

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

Report prepared by HPSC on 20/07/2020

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 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 20th July 2020 at 9:15 am for events created on CIDR up to midnight Saturday 18th July 2020.

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	26220	-
Total number of HCW cases	8405	32.1
Number of new cases reported between 12 - 18 July	44	-
Median age (IQR)	41 (31-50) years	-
Total number hospitalised	322	3.8
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	46 (34-53) years	-
Total number admitted to ICU	49	15.3*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	50 (43-60) years	-
Total number of deaths	7**	0.08
The median age (range) for deaths	51 (30-68) years	-

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

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

There was a total of 26220 COVID-19 cases reported as of 18/07/2020 12.00 midnight, 8405 (32.1%) 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 (49.2%), 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=8405) reported to HPSC, including confirmed, probable and possible cases. There are 63 (0.8%) 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)	206	683	30.2
13 (22 – 28, March)	436	1631	26.7
14 (29 March - 4 April)	939	2434	38.6
15 (5 – 11, April)	1626	4580	35.5
16 (12 – 18, April)	1617	5664	28.5
17 (19 - 25, April)	1243	3892	31.9
18 (26 April – 2 May)	818	2584	31.7
19 (3 –9 May)	499	1500	33.3
20 (10-16 May)	487	1187	41.0
21 (17-23 May)	148	585	25.3
22 (24-30 May)	105	425	24.7
23 (31 May - 6 June)	72	243	29.6
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)	44	139	31.7
29 (12- 18 July)	44	156	28.2
Total	8405	26220	32.1

*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= 26220)

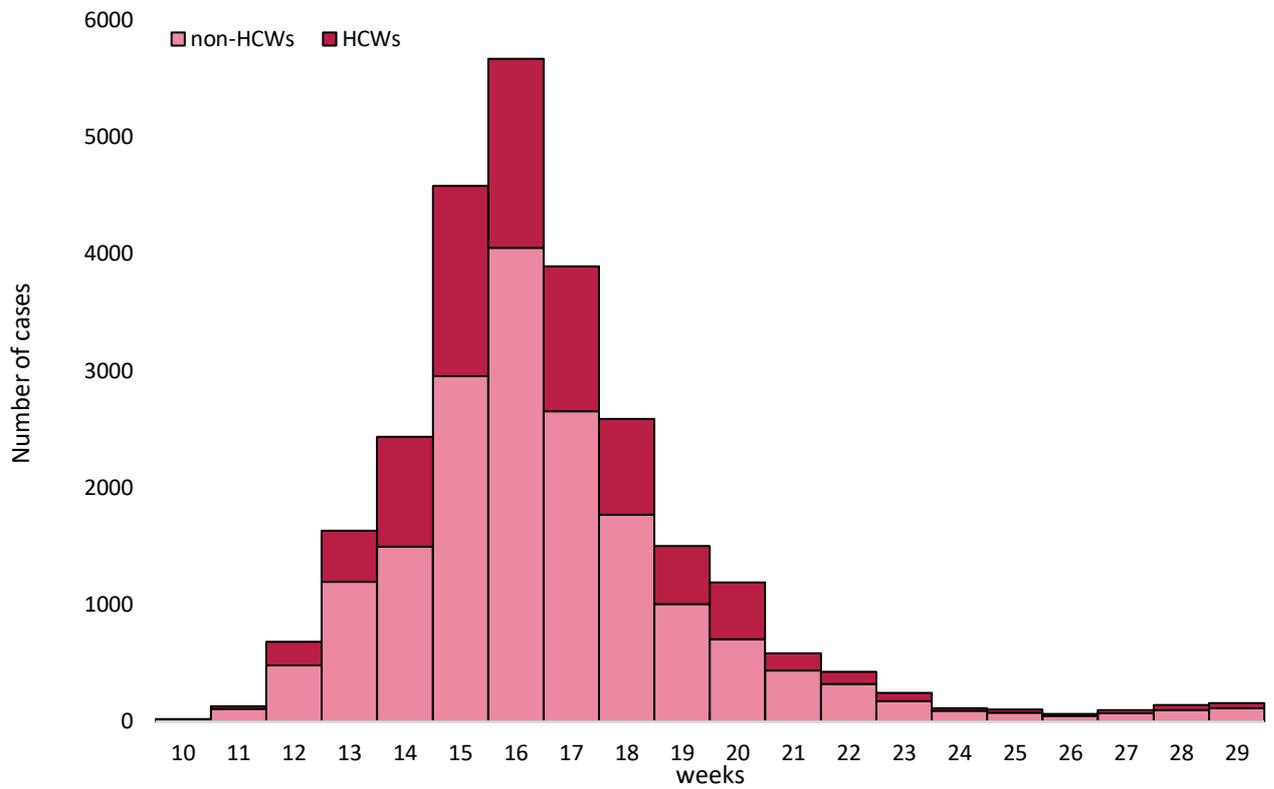
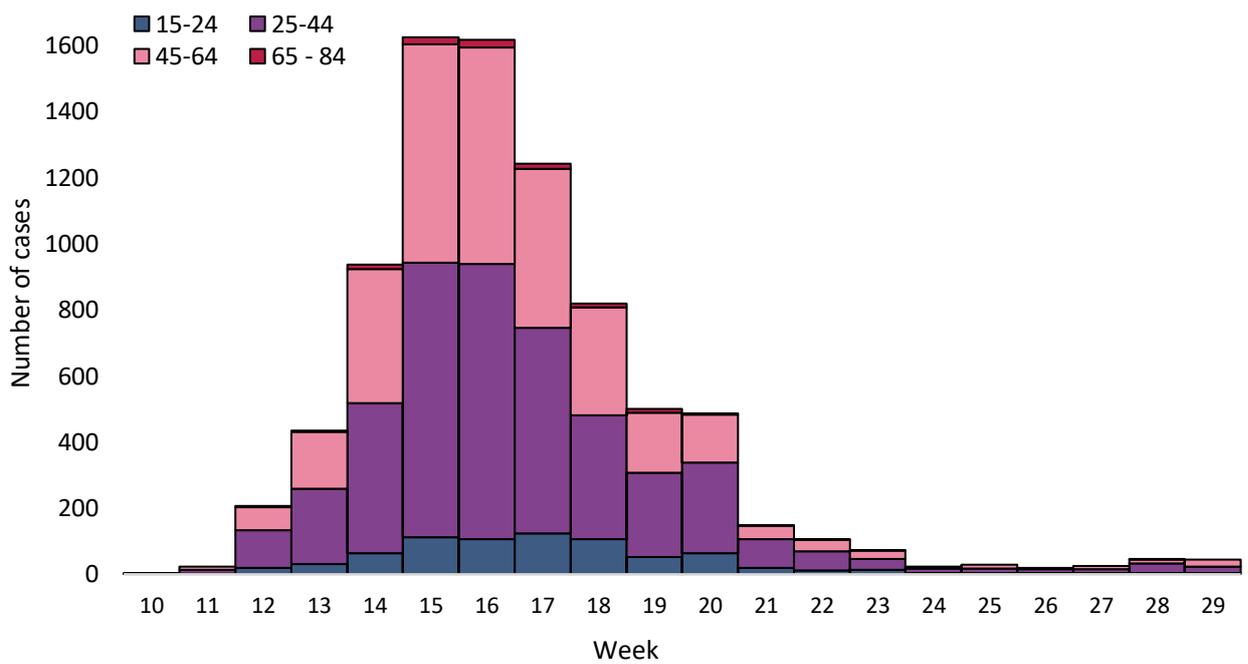
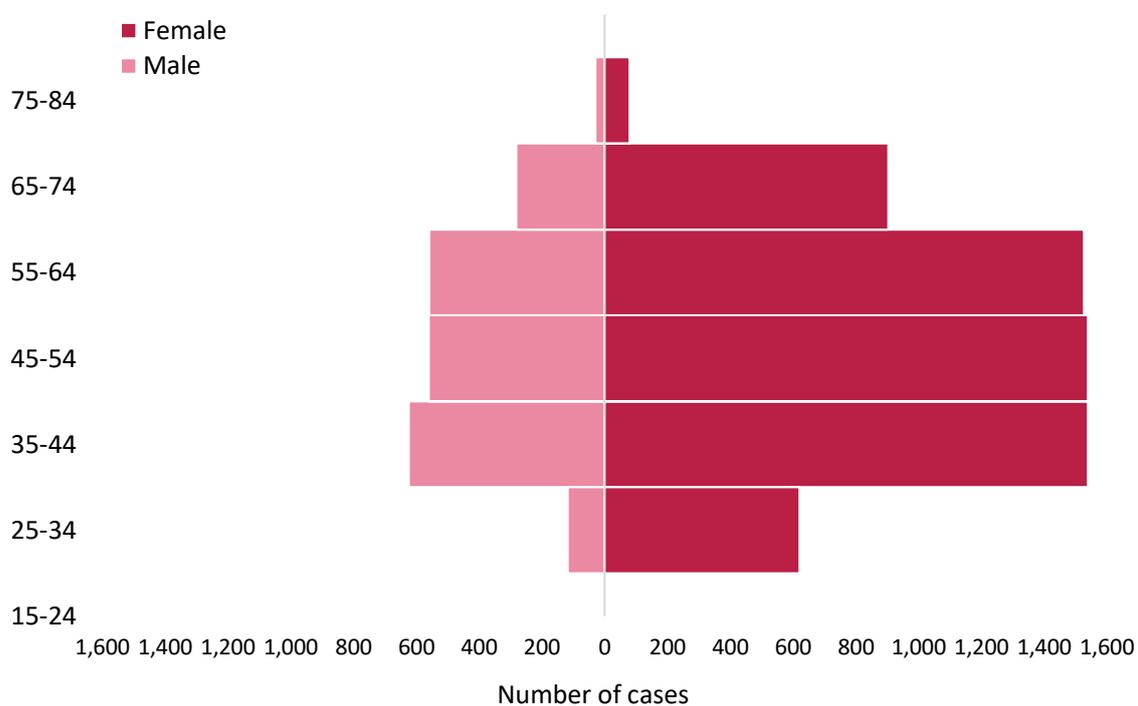


Figure 2. Distribution of HCW COVID-19 cases by week in which case was notified * and age group (n=8396)



* Age was not available for 9 cases.

Figure 3. Distribution of HCW COVID-19 cases by age and sex (n=8381) *



* 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	4903	58.3%	26
HSE M	451	5.4%	-
HSE MW	365	4.3%	-
HSE NE	1155	13.7%	6
HSE NW	309	3.7%	<5
HSE SE	341	4.1%	<5
HSE S	451	5.4%	7
HSE W	430	5.1%	<5
Total	8405	100.0%	44

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

CHO area	Number of HCWs cases	Proportion of all HCWcases	Number of new HCW cases since last week
CHO1	826	9.8%	<5
CHO2	430	5.1%	<5
CHO3	365	4.3%	-
CHO4	451	5.3%	7
CHO5	341	4.1%	<5
CHO6	908	10.8%	<5
CHO7	1804	21.5%	10
CHO8	1089	13.0%	5
CHO9	2191	26.1%	12
Total	8405	100.0%	44

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	2725	32.4%	10
Healthcare assistant	2213	26.4%	16
Doctor	519	6.1%	<5
Other HCW	2088		13
Unknown	860	10.3%	<5
Total	8405	100.0%	44

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	2061	24.6%	11
Hospital	725	8.6%	-
Private house	631	7.5%	-
Residential institution	442	5.3%	-
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	222	2.6%	-
Workplace	35	0.4%	-
Travel related	32	0.4%	<5
Extended family	16	0.2%	-
Community outbreak	14	0.2%	-
Public house	2	0.0%	-
Restaurant / Cafe	1	0.0%	-
Unknown	1	0.0%	-
Not Specified	1	0.0%	-
Other	17	0.2%	-
Not linked to an outbreak	4205	50.0%	32
Total	8405	100.0%	44

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

Underlying clinical conditions	Number	Percentage
Yes	2933	34.9%
No	4687	55.7%
Unknown	785	9.4%
Total	8405	100.0%

Table 10. Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by WHO transmission classification*

Transmission classification*	Number	Percentage
Community transmission - including possible community transmission**	1300	15.5%
Local transmission	6960	82.8%
Travel related	145	1.7%
Total	8405	100%

*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=1011 12.0%) is expected to decrease due to continuous improvement of the transmission source variable algorithm and the completeness of surveillance data.

Table 11. Most likely source of transmission of COVID-19 in HCWs

Likely source of transmission	Number	Percentage
Healthcare setting acquired: staff*	6010	71.6%
Close contact with a known confirmed case	939	11.1%
Travel related	145	1.7%
Community transmission	289	3.5%
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	11	0.1%
Under investigation	1011	12.0%
Total	8405	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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