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COVID-19 cases in Healthcare Workers – 14-day report, Ireland, 27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021

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27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021

Report prepared by HPSC on 12/01/2021

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 27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021.

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, 27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	Proportion (%)
Total number of COVID-19 cases	63,692	-
Total number of HCW cases	5,019	7.9%
Median age (IQR^)	39 (29-51) years	-
Total number hospitalised	25	0.5%
The median age (IQR) of hospital inpatient	49 (37-55) years	
Total number admitted to intensive care units (ICU)	1	4.0%*
Total number of deaths	0	0.0%

^ Interquartile range. *This relates to hospitalised cases and is 0.02% of all HCW cases.

From 27/12/2020 to 09/01/2021, there were a total of 63,692 COVID-19 cases reported, from them 5,019 (7.9%) were healthcare workers (HCWs).

For the period from 27/12/2020 to 09/01/2021, the median age of HCW COVID-19 cases is 39 years (range 15-74 years). The number of female cases is disproportionately high (78.0%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.8%), most likely due to some HCW specialities e.g. nursing, being female dominated.

Of all HCW COVID-19 cases reported between 27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021, 25 had been admitted to hospital (0.5%). The median age of hospital inpatient HCW cases was 49 years (range: 23-73 years). One hospitalised COVID-19 case was admitted to ICU.

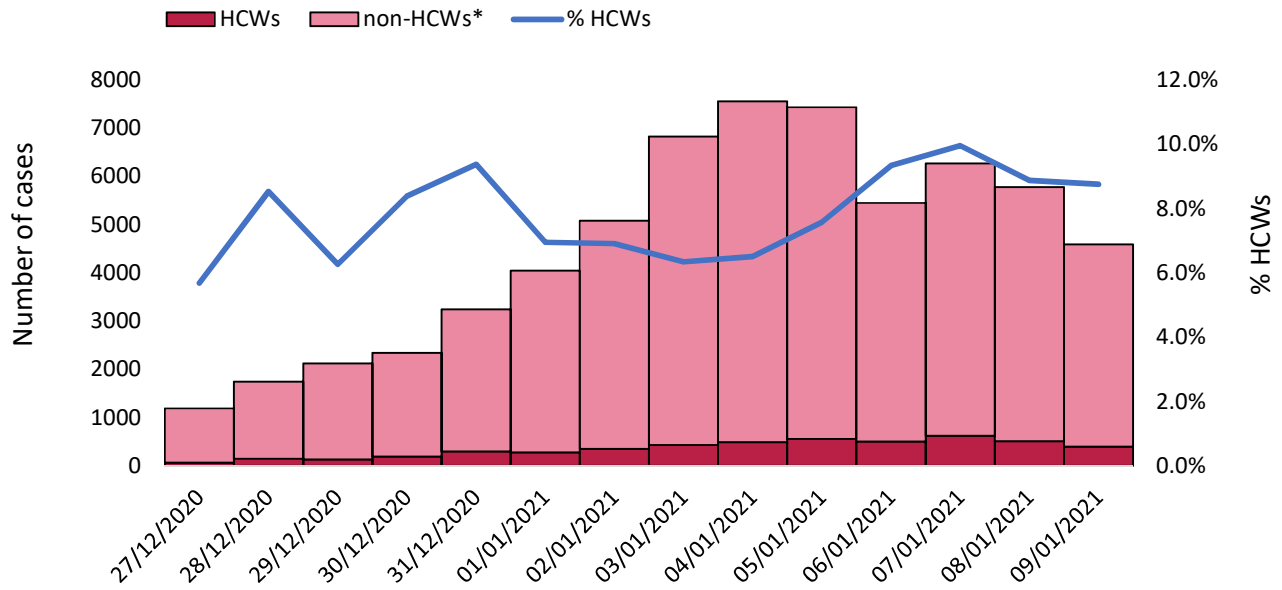


Figure 1: Healthcare worker and non-health care worker COVID-19 cases and the proportion of daily cases identified as HCWs, Ireland, 27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021 (n=63,692)

*includes non-healthcare workers (n= 58,642) and cases with no information on HCW status (n=31)

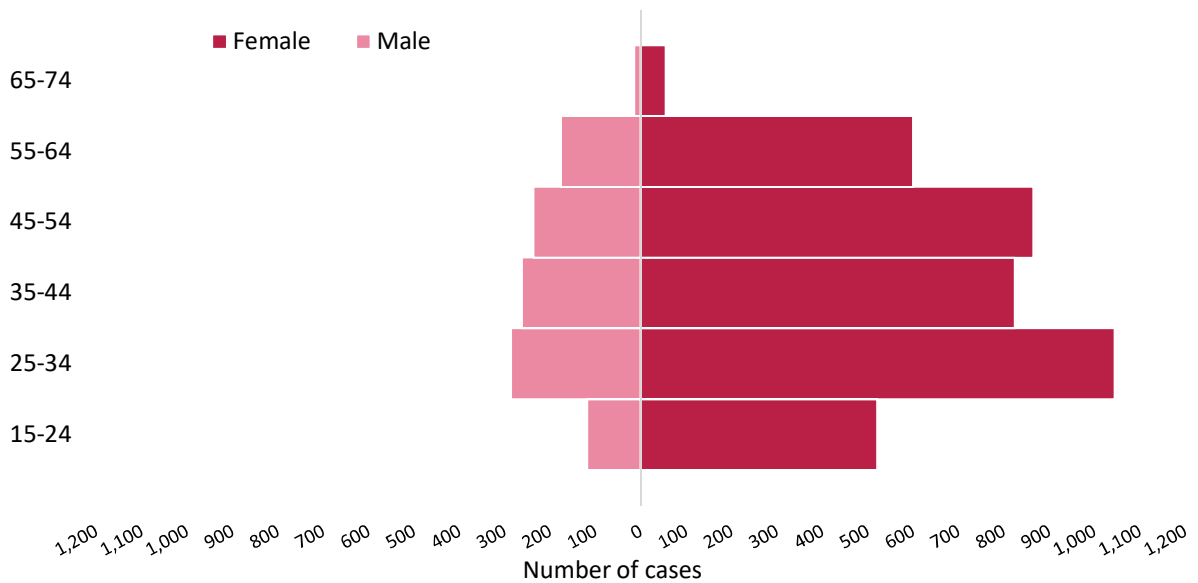


Figure 2: Distribution of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases, by sex and age group, Ireland, 27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021 (n=63,674) *

* Sex or age group was not available for 18 cases.

Table 2: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases, Ireland, by sex, HCW role and work location 27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021, (n=5,019)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion (%)
Sex	Females	3,913	78.0%
	Males	1,088	21.6%
	Unknown	18	0.4%
Age group	15-24	640	12.8%
	25-34	1,335	26.5%
	35-44	1,095	21.8%
	45-54	1,104	22.0%
	55-64	776	15.5%
	65-74	69	1.4%
	Unknown		
HCW Role	Nurse	1,137	22.7%
	Healthcare assistant	944	18.8%
	Admin / Clerical worker	377	7.5%
	Doctor	223	4.4%
	Home care	170	3.4%
	Catering / Kitchen worker	153	3.0%
	Pharmacy worker	115	2.3%
	Other	980	19.6%
	Unknown	920	18.3%
	Unknown		
Location of HCW role	Acute hospital	1,238	24.7%
	Nursing Home	746	14.9%
	Community services	347	6.9%
	Community Hospital/LSU	262	5.2%
	Residential Institution	174	3.5%
	Centre for disabilities	149	3.0%
	GP surgery	118	2.4%
	Mental Health Facility	57	1.1%
	Hospice	55	1.1%
	Other HCW place of work	386	7.6%
	Unknown	1,487	29.6%
	Unknown		

Table 3: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases, Ireland, by ethnicity and country of birth 27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021, (n=5,019)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion (%)
Ethnicity	White	4,025	80.3%
	Indian subcontinent	266	5.3%
	Black African	143	2.8%
	Mixed background	27	0.5%
	Other	195	3.9%
	Unknown	363	7.2%
Country of birth	Ireland	3,286	65.5%
	India	217	4.2%
	United Kingdom	169	3.4%
	Philippines	94	1.9%
	Nigeria	78	1.6%
	Poland	56	1.1%
	Other	317	6.3%
	Unknown	802	16.0%

Table 4: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases, Ireland, by mode of transmission, 27/12/2020 - 09/01/2021, (n=5,019)

		Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)
Mode of transmission	Close contact with a known confirmed case	1,082	21.6%
	Community transmission	655	13.1%
	Healthcare setting acquired: staff	636	12.7%
	Healthcare setting acquired: patient	145	2.9%
	Travel related OR close contact with a known confirmed travel case	7	0.1%
	Unknown	2,494	49.7%

Acknowledgements

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