

Section

6

Carers and Disability

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.

The 2004-05 collects a significant amount of information on disability, resulting in the FRS becoming a key source of information on disabled adults and children. As a result this section has been renamed 'Carers and Disability', and several tables have been added.

The analysis extends to those with a long standing limiting illness or disability and those who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities. It should be noted that this group meets the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), but the estimates do not reflect the total number covered by the DDA as the FRS does not include those living in communal establishments.

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 2003-04 sample, the number receiving care was lower than the number providing care (232 and 337 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.

Tables 6.7 to 6.9 show individuals with a disability by age, sex, main source of household income and employment status.

Key definitions used

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

- Adult
- Age
- Child
- Disability including long standing limiting illness
- Employment status
- Household
- Individuals
- Informal Carers
- Main source of weekly household income
- Sources of income
- Total weekly household income

Changes to tables between 2003-04 and 2004-05

Three new tables, 6.7, 6.8 and 6.9 have been introduced to this section. Tables 6.7 and 6.9 show individuals with a disability, including long standing limiting illness, by sex aggregated by age and main source of household income. Table 6.8 shows adults with a disability, including long standing limiting illness, by sex and employment status.

Section 6 Summary

- 39% of informal carers provide '10 or more' hours of care per week.
- 23% of informal carers provide varying hours of care in excess of 35 hours.
- 26% of informal carers are caring for a partner or spouse.
- 40% of informal carers providing care for relatives are non-household members.
- 43% of adult informal carers are also in full time or part time employment. A further 10% are self-employed.
- 81% of those receiving care are attended to at least once a day, with 39% receiving care continuously.
- 36% of those receiving care stated Retirement pension (state and other) as their main source of income; 24% from employment (including the self-employed); 17% disability benefits; 22% other benefits; and 1% other.
- 5% of children aged 15 and under have a disability or long standing limiting illness.
- 55% of individuals aged 75 or over have a disability or long standing limiting illness.
- 42% of retired individuals have a disability or long standing limiting illness.
- 26% of individuals who source the majority of their income from wages and salaries have a disability or long standing limiting illness.

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

| Percentage of informal carers | | | | | | Sample size (=100%) |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Informal carers | Less than 10 | 10 or more | Varies, less than 35 hours | Varies more than 35 hours | Undefined | |
| All carers | | | | | | |
| 16 to 44 | 29 | 47 | 6 | 18 | . | 118 |
| 45 or over | 33 | 34 | 6 | 27 | . | 169 |
| All male carers | 35 | 36 | 7 | 22 | . | 103 |
| All female carers | 29 | 41 | 6 | 24 | . | 184 |
| All carers | 31 | 39 | 6 | 23 | . | 287 |

Table 6.2 Informal carers¹ 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 | |
| Household member | | | |
| Parent | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| Partner/spouse/cohabitee | 32 | 22 | 26 |
| Son/Daughter | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Brother/Sister | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Other relative | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Non relative | . | . | . |
| Non household member | | | |
| Relative | 38 | 41 | 40 |
| Friend/neighbour | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Client of voluntary organisation | . | 1 | 1 |
| Other non-household | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| More than one person cared for | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| Sample size (=100%) | 104 | 189 | 293 |

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 | 31 | 25 | 28 | 47 | 30 | 38 |
| part time | 7 | 19 | 15 | 4 | 18 | 11 |
| Self employed | | | | | | |
| full time | 17 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 3 | 8 |
| part time | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| ILO unemployed | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Retired | 17 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 23 | 20 |
| Permanently sick or disabled | 12 | 13 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Other inactive | 13 | 23 | 19 | 5 | 13 | 9 |
| Sample size (=100%) | 103 | 184 | 287 | 1,561 | 1,851 | 3,412 |

Table 6.4: Informal carers¹ by sex, main source of total weekly household income and hours caring

| Main source of household income | Percentage of informal carers | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| | Less than 10 | 10 or more | Varies, | | Undefined | Male Carers | Female Carers | All Carers |
| | | | less than 35 hours | more than 35 hours | | | | |
| All carers | | | | | | | | |
| Wages and salaries | . | 41 | . | . | . | 42 | 44 | 44 |
| Self employment income | . | 10 | . | . | . | 12 | 11 | 11 |
| Investments | . | 1 | . | . | . | . | - | - |
| Tax Credits | . | 2 | . | . | . | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Retirement Pension plus any IS / Pension Credit | . | 13 | . | . | . | 7 | 12 | 10 |
| Other pensions | . | 5 | . | . | . | 8 | 4 | 5 |
| Disability related state support | . | 11 | . | . | . | 11 | 8 | 9 |
| Other state support | . | 17 | . | . | . | 17 | 18 | 18 |
| Other sources | . | 1 | . | . | . | . | 1 | - |
| Sample size (=100%) | 90 | 119 | 20 | 64 | . | 104 | 189 | 293 |

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 | | | | | Percentage of individuals |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| | Continuously | Several times a day | Once or twice a day | Several times a week | Once a week | Sample size (=100%) |
| All individuals | | | | | | |
| 64 and under | 50 | 13 | 21 | 14 | 2 | 145 |
| 65+ | 26 | 22 | 29 | 22 | 2 | 111 |
| All males receiving care | 44 | 17 | 20 | 18 | 2 | 118 |
| All females receiving care | 35 | 16 | 29 | 17 | 3 | 138 |
| All those receiving care | 39 | 17 | 25 | 17 | 2 | 256 |

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

| Main source of household income | Individuals receiving care | | | Percentage of individuals | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | Male | Female | All receiving care | Male | Female | All individuals |
| Wages and salaries | 27 | 14 | 20 | 59 | 53 | 56 |
| Self employment income | 5 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 11 | 12 |
| Investments | . | . | . | - | - | - |
| Tax Credits | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Retirement Pension plus any IS / PC | 25 | 38 | 32 | 8 | 12 | 10 |
| Other pensions | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Disability related state support | 20 | 15 | 17 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Other state support | 19 | 24 | 22 | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| Other sources | 2 | . | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sample size (=100%) | 118 | 138 | 256 | 2,246 | 2,564 | 4,810 |

Table 6.7 Individuals with a disability, including long standing limiting illness by age and sex

| Age | Percentage of individuals | | | | Sample Size (=100%) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| | Individuals with a disability | | Individuals without a disability | | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | |
| 15 and under | 3 | 2 | 48 | 47 | 1,263 |
| 16 to 24 | 4 | 1 | 47 | 48 | 526 |
| 25 to 34 | 5 | 4 | 44 | 47 | 597 |
| 35 to 44 | 7 | 8 | 42 | 44 | 727 |
| 45 to 54 | 9 | 11 | 40 | 40 | 554 |
| 55 to 59 | 13 | 15 | 38 | 34 | 280 |
| 60 to 64 | 23 | 19 | 25 | 33 | 248 |
| 65 to 74 | 17 | 24 | 29 | 29 | 357 |
| 75 or over | 18 | 37 | 20 | 25 | 258 |
| All individuals | 8 | 9 | 41 | 42 | 4,810 |

Table 6.8 Individuals with a disability, including long standing limiting illness by employment status and sex

| Employment Status | Percentage of individuals | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | Individuals with a disability | | | All individuals | | |
| | Male | Female | All with a disability | Male | Female | All individuals |
| Employee | | | | | | |
| full time | 14 | 6 | 9 | 47 | 30 | 38 |
| part time | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 18 | 11 |
| Self employed | | | | | | |
| full time | 4 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 3 | 8 |
| part time | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| ILO unemployed | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Retired | 33 | 49 | 42 | 17 | 23 | 20 |
| Permanently sick/disabled | 40 | 34 | 37 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Other inactive | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 9 |
| Sample size (=100%) | 342 | 436 | 778 | 1,561 | 1,851 | 3,412 |

**Table 6.9 Individuals with a disability, including long standing limiting illness
by main source of total weekly household income and sex**

| Main source of household income | Percentage of individuals | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | Individuals with a disability | | | All individuals | | |
| | Male | Female | All with a disability | Male | Female | All individuals |
| Wages and salaries | 30 | 22 | 26 | 59 | 53 | 56 |
| Self employment income | 4 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 11 | 12 |
| Investments | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tax Credits | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Retirement Pension plus and IS/PC | 20 | 35 | 28 | 8 | 12 | 10 |
| Other pensions | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Social Security disability benefits | 19 | 13 | 16 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Other Social Security benefits | 18 | 17 | 17 | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| Other sources | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sample size (=100%) | 388 | 461 | 849 | 2,246 | 2,564 | 4,810 |

