

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

Week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 17, 2021 (25/04/2021-01/05/2021)

Report prepared by HPSC on 04/05/2021

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 17, 2021 (25/04/2021-01/05/2021). 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 17, 2021 (25/04/2021-01/05/2021). 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. A HCW occupation does not indicate that COVID-19 was contracted during the course of a person's occupation/employment.

Summary

From week 48, 2020 to week 17, 2021, there was a total of 179,525 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 16,775 (9.3%) were healthcare workers (HCWs). Of the 16,775 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 48, 2020 and week 17, 2021, 69 (0.4%) cases were reported in week 17, 2021.

Table 1: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 17, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,775)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	16,775	100%
Median age (IQR[^])	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	392	2.3%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (32-54.5) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	41	0.2%
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	51 (44-58) years	-
Total number of deaths	9*	0.05%
The median age (range) for deaths	60 (45-65) years	

[^] Interquartile range.

*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

For the period from week 48, 2020 to week 17, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 41 years (range 16 -80 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.7%) 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 HSE region with the largest proportion of HCW cases is HSE East (35.4%).

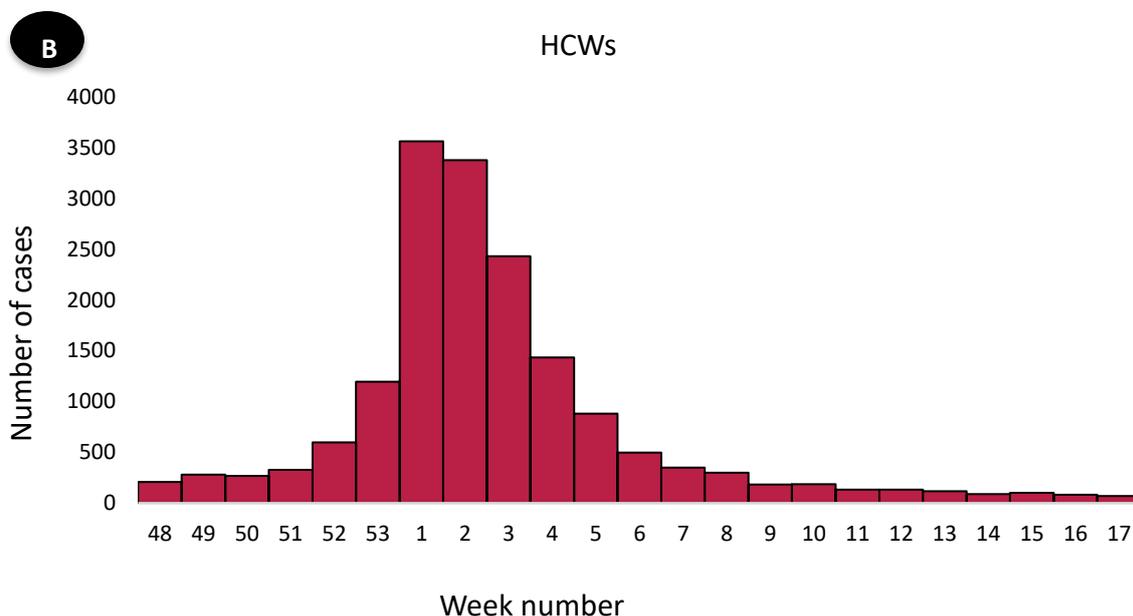
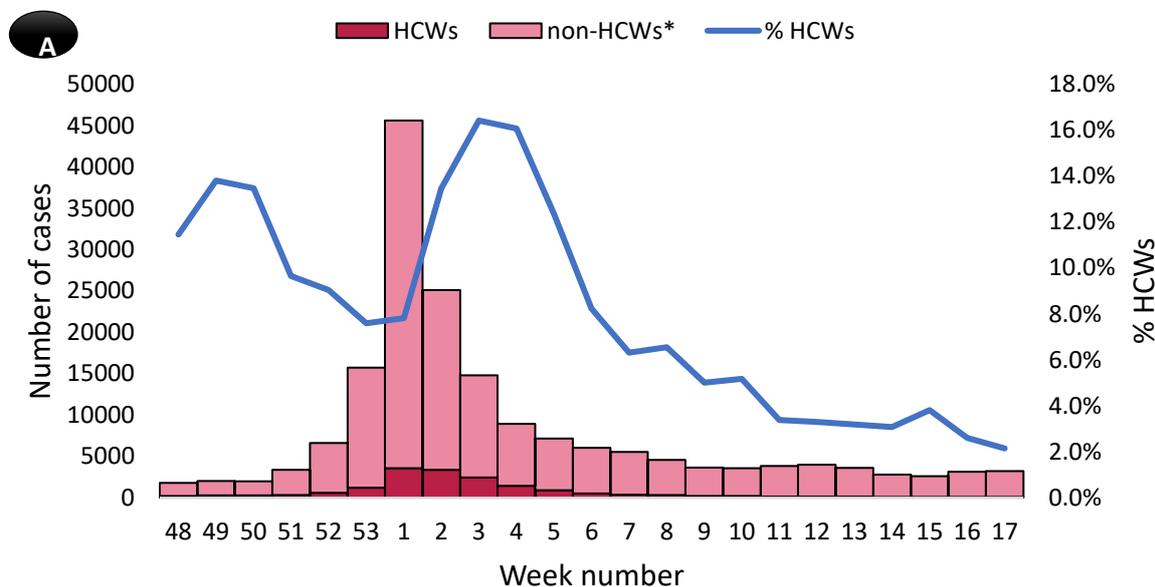


Figure 1A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of weekly cases identified as HCWs, notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 17, 2021, Ireland, (n=179,525); **Figure 1B:** Showing HCWs only for the same time period.

*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 151,034) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11,716)

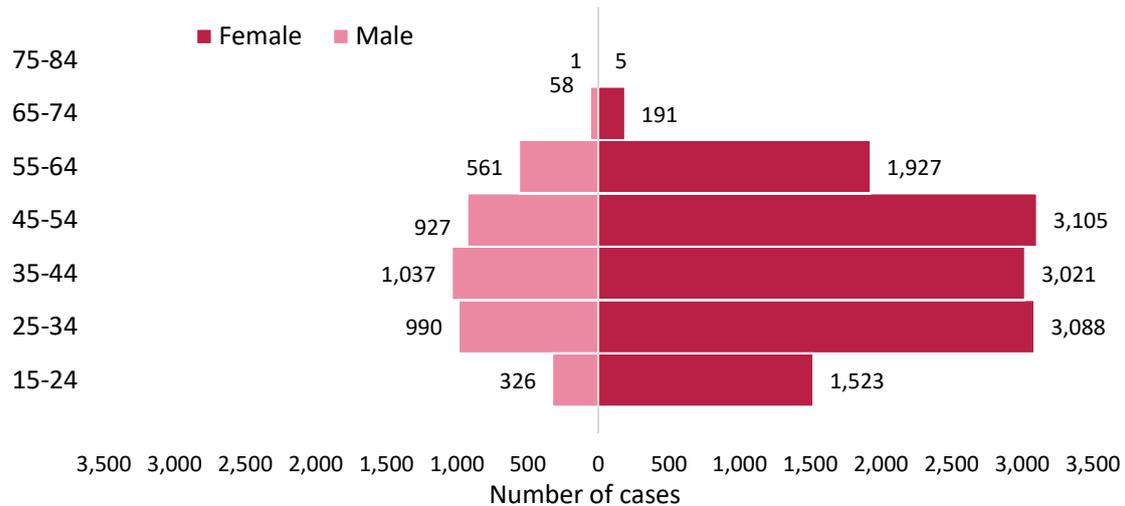


Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020-week 17, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,760) *

* Sex or age 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 17, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,775)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,775)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	12,860	76.7
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,850	11.1
	25-34	4,082	24.3
	35-44	4,064	24.2
	45-54	4,034	24.1
	55-64	2,489	14.8
	65-74	249	1.5
	75-84	6	0.0
	Unknown	<5	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	5,933	35.3
	HSE M	803	4.8
	HSE MW	1,421	8.5
	HSE NE	1,943	11.6
	HSE NW	1,001	6.0
	HSE SE	1,768	10.5
	HSE S	2,352	14.0
	HSE W	1,554	9.3

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 17, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,775)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,775)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Healthcare assistant	4,153	24.7
	Nurse	4,072	24.2
	Admin/Clerical worker	1,062	6.3
	Doctor	697	4.2
	Catering/Kitchen worker	688	4.1
	Cleaning/household staff	428	2.6
	Pharmacy worker	392	2.3
	Social work	350	2.1
	Porter	194	1.2
	Homecare	155	0.9
	Physiotherapist	147	0.9
	Paramedic	135	0.8
	Occupational therapist	101	0.6
	Other HCW	1,900	11.4
	Unknown	2,301	13.7
	Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	4,741
Nursing Home		3,662	21.7
Community services		1,411	8.4
Community Hospital/LSU		840	5.0
Centre for disabilities		601	3.6
GP surgery		282	1.7
Mental Health Facility		228	1.4
Hospice		144	0.9
Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel		74	0.4
Other HCW place of work		1,670	10
Unknown		3,122	18.6

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 17, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,775)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,775)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	12,296	73.3
	Indian subcontinent	1,296	7.7
	Black African	768	4.6
	Mixed background	141	0.8
	Black other	60	0.4
	Roma	51	0.3
	Irish Traveller	43	0.3
	Chinese	40	0.2
	Other	798	4.8
	Unknown	1,282	7.6
Country of birth	Ireland	9,839	58.7
	India	1,136	6.8
	Philippines	600	3.6
	Nigeria	424	2.5
	Poland	376	2.2
	Romania	214	1.3
	Brazil	141	0.8
	United Kingdom	133	0.8
	Pakistan	114	0.7
	Other	1,167	7.1
	Unknown	2,631	15.5

Cases linked to outbreaks

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 17, 2021, 6,606 (39.4%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 17, 2021 10 (14.5%) 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 17, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,775)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases (n = 16,775)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	3,158	18.8
Hospital	1,298	7.7
Residential institution	904	5.4
Private house	383	2.3
Comm. Hosp/LSU	307	1.8
Other healthcare service	279	1.7
Extended family	97	0.6
Workplace	49	0.3
Community outbreak	38	0.2
Other	93	0.6
Not linked to outbreak	10,169	60.6

Mode of transmission

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 17, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,775)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases (n = 16,775)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	6,760	40.2
Close contact with a known confirmed case	4,253	25.4
Community transmission	2,658	15.9
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	183	1.1
Travel related	115	0.7
Under investigation	2,806	16.7

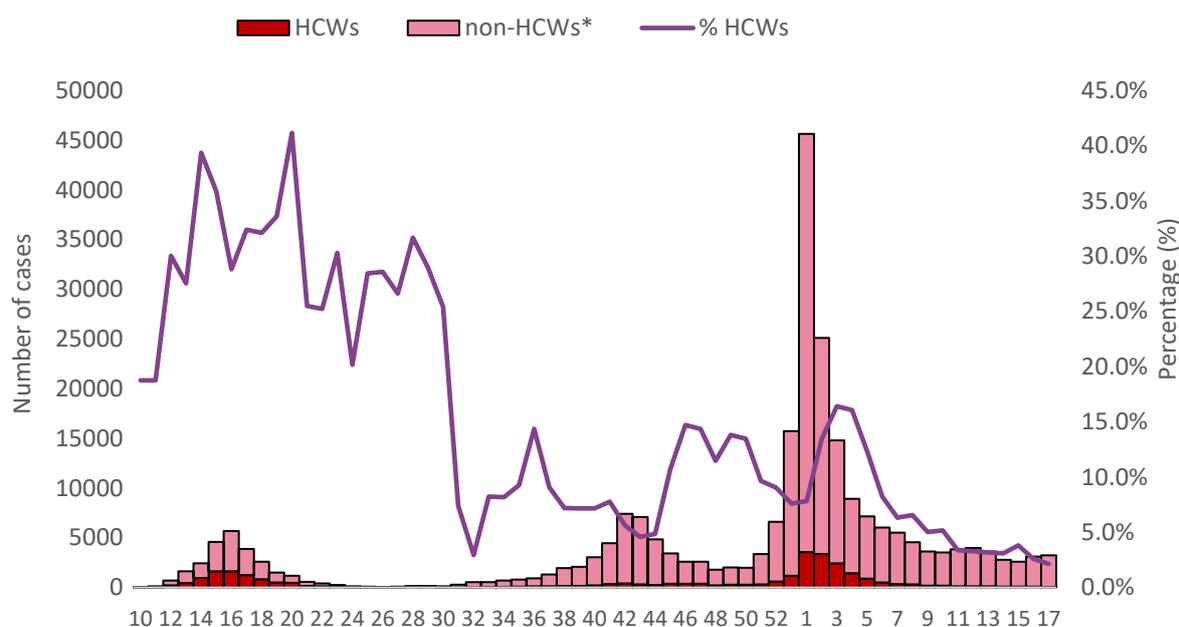
Appendix A

From week 10, 2020 to week 17, 2021, there was a total of 250, 414 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 28,719 (11.4%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 - week 17, 2021, Ireland, (n= 28,719)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	28,719	100%
Median age (IQR)	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	786	2.7%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (33-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	101	0.4%
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 (30-65) years	

*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.



*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 201,105) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 20,590)

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.