

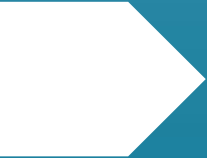
**ASHA**

**2025 ASHA National Survey of  
Caregivers: Insights and  
Experiences**

**YouGov**® | May 2025

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**Objectives,  
Methodology  
& Key  
Findings**



# Objectives & Methodology



## Research Objectives:

This survey aims to profile the experiences of, and challenges faced by, caregivers of people who ASHA members serve (e.g., children and adults with speech, language, hearing, swallowing, balance, and/or cognitive disorders or difficulties).

Research objectives include determining:

- The impact of caregiving responsibilities on personal life, work, and interpersonal relationships.
- Attitudes and perceptions towards caregiving roles and responsibilities.
- Challenges and stressors associated with caregiving, including communication difficulties.
- The effectiveness of support and resources available to caregivers.
- Strategies and interventions that could improve the daily lives of caregivers and care recipients.
- The emotional and financial impact of caregiving.

## Methodology:

**Method:** 15-minute online survey

**Fieldwork:** March 6 – 21, 2025

**Sample size:** n=1,000 Adults 18-74 who are caregivers of people who ASHA members serve (n=283 child caregivers, n=717 adult caregivers)

A census-clicks approach to sampling and weighting was used. This methodology is often used to ensure a representative sample of hard-to-reach groups and involves sampling and weighting to the closest known population; in this case, U.S. adults ages 18+.

**Note:** For the purposes of this survey, **caregivers of children** are people who provide assistance to a child—in a sole or shared capacity—for needs that go beyond typical child care. These needs may include extra medical appointments, school supports such as an Individualized Education Program or 504 plan, and/or help with daily activities beyond what is needed by most children of that age. **Caregivers of adults** are responsible, fully or partially, for assisting an adult (18+) family member, spouse, loved one, or friend with medical care/appointments, household tasks, or daily living needs, in a sole or shared capacity.

# Key Findings

**The most pressing challenges for caregivers overall stem from the nature of their role.** Nearly half of caregivers (49%) cite their own mental health as a top concern, highlighting the emotional toll of caregiving. Top stressors vary by caregiver type, with managing the care recipients' behavioral and emotional challenges ranking as the top stressor for caregivers of children (40%), while household tasks generate the most stress for caregivers of adults (37%).

**Communication breakdowns present a significant hurdle,** with nearly 4-in-10 caregivers agreeing that these breakdowns make their role more challenging. This is especially true for those caring for someone with communication difficulties, rising to 60% in this group. This situation extends beyond the home, as nearly half of caregivers (45%) report fewer public interactions due to concerns about communication issues, with this concern being more prevalent among caregivers of children than adults (53% vs. 41%). Nevertheless, caregivers of children are generally more likely to be comfortable navigating public spaces compared to caregivers of adults (86% vs. 75%).

**Despite the challenges inherent in caregiving, caregivers also experience positive outcomes.** Caregivers report an increased appreciation for life's small moments (58%), satisfaction in providing good care (57%), and developing more patience (56%).

**Medical care is generally well regarded by caregivers.** Caregivers shoulder the brunt of medical care responsibilities, with nearly all attending appointments (94%) and holding more responsibility for appointment-related tasks than care recipients. Caregivers say medical professionals generally meet their expectations by communicating with both parties. Health care professionals are also generally easy to understand (73%). However, there is room for improvement in other aspects of communication, including asking the care recipient about their communication preferences (only reported by 40%).

**Support from audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) is extremely valuable,** with 65% of those who work with an audiologist noting improvement in daily life. Similarly, 77% of caregivers working with SLPs report improved daily life. Speaking to the impact these professions have, recommendation is nearly unanimous for both (89% audiologist; 91% SLP).

## Key Findings (Continued)

**The need for additional support is evident.** A majority of caregivers (63%) express a need for more resources and support. Family and friends are the top source of support, mentioned by 60% of caregivers, but this may not be sufficient to address all the complex needs associated with caregiving. The gap between available support and caregiver needs is further highlighted by the fact that only 21% of caregivers receive any form of compensation for their caregiving duties. This also emerged as the most common response to the question of what would make their lives easier as caregivers.



### Spotlight on Caregiving for Children vs. Adults

**The caregiving experience differs for those caring for children versus adults; the support network for children appears to be more robust and diverse.** Caregivers of children are more likely to say they have sufficient resources, as compared to caregivers of adults (42% vs. 33%). They are more likely to rely on a variety of sources for support, including family members and friends (65% vs. 57%), health care providers (55% vs. 46%), mental health professionals (35% vs. 21%), and online resources or forums (32% vs. 23%). This broader support network may contribute to better coping mechanisms and overall well-being in this population of caregivers. Caregivers of children are also more likely to share responsibilities with another immediate family member (67% vs. 46%).

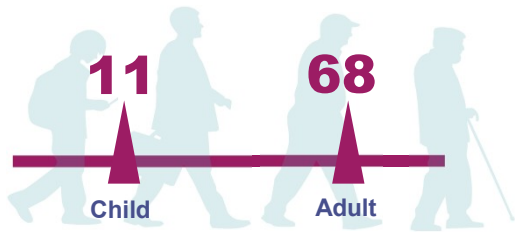
**Financial assistance also plays a role in differentiating the two groups.** Caregivers of children are somewhat more likely than caregivers of adults to receive some form of compensation for their caregiving duties (26% vs. 19%). Among those receiving financial support, caregivers of children have greater access to Medicaid assistance (48% vs. 32%). This financial support can be crucial in alleviating some of the economic pressures associated with caregiving, potentially allowing caregivers of children to dedicate more time and resources to their responsibilities.



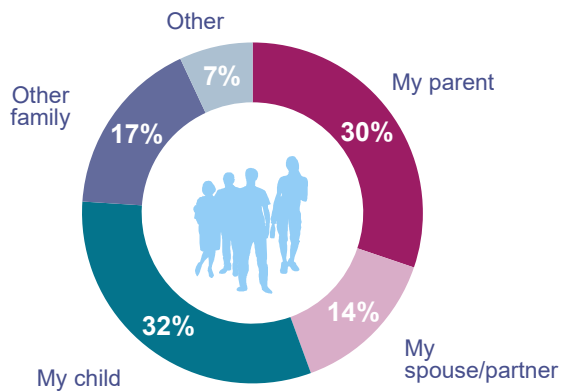
# **Section I:** **Introduction & Care Background**



# Care Recipient Snapshot – Total Sample

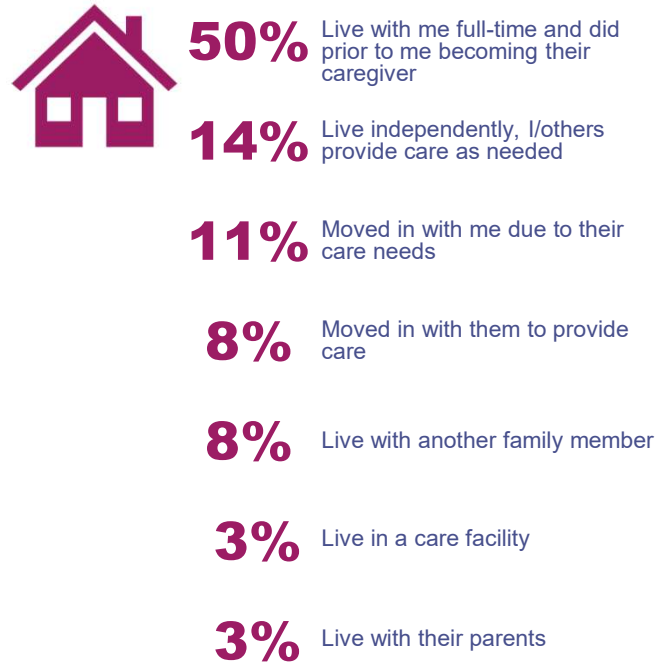


Avg. Age of Care Recipient



Relationship to Care Recipient

## Living Situation of Care Recipient



## Caregiving Details



**39 hours**

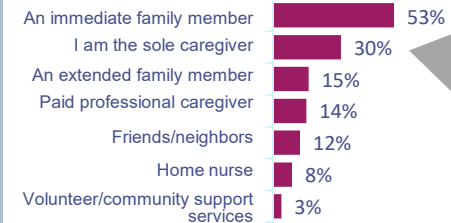
Avg. time spent per week providing care

## Length of Care Provision



Caregivers of children are more likely than caregivers of adults to have provided care for 5+ years (56% vs. 40%).

## Other Caregiving Providers




Caregivers of adults are more likely to be the sole caregiver than caregivers of children (37% vs. 15%).

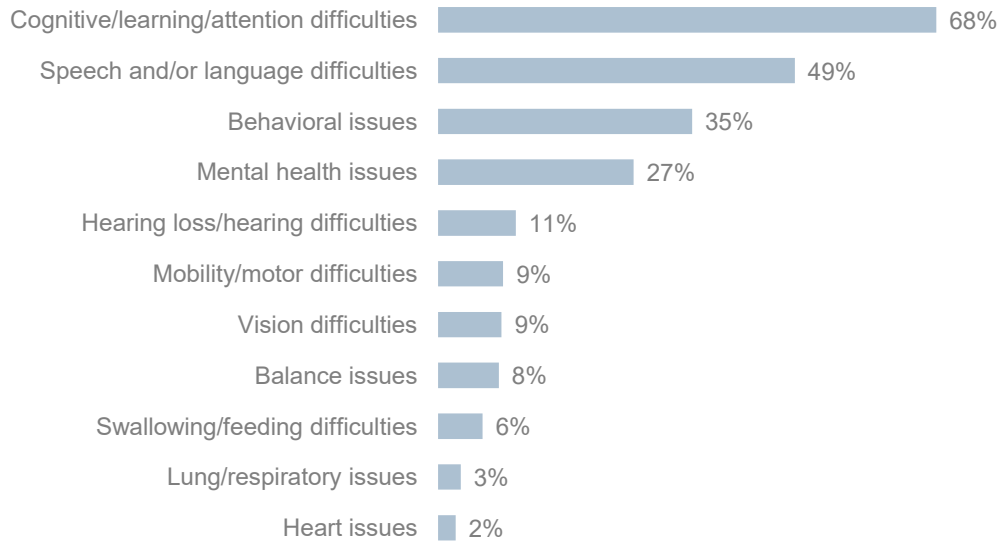
Caregivers of children are more likely to have another immediate family member providing care (67% vs. 46%).




**The main reasons children require care are cognitive, learning, and/or attention difficulties, as well as speech/language difficulties. Adults most commonly require care due to mobility, balance, and cognitive or memory difficulties.**

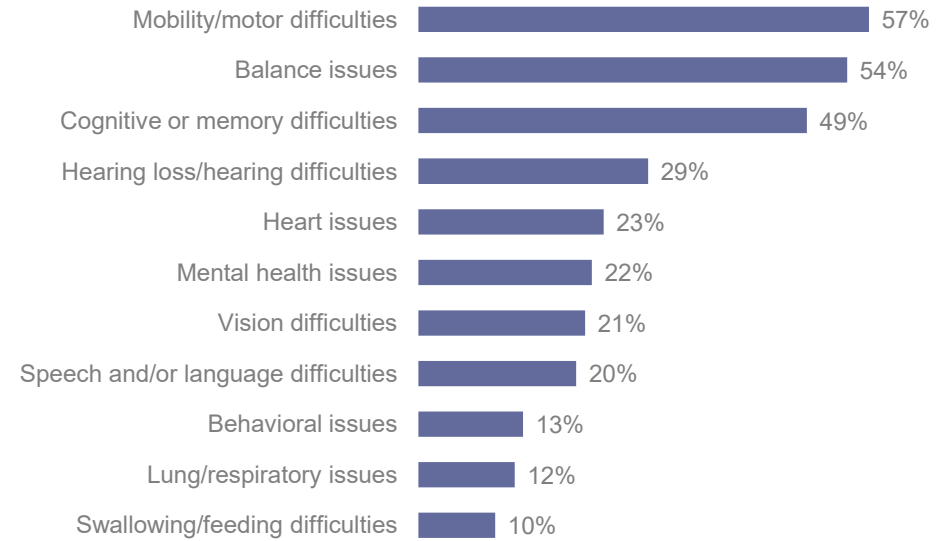
**Reasons for Care**

 Among Child Caregivers



**Reasons for Care**

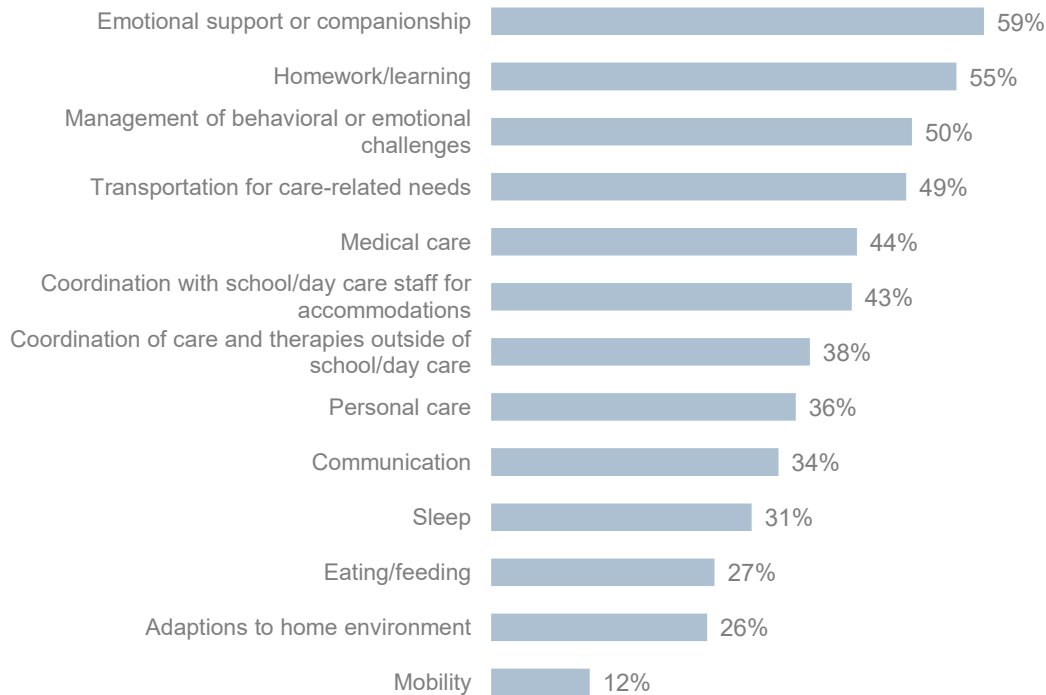
 Among Adult Caregivers




**Among caregivers of children, top aspects of care include emotional support and homework. Among caregivers of adults, top aspects of care are household tasks, emotional support, and transportation.**

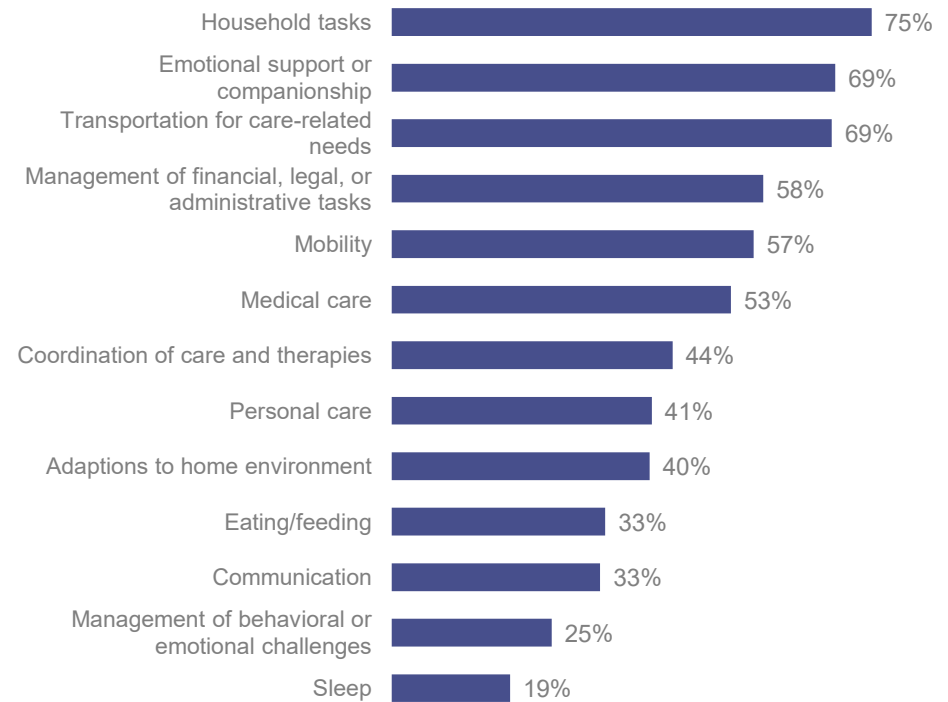
**Aspects of Care**

 Among Child Caregivers



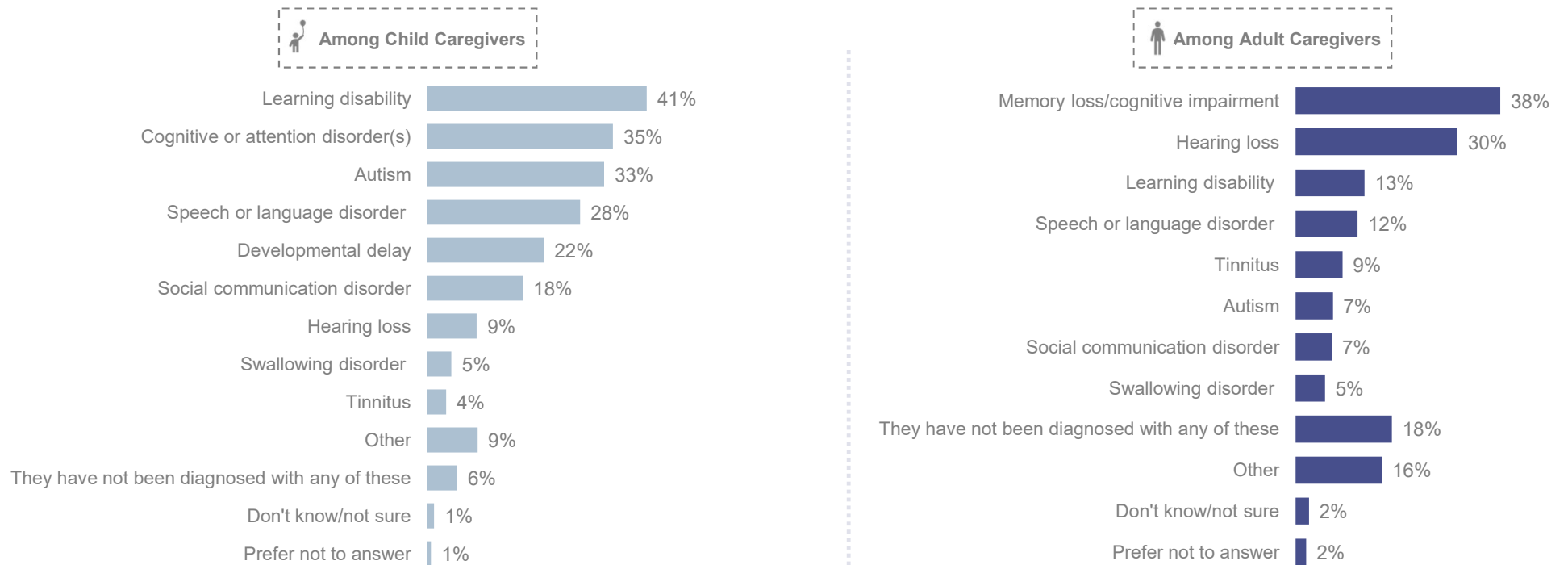
**Aspects of Care**

 Among Adult Caregivers



**Common diagnoses in children who require care include learning disabilities, cognitive or attention disorders, and autism. Common diagnoses in adults who require care are memory loss/cognitive impairment and hearing loss.**

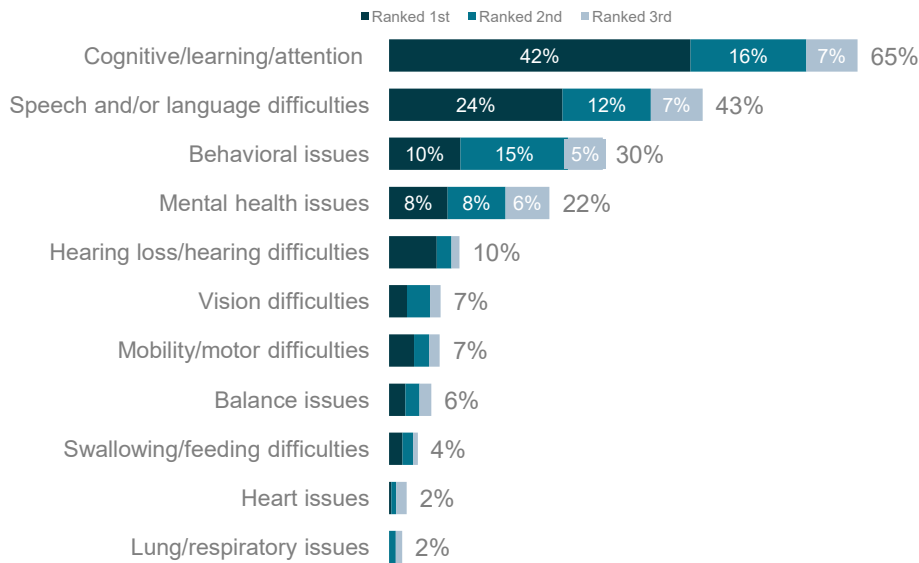
**Diagnosed Conditions of the Care Recipient**



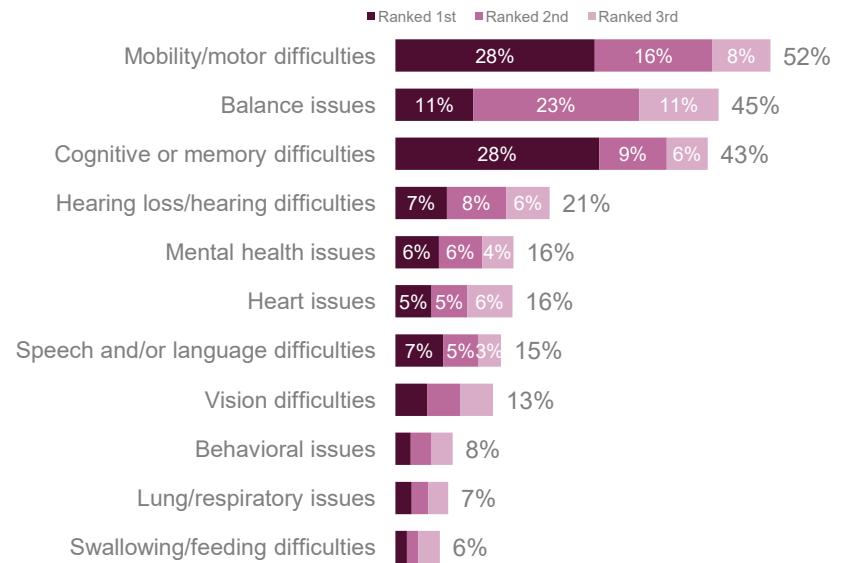
**Top challenges impacting children’s daily lives are cognitive, learning, or attention difficulties, followed by speech/language difficulties. For adults, top challenges are mobility, balance, and cognitive or memory difficulties.**

**Top Challenges to Care Recipient**

Among Child Caregivers



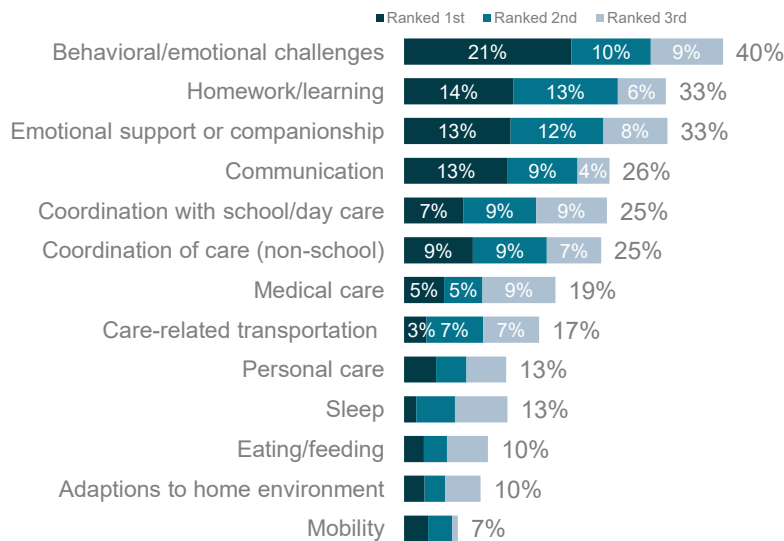
Among Adult Caregivers



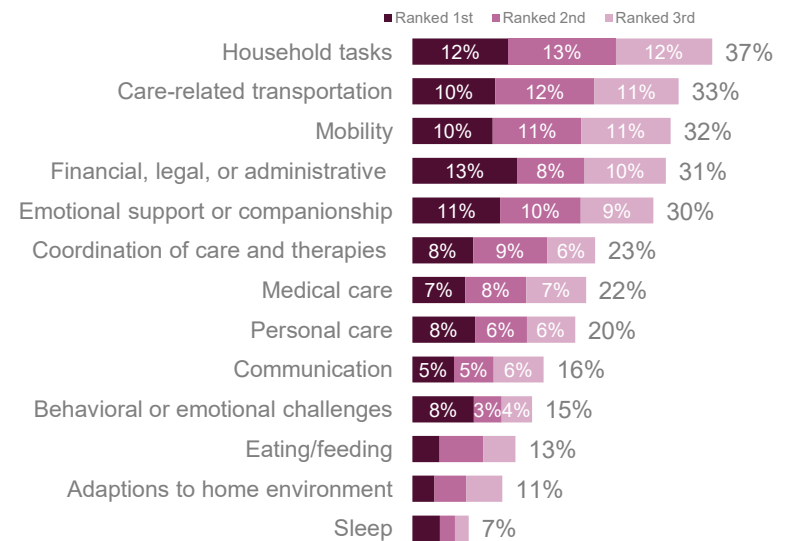
# For caregivers of children, the most stress comes from managing the child's behavioral and emotional challenges. For caregivers of adults, household tasks generate the most stress.

## Most Stressful Caregiving Tasks

Among Child Caregivers



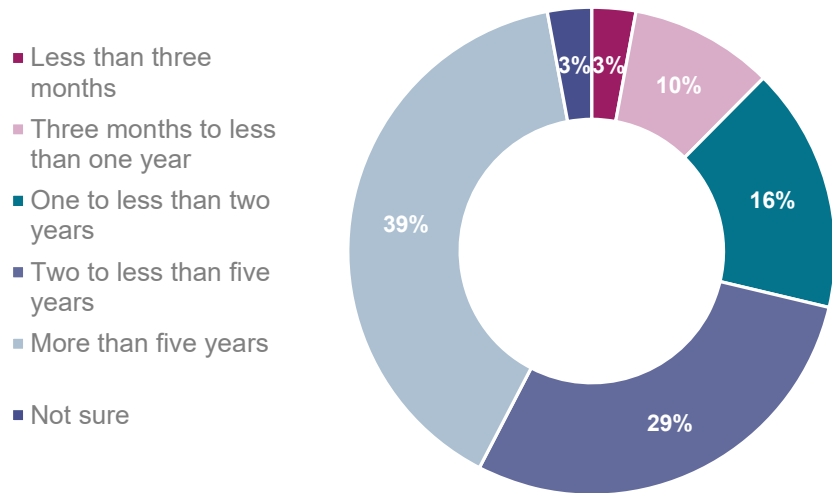
Among Adult Caregivers



# A majority (68%) of care recipients have experienced symptoms for two or more years, with 39% of the issues arising “over time.”

## Condition Length

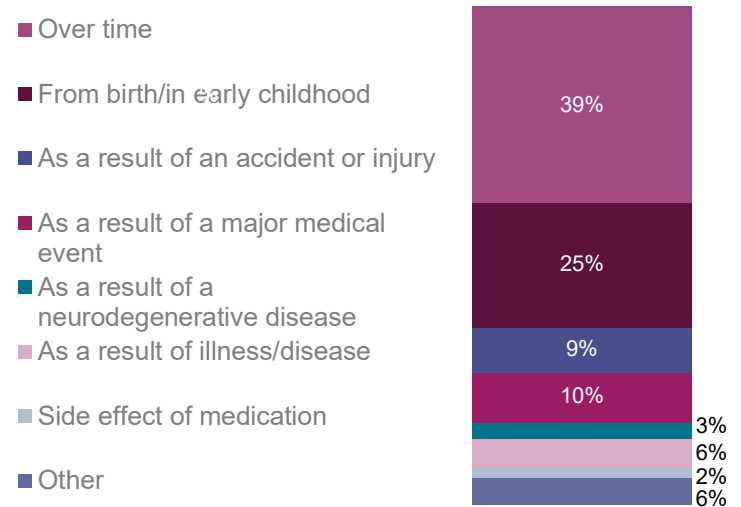
Among Caregivers of People Whose Top Challenge is Served by ASHA



Children are more likely than adults to have had their condition for over five years (48% vs. 33%). Conversely, adults are more likely than children to have had their condition for less than five years (65% vs. 47%).

## Condition Emergence

Among Caregivers of People Whose Top Challenge is Served by ASHA



Children are more likely than adults to have had their condition since birth (50% vs. 8%). Conversely, adults are more likely than children to have had their condition emerge for most of the other reasons listed, most notably over time (48% vs. 25%).

## **Key Insights:**

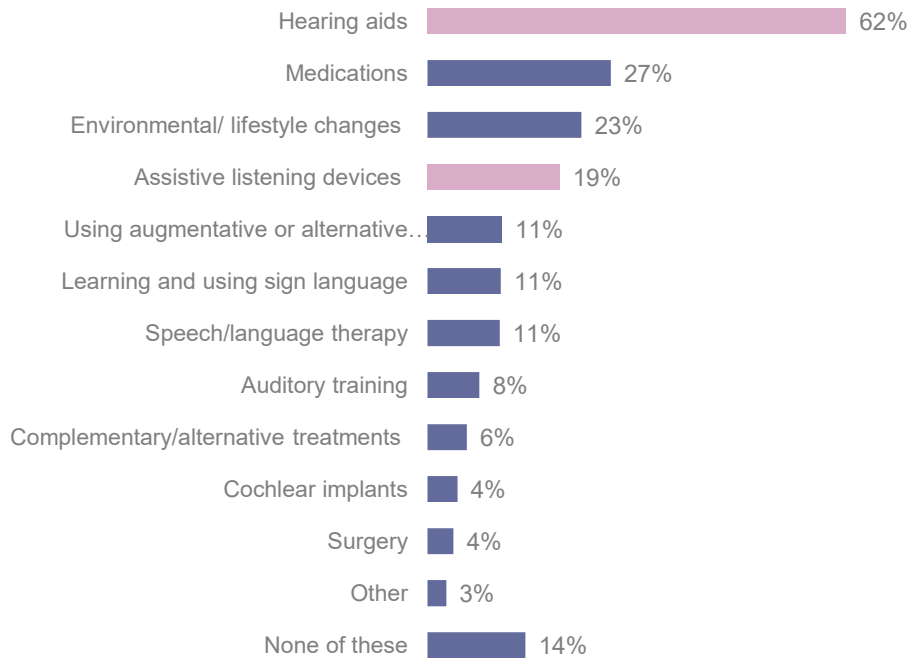


**Caregivers to Those  
With Hearing or  
Speech/Language  
Difficulties**

# Nearly three-quarters of caregivers to those with hearing difficulties said the care recipient uses hearing aids or assistive listening devices.

## Hearing Treatments/Interventions

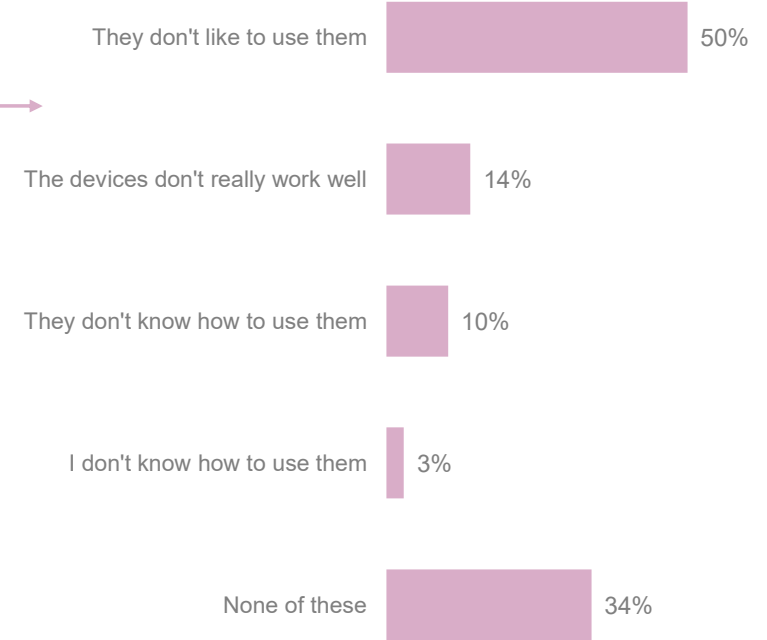
Among Total Caregivers to Those With Hearing Difficulties



72%  
Net: Hearing Tech

## Hearing Technology Usage

Among Total Caregivers to Those With Hearing Difficulties Who Use Hearing Tech





# Gestures and facial expressions are the most common AAC methods used by people with speech/language difficulties, followed by pointing and writing/typing.

## Augmentative/Alternative Communication (AAC) Methods Usage

Among Total Caregivers to Those With Speech/Language Difficulties

		Child CG	Adult CG
Gestures and facial expressions	37%	41%	32%
Pointing to photos, pictures, or written words	31%	31%	30%
Writing or typing	28%	31%	23%
Using an app on mobile phone/tablet to communicate	24%	29%	18%
Spelling words by pointing to letters	18%	23%	13%
Drawing	15%	19%	9%
Using a speech-generating device	15%	21%	8%
Other	7%	8%	5%
None of these	31%	23%	42%

Green = Significantly higher than other group



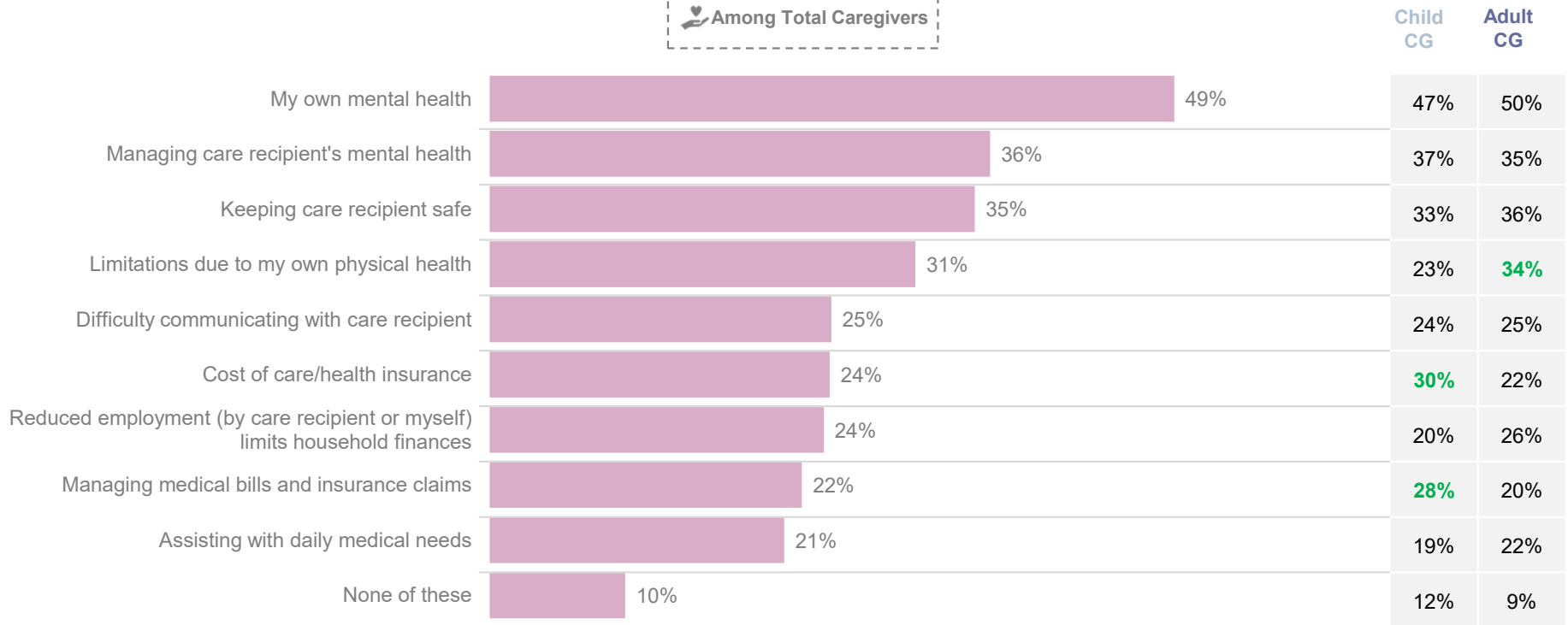
# **Section II:** **Communication & Other Challenges**



**Half (49%) of total caregivers cited their own mental health as a top challenge in their role, followed by managing the care recipient's mental health (36%).**

**Caregiving Challenges**

Among Total Caregivers



Green = Significantly higher than other group

## Caregivers describe a variety of communication challenges between themselves and their care recipients.

### Difficulty understanding needs

“Communication is tough because my daughter can’t always tell me when she’s in pain or struggling with swallowing, so her frustration comes out as behavioral issues. During meals, she might refuse to eat or act out, and it takes time to realize it’s because swallowing hurts. These misunderstandings happen almost daily, and it’s exhausting trying to figure out what she needs ...” – Caregiver to 13-year-old child

“My son is non-verbal. So if his tummy hurts he can’t tell me. So he has a meltdown and sometimes becomes violent until I can try to go through all the things (food, juice, rocking) that he usually wants and if that doesn’t work I have to try to figure out what’s wrong and what’s causing him to be upset.” – Caregiver to 6-year-old child

### Unclear communication

“She was really sick one night and her speech was incoherent, then another instance she had a seizure and was also incoherent.” – Caregiver to 74-year-old adult

“Sometimes it’s difficult to understand what he is saying. Sometimes I’ll have to urge him to say the words but he also has speech [disorder].” – Caregiver to 68-year-old adult

### Memory problems

“Mom will ask me the same questions over and over again and not remember my answer.” – Caregiver to 81-year-old adult

“With advanced senile dementia [they don’t] remember what was told [to] them 5 minutes ago. Explaining to them that their blood/oxygen is 98% while they are claiming they can’t breathe, or explaining to them that if they weren’t breathing they couldn’t be yelling so loudly.” – Caregiver to 88-year-old adult

### Communication partner mismatches

“He’s almost completely nonverbal and gets frustrated very quickly if I can’t figure out what he wants or needs.” – Caregiver to 7-year-old child

“Severe hearing loss requires writing messages on whiteboard.” – Caregiver to 60-year-old adult

### Behavioral challenges

“My dad has become very agitated. Dementia has changed his behavior. He is angry all the time. He is swearing all the time. You can’t reason or explain things to him.” – Caregiver to 86-year-old adult

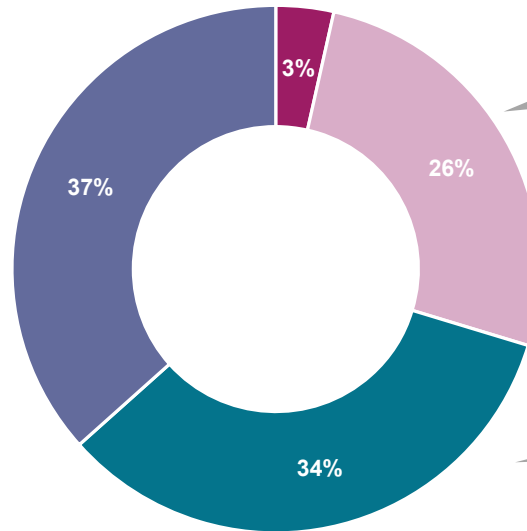
“Challenges usually occur when he is angry. He tends to shut down and rather not express himself. Kind of hard for other people to understand but we do in our household.” – Caregiver to 14-year-old child

# Most caregivers to those with communication difficulties say they have figured out how to communicate (37%) or have at least made progress (34%) with the care recipient.

## Communication Situation

Among Total Caregivers to Those With Communication Difficulties

- One or both of us have completely given up on communicating with each other
- Communication is a struggle for us, but we still try
- We're making progress on communicating more effectively with each other
- We've figured out how to communicate effectively with each other

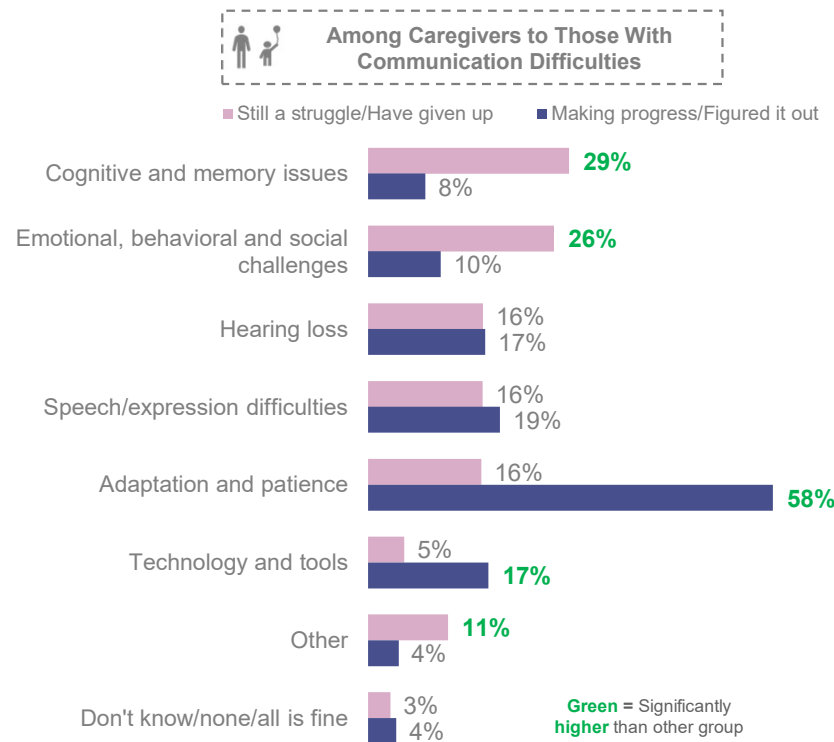


Caregivers of adults are significantly more likely to say communication is a struggle, but they still try (32% vs. 18%).

Caregivers of children are significantly more likely than caregivers of adults to say they are making progress on communicating more effectively with each other (47% vs. 26%).

**Those caregivers who are still struggling with communication, or who have given up, more commonly cite the reasons for this as cognitive/memory issues and emotional, behavioral, and social challenges. Those who have made progress credit adaptation and patience, as well as technology and tools.**

### Reasons for Communication Situation



## Caregiver Stories: Challenges and Progress

### ... one or both of you have given up on communication/it is still a struggle

"Communication is always a struggle because of their inability to retain information and this gap leads to frustration from both sides." – Caregiver to 85-year-old adult

"It is like talking to a toddler. Some words are clear, but most are not. She does go to speech and that is helping."  
– Caregiver to 12-year-old child

"It's a struggle because he keeps forgetting or doesn't hear well. Can't afford hearing aids. He also gets confused. Cancer treatments over the years has given him chemo brain, memory problems, learning problems and a lot of frustration."  
– Caregiver to 61-year-old adult

### ... you're making progress on communicating more effectively/figured it out

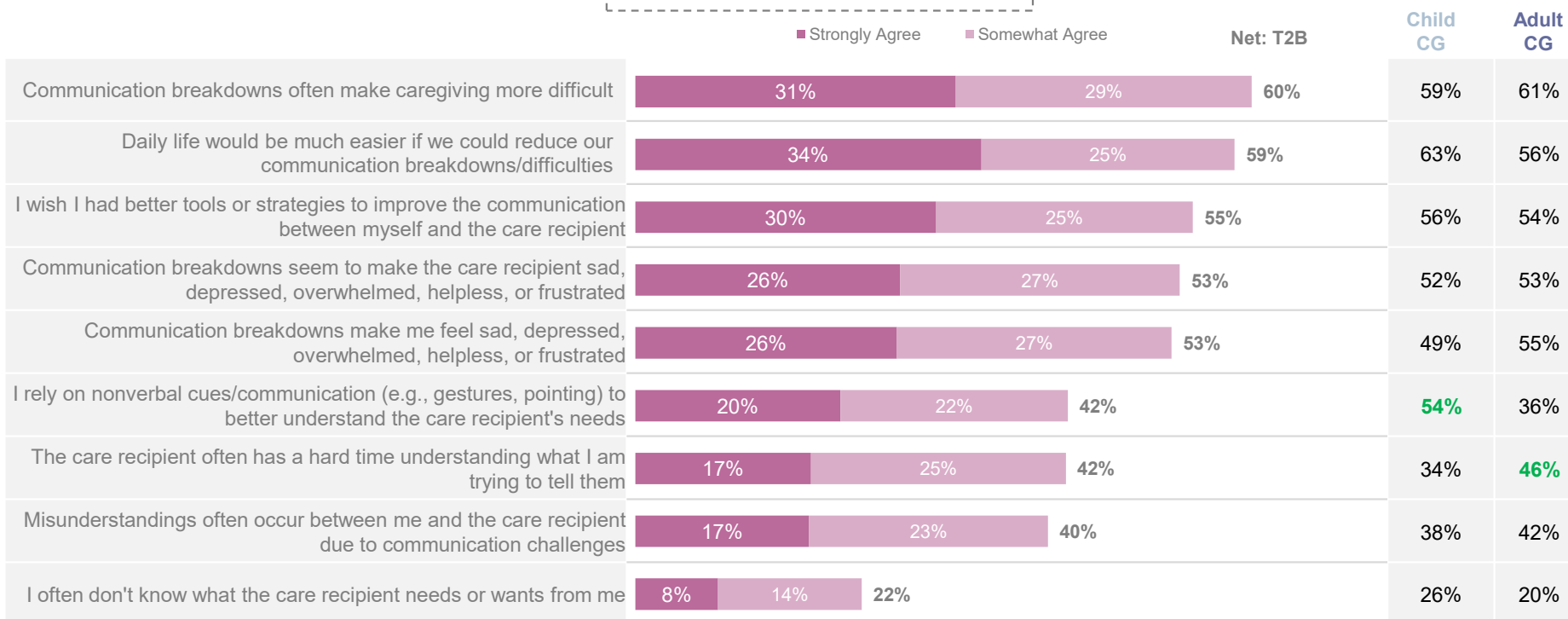
"At first, communication was difficult because emotions ran high, and it was hard to know how much information to share without overwhelming them. Over time, we developed a system where we check in at the same time every day, either through a quick call, text, or even a shared notebook where we track medications, appointments, and feelings." – Caregiver to 49-year-old adult

"We've been working on improving communication through therapy, practice, and tools like AAC devices. Progress is noticeable in expressing thoughts more clearly and responding more confidently. However, challenges remain, like difficulty with certain sounds, structuring sentences, or social interactions. Patience, consistency, and support have been key in making communication easier over time." – Caregiver to 11-year-old child

# A majority of caregivers to those with communication difficulties agree communication breakdowns make caregiving more difficult (60%).

## Statements on Communication Issues

Among Total Caregivers to Those With Communication Difficulties



Q18. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements.  
 Base: Total caregivers to those with communication difficulties (n=652); Base: Child caregivers to those with communication difficulties (n=204); Base: Adult caregivers to those with communication difficulties (n=448)

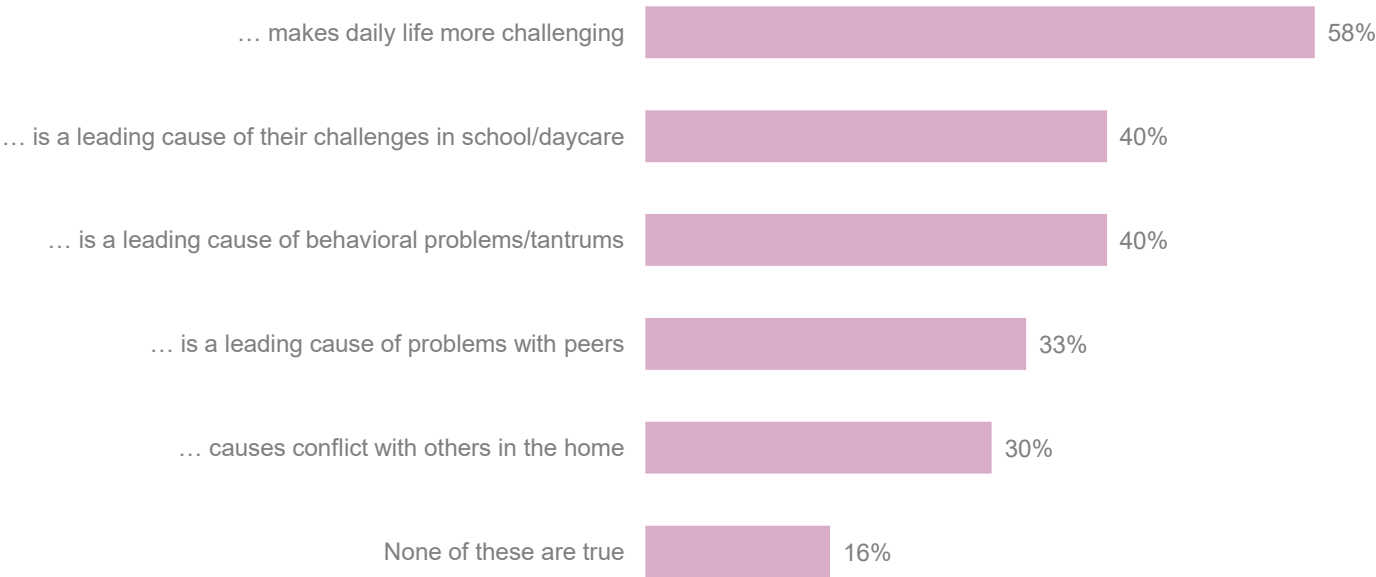
Green = Significantly higher than other group



**Nearly 6-in-10 caregivers of children say the child’s difficulty communicating makes daily life more challenging, and 4-in-10 state it’s a leading cause of challenges in school/daycare and behavioral problems/tantrums.**

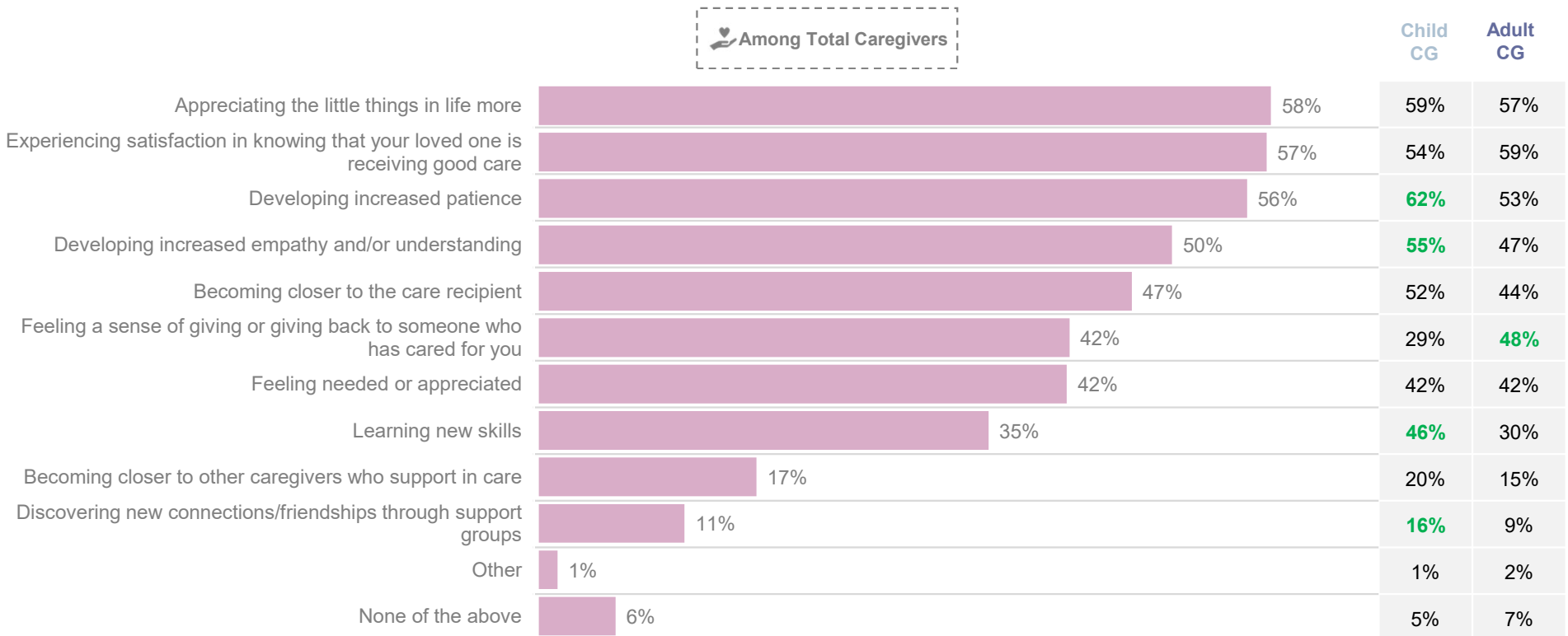
**Impact of Child Communication Challenges  
(The child's difficulty communicating ...)**

Among Child Caregivers to Those With Communication Difficulties



# Positive aspects of caregiving include greater appreciation of the little things in life, satisfaction that good care is being provided, and increased patience.

## Caregiving Positives



Green = Significantly higher than other group

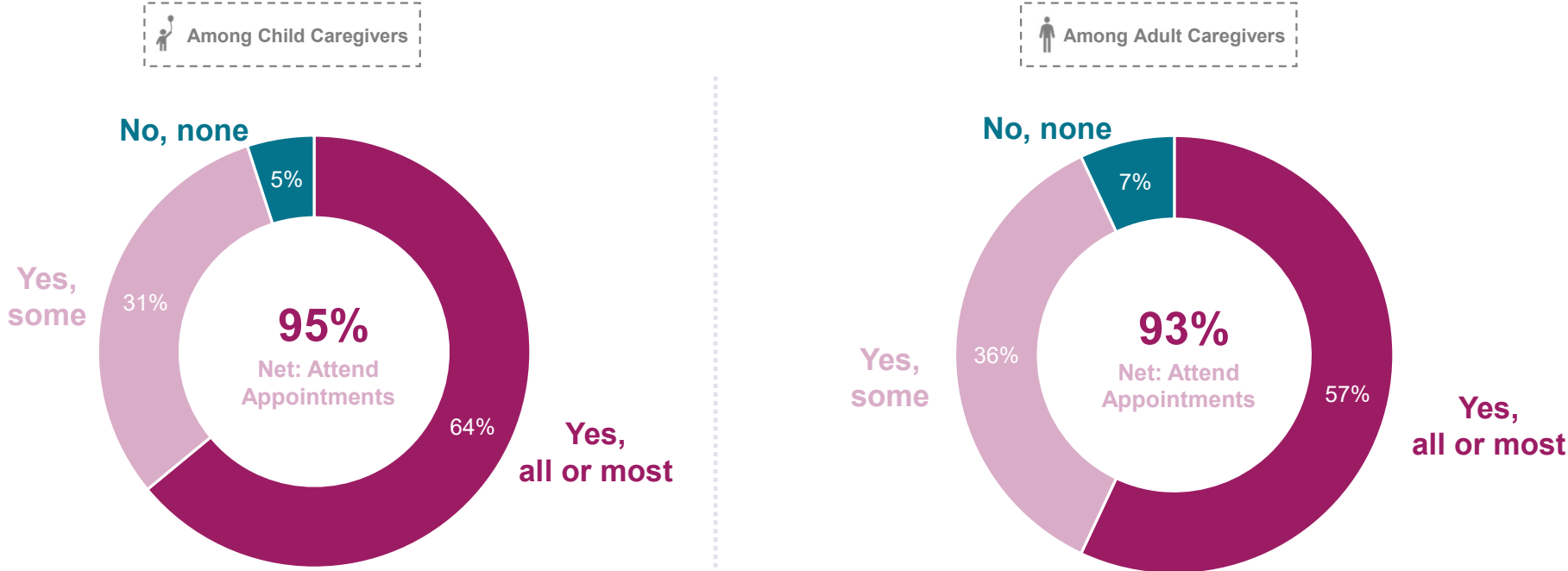


# **Section III:** **Health Care**



**Nearly all caregivers of children and adults attend health care appointments with their care recipients, with over 1-in-2 stating they attend all or most.**

**Appointment Attendance**

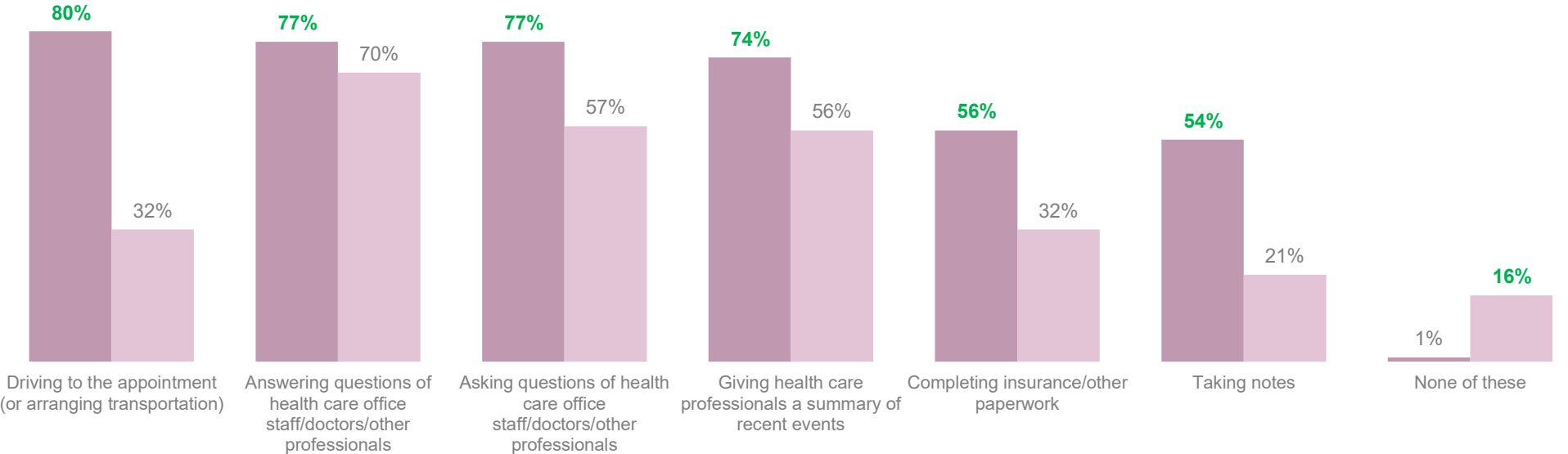


# Caregivers are responsible for a variety of tasks related to medical appointments, especially driving and answering or asking questions of health care professionals.

## Appointment Responsibilities

Among Adult Caregivers Who Attend Appointments

Caregiver Care Recipient

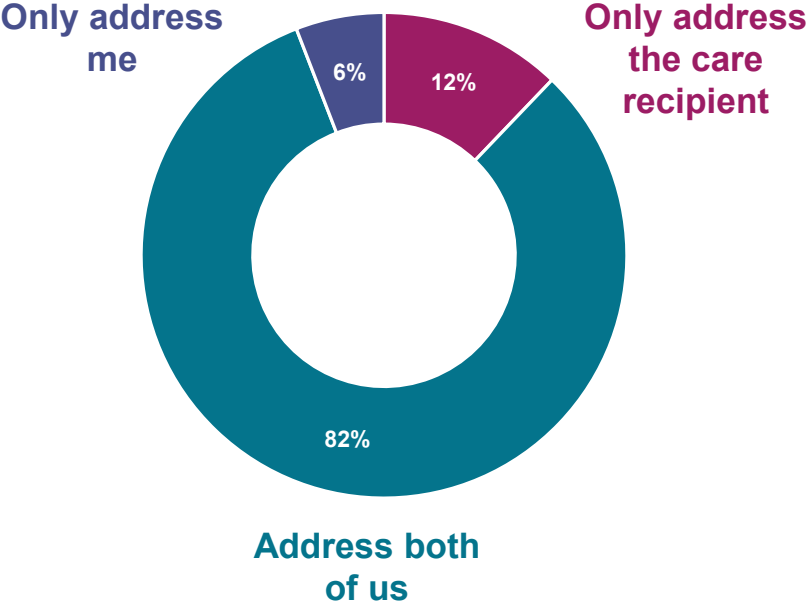


Green = Significantly higher than other group

**Most caregivers who attend appointments say health care professionals typically address both parties, which aligns with their expectations.**

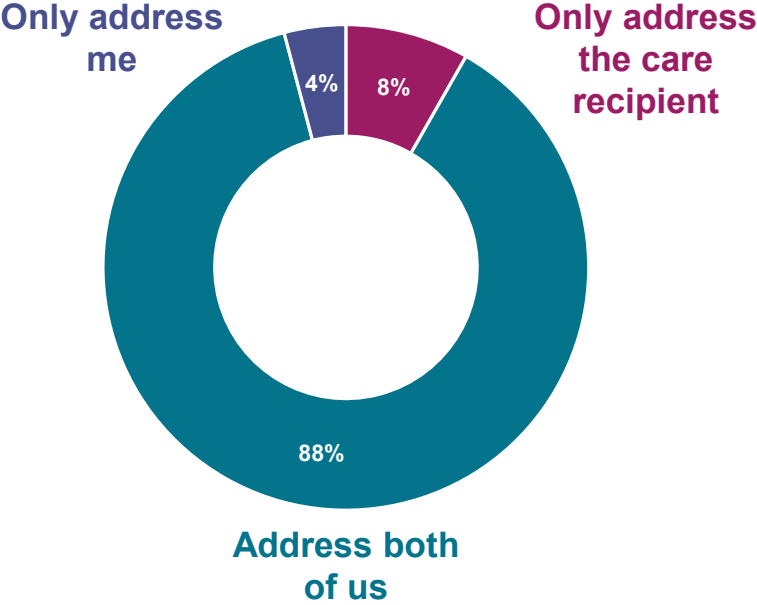
**Who Providers Speak To**

 Among Caregivers Who Attend Appointments



**Who Providers SHOULD Speak To**

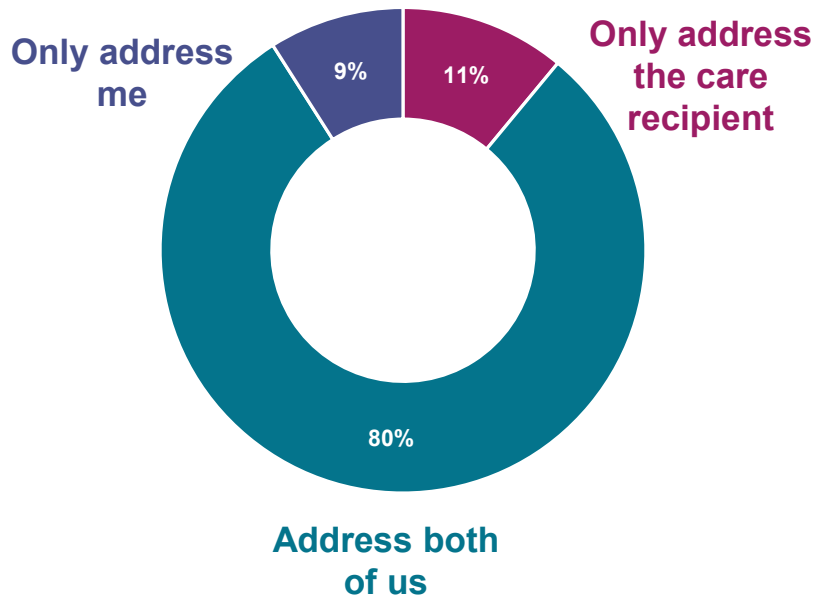
 Among Caregivers Who Attend Appointments



# Most caregivers of children who attend appointments say health care providers typically address both parties, which aligns with their expectations.

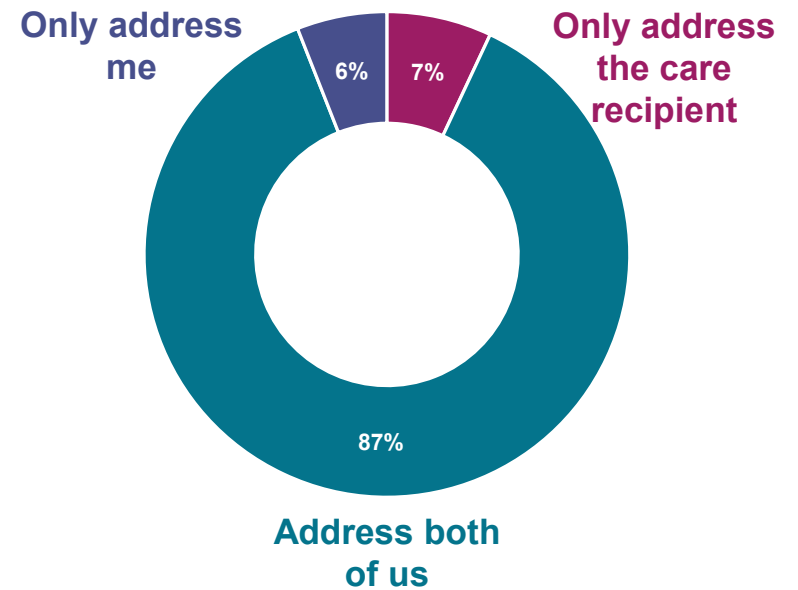
## Who Providers Speak To

Among Child Caregivers Who Attend Appointments



## Who Providers SHOULD Speak To

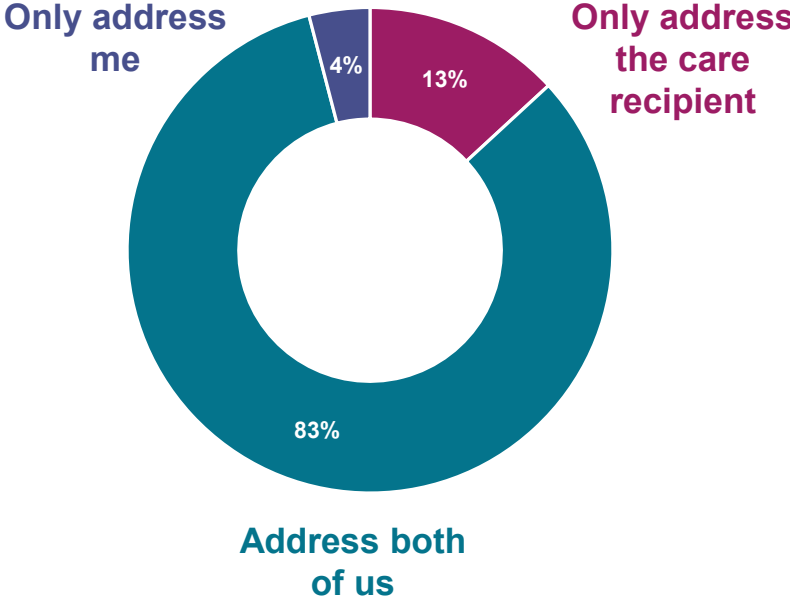
Among Child Caregivers Who Attend Appointments



**Most caregivers of adults who attend appointments say health care providers typically address both parties, which aligns with their expectations.**

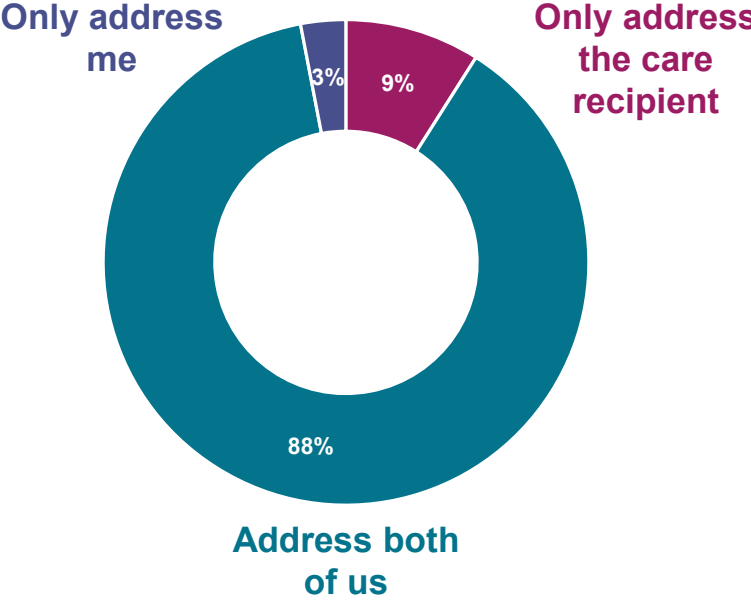
**Who Providers Speak To**

Among Adult Caregivers Who Attend Appointments



**Who Providers SHOULD Speak To**

Among Adult Caregivers Who Attend Appointments

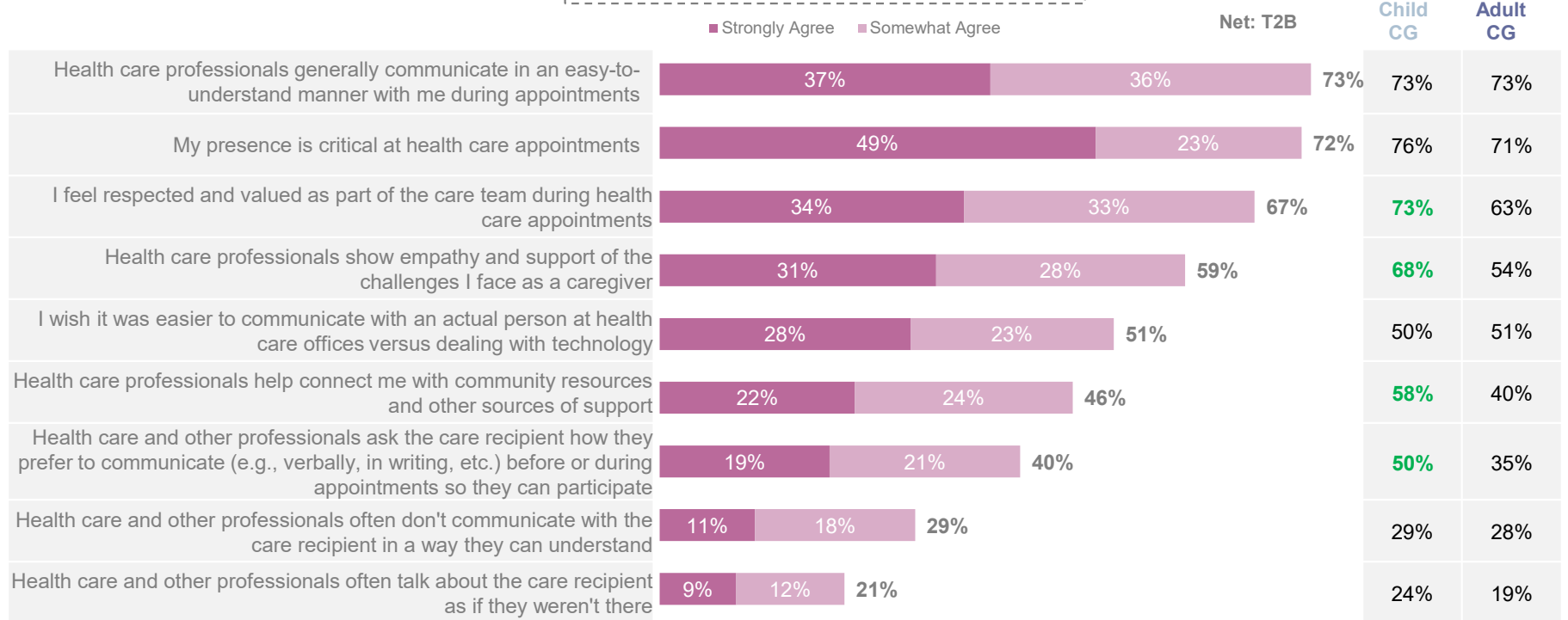




# Caregivers report largely positive health care interactions. However, there is room for improvement on some aspects of communication, including asking care recipients about their communication preferences.

## Perceptions of Health Care Interactions

Among Caregivers Who Attend Appointments



## Primary care doctors, medical specialists, and nurses are the most common professionals involved in care.


### Professionals Involved in Care

Among Caregivers Who Attend Appointments

		Child CG	Adult CG
Primary care doctor (e.g., family physician)	74%	65%	79%
Medical specialist (e.g., neurologist, oncologist, etc.)	42%	25%	51%
Nurse	33%	23%	38%
Mental health professional (e.g., social worker, etc.)	28%	43%	20%
Physical therapist	26%	22%	29%
Personal support worker/home health aide	20%	20%	20%
Speech-language pathologist	17%	35%	7%
Occupational therapist	16%	25%	11%
Audiologist	12%	11%	12%
Otolaryngologist (Ear, Nose, and Throat specialist)	10%	12%	10%
Other	4%	6%	3%
None of the above	3%	2%	4%
Not sure	1%	1%	1%

Green = Significantly higher than other group

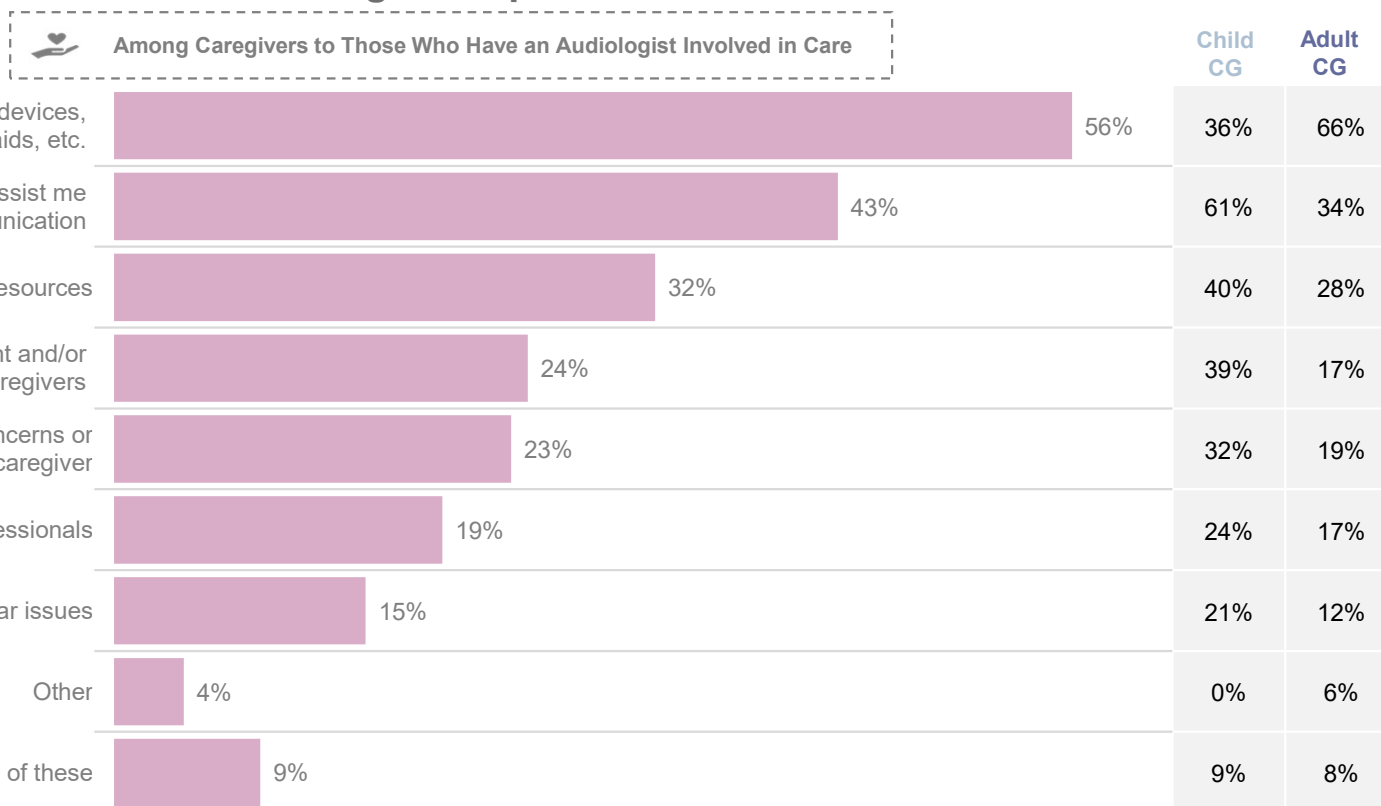
## **Key Insights:**



**Caregivers to Those  
Who See an  
Audiologist OR  
Speech-Language  
Pathologist (SLP)**

# Audiologists provide a variety of services to care recipients themselves as well as caregivers.

## Audiologist Helpfulness



Green = Significantly higher than other group



Q27. Which of the following, if any, did audiologists help with?

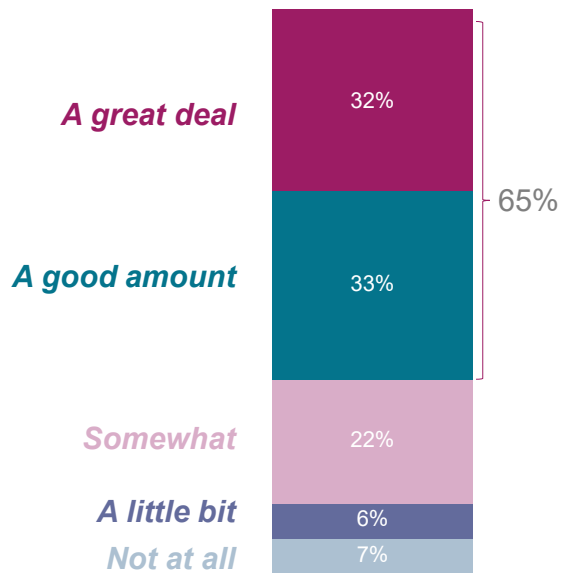
Base: Caregivers to those who have an audiologist involved in care (n=120); Base: Child caregivers to those who have an audiologist involved in care (n=33)\*; Base: Adult caregivers to those who have an audiologist involved in care (n=87)

\*Caution: small base size

**Nearly nine-in-ten caregivers to those who see an audiologist say audiology services helped improve daily life at least somewhat. Recommendation for an audiologist is almost unanimous at 89%.**

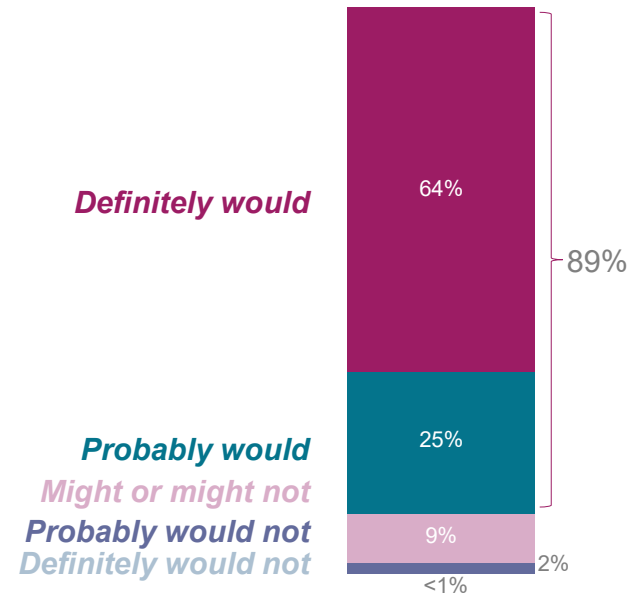
**Audiologist Daily Life Improvement**

 Among Caregivers to Those Who Have an Audiologist Involved in Care



**Audiologist Recommendation**

 Among Caregivers to Those Who Have an Audiologist Involved in Care



Q28a. Would you say that audiologist services helped improve daily life for the care recipient and yourself...? | Q28b. Would you recommend people experiencing similar issues see an audiologist?

Base: Caregivers to those who have an audiologist involved in care (n=120); Base: Child caregivers to those who have an audiologist involved in care (n=33\*); Base: Adult caregivers to those who have an audiologist involved in care (n=87)

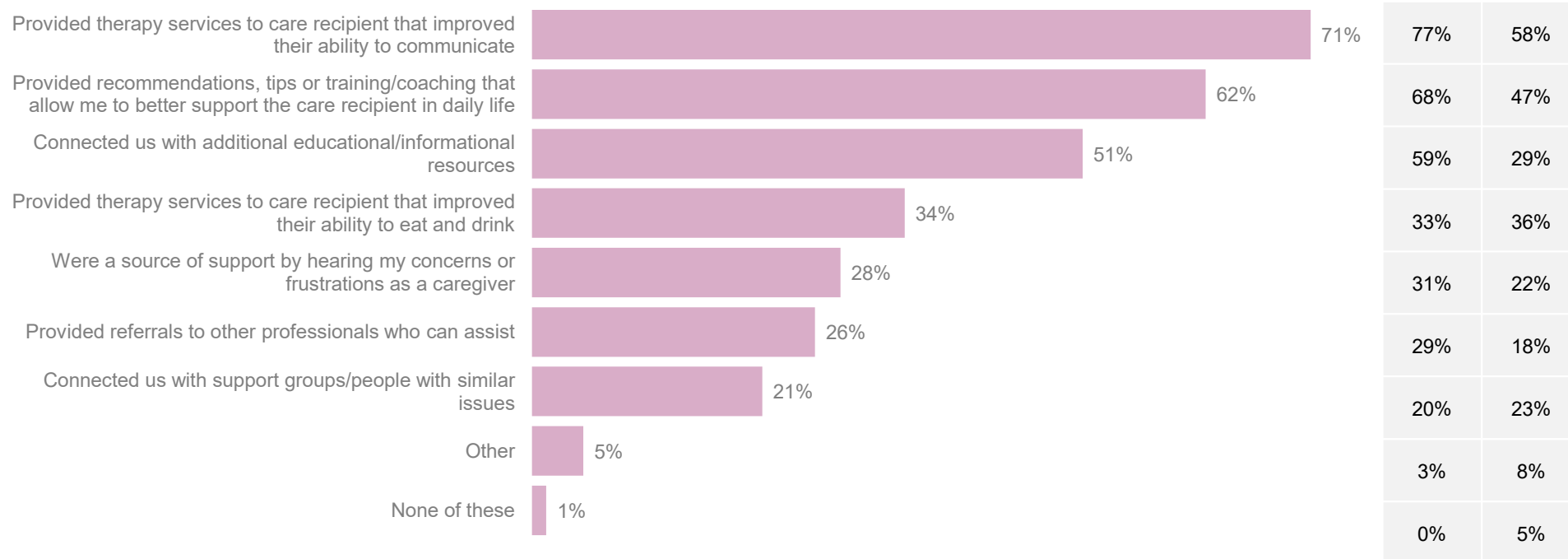
\*Caution: small base size

## Caregivers report that SLPs most commonly help by providing direct therapy services to care recipients and training/coaching to caregivers.

### Speech-Language Pathologist Helpfulness



Among Caregivers to Those Who Have an SLP Involved in Care

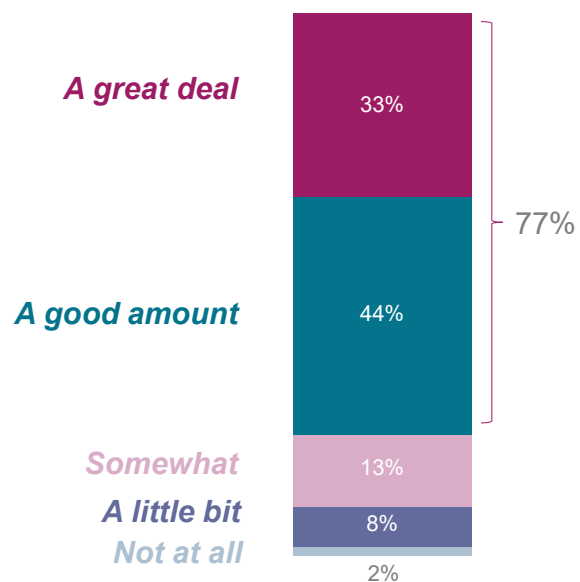


Green = Significantly higher than other group

# Most caregivers to people who received SLP services say these services helped improve daily life significantly. Nearly all would recommend SLP care.

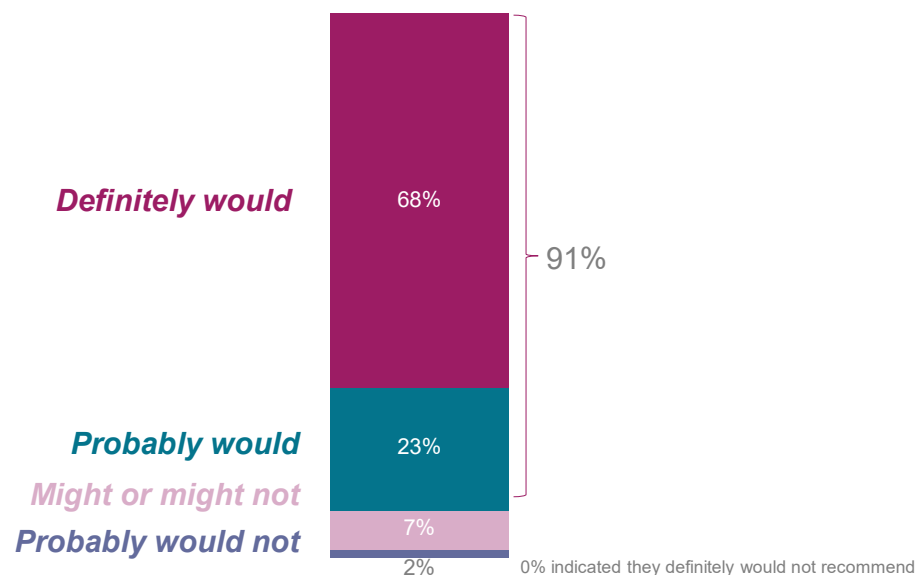
## Speech-Language Pathologist Daily Life Improvement

Among Caregivers to Those Who Have an SLP Involved in Care



## Speech-Language Pathologist Recommendation

Among Caregivers to Those Who Have an SLP Involved in Care





# **Section IV:** **Resources &** **Support**

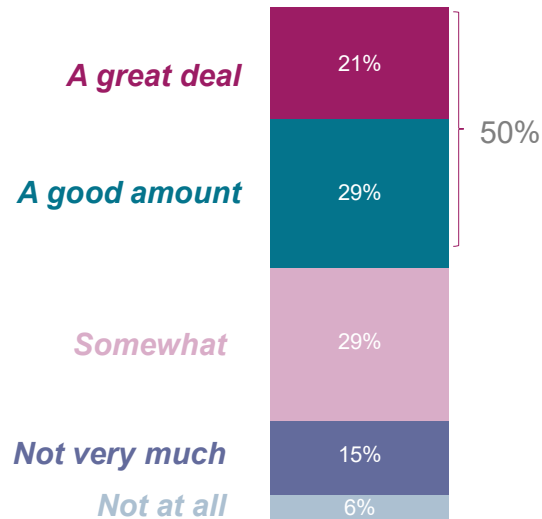




# Most caregivers say their responsibilities affect their emotional well-being—and that having someone pitch in with a small task can have a huge impact.

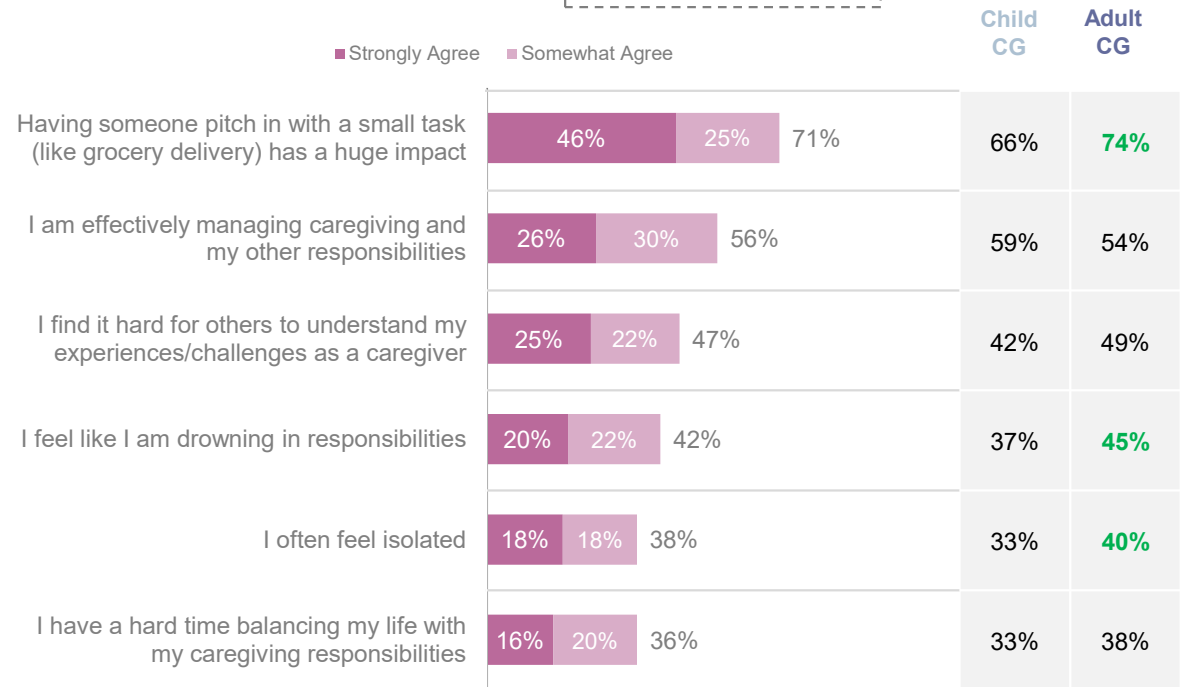
## Caregiving's Impact on Emotional Well-Being

Among Total Caregivers



## Perceptions of Caregiving Responsibilities

Among Total Caregivers

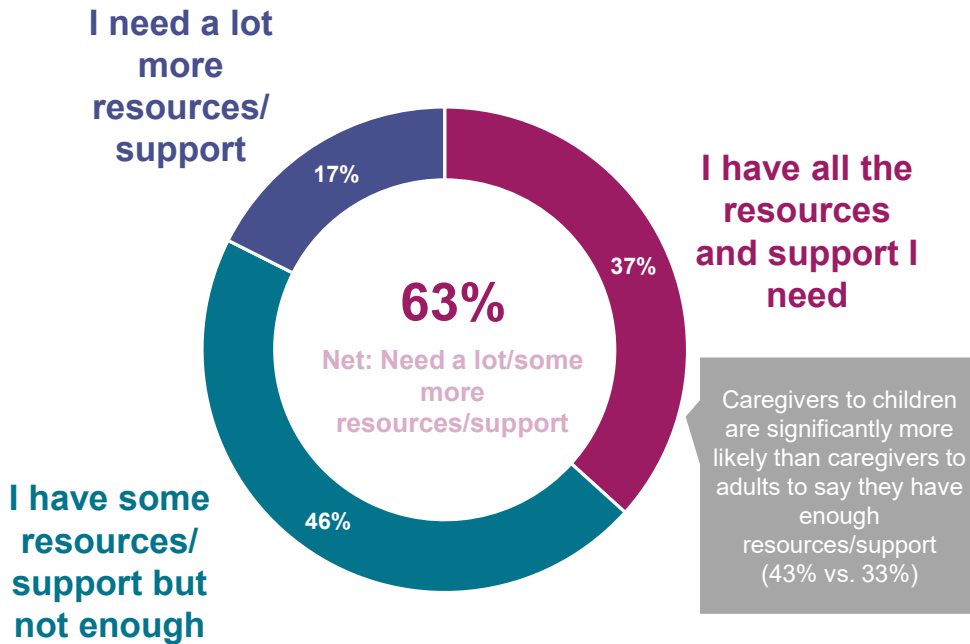


Green = Significantly higher than other group

# About six-in-ten caregivers said they need more resources and support. Family and friends are the most common sources of support for caregivers.

## Amount of Support

Among Total Caregivers



## Helpful Sources of Support

Among Total Caregivers

		Child CG	Adult CG
Family members or friends	60%	65%	57%
Health care providers (doctors, SLPs, etc.)	49%	55%	46%
Online resources or forums	26%	32%	23%
Mental health professionals	26%	35%	21%
Government assistance programs	23%	25%	22%
Professional caregivers or home health aides	20%	20%	21%
Religious or community organizations	17%	18%	17%
Support groups for caregivers	17%	25%	13%
Other	3%	3%	3%
None of the above	10%	5%	13%

Green = Significantly higher than other group



**Key Insights:**

**Financial**

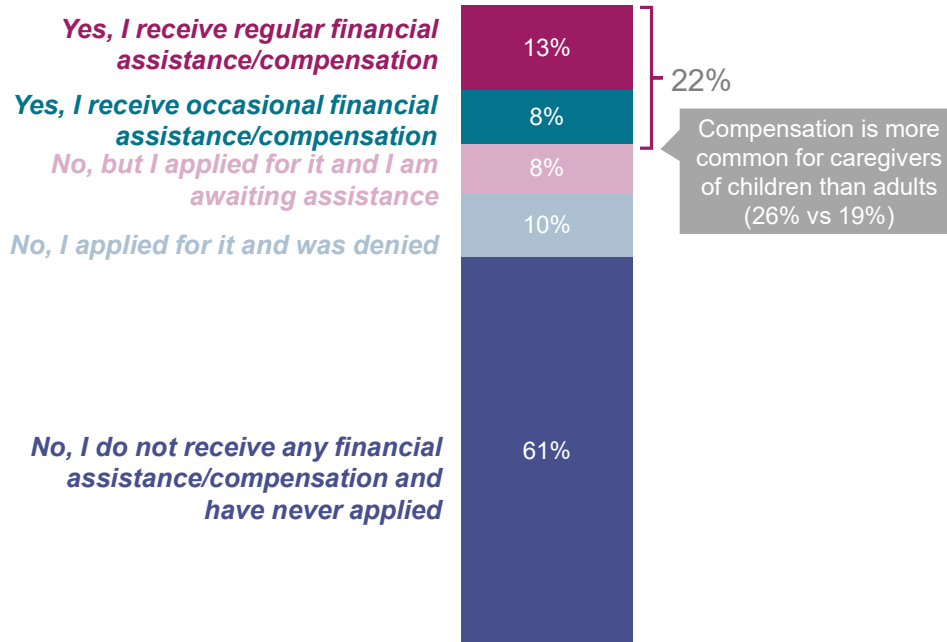
**Assistance &**

**Support**

# Just 13% of caregivers receive compensation on a regular basis. Compensation is more common among caregivers of children than adults.

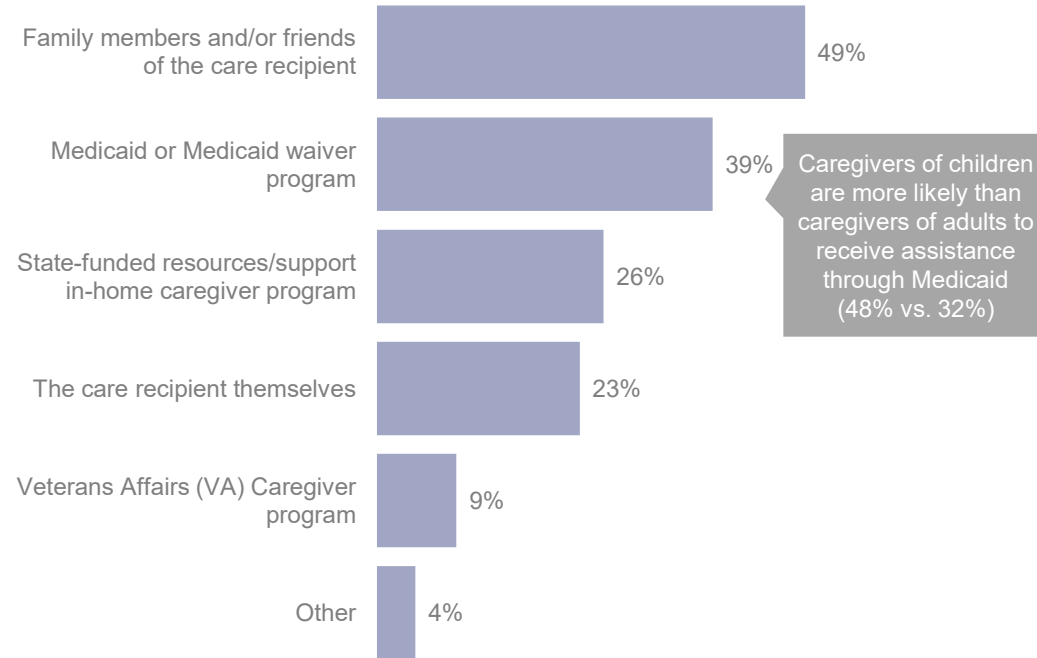
## Financial Assistance/Compensation for Caregiving

Among Total Caregivers



## Who Caregivers Receive Financial Support From

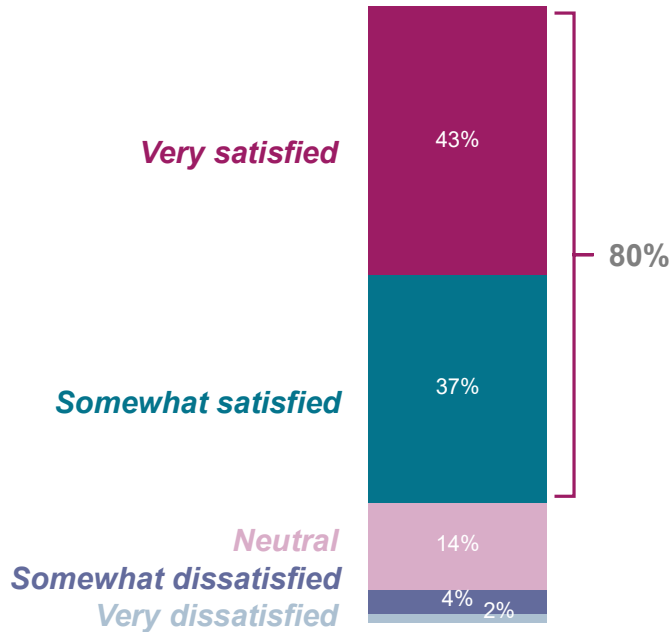
Among Caregivers Who Receive Financial Assistance



**Among caregivers who receive financial assistance, most are satisfied with the compensation they receive and are confident this assistance will continue.**

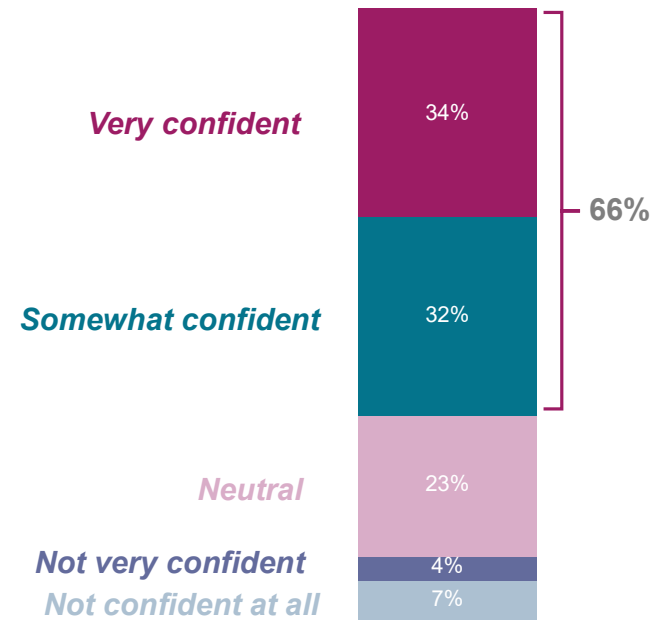
**Financial Assistance Satisfaction**

Among Caregivers Who Receive Financial Assistance



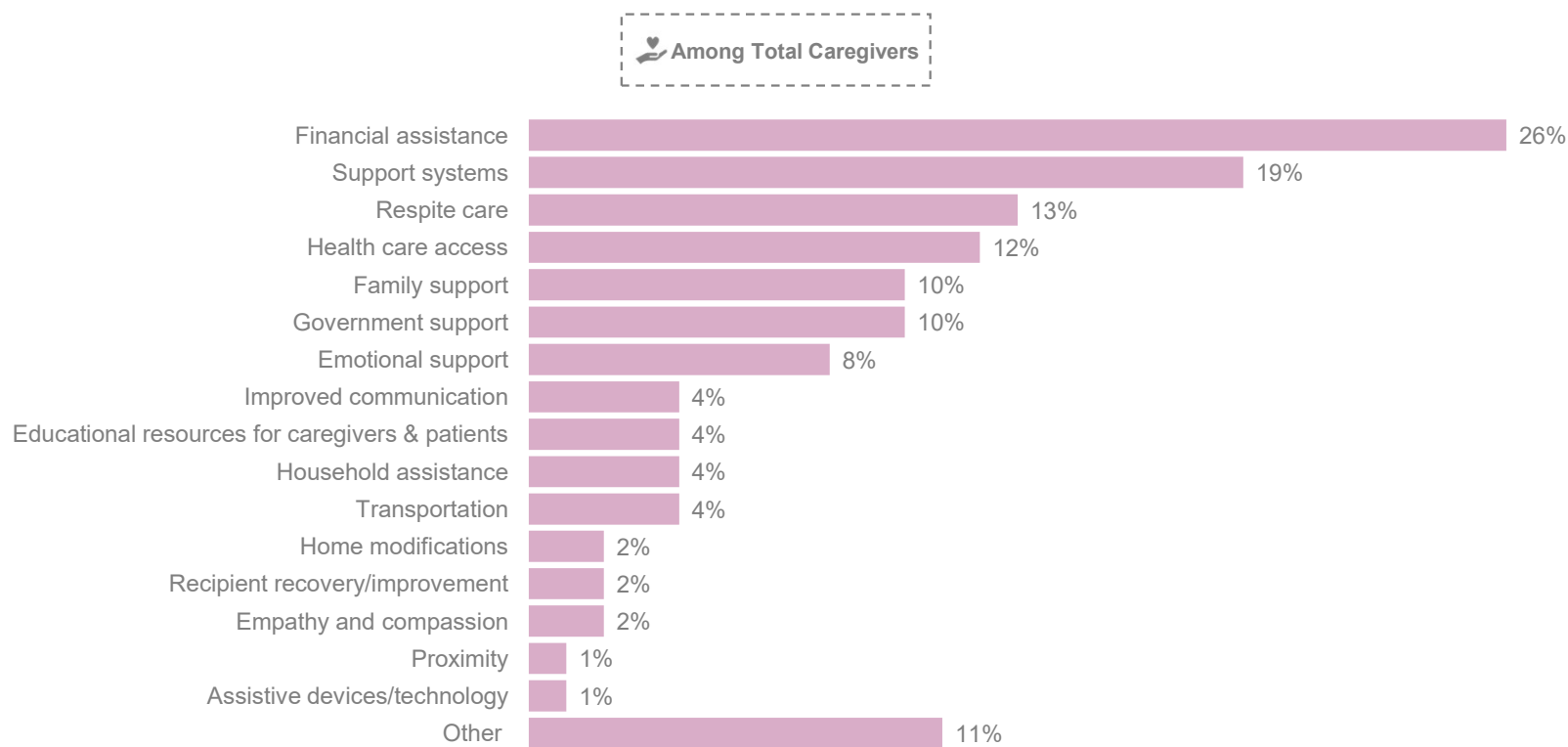
**Future Financial Assistance Confidence**

Among Caregivers Who Receive Financial Assistance



## Financial support is the number one thing that would make caregivers' lives easier, followed by support systems.

### What Would Make Life Easier



## Caregiver Responses: What would make your life easier as a caregiver?

### Financial Assistance

"If we were compensated to do this so that the household income was not compromised as it's extremely important to the well being of everyone in the household." – *Caregiver to 57-year-old-adult*

### Health Care Access

"Accessibility to professional health care when needed. Because at times, you need some questions to be answered by them." – *Caregiver to 16-year-old child*

### Family Support

"More help from family members, but none who would be willing to help live close enough. The one family member who lives close enough, refuses to help because they don't like, resent the person I'm caring for and in general don't want to be bothered with extra responsibilities." – *Caregiver to 97-year-old adult*

### Respite Care

"Respite care in home. He is much easier within his own four walls. If I had to put him in respite care outside, it would be a disaster. This is why I hardly ever get a break." – *Caregiver to 86-year-old adult*

### Transportation

"Assistance with transportation. More availability of wheelchair bound transportation sources." – *Caregiver to 82-year-old adult*

### Assistive Devices/Technology

"First and foremost, having access to additional support, whether through respite care, community resources, or professional assistance, would give me the opportunity to recharge and maintain my own well-being. Second, access to helpful technology, such as communication aids or apps designed for caregivers, could streamline day-to-day tasks, making it easier to track appointments, medications, or daily routines. This would help ensure that I stay organized and on top of the care needs without feeling overwhelmed." – *Caregiver to 13-year-old child*

### Support Systems

"Above all, if I wasn't alone in this and had help with time, money, and knowing what to do, my life would be so much easier. I love my grandma, but it's heavy doing it all by myself every day." – *Caregiver to 87-year-old adult*

### Emotional Support

"Joining a community for caregivers, emotional and mental support, having a social life." – *Caregiver to 56-year-old adult*

### Home Modifications

"Access to better equipment and I need a ramp at my door." – *Caregiver to 64-year-old adult*

### Government Support

"Financial and emotional support from government agencies would really go a long way in making my life easier as a caregiver." – *Caregiver to 1-year-old child*

### Empathy & Compassion

"Societal acceptance and inclusion of people that are different. It is people's approach/stares/comments that makes outings difficult. It is not kind to be stared at." – *Caregiver to 7-year-old child*

### Household Assistance

"A resource for all of my questions about how to manage - from navigating health insurance, elder care options, caregiving resources, just someone to go and talk to when I need help." – *Caregiver to 74-year-old adult*

**Key Insights:**

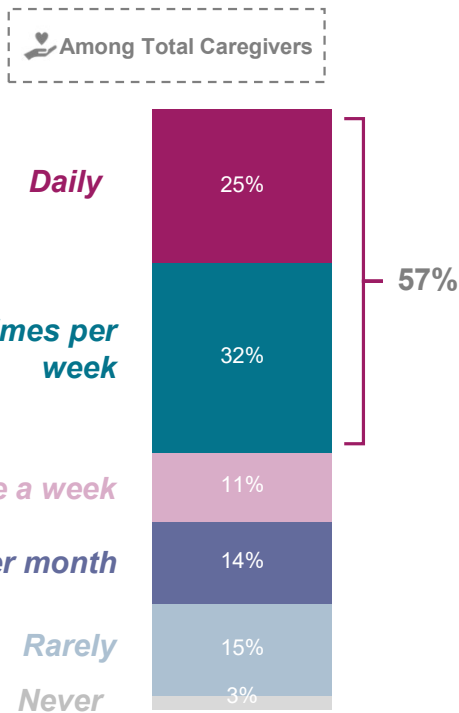


**Interactions &  
Communication  
Outside of Home**

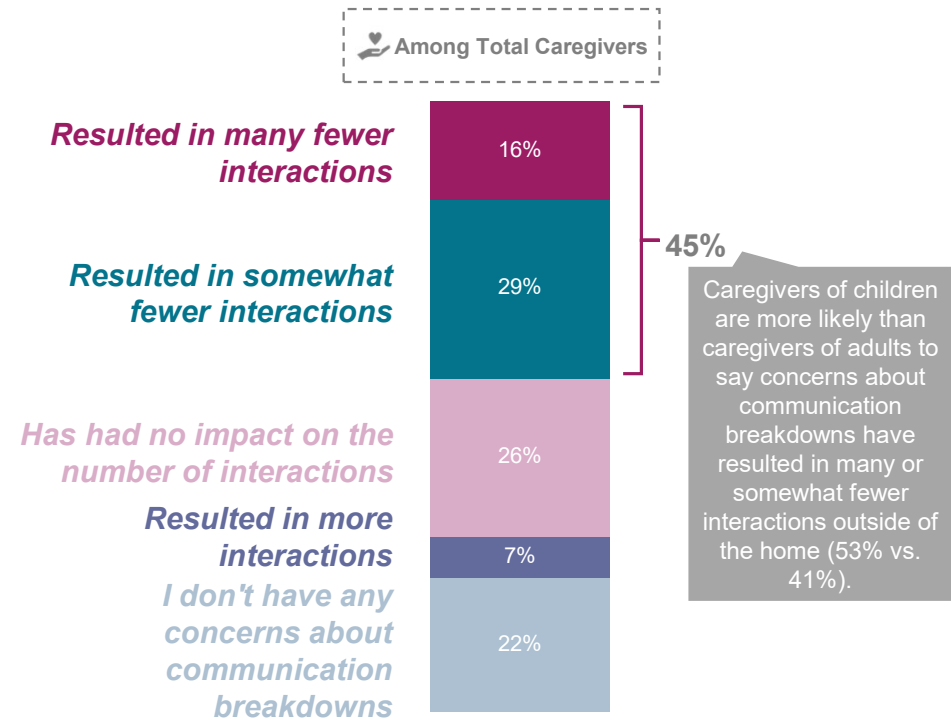


**More than half of caregivers said they leave the home with the care recipient multiple times per week, and 45% reported that concerns about communication breakdowns have resulted in fewer interactions outside of the home.**

**Frequency of Out-of-Home Care Responsibilities**




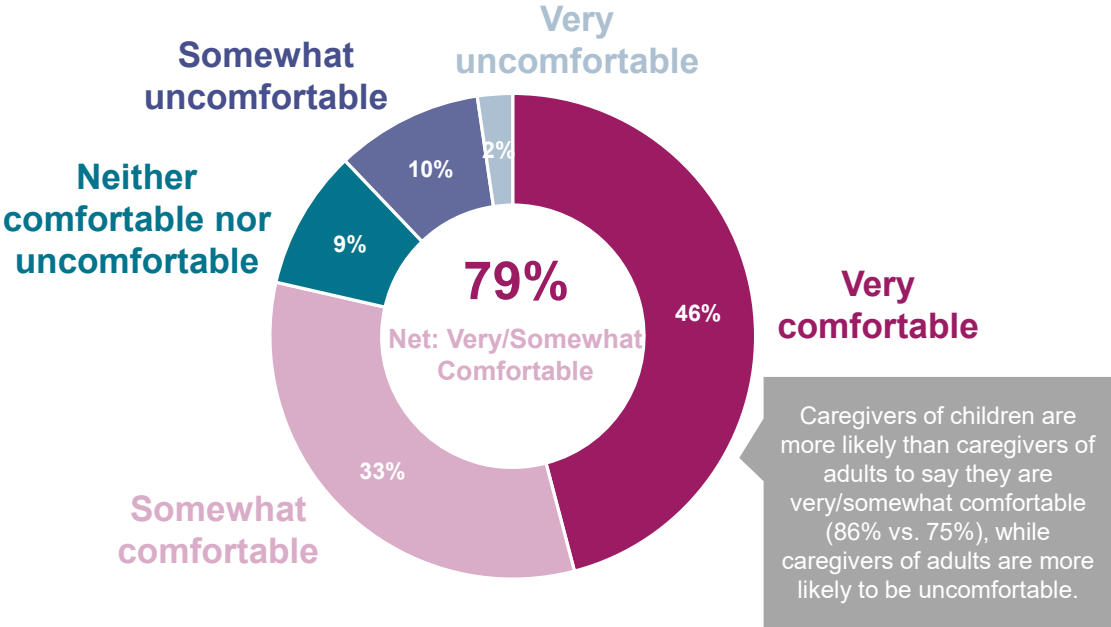
**Impact of Communication Breakdowns Out of Home**



# Most caregivers (79%) say they are very or somewhat comfortable navigating public spaces with the care recipient.

## Comfort Navigating Public Spaces

 Among Caregivers Responsible for Out-of-Home Activities



## Caregiver Responses: What would make public interactions easier for you and the care recipient?



Among Caregivers Responsible for Out-of-Home Activities

“For me, it would be easier if people were more patient. Sometimes I have to explain things to grandma while they wait, and they get annoyed. Like one time at the store, the cashier talked fast and quiet, and grandma didn't understand how much to pay. I had to step in, but the cashier looked mad because it took longer. If he waited a little and smiled, it wouldn't feel so hard. Also, having signs with big words or pictures at places like the doctor's office would help her know what to do without me always talking for her.”

– Caregiver to 87-year-old adult

“Better public awareness, understanding, & acceptance of various health & medical issues as we age.”

– Caregiver to 74-year-old adult

“I wish people would be more understanding, If people understood that not all disabilities are visible, they might be more patient when my child struggles to communicate or behave differently. Instead of staring or making assumptions, a simple smile or offering space would be helpful. Also, more inclusive and accessible public spaces.”

– Caregiver to 4-year-old child

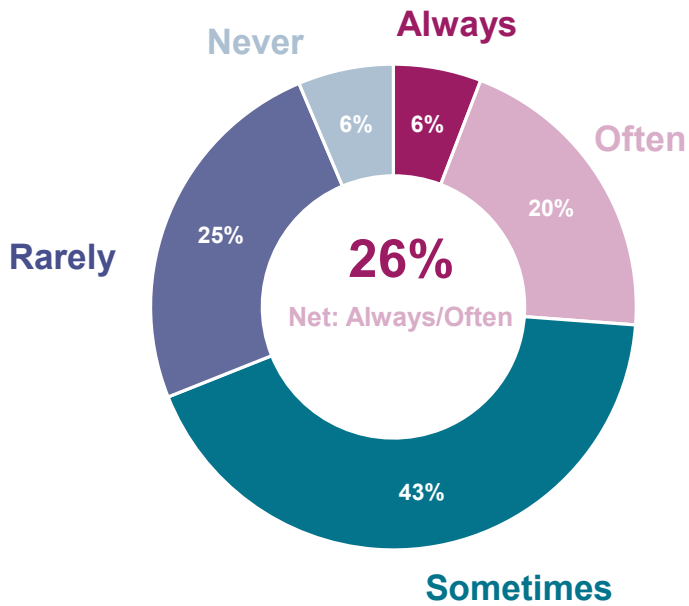
“A clear communication aid like using a device to type out requests and public places could be ready to engage with that.”

– Caregiver to 13-year-old child

# About seven-in-ten caregivers who are responsible for their care recipient outside of the home say communication breakdowns occur in public.

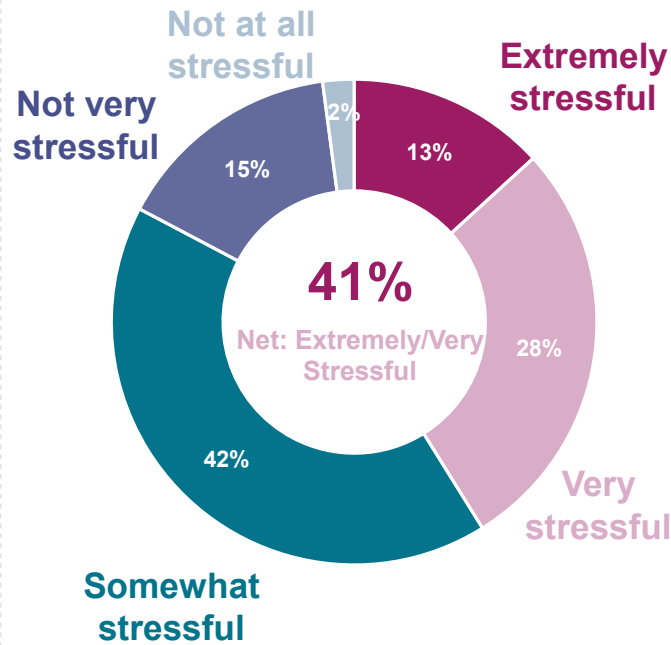
## Frequency of Communication Breakdowns

Among Caregivers Responsible for Out-of-Home Activities



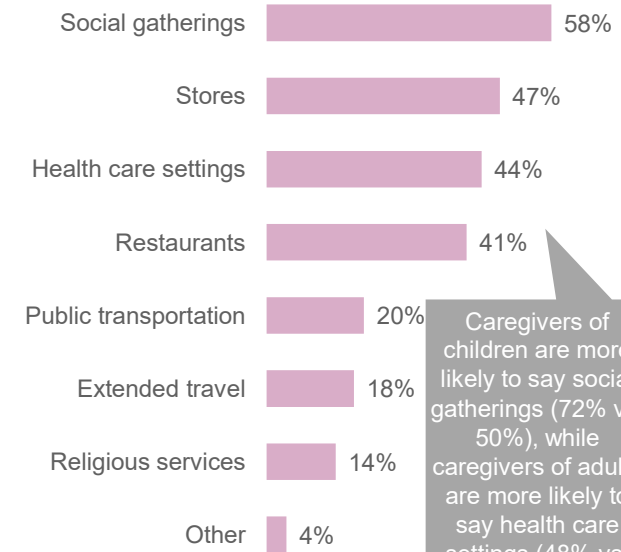
## Stress from Communication Breakdowns

Among Caregivers With Out-of-Home Comms Breakdowns



## Where Communication Challenges Occur

Among Caregivers With Out-of-Home Comms Breakdowns

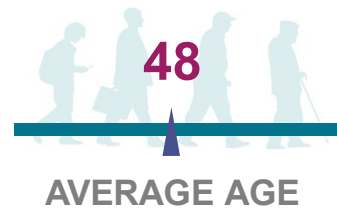
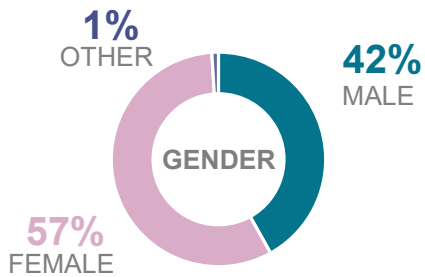


Caregivers of children are more likely to say social gatherings (72% vs. 50%), while caregivers of adults are more likely to say health care settings (48% vs. 36%), are a challenge.



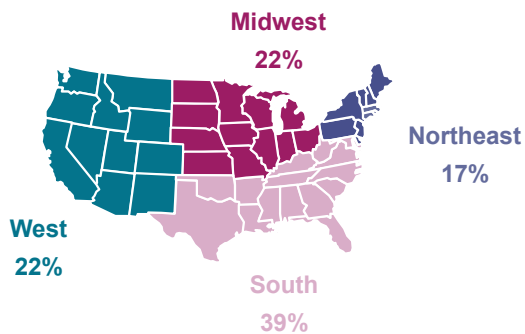
# **General Appendix**

# Demographic Profile – Total Sample

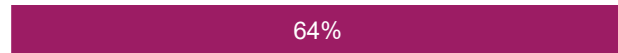


## OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

<b>Working (NET)</b>	<b>60%</b>
Working full time	40%
Working part time	20%
Other child(ren)/Child(ren) to care for	16%
Volunteer work	10%
Other	7%



## White



## Black



## Hispanic



## Other



## EDUCATION

High school or less	29%
Some college/Associate Degree	33%
Undergraduate Degree	23%
Postgraduate Degree	15%

## Marital Status

Married	54%
Separated	3%
Divorced	9%
Widowed	3%
Never married	24%
Domestic / civil partnership	7%