

Alzheimer's Disease Family Caregiver Survey

KEY FINDINGS

A 2011 GfK ROPER SURVEY OF 674 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FAMILY CAREGIVERS REVEALS SIMILAR EXPERIENCES FOR CAREGIVERS DESPITE GENDER, ETHNIC AND AGE DIFFERENCES. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SURVEY RESULTS:



Communication Breakdowns



Across all demographics, the loss of their loved one's ability to communicate was ranked second among what frightens caregivers the most, only behind general health and physical capabilities. Nearly half (49%) said communication breakdowns between them and the patient greatly impact their overall stress level. The majority (54%) of caregivers are decreasing attempts to engage in conversations with their loved one.

Using New Ways to Communicate

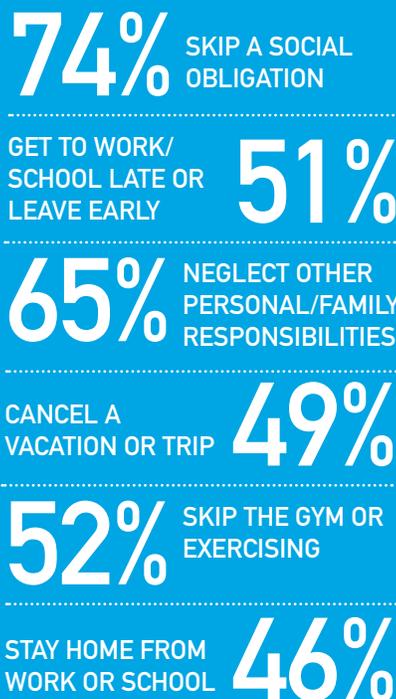
Despite the stress associated with communication, most caregivers have adopted new ways to communicate with their loved one (71%). The most common alternative methods include: observing facial expressions (84%) and body language (79%) and using pictures/photos (66%).

CAREGIVING IS SECOND JOB

On average, the most involved family caregivers of Alzheimer's patients spend 43% of their time per week providing care, and for most that's in addition to already working a full- or part-time job (62%).

Neglecting Own Life

Almost half of family caregivers (46%) reported that five or more other aspects of their lives have been affected as a result of their caregiving responsibility, causing them to:



Better Communicators

Three-fourths of family caregivers reported that being a caregiver has made them a better, more effective communicator.



Supporting the Caregiver

While the majority of caregivers said their friends and family members seem to understand their responsibilities as a caregiver (54%), fewer than half say that their network knows how to help them relieve the stress associated with caregiving (38%).

SNAPSHOT ALZHEIMER'S FAMILY CAREGIVERS

