

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

**week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020-28/11/2020) - week 12, 2021 (21/03/2021-27/03/2021)**

Report prepared by HPSC on 29/03/2021

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 12, 2021 (21/03/2021-27/03/2021). 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 12, 2021 (21/03/2021-27/03/2021). 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

From week 48, 2020 to week 12, 2021, there was a total of 164,222 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 16,164 (9.8%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

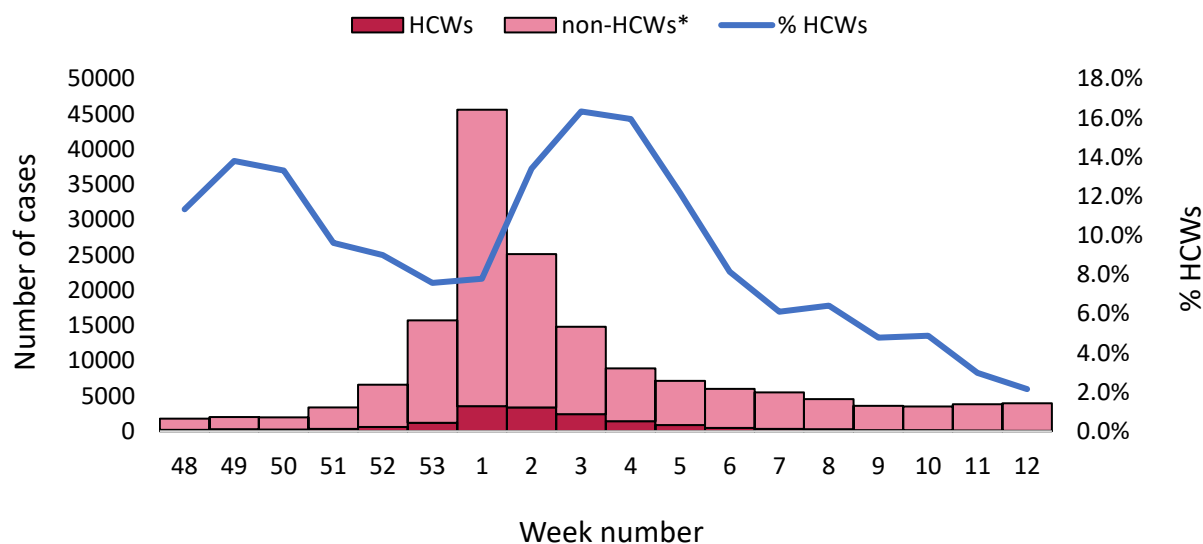
**Table 1:** Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 48, 2020 – week 12, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,164)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
<b>Total number of HCW cases</b>	16,164	100%
<b>Median age (IQR<sup>^</sup>)</b>	41 (30-51) years	-
<b>Total number hospitalised</b>	381	2.4%
<b>The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient</b>	45 (32-54) years	
<b>Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)</b>	39	0.2%
<b>The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU</b>	50 (44-59) years	-
<b>Total number of deaths</b>	7*	0.04%
<b>The median age (range) for deaths</b>	60 (45-65)	

<sup>^</sup> Interquartile range.

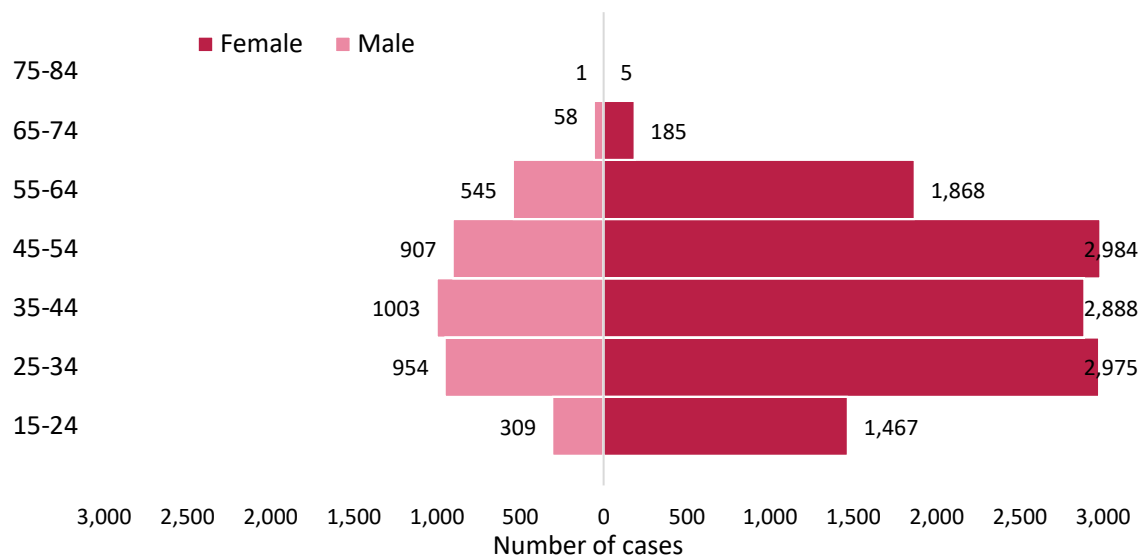
\*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.

For the period from week 48, 2020 to week 12, 2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 41 years (range 16-80 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (76.5%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.4%), 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 (34.9%).



**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 12, 2021, Ireland, (n=164,222)

\*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 136,358) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=11,700)



**Figure 2:** Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex and age group, week 48, 2020- week 12, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,149) \*

\* Sex or age group was not available for 15 cases.

Of the 16,164 HCW COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC between week 48, 2020 and week 12, 2021, 86 (0.5%) cases were reported in week 12, 2021.

**Table 2:** Health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by sex, age-group and HSE area, week 48, 2020- week 12, 2021, Ireland, (n= 16,164)

		Number of HCW cases (n= 16,164)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Sex	Female	12,373	76.5
Age-group (years)	15-24	1,777	11.1
	25-34	3,932	24.3
	35-44	3,897	24.1
	45-54	3,893	24.1
	55-64	2,414	14.9
	65-74	243	1.5
	75-84	6	0.0
	Unknown	<5	0.0
HSE area	HSE E	5,643	34.9
	HSE M	748	4.7
	HSE MW	1,374	8.5
	HSE NE	1,894	11.7
	HSE NW	941	5.8
	HSE SE	1,736	10.7
	HSE S	2,316	14.3
	HSE W	1,512	9.4

**Table 3:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by HCW role and work location, week 48, 2020 - week 12, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,164)

		Number of HCW cases (n=16,164)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
HCW Role	Healthcare assistant	4,008	24.7
	Nurse	3,943	24.3
	Admin/Clerical worker	998	6.2
	Doctor	673	4.2
	Catering/Kitchen worker	651	4.0
	Cleaning/household staff	401	2.5
	Pharmacy worker	364	2.3
	Social work	340	2.1
	Porter	191	1.2
	Physiotherapist	138	0.9
	Paramedic	132	0.8
	Other HCW	2,038	12.6
	Unknown	2,287	14.2
	Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	4,577
Nursing Home		3,551	22.0
Community services		1,310	8.1
Community Hospital/LSU		811	5.0
Centre for disabilities		555	3.4
GP surgery		266	1.7
Mental Health Facility		222	1.4
Hospice		137	0.9
Homeless - hub/hostel/hotel		68	0.4
Other HCW place of work		1,564	9.7
Unknown		3,103	19.2

**Table 4:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by ethnicity and country of birth, week 48, 2020- week 12, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,164)

		Number of HCW cases (n=16,164)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Ethnicity	White	11,844	73.2
	Indian subcontinent	1,256	7.8
	Black African	734	4.5
	Mixed background	130	0.8
	Black other	59	0.4
	Roma	51	0.3
	Chinese	40	0.3
	Irish Traveller	39	0.2
	Other	769	4.8
	Unknown	1,242	7.7
	Country of birth	Ireland	9,487
India		1,105	6.8
Philippines		577	3.6
Nigeria		407	2.5
Poland		351	2.2
Romania		202	1.3
Brazil		136	0.8
Pakistan		103	0.6
Other		1,184	7.4
Unknown		2,612	16.2

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between week 48, 2020 and week 12, 2021, 6,122 (37.9%) 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 12, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,164)

Outbreak location	Number of HCW cases (n= 16,164)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Nursing home	3,036	18.8
Hospital	1,050	6.5
Residential institution	886	5.5
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	320	2.0
Private house	307	1.9
Other healthcare service	274	1.7
Extended family	78	0.5
Workplace	61	0.4
Community outbreak	23	0.1
Other	87	0.5
Not linked to outbreak	10,042	62.1

**Table 6:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 12, 2021, Ireland, (n=16,164)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases (n=6,164)	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	6,353	39.4
Close contact with a known confirmed case	3,929	24.3
Community transmission	2,577	15.9
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	225	1.4
Travel related	83	0.5
Under investigation	2,997	18.5

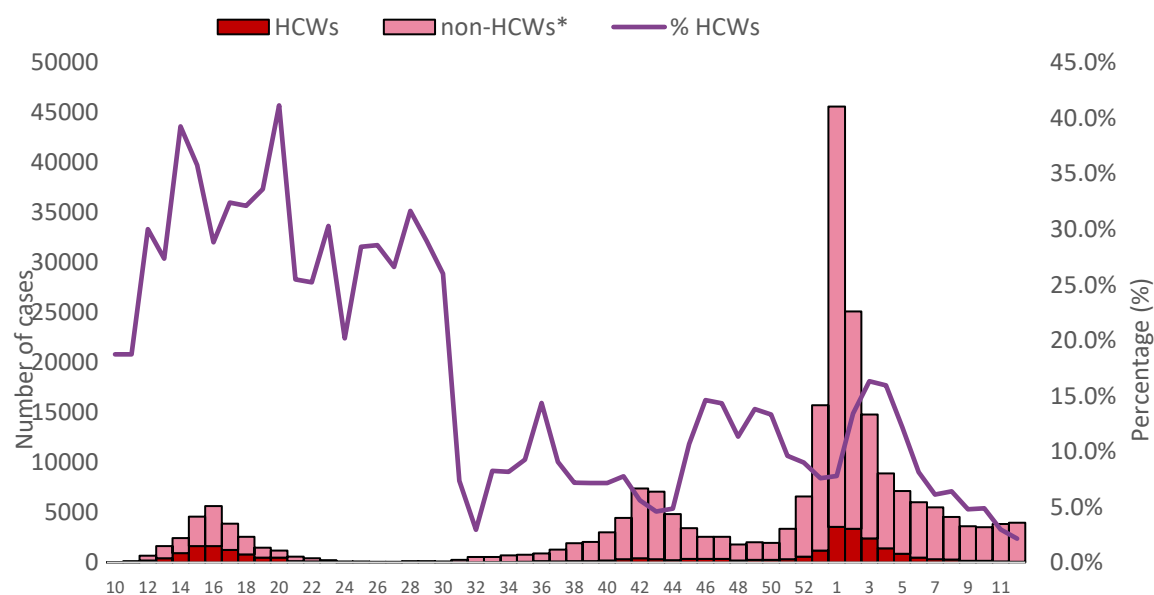
## Appendix A

From week 10, 2020 to week 12, 2021, there was a total of 235,115 COVID-19 cases reported to the national surveillance system (CIDR), 28,093 (11.9%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

**Table A:** Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 - week 12, 2021, Ireland, (n= 28,093)

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
<b>Total number of HCW cases</b>	28,093	100%
<b>Median age (IQR)</b>	41 (30-51) years	-
<b>Total number hospitalised</b>	775	2.8%
<b>The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient</b>	45 (33-54) years	
<b>Total number admitted to ICU</b>	99	0.3%
<b>The median age (IQR) of HCW in ICU</b>	51 (44-59) years	-
<b>Total number of deaths</b>	15*	0.05%
<b>The median age (range) for deaths</b>	59 (30-65) years	-

\*All confirmed COVID-19 cases.



\*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 186,414) and cases with no information on HCW status (n= 20,608)

**Figure A:** Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, week 10 2020 -week 12, 2021, Ireland, (n=235,115)

## **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.