

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

week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 6, 2021 (07/02/2021-13/02/2021)

Report prepared by HPSC on 16/02/2021

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 6, 2021 (07/02/2021-13/02/2021). 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 6, 2021 (07/02/2021-13/02/2021). 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

Table 1: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 6, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,322)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	139,232	-
Total number of HCW cases	14,322	10.3%
Median age (IQR [^])	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	392	2.8%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	44 (32-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	33	8.4%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	50 (44-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	4**	0.03%
The median age (range) for deaths	60.5 (60-65)	

[^] Interquartile range. *This relates to hospitalised cases and is 0.2% of all HCW cases.

**All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

From week 48, 2020 to week 6, 2021, there was a total of 139,232 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 14,322 (10.3%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

For the period from week 48, 2020 to week 6, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 41 years (range 16-76 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.4%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.7%), 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 (33.8%).

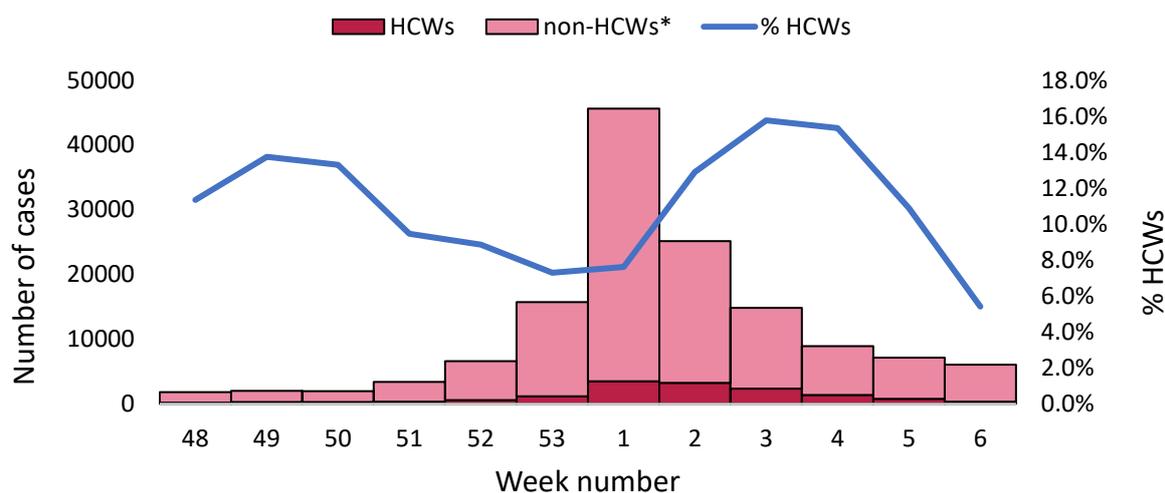


Figure 1: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of weekly cases identified as HCWs, notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 6, 2021, Ireland, (n=139,232)

*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 113,026) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11,884)

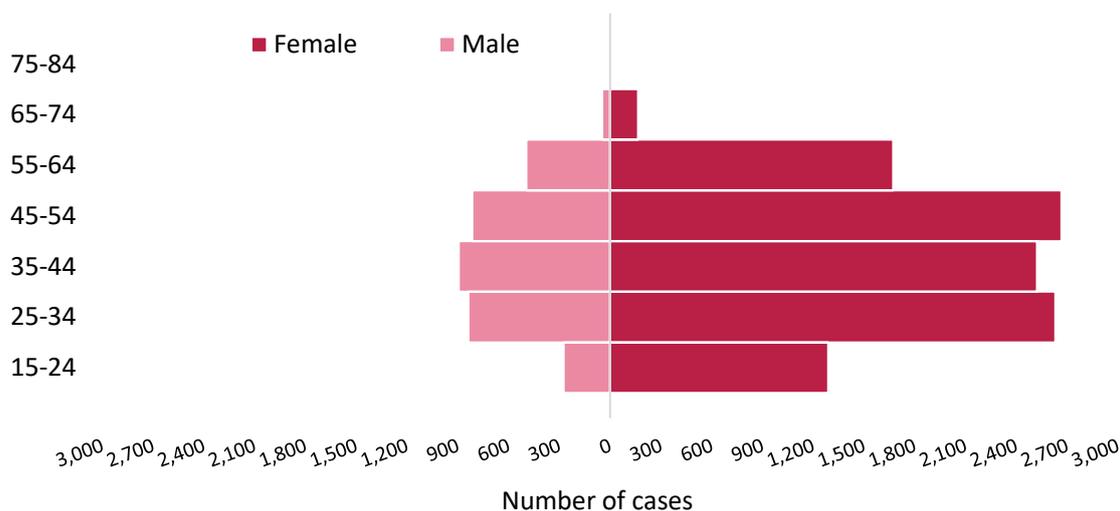


Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020- week 6, 2021, Ireland, (n= 14,307) *

* Sex or age group 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 6, 2021, Ireland, (n= 14,322)

		Number of HCW cases (n= 14,322)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	10,948	76.4
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,566	10.9
	25-34	3,467	24.3
	35-44	3,418	23.9
	45-54	3,482	24.3
	55-64	2,168	15.1
	65-74	212	1.5
	75-84	<5	0.0
	Unknown	<5	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	4,847	33.8
	HSE M	649	4.6
	HSE MW	1,181	8.3
	HSE NE	1,701	11.9
	HSE NW	894	6.2
	HSE SE	1,580	11.0
	HSE S	2,104	14.7
	HSE W	1,366	9.5

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 6, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,322)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Nurse	3,590	25.1
	Healthcare assistant	3,587	25.1
	Admin/Clerical worker	843	5.8
	Doctor	621	4.3
	Catering/Kitchen worker	575	4.0
	Pharmacy worker	321	2.2
	Cleaning/household staff	316	2.2
	Social work	251	1.8
	Porter	173	1.2
	Other HCW	1,850	13.0
	Unknown	2,195	15.3
	Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	4,020
Nursing Home		3,182	22.2
Community services		1,036	7.2
Community Hospital/LSU		749	5.2
Centre for disabilities		442	3.1
GP surgery		226	1.6
Mental Health Facility		184	1.3
Hospice		123	0.9
Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel		52	0.4
Other HCW place of work		1,286	9.0
Unknown		3,022	21.0

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 6, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,322)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	10,491	73.3
	Indian subcontinent	1,143	8.0
	Black African	616	4.3
	Mixed background	113	0.8
	Black other	48	0.3
	Roma	45	0.3
	Chinese	33	0.2
	Irish Traveller	30	0.2
	Other	690	4.9
	Unknown	1,113	7.7
Country of birth	Ireland	8,387	58.6
	India	1,005	7.0
	Philippines	530	3.7
	Nigeria	347	2.4
	Poland	307	2.1
	Romania	154	1.1
	Brazil	115	0.8
	Other	1,044	7.2
	Unknown	2,433	17.1

Cases linked to outbreaks

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 6, 2021, 4,818 (33.6%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 6, 2021 65 (19.9%) 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 6, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,322)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	2,627	18.3
Hospital	796	5.6
Residential institution	642	4.5
Community Hospital/LSU	265	1.9
Private house	173	1.2
Other healthcare service	169	1.2
Workplace	47	0.3
Extended family	43	0.3
Community outbreak	15	0.1
Other	41	0.2
Not linked to an outbreak	9,504	66.4

Mode of transmission

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 6, 2021, Ireland, (n=14,322)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	4,943	34.5
Close contact with a known confirmed case	3,228	22.5
Community transmission	1,955	13.7
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	740	5.2
Travel related	61	0.4
Under investigation	3,395	23.7

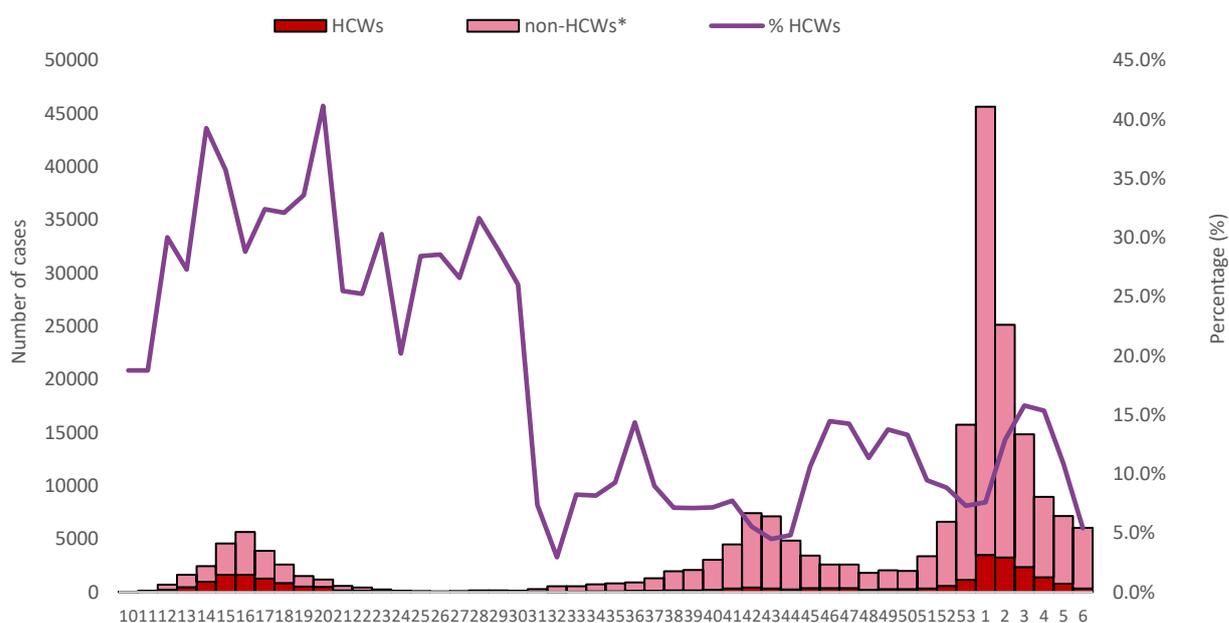
Appendix A

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 6, 2021, Ireland, (n= 26,225)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	210,130	-
Total number of HCW cases	26,225	12.5%
Median age (IQR)	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	786	3.0%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (33-54) years	-
Total number admitted to ICU	93	11.8%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	51 (44-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	12**	0.04%
The median age (range) for deaths	59.5 (30-65) years	-

*This relates to hospitalised cases and it is 0.3% of all HCW cases.

**All confirmed COVID-19 cases.



*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 163,056) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 20,849)

Figure A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 6, 2021, Ireland, (n=210,130)

Acknowledgements

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