

## **Informal care for the disabled elderly at home and in nursing homes: determinants and economic value**

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This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of informal care receipt by the French elderly. The literature has focused on informal care in the community, leaving institutions in the shadow. We leverage data from a representative survey (CARE) conducted in 2015-2016 on both community-dwelling individuals and nursing home residents. We show that 76% of nursing home residents receive help with the activities of daily living from relatives, against 55% in the community. The number of hours conditional on receipt is yet 3.5 times higher in the community. Informal care represents 207 millions hours per month and a value equivalent to 1.5% of GDP, care in the community representing 95% of the total.

We investigate the determinants of informal care receipt and intensity. Using an Oaxaca-type approach, we disentangle between two mechanisms explaining differences observed across settings, namely the differences in population composition (endowments) and the differences in the association of individual characteristics with informal care (coefficients). Endowment and coefficient differences have a similar contribution at the extensive margin, while the latter primarily explains differences in care receipt at the intensive margin.

Our results indicate that private costs make up for the majority (80%) of the costs associated with long-term care provision once informal care is taken into account. They also highlight that informal care is extremely common for nursing home residents. Existing evidence on the determinants of informal care receipt in the community has however limited relevance to understand informal care behaviors in nursing homes.