

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

Report prepared by HPSC on 04/08/2020

Note: Data are provisional

Summary

Healthcare worker (HCW) 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.

This report includes data as of 4^h August 2020 at 9:15 am for events created on CIDR up to midnight Saturday 1st August 2020.

| Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases | Number | % |
|--|------------------|-------|
| Total number of COVID-19 cases | 26628 | - |
| Total number of HCW cases | 8500 | 31.9 |
| Number of new cases reported between 26 July – 1 August | 19 | - |
| Median age (IQR) | 41 (31-50) years | - |
| Total number hospitalised | 327 | 3.8 |
| The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient | 46 (34-53) years | |
| Total number admitted to ICU | 53 | 16.2* |
| The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU | 51 (43-60) years | - |
| Total number of deaths | 8** | 0.09 |
| The median age (range) for deaths | 54 (30-68) years | - |

*This relates to hospitalised cases and it is 0.6% of all HCW cases.

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

There was a total of 26628 COVID-19 cases reported as of 01/08/2020 12.00 midnight, 8500 (31.9%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

The median age of COVID-19 case HCWs is 41 years (range 17-81 years). The proportion of females is disproportionately high (74.0%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.0%), most likely due to some HCW specialities e.g. nursing, being female dominated. The majority (58.3%) of notified HCWs were from the HSE East. CIDR (Computerised Infectious Diseases Reporting) is a dynamic information system and data are continuously validated and updated.

This report includes all HCW COVID-19 cases (n=8500) reported to HPSC, including confirmed, probable and possible cases. There are 63 (0.7%) probable or possible HCW COVID-19 cases included in the report.

Table 1. Number and proportion of HCW COVID-19 cases by epidemiological week

| Epi Week (Calendar Date) | Number of HCWs | Total number of cases* | Proportion of HCWs (%) |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 10 (1 – 7, March) | 3 | 16 | 18.8 |
| 11 (8 – 14, March) | 23 | 128 | 18.0 |
| 12 (15 – 21, March) | 205 | 683 | 30.0 |
| 13 (22 – 28, March) | 441 | 1631 | 27.0 |
| 14 (29 March - 4 April) | 945 | 2433 | 38.8 |
| 15 (5 – 11, April) | 1631 | 4580 | 35.6 |
| 16 (12 – 18, April) | 1624 | 5664 | 28.7 |
| 17 (19 - 25, April) | 1252 | 3892 | 32.2 |
| 18 (26 April – 2 May) | 825 | 2583 | 31.9 |
| 19 (3 –9 May) | 501 | 1500 | 33.4 |
| 20 (10-16 May) | 487 | 1187 | 41.0 |
| 21 (17-23 May) | 149 | 585 | 25.5 |
| 22 (24-30 May) | 106 | 425 | 24.9 |
| 23 (31 May - 6 June) | 73 | 243 | 30.0 |
| 24 (7 – 13 June) | 23 | 114 | 20.2 |
| 25 (14-20 June) | 29 | 102 | 28.4 |
| 26 (21-27 June) | 18 | 63 | 28.6 |
| 27 (28 June- 4 July) | 25 | 94 | 26.6 |
| 28 (5-11 July) | 43 | 139 | 30.9 |
| 29 (12- 18 July) | 45 | 154 | 29.2 |
| 30 (19-25 July) | 33 | 124 | 26.6 |
| 31 (26 July – 1 August) | 19 | 288 | 6.6 |
| Total | 8500 | 26628 | 31.9 |

*including HCWs; confirmed, probable and possible cases.

Figure 1. Proportion of HCW and non-HCW COVID-19 cases by week in which case was notified (n= 26628)

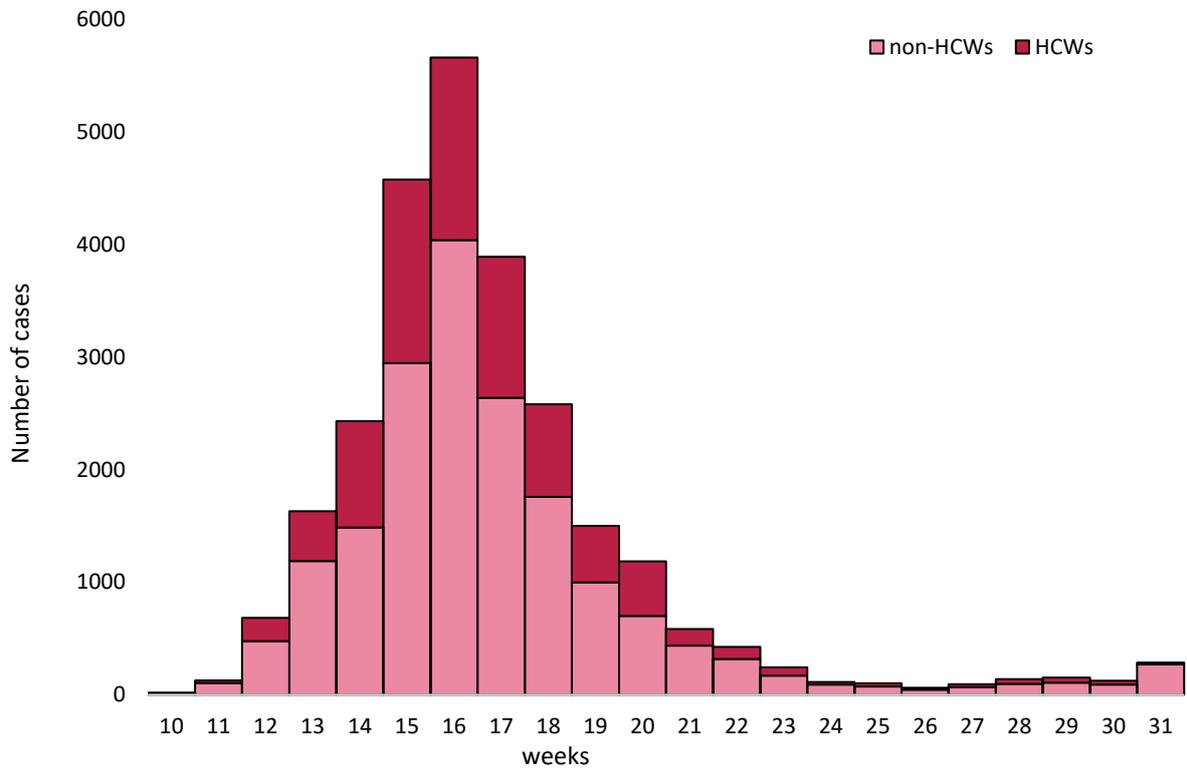
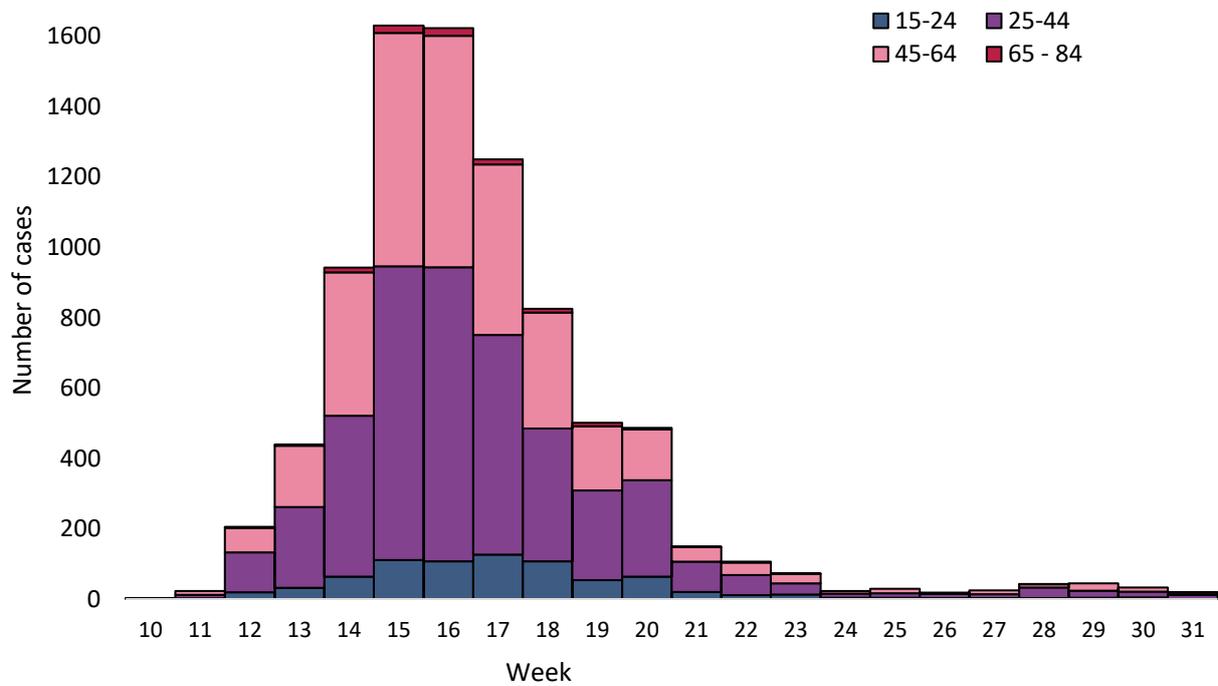
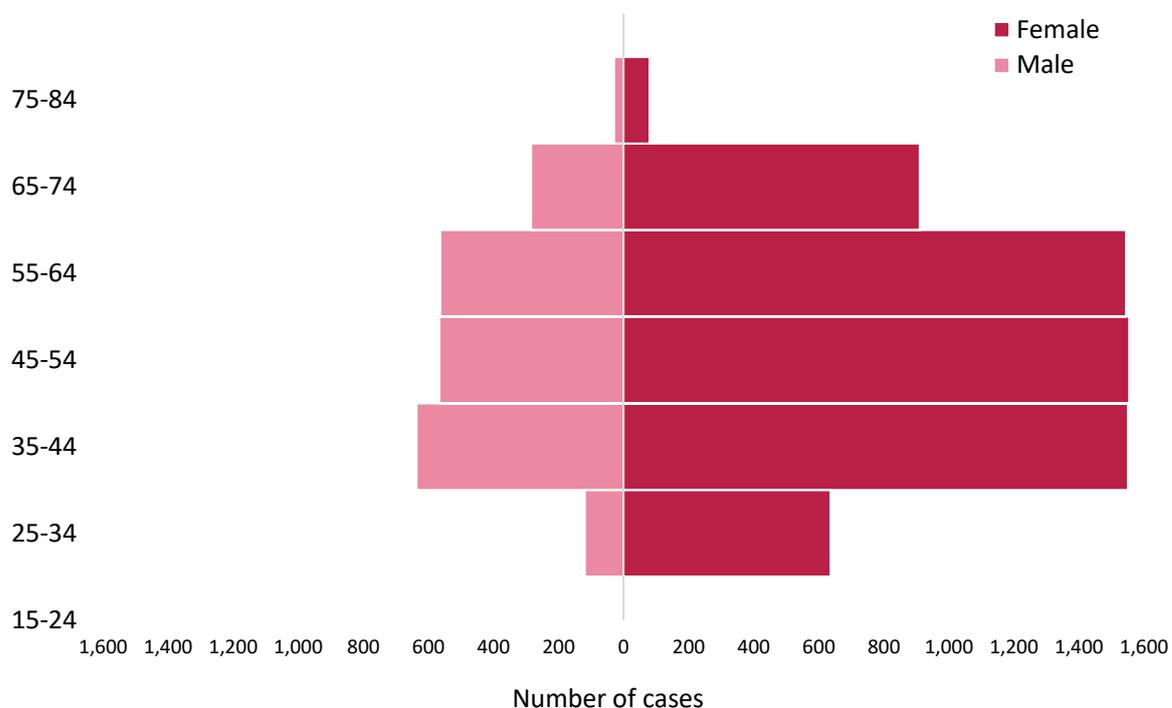


Figure 2. Distribution of HCW COVID-19 cases by week in which case was notified * and age group (n=8491)



* Age was not available for 9 cases.

Figure 3. Distribution of HCW COVID-19 cases by age and sex (n=8476) *



* Age and sex were not available for 24 cases.

Table 2. Number and proportion of HCW COVID-19 cases by HSE area

| HSE area | Number of HCWs cases | Proportion of all HCW cases | Number of new HCW cases since last week |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| HSE E | 4956 | 58.3% | 13 |
| HSE M | 453 | 5.3% | 0 |
| HSE MW | 369 | 4.3% | <5 |
| HSE NE | 1172 | 13.8% | <5 |
| HSE NW | 309 | 3.6% | <5 |
| HSE SE | 349 | 4.1% | 0 |
| HSE S | 460 | 5.4% | <5 |
| HSE W | 432 | 5.1% | <5 |
| Total | 8500 | 100.0% | 19 |

Table 3. Number and proportion of HCW COVID-19 cases by CHO area

| CHO area | Number of HCWs cases | Proportion of all HCW cases | Number of new HCW cases since last week |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| CHO1 | 828 | 9.7% | <5 |
| CHO2 | 432 | 5.1% | <5 |
| CHO3 | 369 | 4.3% | <5 |
| CHO4 | 460 | 5.4% | <5 |
| CHO5 | 349 | 4.1% | 0 |
| CHO6 | 916 | 10.8% | <5 |
| CHO7 | 1822 | 21.5% | 5 |
| CHO8 | 1106 | 13.0% | <5 |
| CHO9 | 2218 | 26.1% | 7 |
| Total | 8500 | 100.0% | 19 |

Table 4. Number and proportion of HCW COVID-19 cases by role

| HCW Role | Number of HCWs cases | Proportion of all HCW cases | Number of new HCW cases since last week |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Nurse | 2746 | 32.3% | <5 |
| Healthcare assistant | 2261 | 26.7% | <5 |
| Doctor | 524 | 6.1% | 0 |
| Porter | 97 | 1.1% | <5 |
| Other HCW | 1995 | 23.5% | 7 |
| Unknown | 877 | 10.4% | 5 |
| Total | 8500 | 100.0% | 19 |

Table 5. Number and proportion of HCW COVID-19 cases linked to an outbreak by outbreak location

| Outbreak location | Number of HCWs cases | Proportion of all HCW cases | Number of new HCW cases since last week |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Nursing home | 2096 | 24.8% | 0 |
| Hospital | 727 | 8.5% | 0 |
| Private house | 688 | 8.1% | <5 |
| Residential institution | 444 | 5.2% | 0 |
| Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit | 233 | 2.7% | <5 |
| Workplace | 33 | 0.4% | 0 |
| Travel related | 30 | 0.3% | <5 |
| Extended family | 17 | 0.2% | 0 |
| Community outbreak | 14 | 0.2% | 0 |
| Public house | 2 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Restaurant / Cafe | 1 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Hotel | 1 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Unknown | 1 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Not Specified | 1 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Other | 22 | 0.3% | 0 |
| Not linked to an outbreak | 4190 | 49.3% | 16 |
| Total | 8500 | 100.0% | 19 |

Table 6. Number and proportion of HCW COVID-19 cases with underlying medical conditions

| Underlying clinical conditions | Number | Percentage |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Yes | 2957 | 34.8% |
| No | 4735 | 55.7% |
| Unknown | 808 | 9.5% |
| Total | 8500 | 100.0% |

Table 7. Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by WHO transmission classification*

| Transmission classification* | Number | Percentage |
|--|--------|------------|
| Community transmission - including possible community transmission** | 1180 | 13.9% |
| Local transmission | 7173 | 84.4% |
| Travel related | 147 | 1.7% |
| Total | 8500 | 100.0% |

*WHO definition of transmission classification is specified below:

- Community transmission is evidenced by the inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases, or by increasing positive tests through routine screening of sentinel samples.

- Local transmission indicates locations where the source of infection is within the reporting location.

- Imported cases only indicates locations where all cases have been acquired outside the location of reporting.

** Community transmission relates to those in table 11 below who are in the two categories community transmission and under investigation.

‘Most likely source of transmission’ is a composite variable created by combining several data fields on CIDR. The rate of HCWs with ‘under investigation’ transmission source category (n=865 10.1%) is expected to decrease due to continuous improvement of the transmission source variable algorithm and the completeness of surveillance data.

Table 8. Most likely source of transmission of COVID-19 in HCWs

| Likely source of transmission | Number | Percentage |
|---|--------|------------|
| Healthcare setting acquired: staff* | 6198 | 73.0% |
| Close contact with a known confirmed case | 962 | 11.2% |
| Travel related | 147 | 1.7% |
| Community transmission | 315 | 3.7% |
| Healthcare setting acquired: patient | 13 | 0.2% |
| Under investigation | 865 | 10.1% |
| Total | 8500 | 100.0% |

*Includes HCWs with most likely source of transmission notified as ‘Healthcare setting acquired: staff’ AND HCWs with most likely source of transmission field not completed on CIDR who had close contact with a COVID-19 case in healthcare or workplace setting AND HCWs with most likely source of transmission field not completed on CIDR who are linked to an outbreak in a Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit / Hospital / Nursing home.

Acknowledgements

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