

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

Week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 14, 2021 (04/04/2021-10/04/2021)

Report prepared by HPSC on 13/04/2021

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 14, 2021 (04/04/2021-10/04/2021). 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 14, 2021 (04/04/2021-10/04/2021). 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

From week 48, 2020 to week 14, 2021, there was a total of 170,618 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 16,381 (9.6%) were healthcare workers (HCWs). In week 14, 46 COVID-19 cases reported to CIDR were HCWs.

Table 1: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 14, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,381)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	16,381	100%
Median age (IQR [^])	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	382	2.3%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (32-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	40	0.2%
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	50.5 (44-58.5) years	-
Total number of deaths	9*	0.05%
The median age (range) for deaths	60 (55-61) years	

[^] Interquartile range.

*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

For the period from week 48, 2020 to week 14, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 41 years (range 16 -80 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.5%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.3%), 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 (35%). Of the 16,381 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 48, 2020 and week 14, 2021, 46 (0.3%) cases were reported in week 14, 2021.

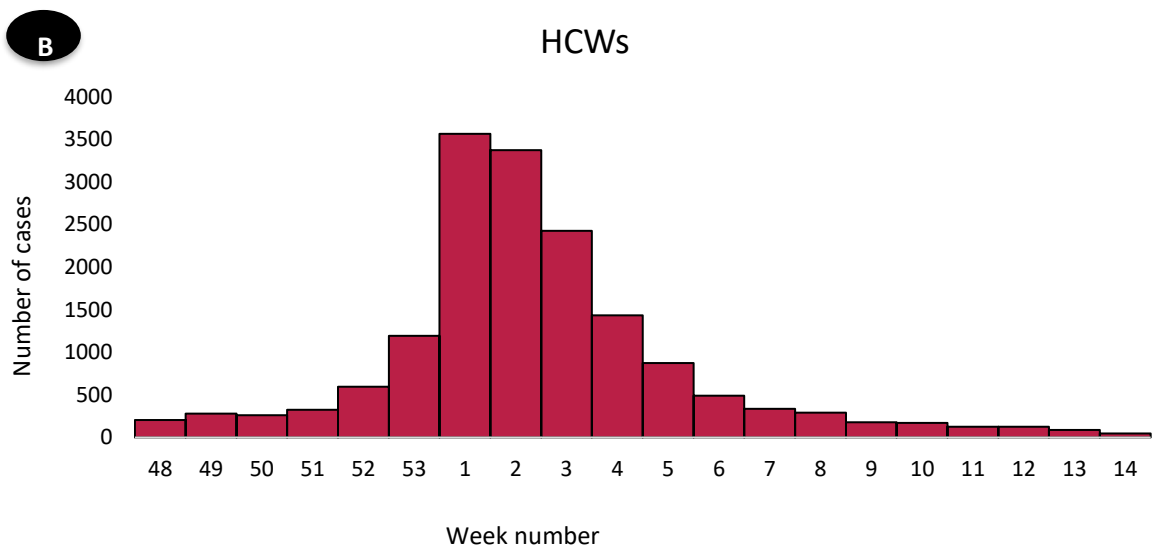
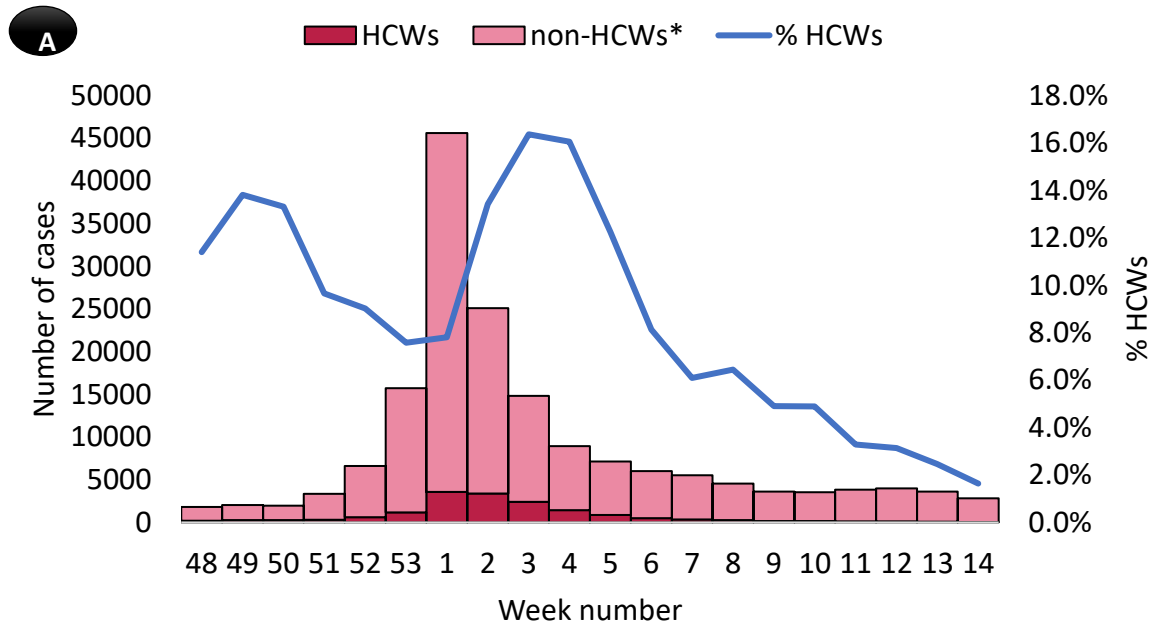


Figure 1A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of weekly cases identified as HCWs, notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 14, 2021, Ireland, (n=170,618); **Figure 1B:** Showing HCWs only for the same time period.

*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 142,270) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11,967)

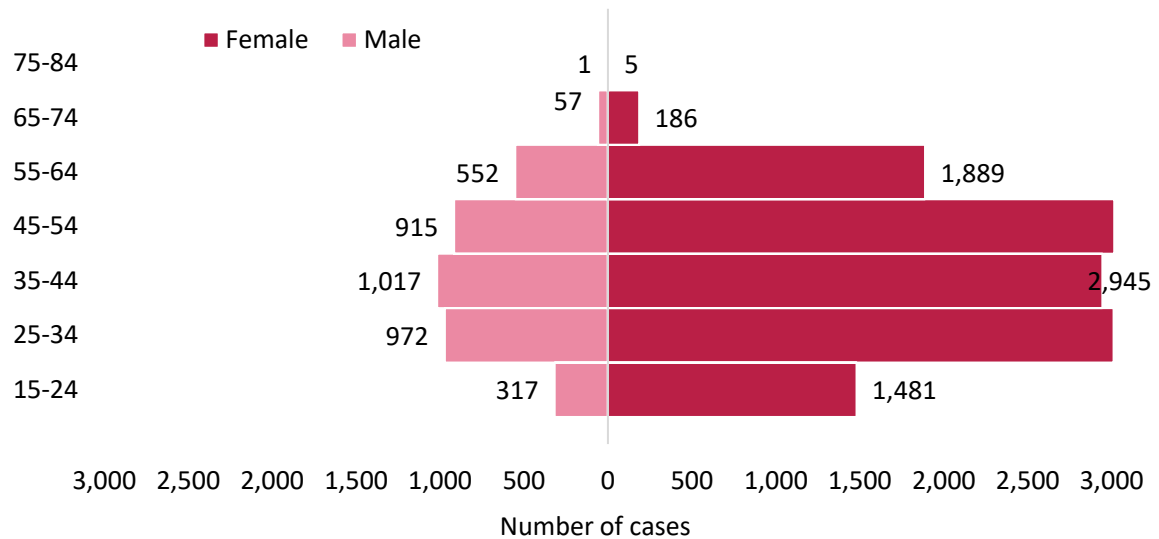


Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020-week 14, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,366) *

* Sex was not available for 15 cases.

Table 2: Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group and HSE area, week 48, 2020- week 14, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,381)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,381)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	12,536	76.5
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,799	11.0
	25-34	3,988	24.4
	35-44	3,968	24.2
	45-54	3,933	24.0
	55-64	2,442	14.9
	65-74	243	1.5
	75-84	6	0.0
	Unknown	<5	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	5,740	35.0
	HSE M	770	4.7
	HSE MW	1,382	8.4
	HSE NE	1,916	11.7
	HSE NW	960	5.9
	HSE SE	1,741	10.6
	HSE S	2,340	14.3
	HSE W	1,532	9.4

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 14, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,381)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,381)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Healthcare assistant	4,064	24.7
	Nurse	3,983	24.2
	Admin/Clerical worker	1,013	6.2
	Doctor	683	4.2
	Catering/Kitchen worker	662	4.0
	Cleaning/household staff	404	2.5
	Pharmacy worker	369	2.3
	Social work	342	2.1
	Porter	192	1.2
	Physiotherapist	143	0.9
	Paramedic	132	0.8
	Homecare	127	0.8
	Other HCW	1,967	12.1
	Unknown	2,300	14.0
Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	4,634	28.3
	Nursing Home	3,601	22.0
	Community services	1,345	8.2
	Community Hospital/LSU	824	5.0
	Centre for disabilities	579	3.5
	GP surgery	272	1.7
	Mental Health Facility	224	1.4
	Hospice	137	0.8
	Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel	69	0.4
	Other HCW place of work	1,600	9.8
	Unknown	3,096	18.9

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 14, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,381)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,381)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	11,996	73.2
	Indian subcontinent	1,270	7.8
	Black African	748	4.6
	Mixed background	132	0.8
	Black other	59	0.4
	Roma	51	0.3
	Chinese	40	0.2
	Irish Traveller	39	0.2
	Other	782	4.8
	Unknown	1,264	7.7
Country of birth	Ireland	9,613	58.5
	India	1,116	6.8
	Philippines	587	3.6
	Nigeria	412	2.5
	Poland	358	2.2
	Romania	206	1.3
	Brazil	136	0.8
	Pakistan	106	0.7
	Other	1,225	7.6
	Unknown	2,622	16.0

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 14, 2021, 6,318 (38.6%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 14, 2021 7 (15.2%) 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 14, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,381)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases (n = 16,381)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	3,073	18.7
Hospital	1,131	6.8
Residential institution	907	5.5
Private house	335	2.1
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	322	2.0
Other healthcare service	286	1.8
Extended family	89	0.5
Workplace	57	0.4
Community outbreak	26	0.2
Other	92	0.6
Not linked to outbreak	10,063	61.4

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 14, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,381)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases (n = 16,381)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	6,566	40.1
Close contact with a known confirmed case	4,022	24.6
Community transmission	2,638	16.1
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	216	1.3
Travel related	95	0.6
Under investigation	2,844	17.3

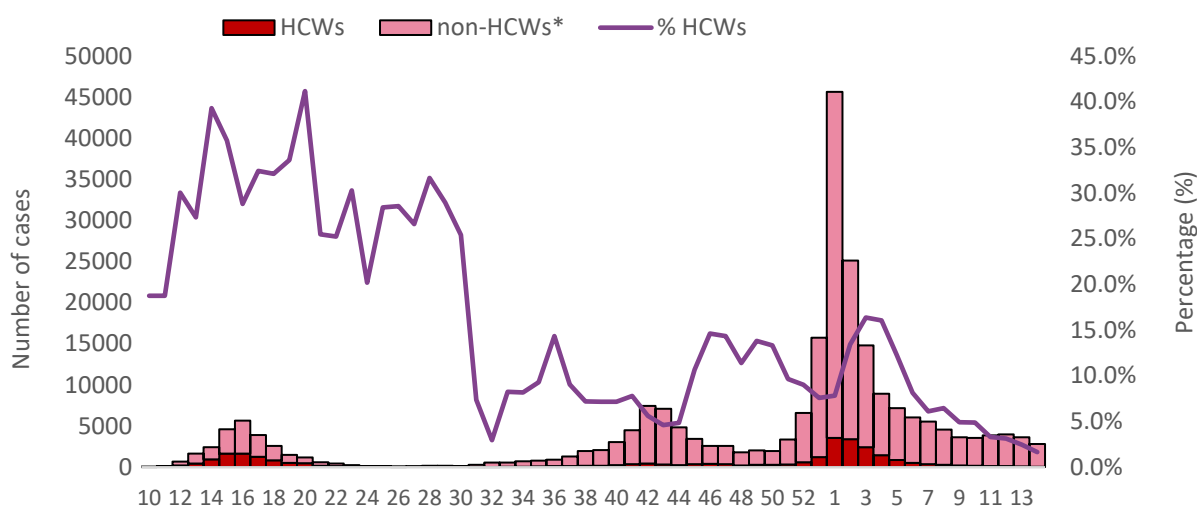
Appendix A

From week 10, 2020 to week 14, 2021, there was a total of 241,509 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 28,311 (11.7%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 - week 14, 2021, Ireland, (n= 28,311)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	28,311	100%
Median age (IQR)	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	777	2.7%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (33-54) years	-
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	100	0.3%
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	51 (44-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	17*	0.06%
The median age (range) for deaths	57 (51-61) years	-

*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.



*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 192,326) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 20,872)

Figure A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 -week 14, 2021, Ireland, (n=241,509)

Acknowledgements

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