

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

week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 7, 2021 (14/02/2021-20/02/2021)

Report prepared by HPSC on 23/02/2021

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 7, 2021 (14/02/2021-20/02/2021). 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 7, 2021 (14/02/2021-20/02/2021). 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

From week 48, 2020 to week 7, 2021, there was a total of 144,729 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 14,866 (10.3%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

Table 1: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 7, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,866)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	14,866	100%
Median age (IQR[^])	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	408	2.7%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	44 (32-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	34	0.2%
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	49 (43-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	7*	0.05%
The median age (range) for deaths	60 (52-65)	

[^] Interquartile range.

*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

For the period from week 48, 2020 to week 7, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 41 years (range 16-76 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.4%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.6%), 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 (34.1%).

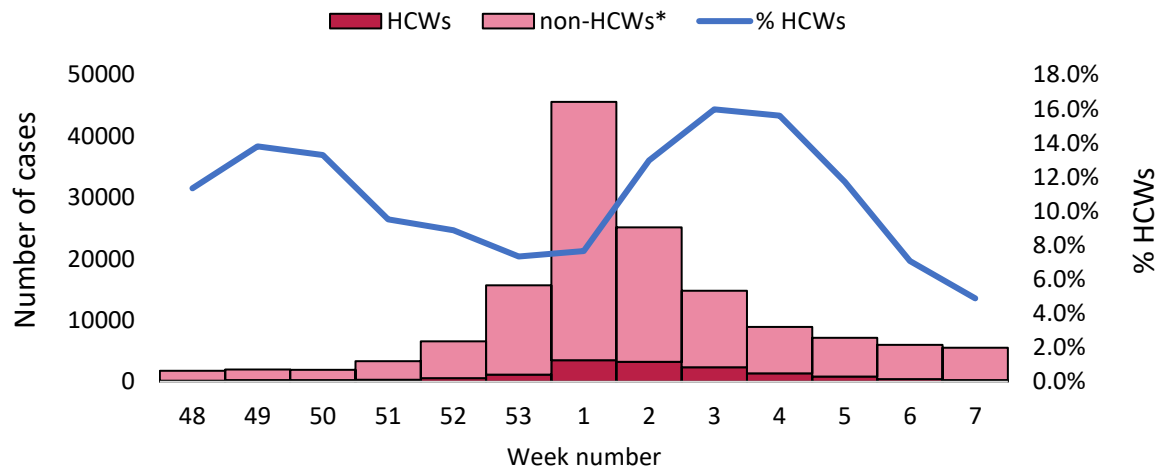


Figure 1: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of weekly cases identified as HCWs, notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 7, 2021, Ireland, (n=144,729)

*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 118,734) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11,129)

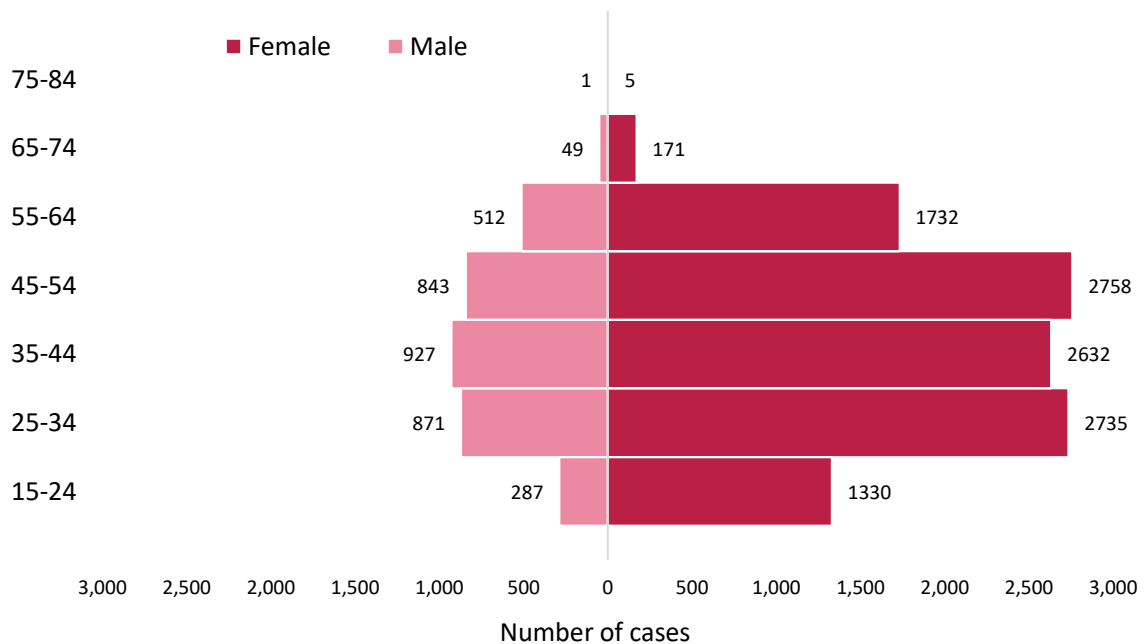


Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020- week 7, 2021, Ireland, (n= 14,853) *

* Sex or age group was not available for 13 cases.

Table 2: Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group and HSE area, week 48, 2020- week 7, 2021, Ireland, (n= 14,866)

		Number of HCW cases (n= 14,866)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	11,364	76.4
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,618	10.9
	25-34	3,609	24.3
	35-44	3,563	24.0
	45-54	3,603	24.2
	55-64	2,245	15.1
	65-74	220	1.5
	75-84	6	0.0
	Unknown	<5	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	5,070	34.1
	HSE M	684	4.6
	HSE MW	1,220	8.2
	HSE NE	1,761	11.9
	HSE NW	912	6.1
	HSE SE	1,651	11.1
	HSE S	2,154	14.5
	HSE W	1,414	9.5

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 7, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,866)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)	
HCW Role	Healthcare assistant	3,711	25.0	
	Nurse	3,682	24.7	
	Admin/Clerical worker	877	5.9	
	Doctor	646	4.4	
	Catering/Kitchen worker	604	4.1	
	Cleaning/household staff	340	2.3	
	Pharmacy worker	327	2.2	
	Social work	310	2.1	
	Porter	180	1.2	
	Other HCW	1,876	12.6	
	Unknown	2,313	15.5	
	Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	4,171	28.1
		Nursing Home	3,282	22.1
Community services		1,115	7.4	
Community Hospital/LSU		763	5.1	
Centre for disabilities		470	3.2	
GP surgery		233	1.6	
Mental Health Facility		190	1.3	
Hospice		128	0.9	
Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel		56	0.4	
Other HCW place of work		1,341	8.9	
Unknown		3,117	21.0	

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 7, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,866)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	10,869	73.1
	Indian subcontinent	1,179	7.9
	Black African	664	4.5
	Mixed background	116	0.8
	Black other	50	0.3
	Roma	45	0.3
	Chinese	35	0.2
	Irish Traveller	31	0.2
	Other	714	4.8
	Unknown	1,163	7.9
Country of birth	Ireland	8,693	58.5
	India	1,039	7.0
	Philippines	538	3.6
	Nigeria	370	2.5
	Poland	321	2.2
	Romania	167	1.1
	Brazil	120	0.8
	Other	1,119	7.5
	Unknown	2,499	16.8

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 7, 2021, 5,172 (34.8%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 7, 2021 48 (17.7%) 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 7, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,866)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	2,767	18.6
Hospital	841	5.7
Residential institution	702	4.7
Community Hospital/LSU	305	2.1
Other healthcare service	201	1.4
Private house	186	1.3
Extended family	52	0.4
Workplace	51	0.3
Community outbreak	16	0.1
Other	51	0.3
Not linked to an outbreak	9,694	65.1

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 7, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,866)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Mode of transmission	Healthcare setting acquired: staff	5,342	35.9
	Close contact with a known confirmed case	3,371	22.7
	Community transmission	2,061	13.9
	Healthcare setting acquired: patient	654	4.4
	Travel related	65	0.4
	Under investigation	3,373	22.7

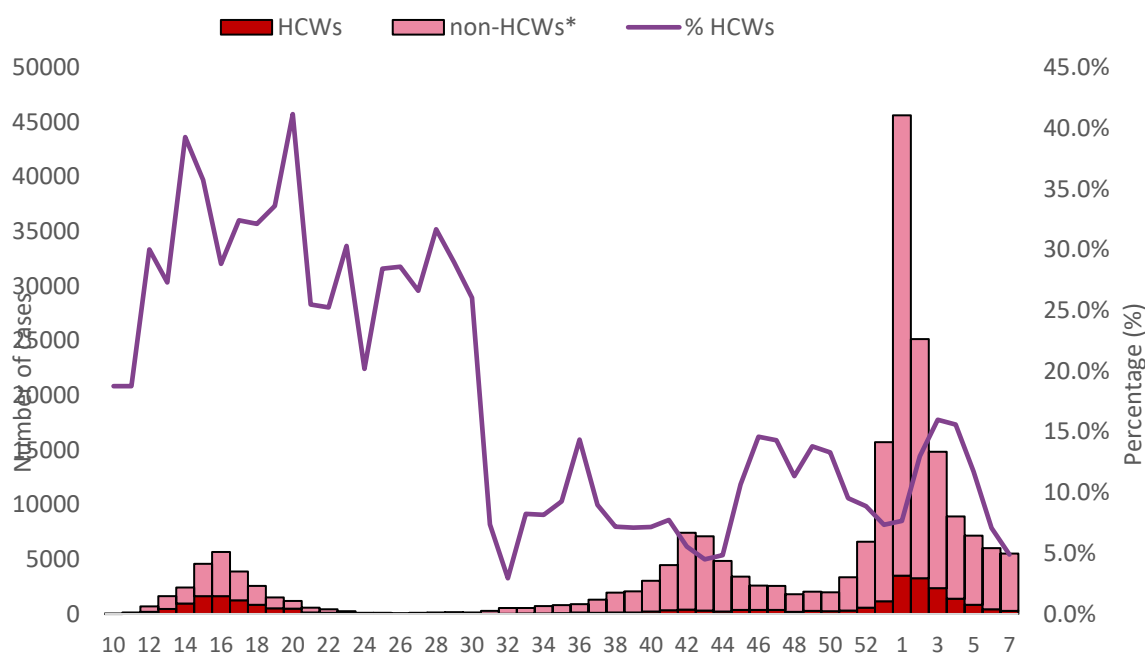
Appendix A

From week 10, 2020 to week 7, 2021, there was a total of 215,623 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 26,778 (12.4%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 7, 2021, Ireland, (n= 26,778)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	26,778	100%
Median age (IQR)	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	803	3.0%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (33-54) years	
Total number admitted to ICU	94	0.4%
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	50.5 (44-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	15*	0.06%
The median age (range) for deaths	59 (30-65) years	-

*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.



*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 168,756) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 20,089)

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.