

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

**week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 11, 2021 (14/03/2021-20/03/2021)**

Report prepared by HPSC on 22/03/2021

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 11, 2021 (14/03/2021-20/03/2021). 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 11, 2021 (14/03/2021-20/03/2021). 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 11, 2021, there was a total of 160,278 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 16,001 (10%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

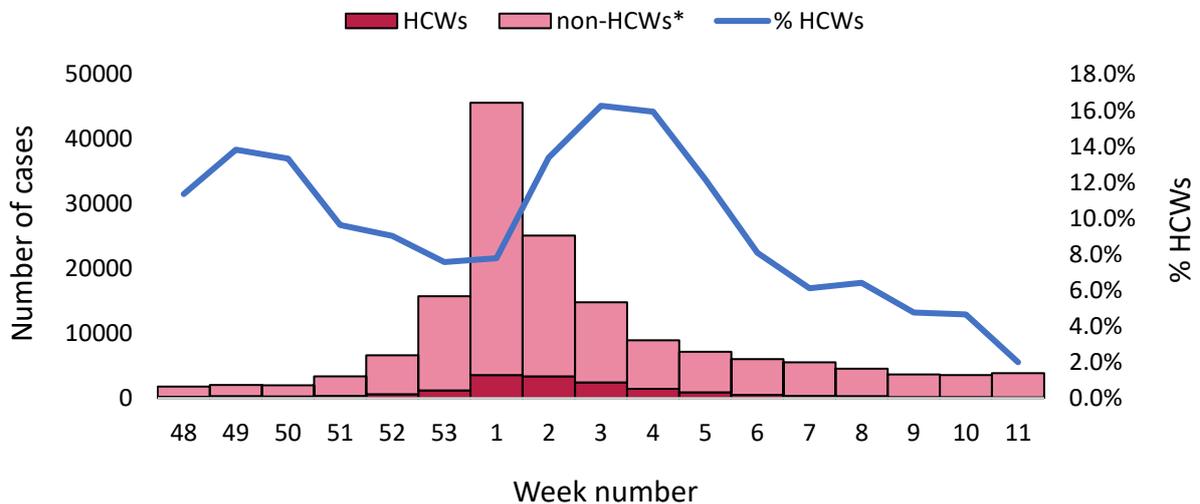
**Table 1:** Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 11, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,001)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
<b>Total number of HCW cases</b>	16,001	100%
<b>Median age (IQR<sup>^</sup>)</b>	41 (30-51) years	-
<b>Total number hospitalised</b>	376	2.3%
<b>The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient</b>	45 (32-54.5) years	
<b>Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)</b>	39	0.2%
<b>The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU</b>	50 (44-59) years	-
<b>Total number of deaths</b>	7*	0.04%
<b>The median age (range) for deaths</b>	60 (45-65)	

<sup>^</sup> Interquartile range.

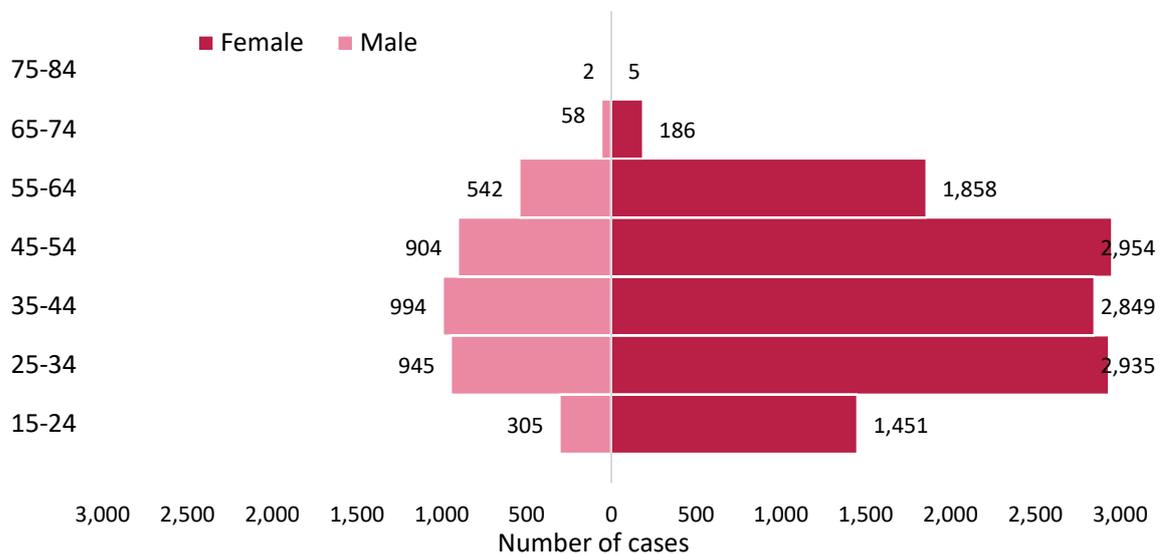
\*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

For the period from week 48, 2020 to week 11, 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 (34.8%).



**Figure 1:** 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 11, 2021, Ireland, (n=160,278)

\*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 132,778) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11,499)



**Figure 2:** Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020- week 11, 2021, Ireland, (n= 15,988) \*

\* Sex or age group was not available for 13 cases.

Of the 16,001 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 48, 2020 and week 11, 2021, 77 (0.5%) cases were reported in week 11, 2021.

**Table 2:** Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group and HSE area, week 48, 2020- week 11, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,001)

		Number of HCW cases (n= 16,001)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	12,239	76.5
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,757	11.0
	25-34	3,882	24.3
	35-44	3,848	24.1
	45-54	3,860	24.1
	55-64	2,401	15.0
	65-74	244	1.5
	75-84	7	0.0
	Unknown	<5	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	5,562	34.7
	HSE M	738	4.6
	HSE MW	1,367	8.5
	HSE NE	1,871	11.7
	HSE NW	936	5.9
	HSE SE	1,724	10.8
	HSE S	2,302	14.4
	HSE W	1,501	9.4

**Table 3:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 11, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,001)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Healthcare assistant	3,969	24.7
	Nurse	3,914	24.4
	Admin/Clerical worker	987	6.2
	Doctor	672	4.2
	Catering/Kitchen worker	643	4.0
	Cleaning/household staff	395	2.5
	Pharmacy worker	361	2.3
	Social work	337	2.1
	Porter	190	1.2
	Physiotherapist	137	0.9
	Paramedic	131	0.8
	Other HCW	1,976	12.4
	Unknown	2,289	14.3
	Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	4,532
Nursing Home		3,512	22.0
Community services		1,279	8.0
Community Hospital/LSU		803	5.0
Centre for disabilities		539	3.4
GP surgery		261	1.6
Mental Health Facility		219	1.4
Hospice		136	0.9
Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel		64	0.4
Other HCW place of work		1,568	9.7
Unknown		3,088	19.3

**Table 4:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 11, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,001)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	11,732	73.3
	Indian subcontinent	1,249	7.8
	Black African	723	4.5
	Mixed background	128	0.8
	Black other	58	0.4
	Roma	49	0.3
	Chinese	39	0.2
	Irish Traveller	39	0.2
	Other	762	4.8
	Unknown	1,222	7.7
Country of birth	Ireland	9,398	58.7
	India	1,098	6.9
	Philippines	573	3.6
	Nigeria	402	2.5
	Poland	349	2.2
	Romania	191	1.2
	Brazil	135	0.8
	Pakistan	102	0.6
	Other	1,164	7.3
	Unknown	2,589	16.2

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 11, 2021, 6,022 (37.6%) 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 11, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,001)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	3,019	18.8
Hospital	1,027	6.4
Residential institution	873	5.4
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	318	2.0
Private house	280	1.8
Other healthcare service	269	1.7
Extended family	75	0.5
Workplace	62	0.4
Community outbreak	23	0.1
Other	76	0.5
Not linked to outbreak	9,979	62.4

**Table 6:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 11, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,001)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Mode of transmission	Healthcare setting acquired: staff	6,268	39.2
	Close contact with a known confirmed case	3,821	23.9
	Community transmission	2,520	15.7
	Healthcare setting acquired: patient	248	1.6
	Travel related	83	0.5
	Under investigation	3,061	19.1

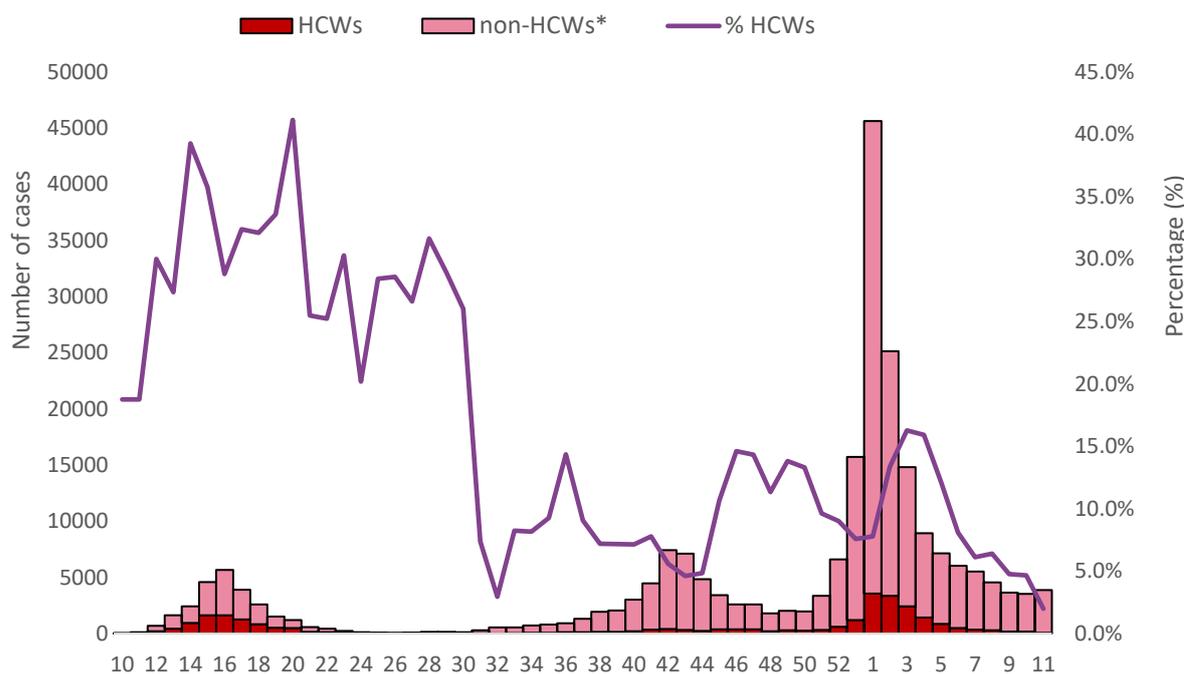
## Appendix A

From week 10, 2020 to week 11, 2021, there was a total of 231,171 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 27,931 (12.1%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

**Table A:** Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 - week 11, 2021, Ireland, (n= 27,931)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
<b>Total number of HCW cases</b>	27,931	100%
<b>Median age (IQR)</b>	41 (30-51) years	-
<b>Total number hospitalised</b>	769	2.8%
<b>The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient</b>	45 (33-54) years	
<b>Total number admitted to ICU</b>	99	0.3%
<b>The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU</b>	51 (44-59) years	-
<b>Total number of deaths</b>	15*	0.05%
<b>The median age (range) for deaths</b>	59 (30-65) years	-

\*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.



\*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 182,831) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 20,409)

**Figure A:** Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 -week 11, 2021, Ireland, (n=231,171)

## **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.