Capacity and Costs of Dementia Care for the Informal Workforce

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The Family/Friend Workforce

- Vast majority of care is provided by family members and friends
  - 28% of Canadians, 8.1 M, were caregivers in 2012
  - Provided 1.5 billion hours of care
    - Equivalent to the work of 1.2 million FT employees
    - More than 10 times the amount of paid care provided
  - > 480,000 dementia care providers in 2012; averaged almost 14 hours/week of care

The Family Dementia Care Workforce in 2012

Compared to the population of all caregivers, dementia care providers are:

- Older
- Spending more time on care tasks
- More likely to be caring for parents
- Less likely to co-reside with the care receiver
- More likely to report many of the negative consequences
Family Care Comes at a Cost

- To caregivers
  - Economic, health, social

- To other stakeholders
  - Employers & labour market (productivity)
    - Caregivers comprise 30-35% of the labour market
  - Formal health & continuing care system (services for ill/injured CG; institutionalization of care receiver)
Financial Consequences (Last 12 Months)

- LF exit
- Absenteeism
- Reduced Hours
- Extra expenses
- Financial hardship

% of Caregivers

- All men
- Dementia men
- All women
- Dementia women
Health Consequences (last 12 months)

- Health suffered
- Worried
- Disturbed sleep
- Depressed
- Less self-care

% of caregivers

- All Men
- Dementia Men
- All Women
- Dementia Women
Social Consequences (last 12 months)

% of caregivers

Less time ...

With partner
With children
With friends
On activities
Felt lonely

All men
Dementia men
All women
Dementia women
Implications

Employers/labour market

- 558,874 employees age 45+ lost (turnover) p.a.
  - Cost Canadian employers $355 million in 2007
- 9.7 million days of absenteeism (age 45+) p.a.
  - 10% of all absenteeism in Canada
  - Cost Canadian employers $934 million in 2007
- 4.9 million fewer hours worked p.a.(age 45+)
- Health benefit & other costs

Implications

Health care services

- CG seeking additional health care services
- Family care reduces reliance on formal, publicly financed care services
  - Saves Canadian governments $2,951 per male caregiver, $2,075 per female caregiver, age 45+
  - Aggregate savings $4.4 Billion

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