

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

**week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 4, 2021 (24/01/2021-30/01/2021)**

Report prepared by HPSC on 02/02/2021

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 4, 2021 (24/01/2021-30/01/2021). 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 4, 2021 (24/01/2021-30/01/2021). 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 4, 2021, Ireland, (n=12,348)

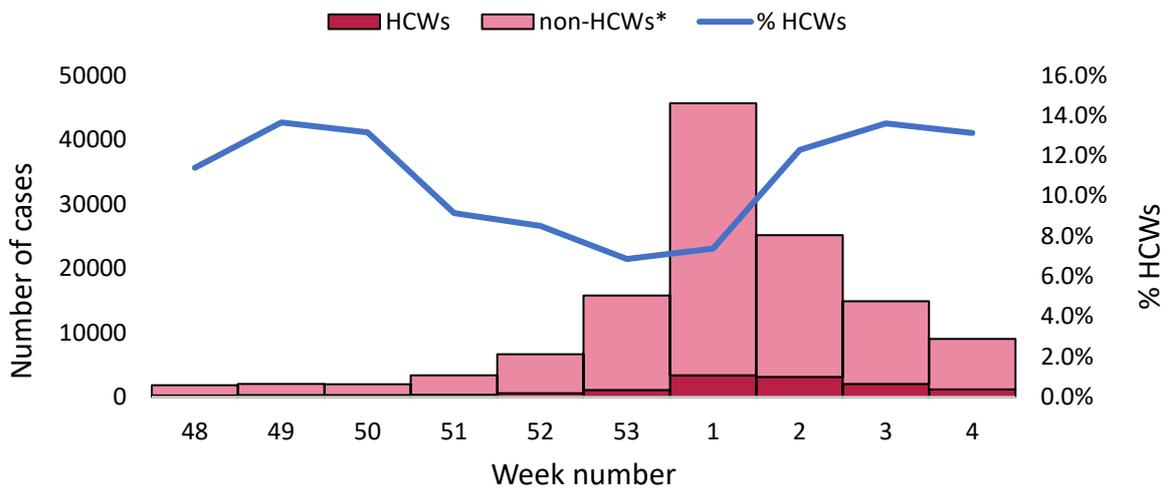
Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	126,149	-
Total number of HCW cases	12,348	9.8%
Median age (IQR <sup>^</sup> )	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	341	2.8%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (32-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	24	7.0%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	53 (44.5-60) years	-
Total number of deaths	3**	0.02%
The median age (range) for deaths	61 (60-65)	

<sup>^</sup> Interquartile range. \*This relates to hospitalised cases and is 0.2% of all HCW cases.

\*\*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

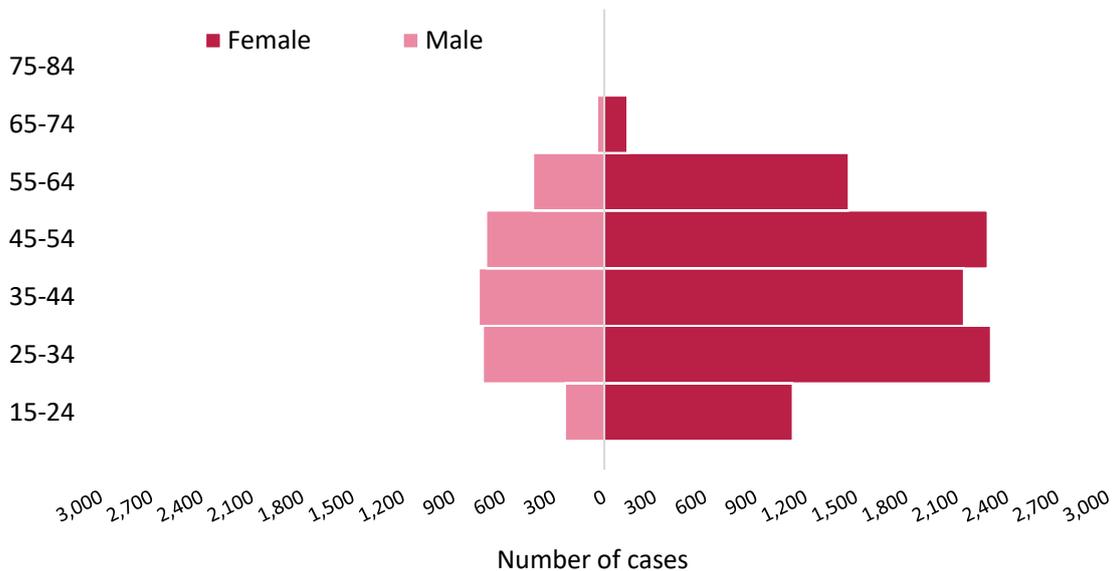
From week 48, 2020 to week 4, 2021, there was a total of 126,149 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 12,348 (9.8%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

For the period from week 48, 2020 to week 4, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 41 years (range 17-76 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.5%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.9%), 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 (33.3%).



**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 4, 2021, Ireland, (n=126, 149)

\*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 101,063) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=12,738)



**Figure 2:** Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020- week 4, 2021, Ireland, (n= 12,326) \*

\* Sex or age group was not available for 22 cases.

Of the 12,348 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 48, 2020 and week 4, 2021, 1,182 (9.6%) cases were reported in week 4, 2021.

**Table 2:** Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group, HSE area and underlying clinical conditions, week 48, 2020- week 4, 2021, Ireland, (n= 12,348)

		Number of HCW cases (n= 12,348)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	9,451	76.5
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,357	11.1
	25-34	3,030	24.5
	35-44	2,899	23.5
	45-54	2,993	24.2
	55-64	1,882	15.2
	65-74	179	1.5
	75-84	<5	0.0
	Unknown	<5	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	4,112	33.3
	HSE M	564	4.6
	HSE MW	1,040	8.4
	HSE NE	1,434	11.6
	HSE NW	763	6.2
	HSE SE	1,384	11.2
	HSE S	1,811	14.7
	HSE W	1,240	10.0
Underlying clinical conditions	Yes	913	7.4
	No	11,221	90.9
	Unknown	214	1.7

**Table 3:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 4, 2021, Ireland, (n=12,348)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Nurse	3,144	25.5
	Healthcare assistant	2,991	24.2
	Admin/Clerical worker	717	5.8
	Doctor	562	4.6
	Catering/Kitchen worker	473	3.8
	Pharmacy worker	260	2.1
	Cleaning/household staff	218	1.8
	Social work	168	1.4
	Porter	164	1.3
	Physiotherapist	103	0.8
	Other HCW	1,543	12.5
	Unknown	2,005	16.2
	Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	3,451
Nursing Home		2,648	21.4
Community services		857	6.9
Community Hospital/LSU		658	5.3
Centre for disabilities		373	3.0
GP surgery		198	1.6
Mental Health Facility		161	1.3
Hospice		104	0.8
Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel		37	0.3
Other HCW place of work		1,095	9.0
Unknown		2,766	22.4

**Table 4:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 4, 2021, Ireland, (n=12,348)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	9,070	73.5
	Indian subcontinent	964	7.8
	Black African	485	3.9
	Mixed background	91	0.7
	Roma	39	0.3
	Black other	37	0.3
	Chinese	27	0.2
	Irish Traveller	22	0.2
	Other	587	4.8
	Unknown	1,026	8.3
Country of birth	Ireland	7,258	58.8
	India	843	6.8
	Philippines	446	3.6
	Nigeria	276	2.2
	Poland	235	1.9
	Romania	123	1.0
	Brazil	95	0.8
	Other	868	7.1
	Unknown	2,204	17.8

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 4, 2021, 3,711 (30.1%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 4, 2021 323 (27.3%) 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 4, 2021, Ireland, (n=12,348)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	1,995	16.2
Hospital	673	5.4
Residential institution	430	3.4
Comm. Hosp/LSU	231	1.9
Private house	148	1.2
Other healthcare service	118	1.0
Workplace	41	0.3
Extended family	31	0.3
Community outbreak	14	0.1
Other	30	0.2
Not linked to an outbreak	8,637	70.0

**Table 6:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 4, 2021, Ireland, (n=12,348)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	3,974	32.2
Close contact with a known confirmed case	2,753	22.3
Community transmission	1,688	13.6
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	625	5.1
Travel related	50	0.4
Under investigation	3,258	26.4

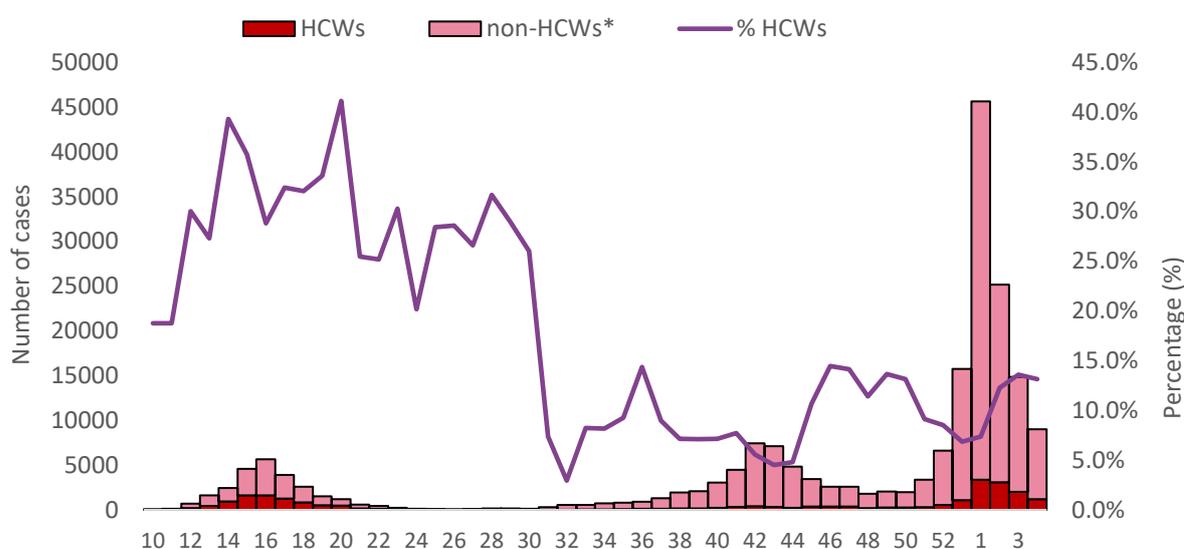
## Appendix A

**Table A:** Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 4, 2021, Ireland, (n= 24,250)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	197,061	-
Total number of HCW cases	24,250	12.3%
Median age (IQR)	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	734	3.0%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	45 (33-54) years	-
Total number admitted to ICU	84	11.4%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	51 (44.5-59.5) years	-
Total number of deaths	12**	0.05%
The median age (range) for deaths	59.5 (30-68) years	-

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

\*\*Eleven confirmed and 1 probable COVID-19 case.



\*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 151,097) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 21,714)

**Figure A:** Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 4, 2021, Ireland, (n=197,061)

## **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.