week 32 (02/08/2020 – 08/08/2020) to week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020). Appendix A provides a summary of HCW cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic commenced in Ireland from week 10 (01/03/2020- 07/03/2020) to week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020). CIDR is a dynamic information system and data are continuously validated and updated.

Healthcare worker definition

Healthcare worker status is determined both by self-classification and workplace. The definition includes anyone who self identifies as a HCW irrespective of where they work. In addition, all staff that work in any healthcare facility (includes cleaners, household staff etc.) are classified as HCWs. The category includes healthcare workers employed both by public and private providers.

Summary

Table 1: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020) - week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=3,179)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	44,400	-
Total number of HCW cases	3,179	7.2%
Median age (IQR [^])	40 (29-50) years	-
Total number hospitalised	71	2.2%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	42 (32-55) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	4	5.6%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	46.5 (42.5-51) years	-
Total number of deaths	0	0.0%

[^] Interquartile range. *This relates to hospitalised cases and is 0.1% of all HCW cases.

From week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020) to week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), there was a total of 44,400 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 3,179 (7.2%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre. www.hpsc.ie

For the period from week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020) to week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 40 years (range 17-75 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (77.6%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (48.4%), most likely due to some HCW specialities e.g. nursing, being female dominated. The HSE region with the largest proportion of HCW cases is HSE East (39.3%).

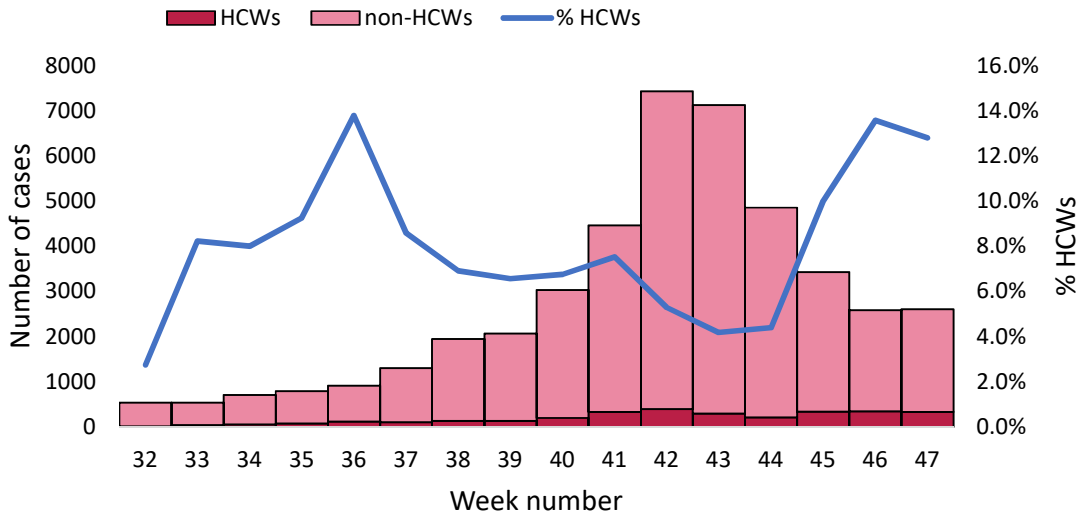


Figure 1: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of weekly cases identified as HCWs, notified to HPSC, week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020) – week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=44,400)



* Sex was not available for 6 cases.

Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020)- week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=3,173) *

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Of the 3,179 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 32 and week 47, 334 (10.5%) cases were reported in week 47.

Table 2: Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group, HSE area and underlying clinical conditions, week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020)- week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=3,179)

		Number of HCW cases (n=3,179)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	2,467	77.6
Age-group (years)	15-24	386	12.1
	25-34	835	26.3
	35-44	719	22.6
	45-54	760	23.9
	55-64	426	13.4
	65 and over	53	1.7
HSE area	HSE E	1,250	39.3
	HSE M	243	7.6
	HSE MW	219	6.9
	HSE NE	439	13.8
	HSE NW	275	8.7
	HSE SE	179	5.6
	HSE S	335	10.5
	HSE W	239	7.6
Underlying clinical conditions	Yes	710	22.3
	No	2,365	74.4
	Unknown	104	3.3

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020)- week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=3,179)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Nurse	777	24.4
	Healthcare assistant	748	23.5
	Admin/Clerical worker	180	5.7
	Doctor	132	4.2
	Catering/Kitchen worker	116	3.7
	Other HCW	712	22.5
	Unknown	514	16.0
Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	970	30.5
	Nursing Home	788	24.8
	Community services	247	7.8
	Centre for Disabilities	124	3.9
	Community Hospital/LSU	103	3.2
	GP surgery	51	1.6
	Mental Health Facility	47	1.5
	Hospice	15	0.5
	Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel	13	0.4
	Other HCW place of work	284	8.9
	Unknown	537	16.9

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020)- week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=3,179)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	1,753	55.1
	Indian subcontinent	227	7.1
	Black African	176	5.5
	Mixed background	24	0.8
	Roma	18	0.6
	Black other	14	0.4
	Other	827	26.0
	Unknown	140	4.5
Country of birth	Ireland	1,334	42.0
	India	189	6.0
	Nigeria	106	3.3
	Philippines	96	3.0
	Poland	44	1.4
	Other countries	359	11.3
	Unknown	1,051	33.0

Table 5: COVID-19 cases in HCW notified to HPSC, linked to outbreaks by outbreak location, week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020)- week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=3,179)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Private house	575	18.1
Nursing home	573	18.0
Hospital	416	13.1
Residential institution	135	4.3
Other healthcare service	44	1.4
Community outbreak	39	1.2
Workplace	35	1.1
Extended family	26	0.8
Social gathering	24	0.8
Other	64	2.0
Not linked to an outbreak	1,248	39.2

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020)- week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=3,179)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Mode of transmission	Healthcare setting acquired: staff	1,016	32.0
	Close contact with a known confirmed case	948	29.8
	Community transmission	680	21.4
	Healthcare setting acquired: patient*	104	3.3
	Travel related	34	1.1
	Under investigation	397	12.4

* Requires data validation.

Appendix A

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 (01/03/2020 - 07/03/2020) - week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=11,722)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	71,019	-
Total number of HCW cases	11,722	16.5%
Median age (IQR)	41 (31-50) years	-
Total number hospitalised	387	3.3%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	46 (34-54) years	
Total number admitted to ICU	59	15.2%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	51 (44-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	8**	0.07
The median age (range) for deaths	54 (30-68) years	-

*This relates to hospitalised cases and it is 0.5% of all HCW cases.

**Seven confirmed and 1 probable COVID-19 case.

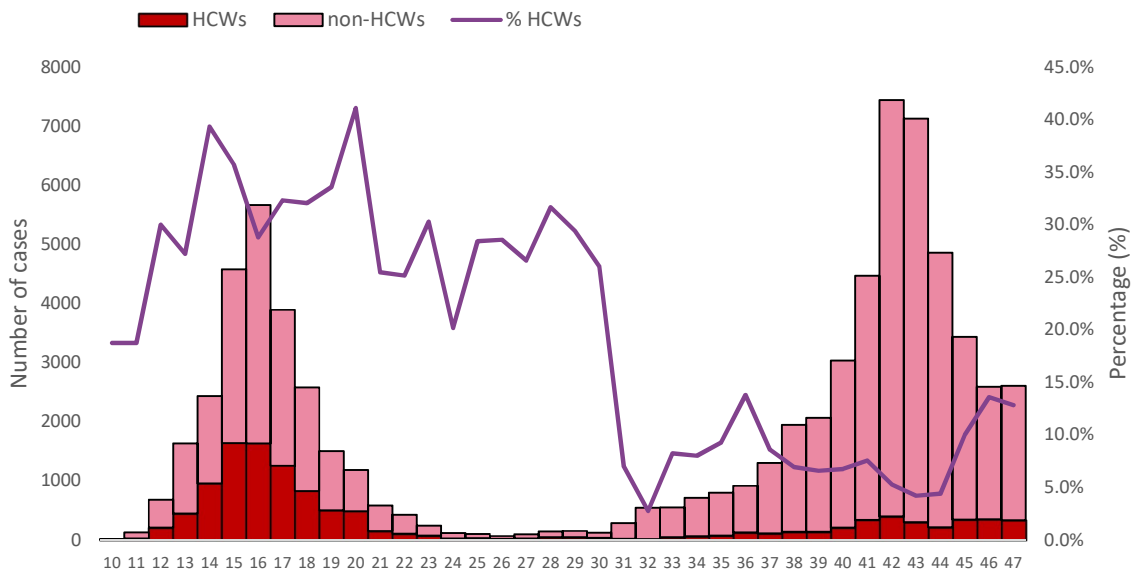


Figure A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 (01/03/2020 - 07/03/2020) -week 47 (15/11/2020 – 21/11/2020), Ireland, (n=71,019)

Acknowledgements

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