

# Family Carers in Ireland

## Who Is a Carer?

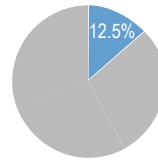
Someone who provides regular, **unpaid support** for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability (CSO, 2022)



## Who Cares?

**516,770** or **12.5%**

of the population aged 15 and over



(CSO, 2022a)

## What's the Kinship?

**86%** of family carers are family members. Most are caring for an **ageing parent** or a **child** with high support needs.

(CSO, 2017)

**€244** per week

– The additional cost of caring for an adolescent with additional needs

(MacMahon, Boylan & Thornton, 2022)

## What are the financial supports for family carers?

**92,906** carers receive the Carers Allowance.

Over **130,830** receive the Annual Carer Support Grant. (Pers. Comm, 2023)



## Is the Role Challenging?

**88%** of carers feel stressed trying to balance caring with other family and work responsibilities

(FCI, RCPI & UCD SNHMS, 2019)



## What are some of the the Impacts of Caring?

**68%** of carers experience financial **distress** (FCI, 2022)

**71%** of carers feel **left out** of society (FCI, 2022)

**38%** higher probability of experiencing depression than the average population (Gallagher & Wetherell, 2020)

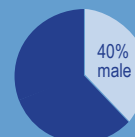
## Ethnic Background

**10%** of family carers in Ireland are from an ethnic background other than 'white Irish'. (CSO, 2017)



## What's the Gender Mix?

Women account for the majority of family carers in Ireland, however the number of male carers is increasing - currently nearly **40%** of all carers are **male**. (CSO, 2017)



**66,956**

Young Carers - aged 10-17 (FCI, 2020a)



## How Many Home Support Service Hours Are Provided Each Year?

**21.24m** in 2022

(HSE, 2023; excludes Personal Assistant and Home Support services delivered through Disability Services)



## What Share of the Social Welfare Pie Do Family Carers Get?

**6.7%** Percentage of overall Dept of Employment Affairs and Social Protection **Budget** spent on income supports for family carers (DEPR, 2023)



## Are There More Older Carers Now?

The number of older carers has increased by over

**50%** since 2006 (CSO, 2017)



## What Are Sandwich Carers?

Usually people caring for children and parents at the **same time**. The highest concentration of caring in our population is in the 40–55 age group (CSO, 2017)



## What Is the Financial Contribution of Family Carers?

**€20bn** per year (FCI, 2021)



## Can Family Carers Combine Working and Caring?

**50%** of family carers combine paid work and family care (CSO, 2017)



### Sources of Information

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- CSO (2022) Census 2022. Household Form. Question 23.
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