

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

**Week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 13, 2021 (28/03/2021-03/04/2021)**

Report prepared by HPSC on 06/04/2021

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 13, 2021 (28/03/2021-03/04/2021). 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 13, 2021 (28/03/2021-03/04/2021). 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.

### Summary

From week 48, 2020 to week 13, 2021, there was a total of 167,826 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 16,337 (9.7%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

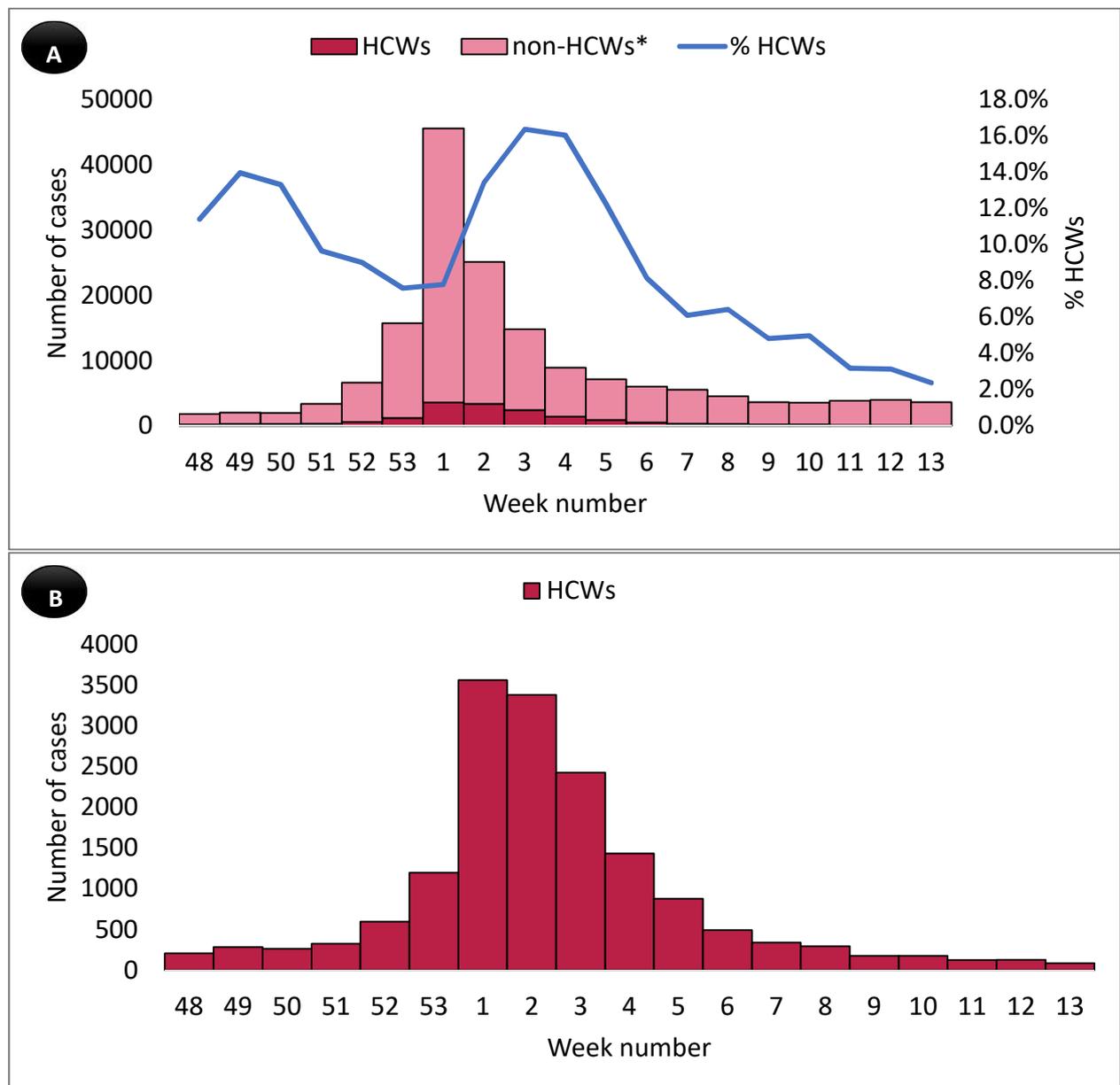
**Table 1:** Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 13, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,337)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	16,337	100%
Median age (IQR <sup>^</sup> )	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	386	2.36%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (32-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	39	0.24%
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	50 (44-58.5) years	-
Total number of deaths	7*	0.04%
The median age (range) for deaths	60 (56-62) years	

<sup>^</sup> Interquartile range.

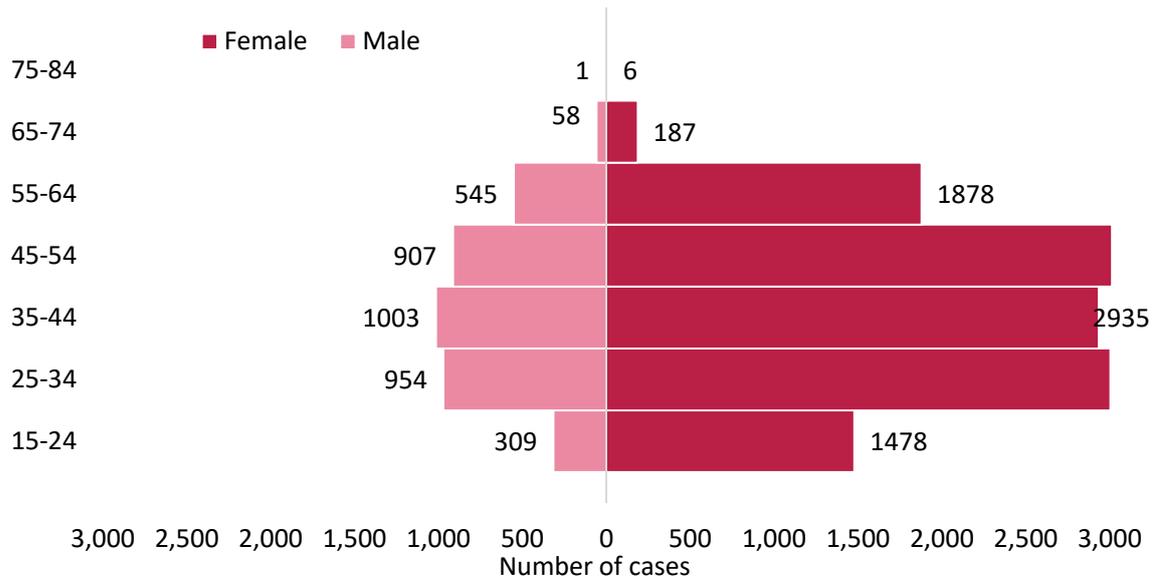
\*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

For the period from week 48, 2020 to week 13, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 41 years (range 16 -80 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.5%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.4%), 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%). Of the 16,337 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 48, 2020 and week 13, 2021, 86 (0.5%) cases were reported in week 13, 2021.



**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 13, 2021, Ireland, (n=167,826); **Figure 1B:** Showing HCWs only for the same time period.

\*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 140,418) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11,071)



**Figure 2:** Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020-week 13, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,324)\*

\* Sex was not available for 13 cases.

**Table 2:** Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group and HSE area, week 48, 2020- week 13, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,337)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,337)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	12,500	76.5
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,794	11.0
	25-34	3,977	24.3
	35-44	3,956	24.2
	45-54	3,928	24.0
	55-64	2,429	14.9
	65-74	245	1.5
	75-84	8	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	5,722	35.0
	HSE M	758	4.6
	HSE MW	1,395	8.5
	HSE NE	1,909	11.7
	HSE NW	956	5.9
	HSE SE	1,740	10.7
	HSE S	2,329	14.3
	HSE W	1,528	9.4

**Table 3:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 13, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,337)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,337)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Healthcare assistant	4,049	24.8
	Nurse	3,968	24.3
	Admin/Clerical worker	1012	6.2
	Doctor	684	4.2
	Catering/Kitchen worker	660	4.0
	Cleaning/household staff	404	2.5
	Pharmacy worker	370	2.3
	Social work	342	2.1
	Porter	192	1.2
	Physiotherapist	142	0.9
	Paramedic	132	0.8
	Homecare	125	0.8
	Occupational therapist	100	0.6
	Student nurse	83	0.5
	Radiographer	80	0.5
	Maintenance worker	67	0.4
	Medical student/student doctor	43	0.3
	Speech and language therapist	28	0.2
	Dietician	12	0.1
	Other HCW	1,550	9.5
Unknown	2,294	14.0	
Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	4,624	28.3
	Nursing Home	3,588	22.0
	Community services	1,338	8.2
	Community Hospital/LSU	824	5.0
	Centre for disabilities	569	3.5
	GP surgery	271	1.7
	Mental Health Facility	224	1.4
	Hospice	136	0.8
	Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel	69	0.4
	Prison	13	0.1
	Other HCW place of work	1,581	9.7
	Unknown	3,100	19.0

**Table 4:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 13, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,337)

		Number of HCW cases (n = 16,337)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	11,972	73.3
	Indian subcontinent	1,264	7.7
	Black African	745	4.6
	Mixed background	131	0.8
	Black other	59	0.4
	Roma	51	0.3
	Chinese	41	0.3
	Irish Traveller	39	0.2
	Other	783	4.8
	Unknown	1,252	7.7
	Country of birth	Ireland	9,592
India		1,109	6.8
Philippines		588	3.6
Nigeria		412	2.5
Poland		355	2.2
Romania		206	1.3
Brazil		136	0.8
Pakistan		106	0.6
Other		1,958	12.0
Unknown		2,658	16.3

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 13, 2021, 6,200 (38%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 13, 2021 15 (17.4%) 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 13, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,337)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases (n = 16,337)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	3,058	18.7
Hospital	1,057	6.5
Residential institution	896	5.5
Private house	329	2.0
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	323	2.0
Other healthcare service	282	1.7
Extended family	81	0.5
Workplace	57	0.3
Community outbreak	26	0.2
Other	91	0.6
Not linked to outbreak	10,137	62.0

**Table 6:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 13, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,337)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases (n = 16,337)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	6,540	40.0
Close contact with a known confirmed case	3,993	24.4
Community transmission	2,625	16.1
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	218	1.3
Travel related	91	0.6
Under investigation	2,870	17.6

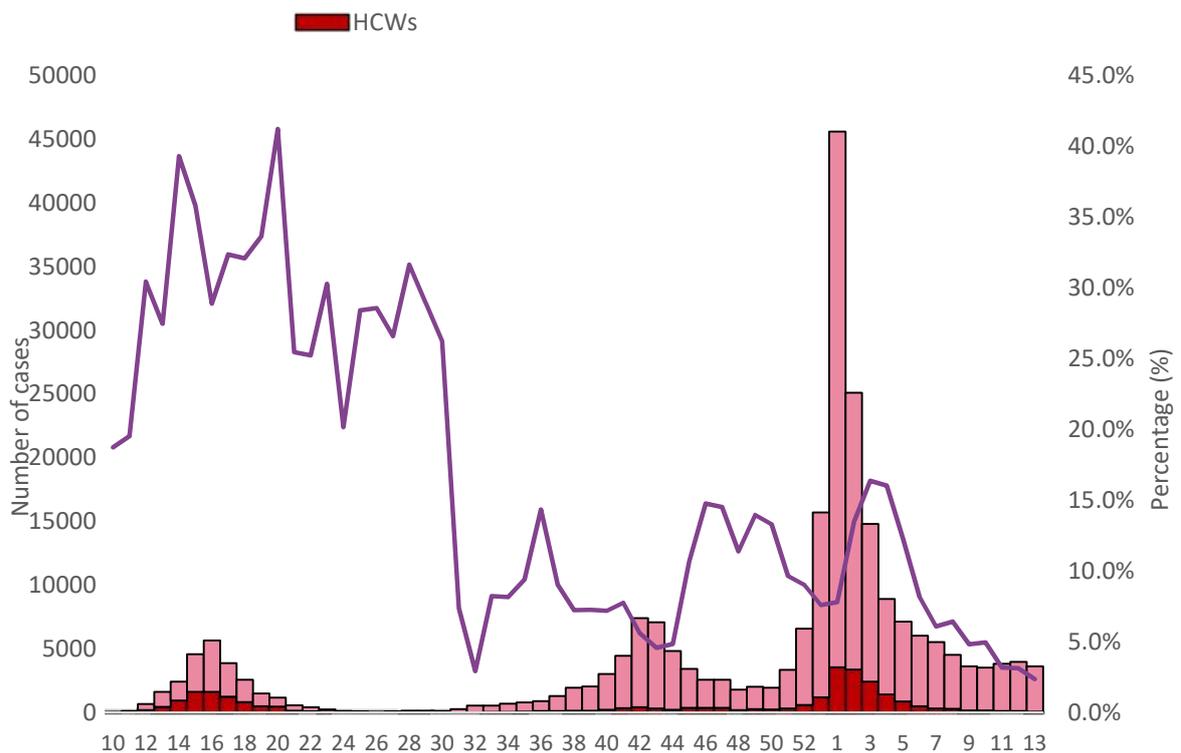
## Appendix A

From week 10, 2020 to week 13, 2021, there was a total of 238,717 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 28,299 (11.9%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

**Table A:** Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 - week 13, 2021, Ireland, (n= 28,299)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of HCW cases	28,299	100%
Median age (IQR)	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	783	2.77%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (33-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	99	0.35%
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	51 (44-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	15*	0.05%
The median age (range) for deaths	59 (51-62) years	

\*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.



\*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 210,418) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 19,970)

**Figure A:** Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 -week 13, 2021, Ireland, (n=238,717)

## **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.