

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

week 32, 2020 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020) - week 3 (17/01/2021-23/01/2021)

Report prepared by HPSC on 26/01/2021

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 32, 2020 (02/08/2020 – 08/08/2020) to week 3, 2021 (17/01/2021-23/01/2021). 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 3, 2021 (17/01/2021-23/01/2021). 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 32, 2020 – week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,941)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	161,514	-
Total number of HCW cases	13,941	8.6%
Median age (IQR [^])	40 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	429	3.1%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	42 (31-53) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	22	5.1%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	50.5 (45-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	4**	0.03%
The median age (range) for deaths	62 (60-65)	

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

**All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

From week 32, 2020 to week 3, 2021, there was a total of 161,514 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 13,941 (8.6%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

For the period from week 32, 2020 to week 3, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 40 years (range 17-76 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.9%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.6%), 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 (35.0%).

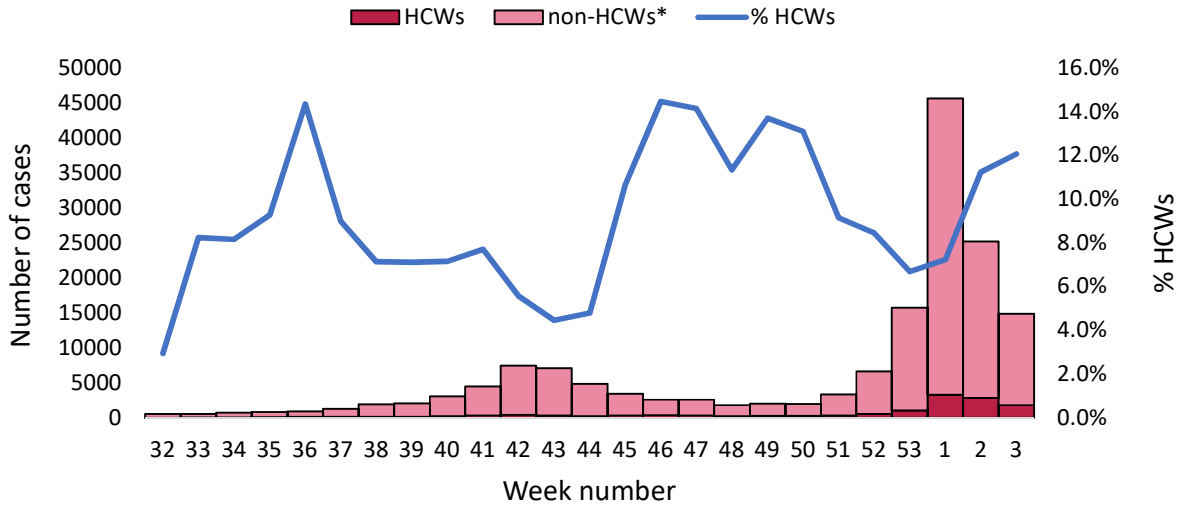


Figure 1: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of weekly cases identified as HCWs, notified to HPSC, week 32, 2020 – week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n=161,514)

*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 126,501) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=21,072)

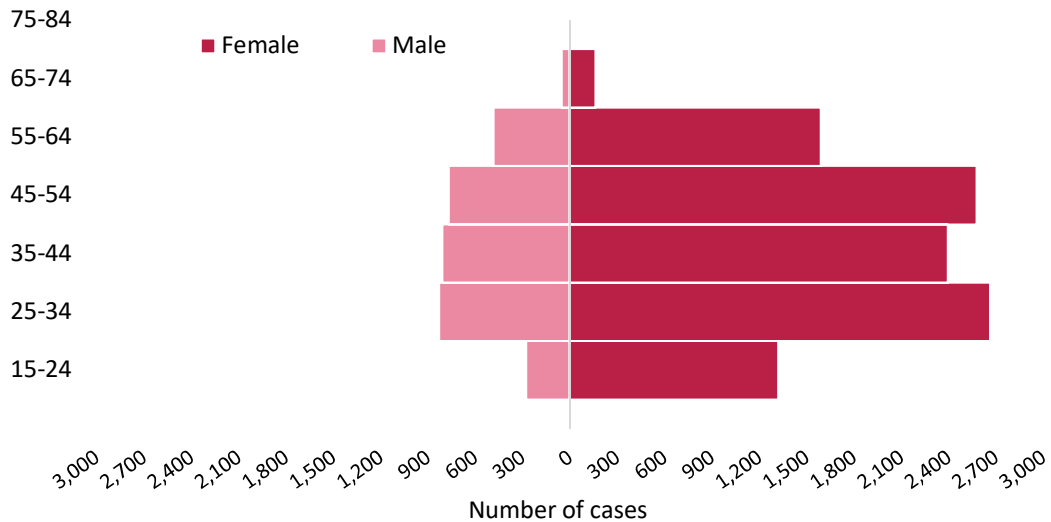


Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 32, 2020- week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n= 13,919) *

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

Of the 13,941 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 32, 2020 and week 3, 2021, 1,792 (12.9%) cases were reported in week 3, 2021.

Table 2: Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group, HSE area and underlying clinical conditions, week 32, 2020- week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n= 13,941)

		Number of HCW cases (n= 13,941)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	10,716	76.9
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,597	11.5
	25-34	3,495	25.1
	35-44	3,208	23.0
	45-54	3,348	24.0
	55-64	2,074	14.9
	65-74	214	1.5
	75-84	<5	0.0
	Unknown	<5	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	4,872	35.0
	HSE M	741	5.3
	HSE MW	1,131	8.1
	HSE NE	1,650	11.8
	HSE NW	939	6.7
	HSE SE	1,393	10.0
	HSE S	1,936	13.9
	HSE W	1,279	9.2
Underlying clinical conditions	Yes	1,587	11.4
	No	12,037	86.3
	Unknown	317	2.3

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 32, 2020 - week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,941)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Nurse	3,490	25.0
	Healthcare assistant	3,223	23.1
	Admin/Clerical worker	836	6.0
	Doctor	643	4.6
	Catering/Kitchen worker	519	3.7
	Pharmacy worker	316	2.3
	Cleaning/household staff	205	1.5
	Porter	180	1.3
	Social worker	175	1.3
	Physiotherapist	130	0.9
	Other HCW	1919	13.7
	Unknown	2,305	16.6
	Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	4,021
Nursing Home		2,937	21.1
Community services		1,012	7.3
Community Hospital/Long Stay Unit		663	4.8
Centre for disabilities		448	3.2
GP surgery		235	1.7
Mental Health Facility		189	1.4
Hospice		111	0.8
Other HCW place of work		1302	9.2
Unknown		3,023	21.7

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 32, 2020- week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,941)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	9,675	69.4
	Indian subcontinent	1,024	7.4
	Black African	586	4.2
	Mixed background	104	0.8
	Roma	49	0.4
	Black other	44	0.3
	Chinese	32	0.2
	Irish Traveller	26	0.2
	Other	617	4.4
	Unknown	1,784	12.7
Country of birth	Ireland	7,691	55.2
	India	877	6.3
	Philippines	466	3.3
	Nigeria	336	2.4
	Poland	231	1.7
	Romania	127	0.9
	Brazil	115	0.8
	Other	1,026	7.4
	Unknown	3,072	22.0

Cases linked to outbreaks

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 32, 2020 and week 3, 2021, 4,807 (34.5%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 3, 2021 313 (17.5%) 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 32, 2020 - week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,941)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	1,960	14.1
Hospital	979	7.0
Private house	789	5.7
Residential institution	448	3.2
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	192	1.4
Other healthcare service	136	1.0
Workplace	72	0.5
Community outbreak	62	0.4
Extended family	58	0.4
Social gathering	28	0.2
Other	83	0.6
Not linked to an outbreak	9,134	65.5

Mode of transmission

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 32, 2020 - week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,941)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	4,168	29.9
Close contact with a known confirmed case	3,452	24.8
Community transmission	2,197	15.7
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	644	4.6
Travel related	78	0.6
Under investigation	3,402	24.4

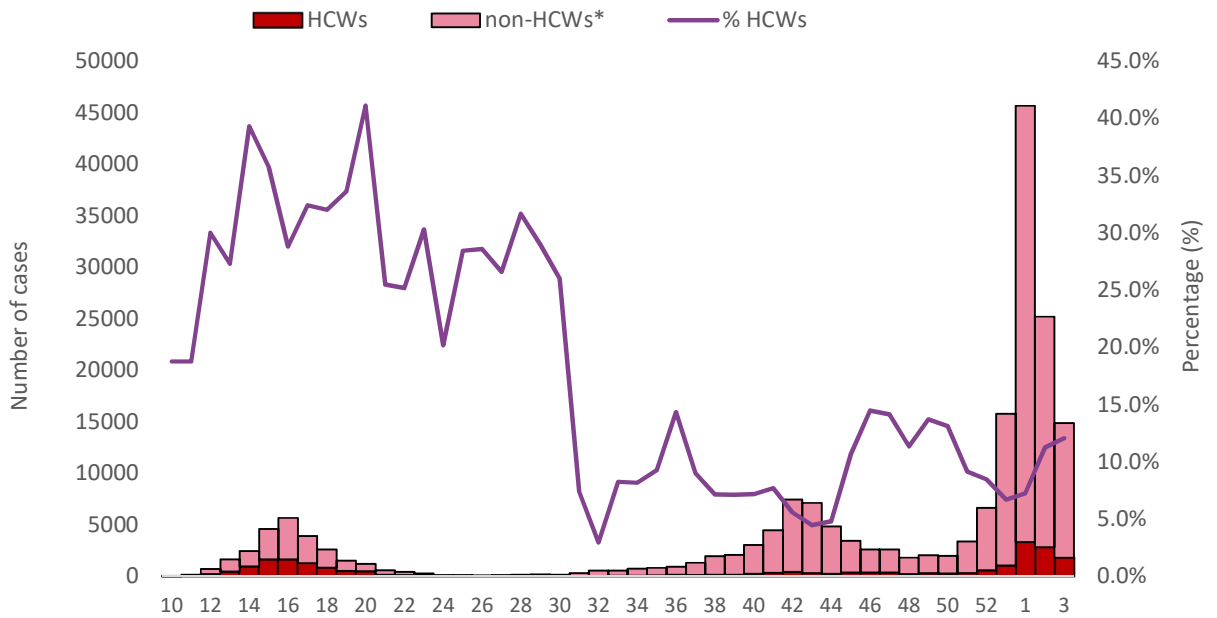
Appendix A

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n= 22,484)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	188,129	-
Total number of HCW cases	22,484	11.9%
Median age (IQR)	41 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	744	3.3%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	44 (32-53) years	-
Total number admitted to ICU	76	10.2%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	51 (44.5-59) 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= 140,738) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 24,907)

Figure A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 3, 2021, Ireland, (n=188,129)

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.