

Facing the Facts

Issue

INFORMAL CARE

The human & financial cost of informal caregiving in Canada

Facts

- Estimated 75–90% of home care is provided by informal caregivers (Health Canada survey 2005)
- 27% of Ontarians have personally cared for a family member or close friend with a serious health problem in the past 12 months. Nationally:
- 35% of 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 year-olds have provided care
- Almost 1 in 10 respondents—9%—had to quit work to care for loved one
- 41% of those caring for a family member or close friend had to use personal savings to survive during this time
- 22% had to take one or more months off work to provide care
- 41% of respondents reported that the result of caring for a family member or close friend had a negative impact on their mental health
- 38% reported that the experience had a negative impact on their physical health
- 40% reported that the experience had a negative impact on their finances
(POLLARA, in partnership with national health-care organizations, undertook the Health Care in Canada Survey in Sept. 2006.¹)

Response

To better understand the role and requirements of this undervalued population—and the policy implications that flow from that—The Change Foundation will devote some of its research resources to this issue. Given our reliance on informal caregivers, what policy changes and personal supports need to be put in place?

The Change Foundation is a policy think tank that generates research, analysis and informed discussion on key and emerging health system issues, starting with the integration of health-care services in communities across Ontario.

www.changefoundation.com

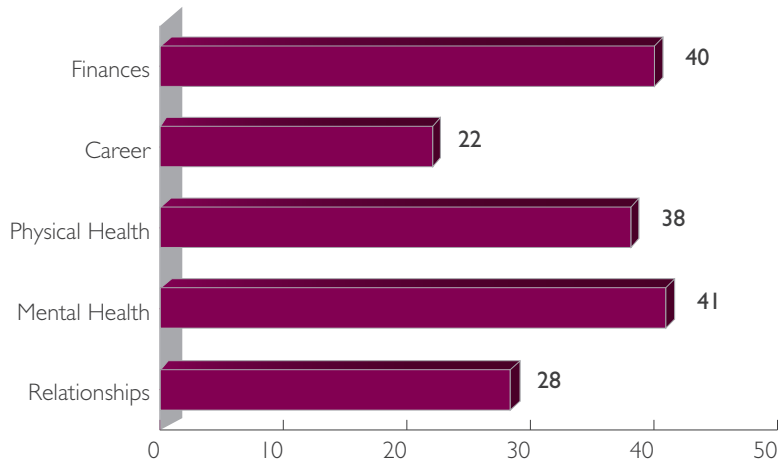
¹ See: www.pollara.ca/health.html for complete survey results.



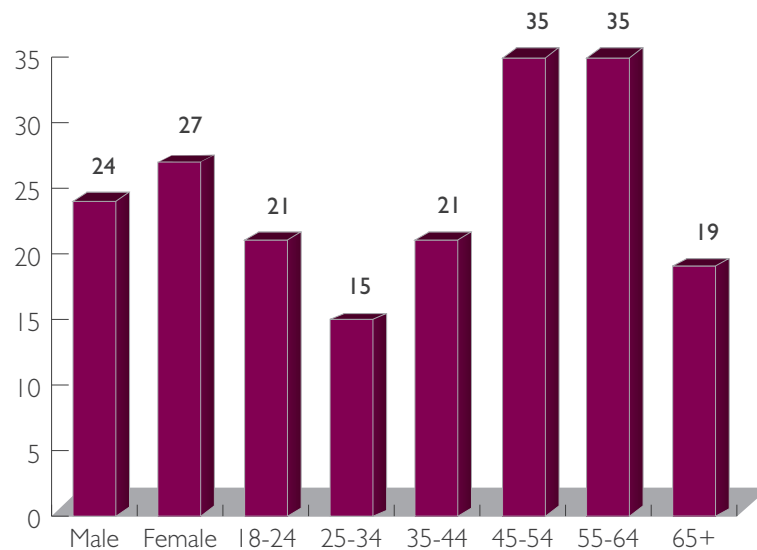
THE CHANGE FOUNDATION

HEALTH CARE DESERVES
OUR FINEST THOUGHT

% People Experiencing a Negative Impact When Caring for a Family Member or Close Friend with a Serious Health Problem, 2006



% of Canadians Who Cared for a Family Member or Close Friend with a Serious Health Problem in Past 12 Months, 2006



Result of Caring for a Family Member or Close Friend with a Serious Health Problem, 2006

