



Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
Académie canadienne des sciences de la santé

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 ¹
- ▶ *> 480,000 dementia care providers in 2012; averaged almost 14 hours/week of care*

1. Conference Board of Canada (2013). Home and Community Care in Canada: An Economic Footprint. Ottawa: author.



The Family Dementia Care Workforce in 2012

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

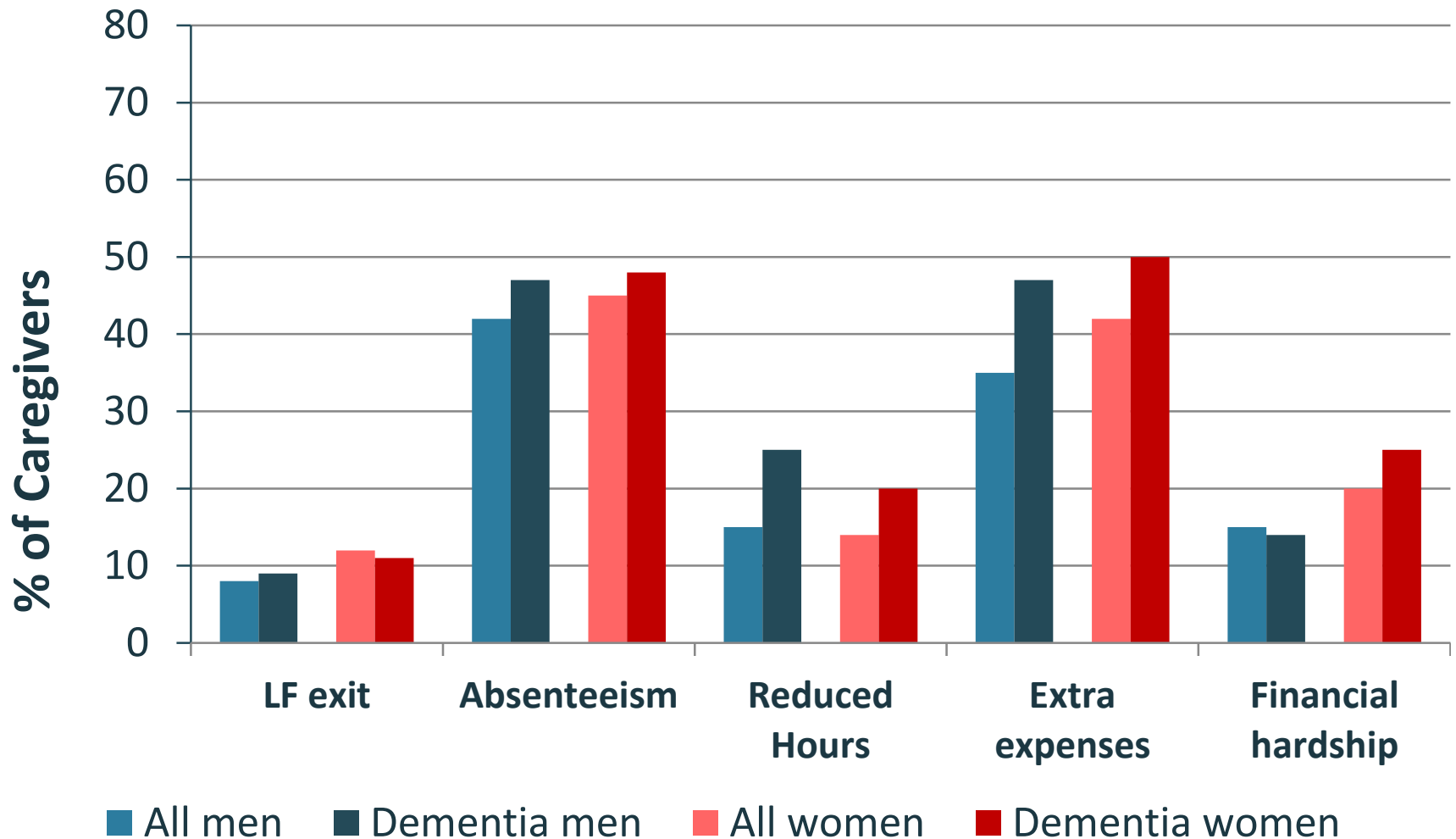
- ▶ Older
- ▶ Spending more time on care tasks
- ▶ More likely to be caring for parents
- ▶ Less likely to co-reside with the care receiver
- ▶ More likely to report many of the negative consequences



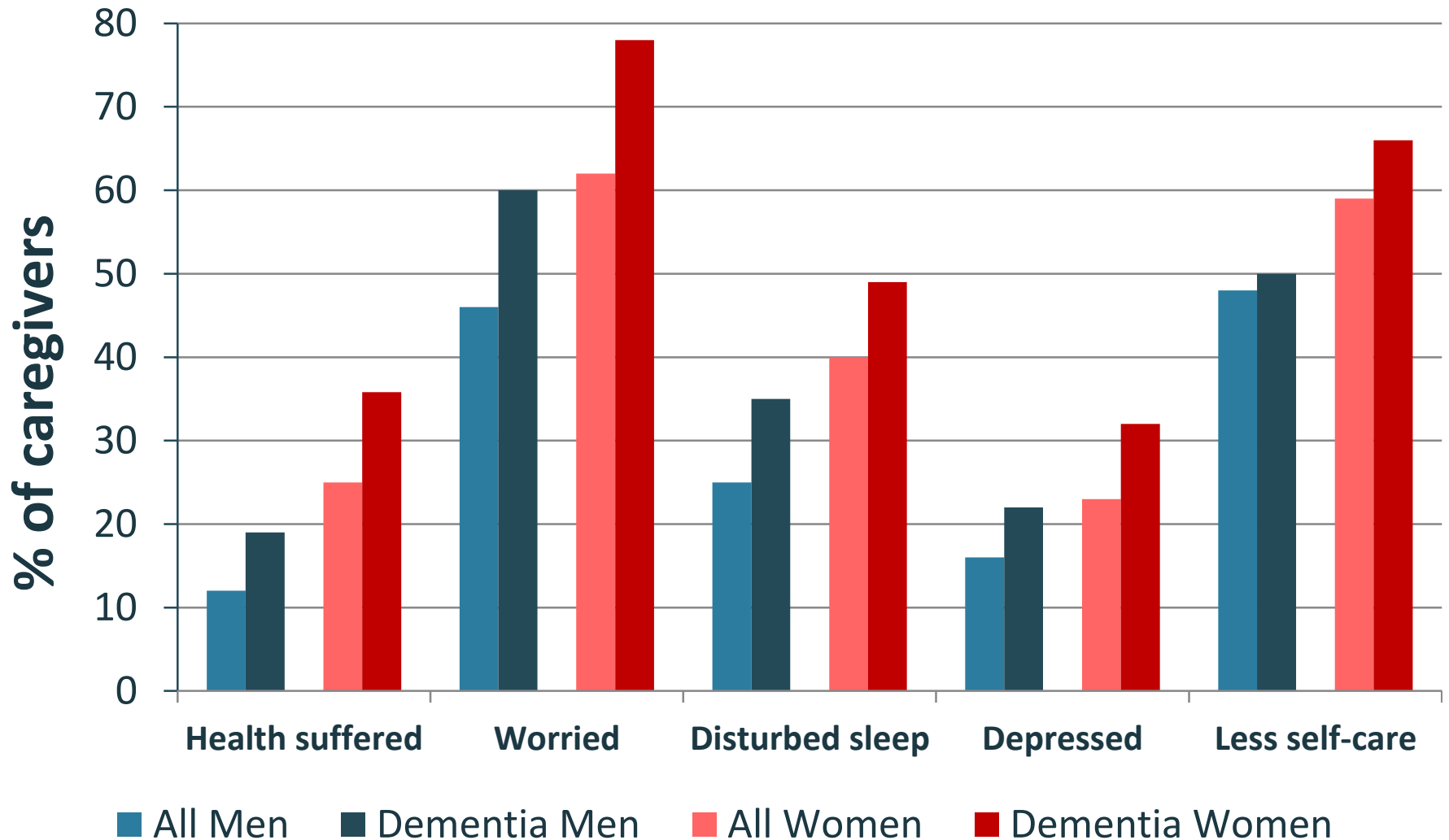
Family Care Comes at a Cost

- ▶ 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)

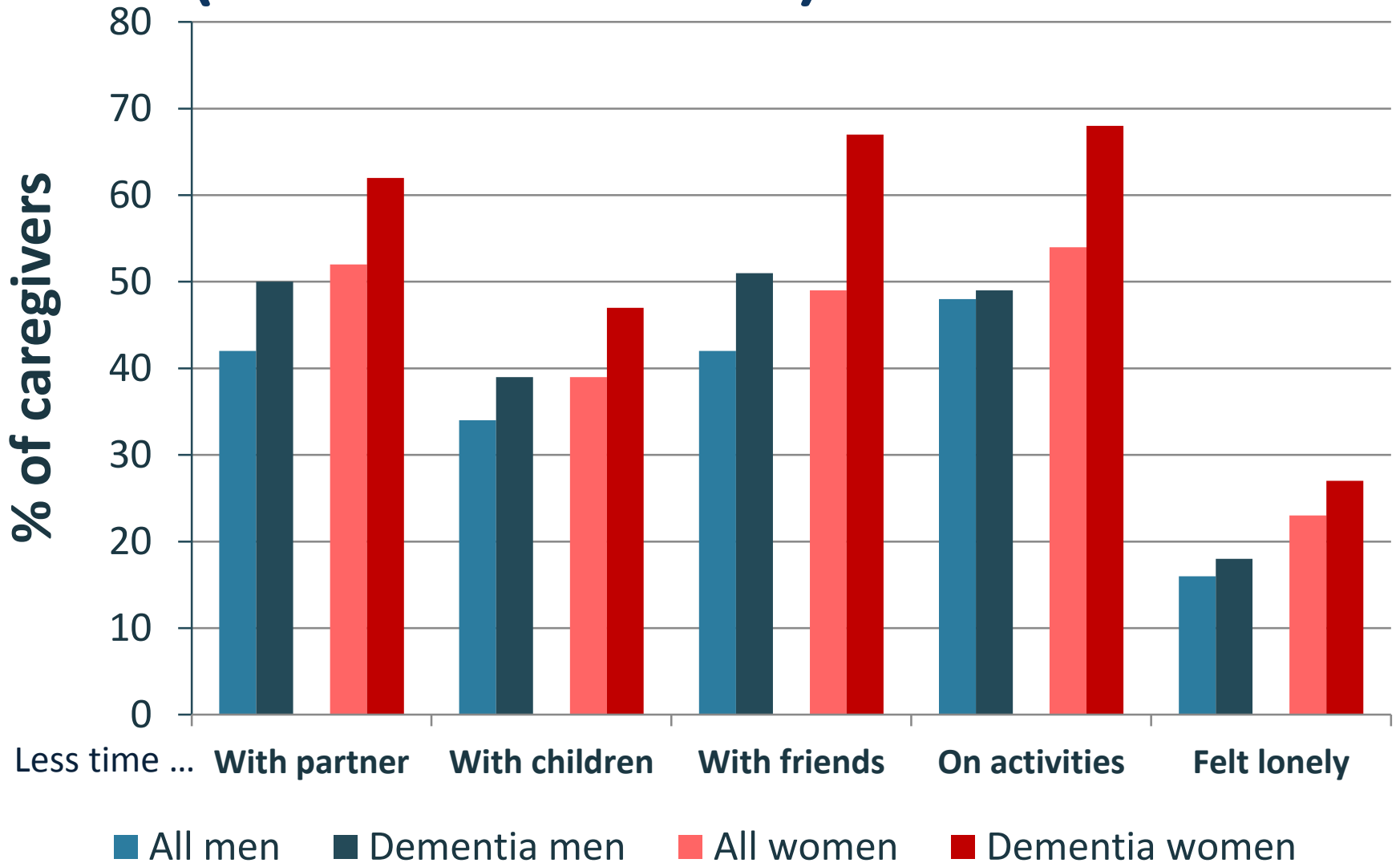
Financial Consequences (Last 12 Months)



Health Consequences (last 12 months)



Social Consequences (last 12 months)





Implications

- ▶ **Employers/labour market**
 - 558,874 employees age 45+ lost (turnover) p.a.
 - ▷ Cost Canadian employers \$355 million in 2007¹
 - 9.7 million days of absenteeism (age 45+) p.a.
 - ▷ 10% of all absenteeism in Canada
 - ▷ Cost Canadian employers \$934 million in 2007¹
 - 4.9 million fewer hours worked p.a.(age 45+)
 - Health benefit & other costs

1. Hermus, G., Stonebridge, C., Thériault, L. & Bounajm, F. (2012). Home and community care in Canada: An economic footprint. Ottawa: Conference Board of Canada.



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 Billion¹

1. Jacobs, J.C., Lilly, M.B., Ng, C. & Coyte, P. (2013). The fiscal impact of informal caregiving to home care recipients in Canada: How the intensity of care influences costs and benefits to government. *Social Science & Medicine*, 81, 102-109.



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