

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

week 32 (02/08/2020-08/08/2020) - week 50 (06/12/2020-12/12/2020)

Report prepared by HPSC on 15/12/2020

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 (02/08/2020 – 08/08/2020) to week 50 (06/12/2020-12/12/2020). 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 50 (06/12/2020-12/12/2020). 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 – week 50, Ireland, (n=4,066)

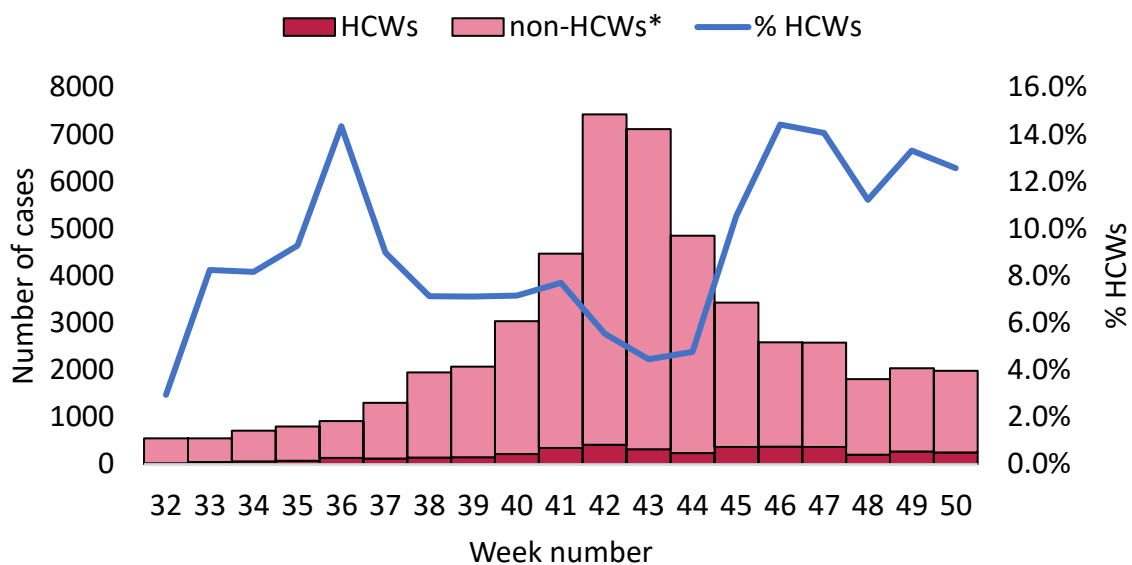
Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	50,133	-
Total number of HCW cases	4,066	8.1%
Median age (IQR [^])	40 (30-50) years	-
Total number hospitalised	96	2.4%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	42 (32-55) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	7	7.3%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	48 (43-54) years	-
Total number of deaths	0	0.0%

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

From week 32 to week 50, there was a total of 50,133 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 4,066 (8.1%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

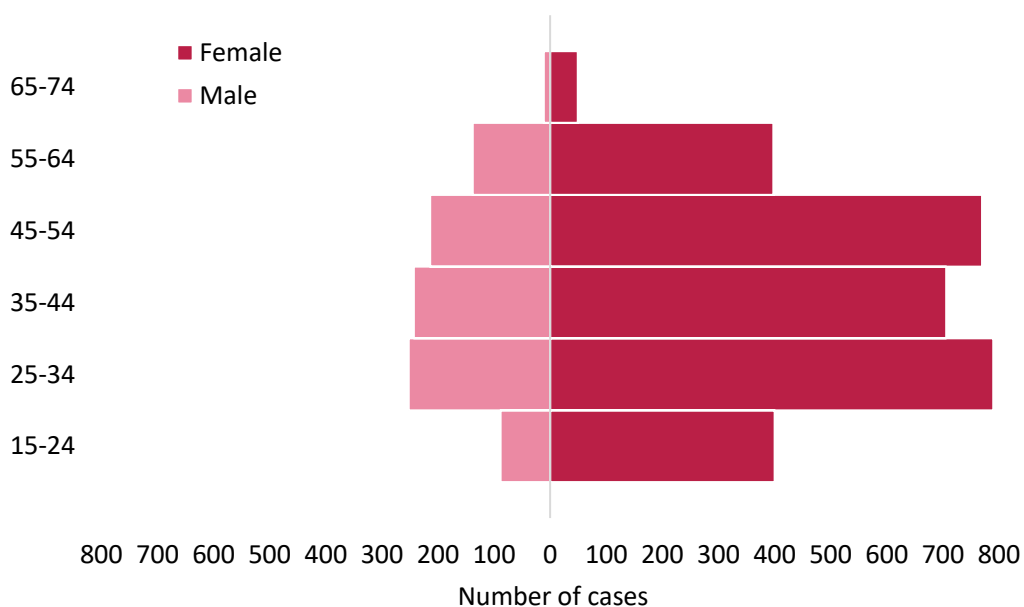
For the period from week 32 to week 50, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 40 years (range 17-73 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.6%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (50.6%), most likely due to some HCW specialities e.g.

nursing, being female dominated. The HSE region with the largest proportion of HCW cases is HSE East (41.0%).



*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 40,992) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=5,075)

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 – week 50, Ireland, (n=50,133)



* Sex was not available for 7 cases.

Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 32- week 50, Ireland, (n= 4,059) *

Of the 4,066 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 32 and week 50, 249 (6.1%) cases were reported in week 50.

Table 2: Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group, HSE area and underlying clinical conditions, week 32- week 50, Ireland, (n=4,066)

		Number of HCW cases (n=4,066)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	3,113	76.6
Age-group (years)	15-24	488	12.0
	25-34	1,047	25.8
	35-44	949	23.3
	45-54	985	24.2
	55-64	537	13.2
	65-74	60	1.5
	Unknown	0	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	1,666	41.0
	HSE M	280	7.0
	HSE MW	283	7.0
	HSE NE	512	12.6
	HSE NW	379	9.3
	HSE SE	294	7.2
	HSE S	384	9.4
	HSE W	268	6.6
Underlying clinical conditions	Yes	1,003	24.7
	No	2,933	72.1
	Unknown	130	3.2

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 32 - week 50, Ireland, (n=4,066)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Nurse	1,011	24.9
	Healthcare assistant	958	23.6
	Admin/Clerical worker	226	5.6
	Doctor	194	4.8
	Catering/Kitchen worker	148	3.6
	Cleaning/household staff	106	2.6
	Pharmacy worker	108	2.7
	Homecare	59	1.5
	Physiotherapist	56	1.4
	Porter	46	1.1
	Paramedic	38	0.9
	Radiographer	26	0.6
	Student nurse	26	0.6
	Occupational therapist	18	0.4
	Other HCW	458	11.3
	Unknown	588	14.5
Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	1,379	33.9
	Nursing Home	932	22.9
	Community services	345	8.5
	Centre for Disabilities	152	3.7
	Community Hospital/LSU	154	3.8
	GP surgery	59	1.5
	Mental Health Facility	57	1.4
	Hospice	18	0.4
	Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel	16	0.4
	Other HCW place of work	334	8.2
	Unknown	620	15.2

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 32- week 50, Ireland, (n=4,066)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	2,306	56.7
	Indian subcontinent	310	7.6
	Black African	215	5.3
	Mixed background	36	0.9
	Roma	20	0.5
	Black other	16	0.4
	Other	213	5.2
	Unknown	950	23.4
Country of birth	Ireland	1,757	43.2
	India	254	6.3
	Nigeria	122	3.0
	Philippines	158	3.9
	Poland	64	1.6
	United Kingdom	58	1.4
	Romania	46	1.1
	Other countries	387	9.5
	Unknown	1,220	30.0

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 32 and week 50, 2,560 (63%) were linked to outbreaks. During week 50 105 (42%) 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 - week 50, Ireland, (n=4,066)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Private house	730	18.0
Nursing home	685	16.9
Hospital	683	16.8
Residential institution	162	4.0
Other healthcare service	50	1.2
Community outbreak	50	1.2
Workplace	43	1.1
Extended family	35	0.9
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	35	0.9
Social gathering	26	0.6
Other	61	1.5
Not linked to an outbreak	1,506	37.0

Table 6: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 32 - week 50, Ireland, (n=4,066)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Mode of transmission	Healthcare setting acquired: staff	1,408	34.6
	Close contact with a known confirmed case	1,195	29.4
	Community transmission	862	21.2
	Healthcare setting acquired: patient	143	3.5
	Travel related	45	1.1
	Under investigation	413	10.2

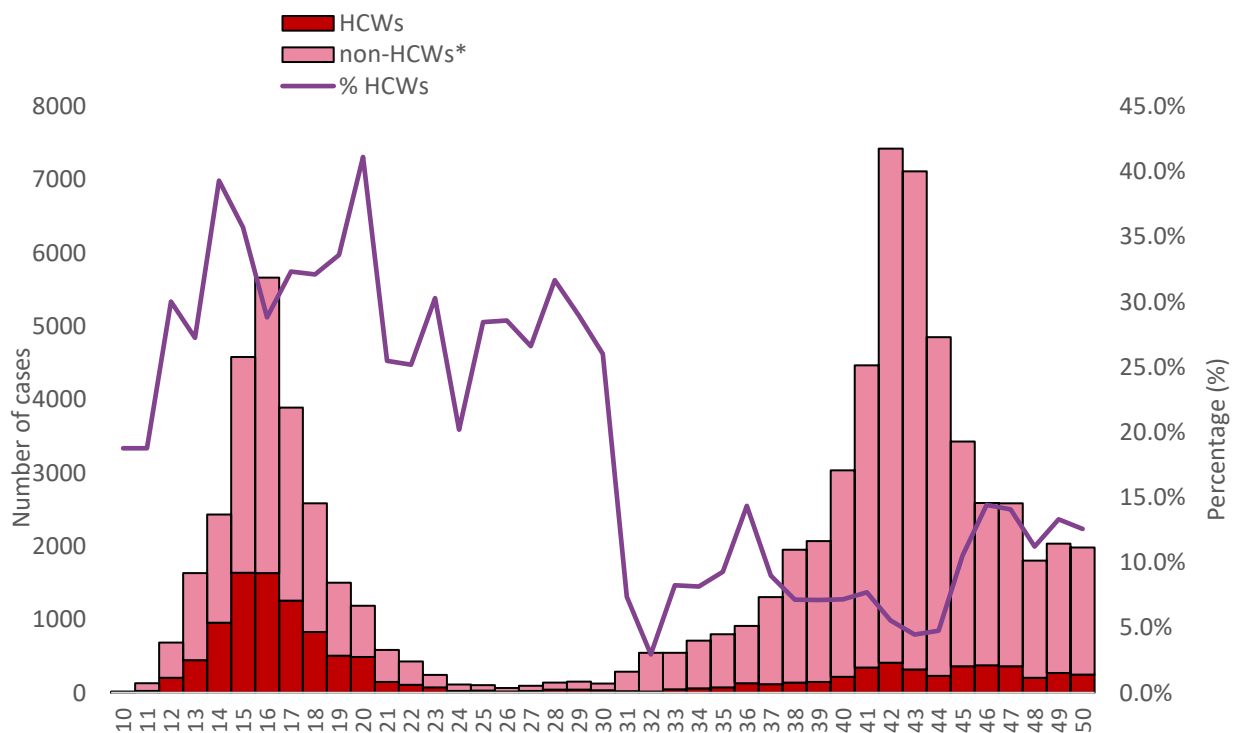
Appendix A

Table A: Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 50, Ireland, (n= 12,608)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	76,750	-
Total number of HCW cases	12,608	16.4%
Median age (IQR)	40 (31-50) years	-
Total number hospitalised	410	3.3%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	46 (34-54) years	-
Total number admitted to ICU	61	14.9%*
The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU	51 (44-59) years	-
Total number of deaths	8**	0.06
The median age (range) for deaths	54 (30-68) years	-

*This relates to hospitalised cases and it is 0.5% of all HCW cases.

**Seven confirmed and 1 probable COVID-19 case.



*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 55,359) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 8,637)

Figure A: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 - week 50, Ireland, (n=76,750)

Acknowledgements

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