

# Surveillance of work-related skin disease in the Republic of Ireland

Money A, Sludds K, Molloy Y, Gough P, Burke J, Barradas A, Van Tongeren M

The Health and Occupation Research (THOR) network, Centre for Occupational & Environmental Health, Health and Safety Authority

**Background:** - Chest physicians, dermatologists, occupational physicians (OPs) and general practitioners (GPs) voluntarily report cases of work-related illness (WRI) to the 4 surveillance schemes which comprise The Health and Occupation Research (THOR) network, in the Republic of Ireland (THOR-ROI). We describe cases of skin disease reported to the relevant THOR-ROI schemes.

**Methods:** At present, 12 dermatologists, 11 chest physicians, 30 OPs and 22 GPs participate in THOR-ROI (Figure 1), reporting incident cases that they believe to have been caused or aggravated by work.

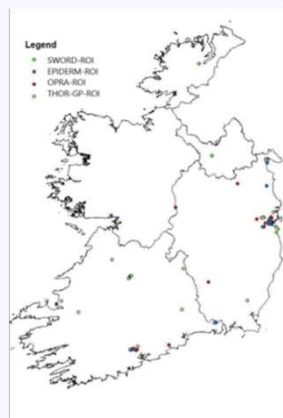


Figure 1. Location of THOR-ROI reporters

## Results:

- Skin disease cases reported by dermatologists (74%) to EPIDERM-ROI (2005-2018), OPs (25%) to OPRA-ROI (2007-2018) and GPs (1%) to THOR-GP-ROI (2015-2018) comprise 26% of all reported cases.

Table 1 shows the annual average incidence rate for dermatologist reported skin disease.

**Table 1. Annual average 'crude' and 'adjusted' incidence rates per 100,000 persons employed of work-related skin disease reported by dermatologists to EPIDERM in the Republic of Ireland (2005-2018)**

Skin (dermatologists)	'Crude'	'Adjusted'*
All	1.8	17.0
Contact dermatitis	1.7	16.4

\*adjusted for 'non-participation' and 'non-response'

- Dermatologist case reports (2005-2018) were predominantly contact dermatitis (CD) (96%) (Table 2), female (55% of CD cases) with a mean age (all CD cases) of 37 years.

**Table 2. Number and type of diagnoses reported by dermatologists to EPIDERM-ROI (2005-2018)**

Diagnosis	Number (%)
Contact dermatitis	478 (96%)
Contact urticaria	5 (1%)
Folliculitis/acne	0
Infective	1 (<1%)
Mechanical	0
Nail	3 (1%)
Neoplasia	0
Other dermatoses	1 (<1%)

- Most frequently reported industries and occupations were healthcare (nurses), manufacturing (process operatives) and hairdressing and beauty (Figure 2), and agents included rubber, nickel, wet work and preservatives.

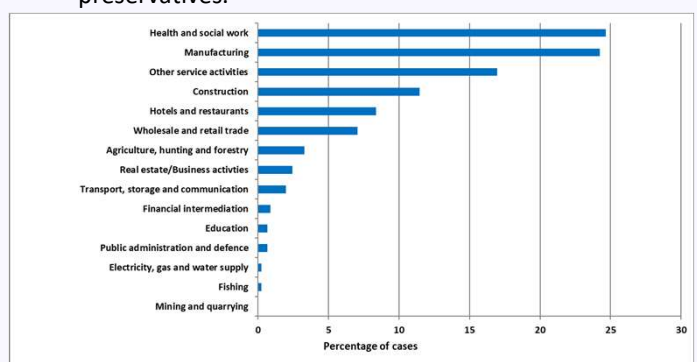


Figure 2. Proportion of cases of contact dermatitis reported to EPIDERM-ROI by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), 2005-2018

THOR-ROI provides the only source of medically attributed data on WRI incidence in the ROI, with nearly 2600 cases reported since 2005. We aim to expand enrolment/participation in all of the THOR-ROI schemes to increase case numbers and allow more detailed analysis of the data.