

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

week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020) - week 49 (29/11/2020-05/12/2020)

Report prepared by HPSC on 08/12/2020

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 49 (29/11/2020 – 05/12/2020). 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 49 (29/11/2020 – 05/12/2020). 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 – week 49, Ireland, (n=3,783)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	48,176	-
Total number of HCW cases	3,783	7.9%
Median age (IQR [^])	40 (29-50) years	-
Total number hospitalised	88	2.3%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	43.5 (33-56) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	7	7.8%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	48 (43-54) years	-
Total number of deaths	0	0.0%

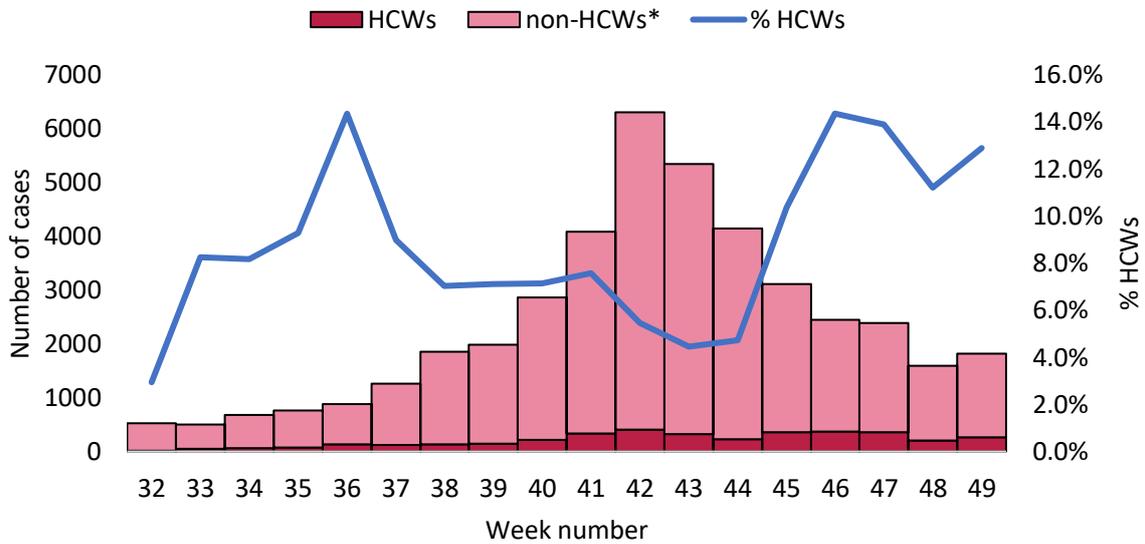
[^] Interquartile range. *This relates to hospitalised cases and is 0.2% of all HCW cases.

From week 32 to week 49, there was a total of 48,176 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 3,783 (7.9%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

For the period from week 32 to week 49, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 40 years (range 17-73 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.6%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (50.5%), most likely due to some HCW specialities e.g.

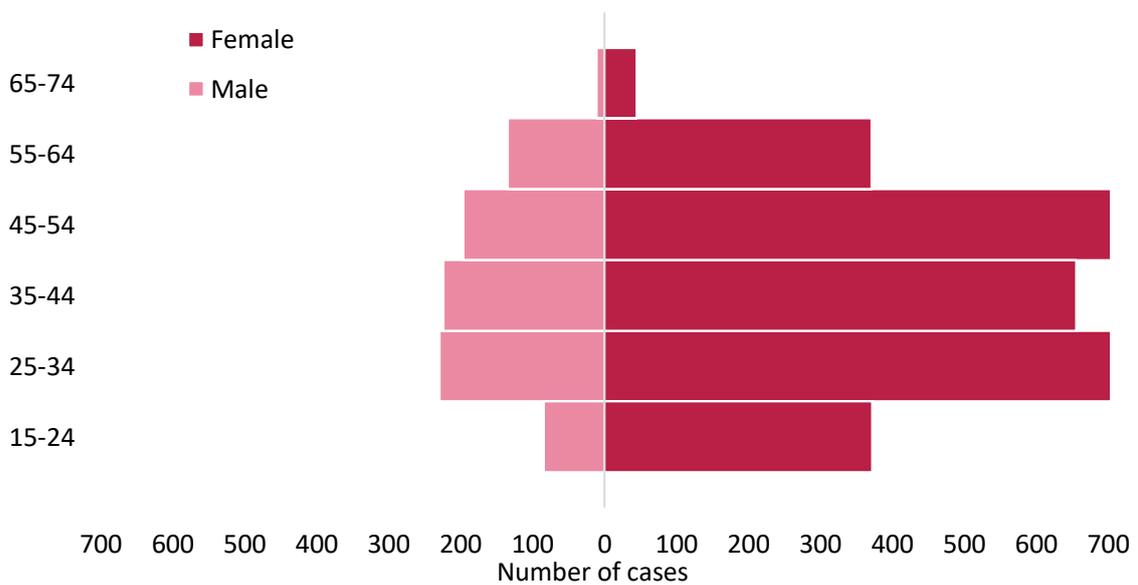
HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre. www.hpsc.ie

nursing, being female dominated. The HSE region with the largest proportion of HCW cases is HSE East (40.8%).



*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 38,738) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=5,655)

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 – week 49, Ireland, (n=48,176)



* Sex was not available for 7 cases.

Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 32- week 49, Ireland, (n= 3,776) *

Of the 3,783 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 32 and week 49, 263 (7.0%) cases were reported in week 49.

HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre. www.hpsc.ie

Table 2: Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group, HSE area and underlying clinical conditions, week 32- week 49, Ireland, (n=3,783)

		Number of HCW cases (n=3,783)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	2,898	76.6
Age-group (years)	15-24	456	12.1
	25-34	975	25.8
	35-44	880	23.3
	45-54	909	24.0
	55-64	506	13.4
	65-74	56	1.5
	Unknown	1	0.03
HSE area	HSE E	1,542	40.8
	HSE M	263	7.0
	HSE MW	271	7.2
	HSE NE	489	12.9
	HSE NW	360	9.5
	HSE SE	231	6.1
	HSE S	366	9.7
	HSE W	261	6.9
Underlying clinical conditions	Yes	909	24.0
	No	2,747	72.6
	Unknown	127	3.4

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 32 - week 49, Ireland, (n=3,783)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Nurse	931	24.6
	Healthcare assistant	902	23.8
	Admin/Clerical worker	220	5.8
	Doctor	171	4.5
	Catering/Kitchen worker	138	3.7
	Cleaning/household staff	92	2.4
	Pharmacy worker	79	2.1
	Homecare	56	1.5
	Physiotherapist	54	1.4
	Porter	42	1.1
	Paramedic	37	1.0
	Radiographer	26	0.7
	Student nurse	21	0.6
	Occupational therapist	17	0.5
	Other HCW	438	11.6
	Unknown	559	14.8
Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	1,269	33.5
	Nursing Home	877	23.2
	Community services	307	8.1
	Centre for Disabilities	148	3.9
	Community Hospital/LSU	135	3.6
	GP surgery	58	1.5
	Mental Health Facility	54	1.4
	Hospice	18	0.5
	Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel	15	0.4
	Other HCW place of work	317	8.4
	Unknown	585	15.5

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 32- week 49, Ireland, (n=3,783)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	2,120	56.0
	Indian subcontinent	283	7.5
	Black African	202	5.3
	Mixed background	35	0.9
	Roma	20	0.5
	Black other	16	0.4
	Other	189	5.0
	Unknown	918	24.3
Country of birth	Ireland	1,613	42.6
	India	235	6.2
	Nigeria	116	3.1
	Philippines	138	3.7
	Poland	54	1.4
	United Kingdom	55	1.4
	Romania	40	1.1
	Other countries	356	9.4
	Unknown	1,176	31.0

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 32 and week 49, 2,349 (62%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 49 114 (43%) 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 32 - week 49, Ireland, (n=3,783)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Private house	682	18.0
Nursing home	636	16.8
Hospital	590	15.6
Residential institution	159	4.2
Other healthcare service	53	1.4
Community outbreak	42	1.1
Workplace	42	1.1
Extended family	33	0.9
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	28	0.7
Social gathering	26	0.7
Other	58	1.5
Not linked to an outbreak	1,434	37.9

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 32 - week 49, Ireland, (n=3,783)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Mode of transmission	Healthcare setting acquired: staff	1,324	35.0
	Close contact with a known confirmed case	1,116	29.5
	Community transmission	792	20.9
	Healthcare setting acquired: patient*	105	2.8
	Travel related	43	1.1
	Under investigation	403	10.7

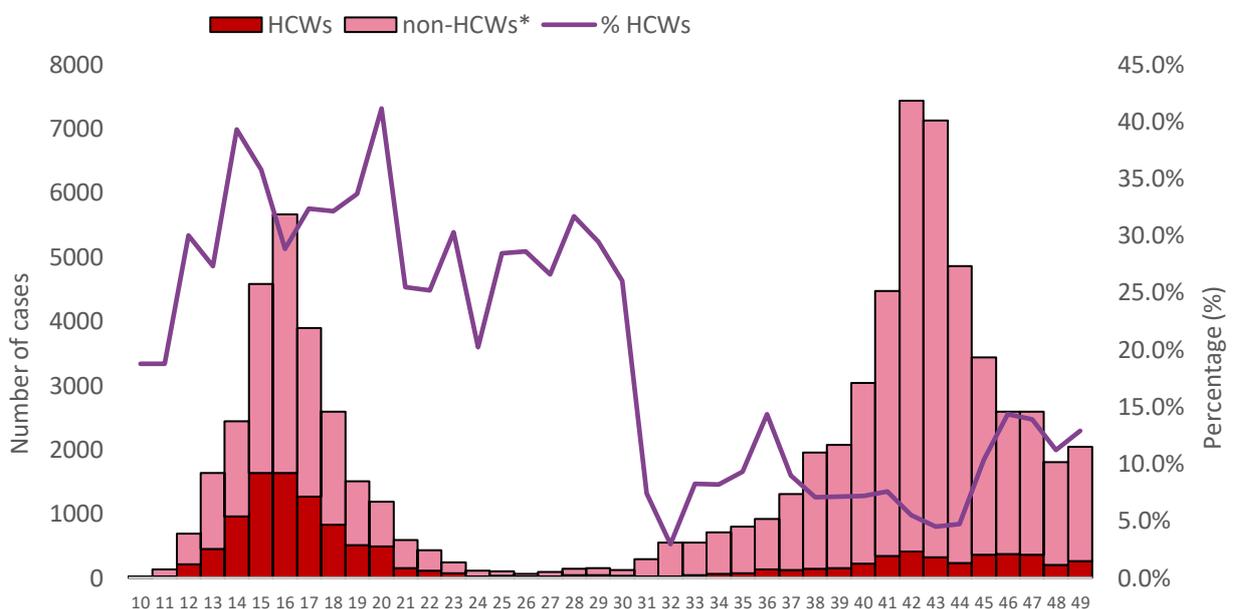
Appendix A

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 49, Ireland, (n=12,329)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	74,795	-
Total number of HCW cases	12,329	16.5%
Median age (IQR)	41 (31-50) years	-
Total number hospitalised	402	3.3%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	46 (34-54) years	-
Total number admitted to ICU	61	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.



*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 52,978) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=9,488)

Figure A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 49, Ireland, (n=74,795)

HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre. www.hpsc.ie

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.