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Northern Ireland

ACCESS RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE

Young carers too

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- Survey of 16 year olds completed by post, online or phone
- In 2010, 786 took part
- Response rate: 21%

Ever been a carer?

	%		
	Male	Female	All
Never	81	81	81
Yes	19	19	19
<i>... in the past, but not now</i>	11	8	9
<i>...now</i>	8	11	10

Who cares for whom?

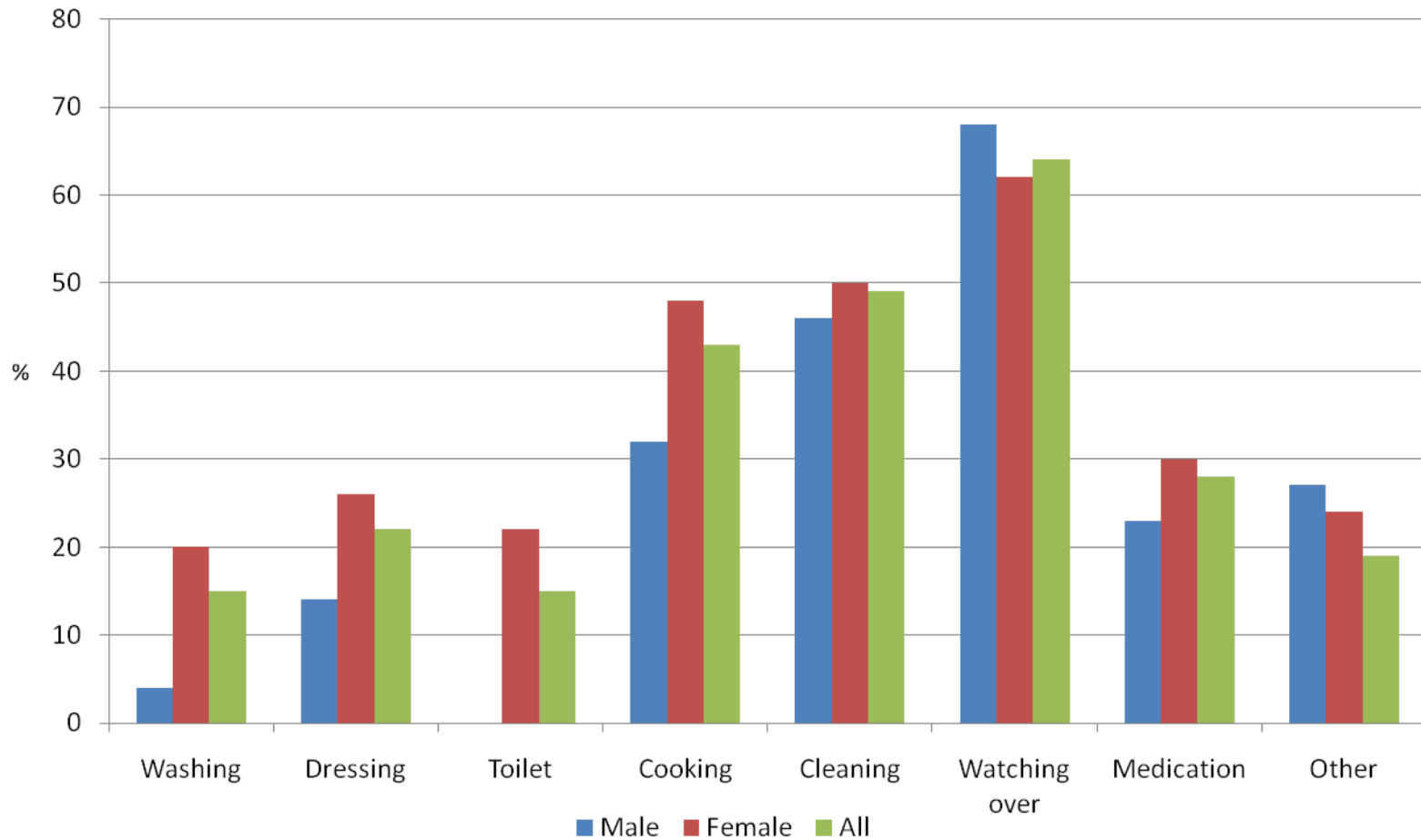
	%
Grandmother	35
Mother	30
Brother	22
Father	17
Grandfather	17
Sister	11
Somebody else	18

* Respondents could identify more than 1 person

Extent of caring

- 32% provide care 1 or 2 days per week ...
- But 52% do this 5 or more days per week
- 59% spend less than 10 hours per week ...
- But 10% spend at least 30 hours per week
- 11% provided care for less than 6 months ...
- But 21% have done this for at least 5 years

Who does what?



Feelings (+)

	%			
	Agree/strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree/strongly disagree	Don't know
I enjoy caring	71	18	8	3
I never miss school because of my caring role	80	8	9	3
I don't mind other people knowing that I am a young carer	66	16	13	6
Caring does not stop me going out and doing things with my friends	66	11	18	4

Feelings (-)

	%			
	Agree/strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree/strongly disagree	Don't know
I worry all the time about the person I care for when I'm not with them	39	30	30	1
I feel guilty about going out, socialising and leaving the person I care for	21	36	39	4
I'm always fully involved in decisions made about the care of the person I care for	34	24	37	6

Final thoughts ...

- Snapshot of lives of young carers
- As with adults, young carers provide care that would otherwise be provided by other agencies, and/or paid by tax revenue
- Some sources of help - mostly family-based, but little contact with external organisations
- But what are longer term consequences?
- Who cares if young carers want to leave home?

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