

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

Week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 15, 2021 (11/04/2021-17/04/2021)

Report prepared by HPSC on 20/04/2021

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 15, 2021 (11/04/2021-17/04/2021). 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 15, 2021 (11/04/2021-17/04/2021). 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 15, 2021, there was a total of 173,194 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 16,474 (9.5%) were healthcare workers (HCWs). Of the 16,474 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 48, 2020 and week 15, 2021, 81 (0.5%) cases were reported in week 15, 2021.

Table 1: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 15, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,474)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	16,474	100%
Median age (IQR [^])	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	381	2.3%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (32-54) 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 15, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 41 years (range 16 -80 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.6%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.3%), 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 (35.1%).

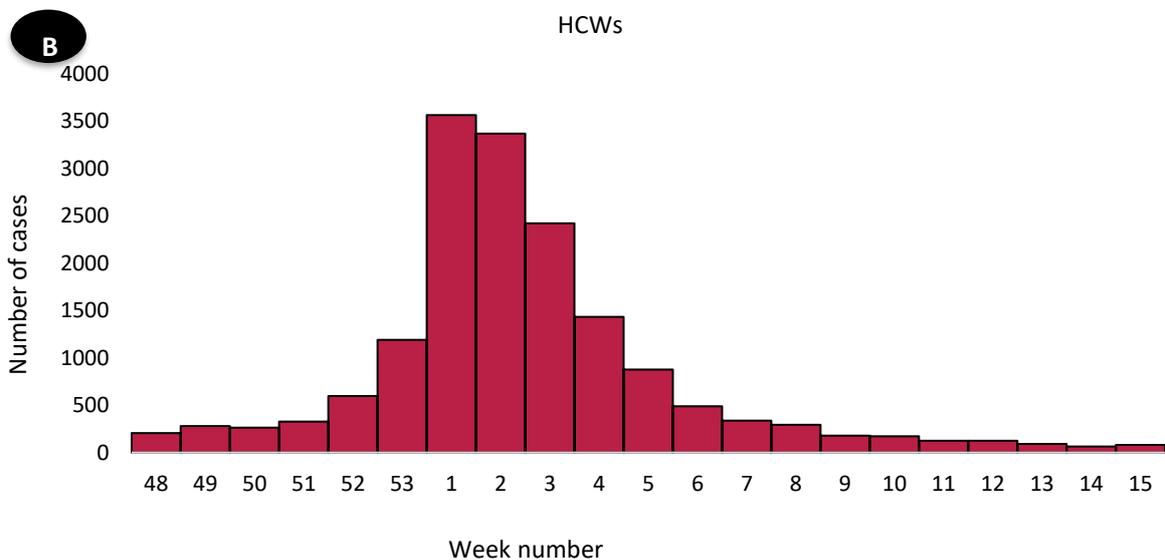
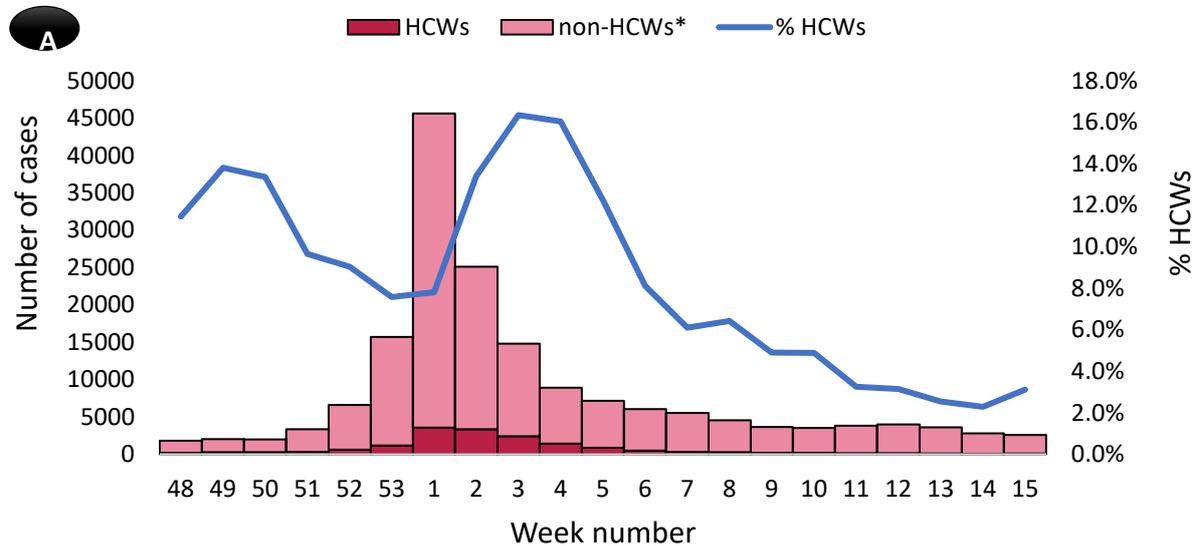


Figure 1A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of weekly cases identified as HCWs, notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 15, 2021, Ireland, (n=173,194); **Figure 1B:** Showing HCWs only for the same time period.

*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 145,106) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11,614)

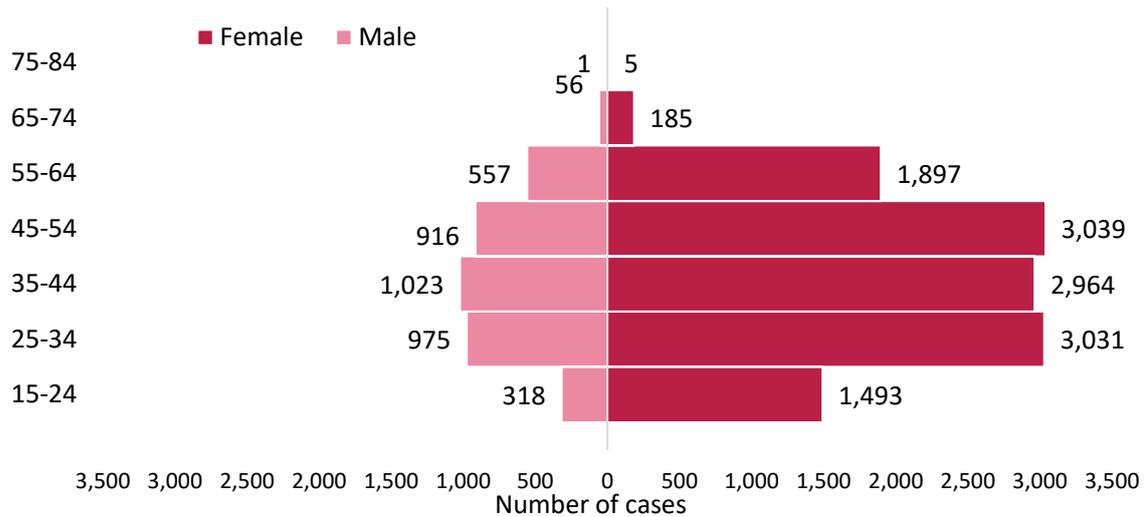


Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020-week 15, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,460) *

* Sex or age was not available for 14 cases.

Table 2: Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group and HSE area, week 48, 2020- week 15, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,474)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,474)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	12,614	76.6
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,812	11.1
	25-34	4,009	24.3
	35-44	3,993	24.2
	45-54	3,957	24.0
	55-64	2,455	14.9
	65-74	241	1.5
	75-84	6	0.0
	Unknown	<5	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	5,788	35.2
	HSE M	780	4.7
	HSE MW	1,387	8.4
	HSE NE	1,913	11.6
	HSE NW	972	5.9
	HSE SE	1,749	10.6
	HSE S	2,345	14.2
	HSE W	1,540	9.4

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 15, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,474)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,474)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Healthcare assistant	4,093	24.8
	Nurse	4,006	24.2
	Admin/Clerical worker	1,028	6.1
	Doctor	689	4.2
	Catering/Kitchen worker	669	4.1
	Cleaning/household staff	407	2.5
	Pharmacy worker	372	2.3
	Social work	344	2.1
	Porter	193	1.2
	Physiotherapist	146	0.9
	Other HCW	2,273	13.9
	Unknown	2,254	13.7
Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	4,678	28.3
	Nursing Home	3,627	22.0
	Community services	1,363	8.3
	Community Hospital/LSU	828	5.0
	Centre for disabilities	585	3.6
	GP surgery	276	1.7
	Mental Health Facility	223	1.4
	Hospice	138	0.8
	Other HCW place of work	1,689	10.3
	Unknown	3,067	18.6

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 15, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,474)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,474)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	12,071	73.3
	Indian subcontinent	1,273	7.7
	Black African	751	4.6
	Mixed background	135	0.8
	Black other	60	0.4
	Roma	51	0.3
	Chinese	40	0.2
	Irish Traveller	40	0.2
	Other	785	4.8
	Unknown	1,268	7.7
Country of birth	Ireland	9,668	58.7
	India	1,117	6.8
	Philippines	586	3.6
	Nigeria	414	2.5
	Poland	362	2.2
	Romania	207	1.3
	Brazil	138	0.8
	United Kingdom	110	0.7
	Pakistan	106	0.6
	Other	1,142	7.0
	Unknown	2,624	15.8

Cases linked to outbreaks

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 15, 2021, 6,402 (38.9%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 15, 2021 13 (16.0%) 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 15, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,474)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases (n = 16,474)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	3,075	18.6
Hospital	1,181	7.1
Residential institution	910	5.5
Private house	354	2.2
Comm. Hosp/LSU	322	2.0
Other healthcare service	294	1.8
Extended family	91	0.6
Workplace	49	0.3
Community outbreak	34	0.2
Other	92	0.6
Not linked to outbreak	10,072	61.1

Mode of transmission

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 15, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,474)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases (n = 16,474)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	6,615	40.2
Close contact with a known confirmed case	4,097	24.8
Community transmission	2,628	16.0
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	215	1.3
Travel related	99	0.6
Under investigation	2,820	17.1

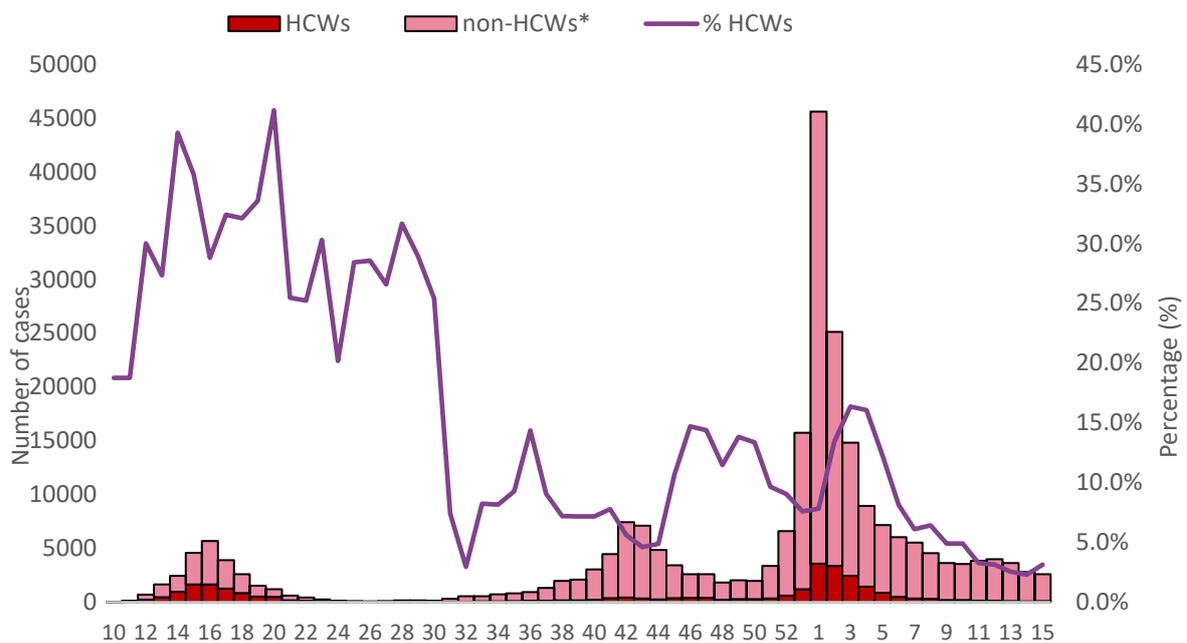
Appendix A

From week 10, 2020 to week 15, 2021, there was a total of 244,083 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 28,407 (11.6%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 - week 15, 2021, Ireland, (n= 28,407)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	28,407	100%
Median age (IQR)	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	775	2.7%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (33-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	101	0.3%
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= 195,157) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 20,519)

Figure A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 -week 15, 2021, Ireland, (n=244,083)

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.