



COVID-19 cases in Healthcare Workers – 14-day report, Ireland,



03/01/2021 - 16/01/2021

Report prepared by HPSC on 20/01/2021

Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases in recent days, the availability of surveillance data is limited. Consequently, HPSC is currently producing an abridged version of the healthcare worker report.

This report includes data on healthcare worker (HCW) cases of COVID-19 notified to HPSC from 03/01/2021 - 16/01/2021.

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, Ireland, 03/01/2021 - 16/01/2021

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	Proportion (%)
Total number of COVID-19 cases	67,133	-
Total number of HCW cases	6,834	10.2%
Median age (IQR [^])	40 (30-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	29	0.4%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	51 (35-54) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	3	10.3%*
Total number of deaths	1	0.01%

[^] Interquartile range. *This relates to hospitalised cases and is 0.04% of all HCW cases.

From 03/01/2021 to 16/01/2021, there were a total of 67,133 COVID-19 cases reported, from them 6,834 (10.2%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

For the period from 03/01/2021 to 16/01/2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 40 years (range 17-74 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.3%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (50.1%), most likely due to some HCW specialities e.g. nursing, being female dominated.

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between 03/01/2021 - 16/01/2021, 29 had been admitted to hospital (0.4%). The median age of hospital inpatient HCW cases was 51 years (range: 23-73 years). Three hospitalised COVID-19 case were admitted to ICU and one death was reported.

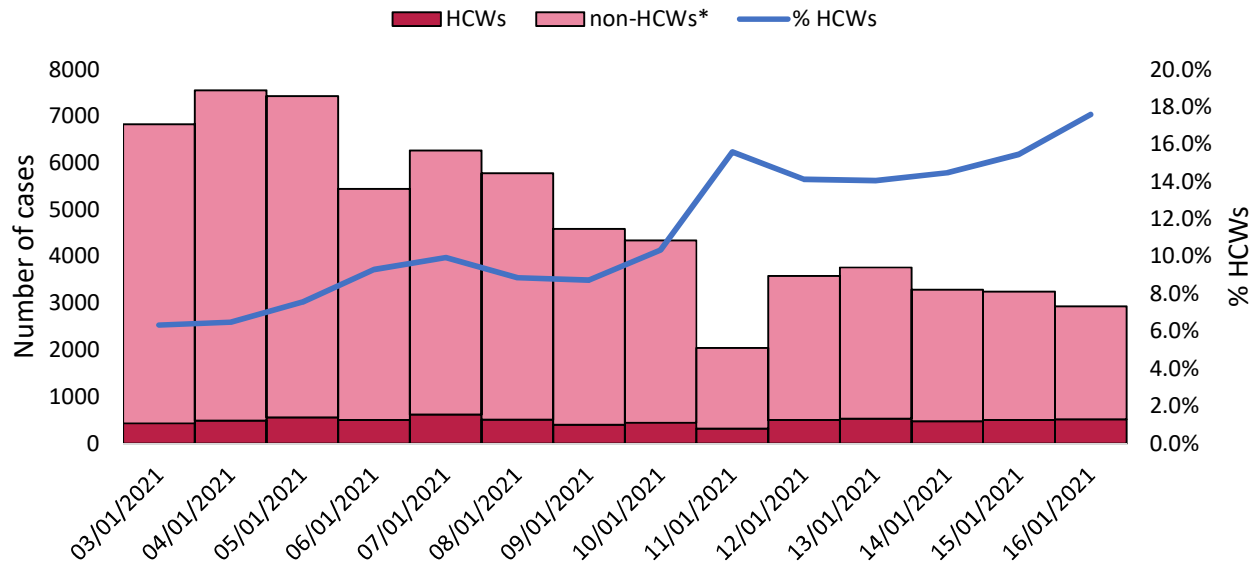


Figure 1: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of daily cases identified as HCWs, Ireland, 03/01/2021 - 16/01/2021 (n=67,133)
 *includes non-healthcare workers (n= 60,288) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11)

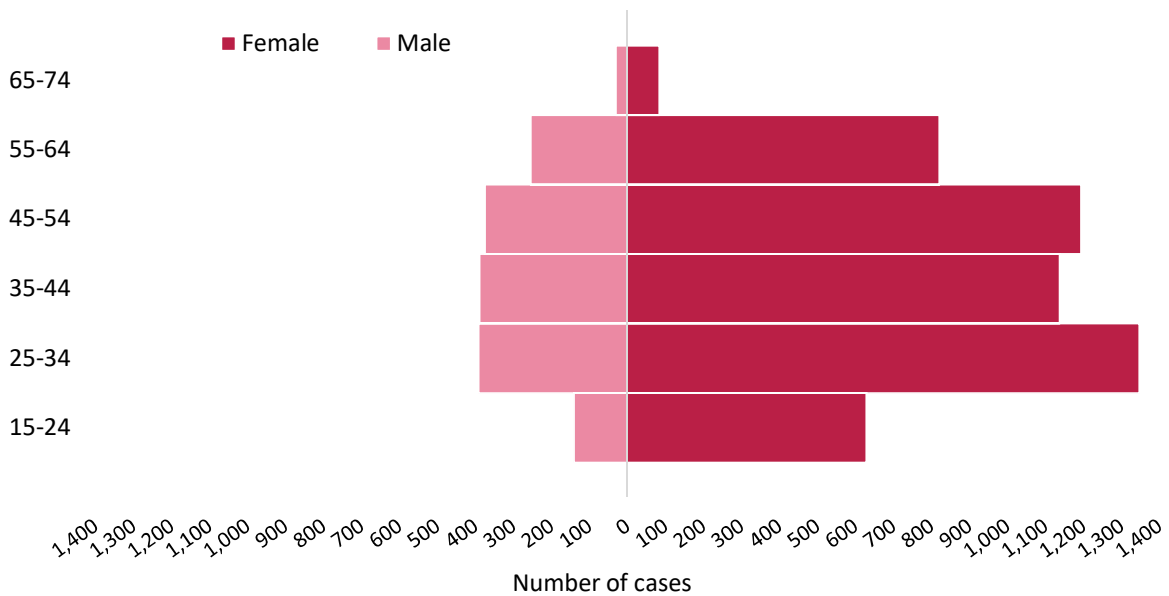


Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases, by sex and age group, Ireland, 03/01/2021 - 16/01/2021 (n=6,792) *
 * Sex or age group was not available for 42 cases.

Table 2: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases, Ireland, by sex, HCW role and work location 03/01/2021 - 16/01/2021, (n=6,834)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion (%)
Sex	Females	5,215	76.3
	Males	1,577	23.1
	Unknown	42	0.6
Age group	15-24	773	11.3
	25-34	1,750	25.6
	35-44	1,546	22.6
	45-54	1,574	23.0
	55-64	1,077	15.8
	65-74	114	1.7
HCW Role	Nurse	1,676	24.5
	Healthcare assistant	1,488	21.7
	Admin / Clerical worker	422	6.2
	Doctor	307	4.5
	Home care	232	3.4
	Catering / Kitchen worker	227	3.3
	Pharmacy worker	120	1.8
	Other	1247	18.3
	Unknown	1,115	16.3
	Location of HCW role	Acute hospital	1,777
Nursing Home		1,117	16.3
Community services		408	6.0
Community Hospital/LSU		370	5.3
Residential Institution		257	3.8
Centre for disabilities		226	3.3
GP surgery		132	1.9
Mental Health Facility		107	1.6
Other HCW place of work		527	7.8
Unknown		1,913	28.0

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases, Ireland, by ethnicity and country of birth 03/01/2021 - 16/01/2021, (n=6,834)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion (%)
Ethnicity	White	5,251	76.7
	Indian subcontinent	464	6.8
	Black African	258	3.8
	Mixed background	49	0.7
	Other	328	4.9
	Unknown	484	7.1
Country of birth	Ireland	4,401	64.3
	India	411	6.0
	United Kingdom	253	3.7
	Philippines	189	2.8
	Nigeria	155	2.3
	Poland	109	1.6
	Other	567	8.3
	Unknown	749	11.0

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases, Ireland, by mode of transmission, 03/01/2021 - 16/01/2021, (n=6,834)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Mode of transmission	Close contact with a known confirmed case	1,497	21.8
	Healthcare setting acquired: staff	1,573	23.0
	Community transmission	837	12.3
	Healthcare setting acquired: patient	409	6.0
	Travel related OR close contact with a known confirmed travel case	17	0.3
	Unknown	2,501	36.6

Acknowledgements

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