

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

week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 5, 2021 (31/01/2021-06/02/2021)

Report prepared by HPSC on 09/02/2021

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 48, 2020 (22/11/2020 – 28/11/2020) to week 5, 2021 (31/01/2021-06/02/2021). 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 5, 2021 (31/01/2021-06/02/2021). 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 48, 2020 – week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,672)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	133,231	-
Total number of HCW cases	13,672	10.3%
Median age (IQR [^])	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	373	2.7%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	43 (32-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	29	7.8%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	52 (44-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	3**	0.02%
The median age (range) for deaths	61 (60-65)	

[^] Interquartile range. *This relates to hospitalised cases and is 0.2% of all HCW cases.

**All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

From week 48, 2020 to week 5, 2021, there was a total of 133,231 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 13,672 (10.3%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

For the period from week 48, 2020 to week 5, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 41 years (range 16-76 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.6%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.8%), 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 (33.4%).

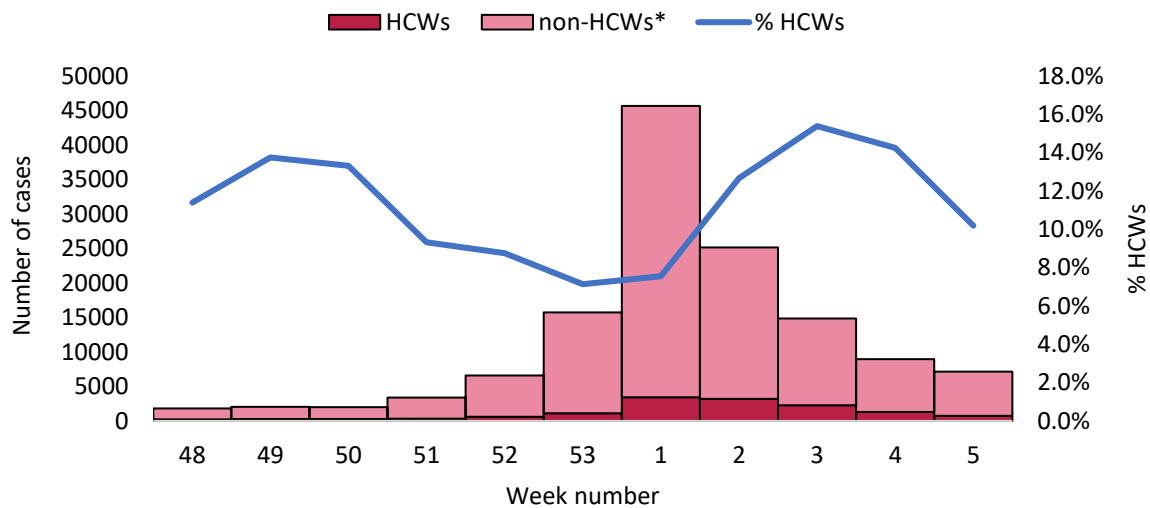


Figure 1: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of weekly cases identified as HCWs, notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n=133,231)

*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 108,115) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11,444)

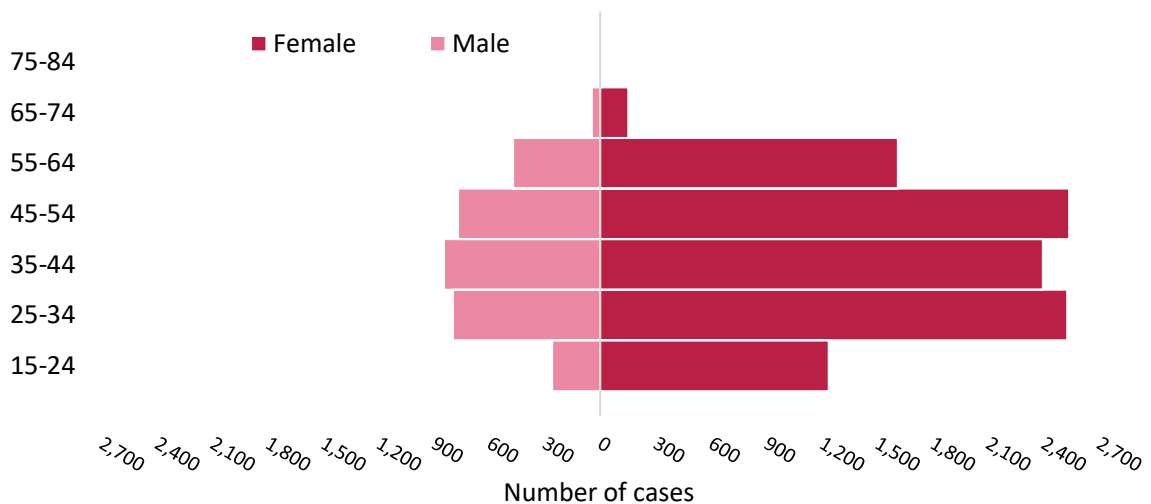


Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020- week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n= 13,660) *

* Sex or age group was not available for 12 cases.

Table 2: Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group and HSE area, week 48, 2020- week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n= 13,672)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	10,474	76.6
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,497	11.0
	25-34	3,329	24.4
	35-44	3,245	23.6
	45-54	3,308	24.2
	55-64	2,087	15.2
	65-74	197	1.4
	75-84	<5	0.1
	Unknown	<5	0.1
HSE area	HSE E	4,570	33.4
	HSE M	620	4.5
	HSE MW	1,132	8.3
	HSE NE	1,618	11.8
	HSE NW	845	6.2
	HSE SE	1,529	11.2
	HSE S	2,027	14.9
	HSE W	1,331	9.7

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,672)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Nurse	3,450	25.2
	Healthcare assistant	3,407	24.9
	Admin/Clerical worker	800	5.9
	Doctor	601	4.4
	Catering/Kitchen worker	531	3.9
	Pharmacy worker	309	2.3
	Cleaning/household staff	250	1.8
	Social work	179	1.3
	Porter	172	1.3
	Physiotherapist	114	0.8
	Other HCW	1,751	12.8
	Unknown	2,108	15.4
	Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	3,818
Nursing Home		3,037	22.1
Community services		969	7.1
Community Hospital/LSU		715	5.2
Centre for disabilities		416	3.0
GP surgery		213	1.6
Mental Health Facility		177	1.3
Hospice		116	0.9
Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel		46	0.3
Other HCW place of work		1,218	9.1
Unknown		2,947	21.6

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,672)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	10,035	73.4
	Indian subcontinent	1,089	8.0
	Black African	559	4.1
	Mixed background	104	0.8
	Black other	46	0.3
	Roma	42	0.3
	Chinese	32	0.2
	Irish Traveller	27	0.2
	Other	653	4.8
	Unknown	1,085	7.9
Country of birth	Ireland	8,030	58.7
	India	959	7.0
	Philippines	503	3.7
	Nigeria	319	2.3
	Poland	281	2.1
	Romania	142	1.0
	Brazil	107	0.8
	Other	983	7.2
	Unknown	2,348	17.2

Cases linked to outbreaks

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 5, 2021, 4,425 (32.4%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 5, 2021 231 (31.6%) HCW COVID-19 cases were linked to outbreaks. Data are continuously validated and updated, therefore further reported cases may be linked to outbreaks.

Table 5: COVID-19 cases in HCW notified to HPSC, linked to outbreaks by outbreak location, week 48, 2020 - week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,672)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	2,382	17.5
Hospital	771	5.6
Residential institution	576	4.2
Comm. Hosp/LSU	251	1.8
Private house	161	1.2
Other healthcare service	152	1.1
Workplace	44	0.3
Extended family	36	0.3
Community outbreak	14	0.1
Other	38	0.3
Not linked to an outbreak	9,247	67.6

Mode of transmission

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,672)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	4,597	33.6
Close contact with a known confirmed case	3,070	22.5
Community transmission	1,859	13.6
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	728	5.3
Travel related	57	0.4
Under investigation	3,361	24.6

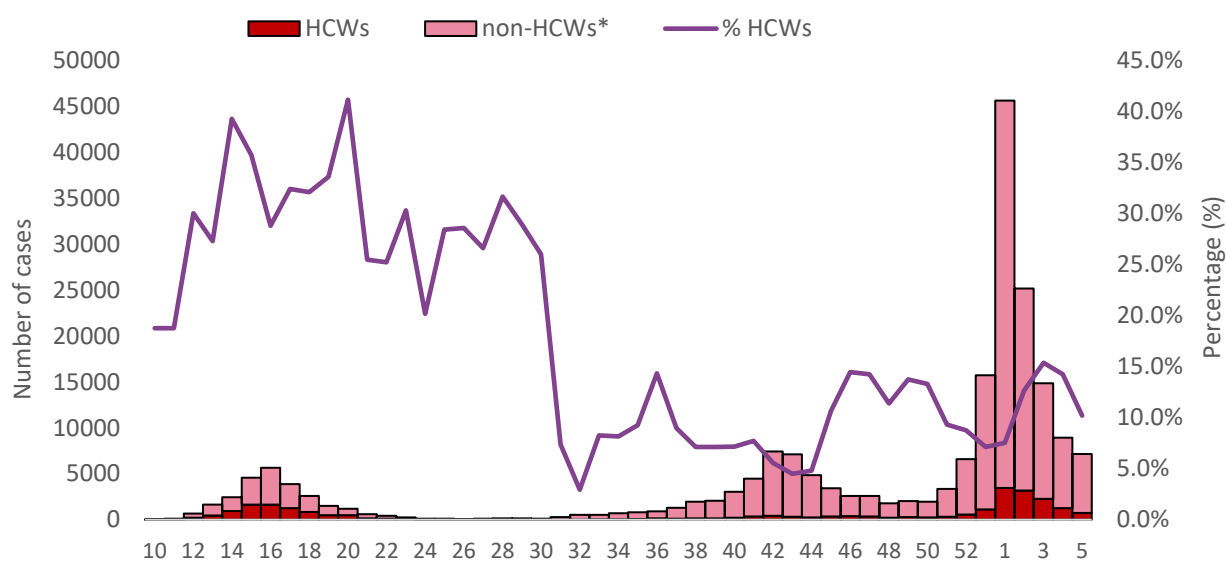
Appendix A

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n= 25,577)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	204,131	-
Total number of HCW cases	25,577	12.5%
Median age (IQR)	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	767	3.0%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (32-54) years	-
Total number admitted to ICU	89	11.6%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	51 (44-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	11**	0.04%
The median age (range) for deaths	59 (30-65) years	-

*This relates to hospitalised cases and it is 0.3% of all HCW cases.

**All confirmed COVID-19 cases.



*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 158,142) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 20,412)

Figure A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n=204,131)

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who are participating in the collection of data and reporting of data used in these reports. This includes the HSE COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP), staff in ICU units, notifying clinicians, laboratory staff, public health doctors, nurses, surveillance scientists, microbiologists and administrative staff.