

## Section

# 6

## Carers

### *Introduction*

The FRS collects information on those giving and receiving help on an informal basis, that is, not as part of a paid job. What should be counted as care is not prescriptively defined. Respondents are asked if anyone in the household receives care, or if anyone gives care to anyone living outside the household.

Questions are then asked about who is receiving the help or being looked after. There are then follow-up questions for each person named about who provides the help and frequency.

Note that the follow-up questions are only asked for those receiving help at least once a week.

### *Contents and points to note when interpreting tables*

Tables 6.1 to 6.4 look at those providing care. Carers are counted only once, even if they look after more than one individual. Carers outside the household are not included in these tables as they are not identified individually within the questionnaire, and they may also produce instances of double counting.

Tables 6.2 and 6.4 show information on all informal carers. Tables 6.1 and 6.3 only show adult informal carers. This is because Table 6.3 looks at employment status while there are small sample sizes in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 provides analysis of adult informal carers by age, sex and frequency of care.

Table 6.2 looks at the sex of the carer and their relationship with the person being cared for. Those giving care to more than one person have been combined into one group. For non-household members, more than one person receiving care means more than one entry in either the “relative”, “friend or neighbour”, “client of voluntary organisation” or “other non-household” group. However, if, for example, someone cared for more than one friend or neighbour, this would not be picked up by the questionnaire.

Table 6.3 shows the sex and employment status of adult carers, using ILO definitions of employment in harmonisation with other government surveys.

Tables 6.5 and 6.6 look at household members receiving care. An individual is recorded as receiving care if they receive care from another person in the household, and/or from someone outside the household. They are counted only once no matter how many people provide care to them. In the NI 2002-03 sample, the number receiving care was lower than the number providing care (233 and 293 respectively). This will be, in part, because many recipients of care received help from more than one person within their household – each of whom was recorded as a separate carer.

Table 6.5 provides analysis of household members receiving care by sex and frequency of care.

Tables 6.4 and 6.6 show the main source of income received by the household in which the carer and the person being cared for live respectively, by sex. “Main source” is calculated as the category of income that gives the highest amount, and results should be interpreted with caution since some households may have more than one source that provides similar proportions.

It should also be noted that the FRS does not record information on individuals in retirement or nursing homes. This means that figures relating to the most elderly individuals may not be representative of the Northern Ireland population, as many of those who require care at this age will have moved into homes where they can receive more frequent help.

**Key definitions used**

*(For a full explanation of all definitions please refer to the Glossary)*

- Employment status
- Informal carers
- Ethnic group
- Total weekly household income

## ***Section 6 Summary***

40% of informal carers provide '10 or more' hours of care per week.

24% of informal carers provide varying hours of care in excess of 35 hours.

25% of informal carers are caring for a partner or spouse.

42% of informal carers providing care for relatives are non-household members.

53% of adult informal carers are also in full time or part time employment.

76% of those receiving care are attended to at least once a day, with 36% receiving care continuously.

45% of those receiving care stated Retirement pension (state and other) as their main source of income; 21% from employment; 18% disability benefits; 15% other benefits; and 1% other.



**Table 6.1: Informal adult carers by sex, age and number of hours per week providing care**

Percentage of informal carers						
Informal carers	Less than 10	10 or more	Varies, less than 35 hours	Varies more than 35 hours	Undefined	Sample size (=100%)
<b>All carers</b>						
16 to 44	35	41	7	17	0	<b>114</b>
45 or over	28	40	4	29	0	<b>155</b>
<b>All male carers</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>All female carers</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>All carers</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>269</b>

**Table 6.2 Informal carers<sup>1</sup> by relationship to person being cared for and whether living in or outside the household**

Percentage of informal carers			
Person being cared for	Carers		All informal carers
	Male	Female	
<b>Household member</b>			
Parent	8	9	8
Partner/spouse/cohabitee	28	23	25
Son/Daughter	12	7	9
Brother/Sister	5	1	3
Other relative	1	1	1
Non relative	0	0	0
<b>Non household member</b>			
Relative	36	46	42
Friend/neighbour	2	5	4
Client of voluntary organisation	0	0	0
Other non-household	1	.	-
More than one person cared for	8	8	8
<b>Sample size (=100%)</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>293</b>

1. Includes children aged 15 and under

**Table 6.3 Adult informal carers by employment status and sex**

Employment status	Percentage of adults					
	Adult carers			All adults		
	Male	Female	All adult carers	Male	Female	All adults
Employee						
full time	37	25	30	48	30	39
part time	2	25	16	4	18	11
Self employed						
full time	11	3	6	13	3	7
part time	1	2	1	1	1	1
ILO unemployed	1	1	1	3	1	2
Retired	16	12	14	16	23	19
Permanently sick or disabled	13	7	9	10	9	9
Other inactive	20	26	24	7	15	11
<b>Sample size (=100%)</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>3,095</b>

**Table 6.4: Informal carers<sup>1</sup> by sex, main source of total weekly household income and hours caring**

Main source of household income	Percentage of informal carers						Male Carers	Female Carers	All Carers
	Less than 10	10 or more	Varies, less than 35 hours	Varies more than 35 hours	Undefined				
<b>All carers</b>									
Wages and salaries	75	47	.	.	0	50	50	50	
Self employment income	9	8	.	.	0	7	9	8	
Investments	0	0	.	.	0	0	0	0	
Tax Credits	1	2	.	.	0	0	2	1	
Retirement Pension									
plus any IS/MIG	4	15	.	.	0	12	12	12	
Other pensions	5	2	.	.	0	4	4	4	
Disability related state support	1	8	.	.	0	9	7	8	
Other state support	4	19	.	.	0	18	16	16	
Other sources	1	.	.	.		0	1	-	
<b>Sample size (=100%)</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>293</b>	

1. Includes children aged 15 and under

**Table 6.5: Household members receiving care by sex, age and frequency of care**

Age	Frequency of help					Sample size (=100%)
	Percentage of individuals					
	Continuously	Several times a day	Once or twice a day	Several times a week	Once a week	
<b>All individuals</b>						
15 and under	.	.	.	.	.	<b>13</b>
16 to 64	44	20	20	10	6	<b>108</b>
86 or over	25	11	29	24	11	<b>112</b>
<b>All males receiving care</b>	.	.	.	.	.	<b>99</b>
<b>All females receiving care</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>All those receiving care</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>233</b>

**Table 6.6 Household members receiving care by main source of total weekly household income and sex**

Main source of household income	Percentage of individuals					
	Individuals receiving care			All individuals		
	Male	Female	All receiving care	Male	Female	All individuals
Wages and salaries	.	17	<b>19</b>	59	55	<b>57</b>
Self employment income	.	2	<b>2</b>	12	10	<b>11</b>
Investments	.	.	-	-	-	-
Tax Credits	.	0	<b>0</b>	1	2	<b>1</b>
Retirement Pension plus any IS/MIG	.	46	<b>42</b>	8	11	<b>10</b>
Other pensions	.	4	<b>3</b>	4	5	<b>4</b>
Disability related state support	.	15	<b>18</b>	4	3	<b>4</b>
Other state support	.	15	<b>15</b>	11	12	<b>11</b>
Other sources	.	1	-	1	2	<b>1</b>
<b>Sample size (=100%)</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>2,059</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>4,359</b>

