

'Care Circles'

Death, taxes ... and caregiving.

Three universal constants. From childcare to aging and disability care we are all here because someone (in fact, many people) did the work to make sure we could be. And yet, care is treated like an individual responsibility, meant to be borne quietly with personal grit, fortitude, and, apparently, a limitless bank account. Not only is that a crushing ideology for so many millions of Americans, it's not even remotely true! Caregiving is a team sport. (If that team involved 50+ underappreciated, undervalued, and underpaid players in a sport whose only objective was: survive.)

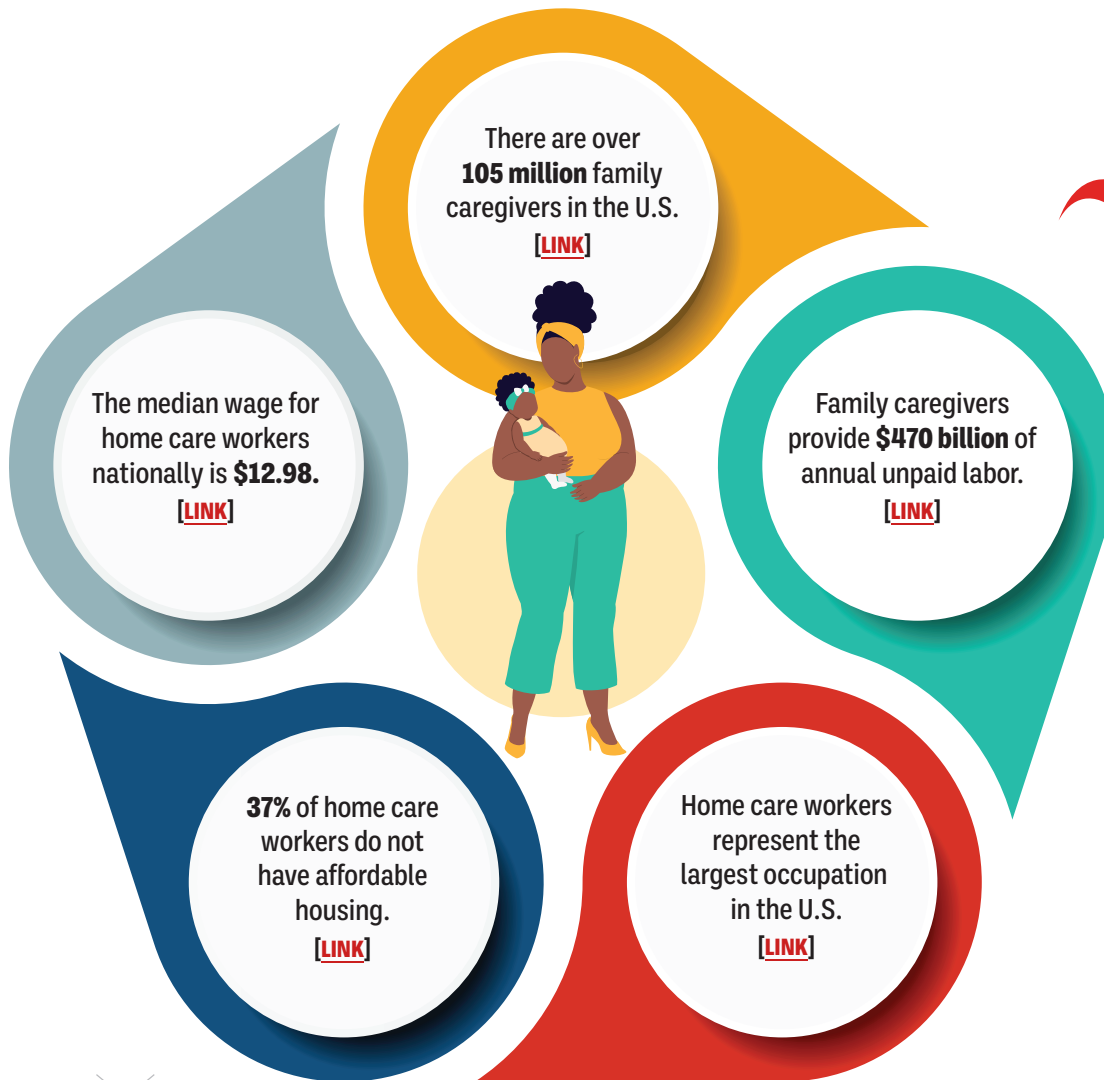
Back to taxes: One of their purposes is to pay for roads and bridges so people can get to work, and the economy and our society can continue to function. Like roads and bridges, care allows us to go places. Without care infrastructure, no one gets to work. Care work is integral to the success of our society. And it needs to be talked about in those terms.



Home care workers are mostly women, and a majority of them are women of color. Many are immigrants.



Some Basic Facts About Caregivers



No Country for Older People

At least 14 million older adults and people with disabilities need long-term care. Yet our system for providing long-term care is fragmented and incomplete, leaving most people to fend for themselves, with consequences for families, caregivers and the broader economy. —White House 2023

Every 8 seconds, someone in the U.S. turns 65, and nearly 70% of them will need long-term care.



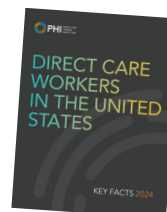
TV's Supporting Role in the Caregiving Saga

TV shows rarely depict family caregivers and care workers operating in tandem, perpetuating the do-it-all, lonely caregiver myth (and expectation). [\[LINK\]](#)

Home care workers and the necessary work they do are discussed in any terms less frequently than house cleaning and child care. [\[LINK\]](#)

When depicted on TV, less than 8% of paid care workers work within a home, despite the fact that 58% of the care workforce are home care workers. [\[LINK\]](#)

Less than 2% of care storylines on TV acknowledge any kind of public or workplace policy that characters access for support (e.g. subsidized child care, paid family leave, Medicaid) [\[LINK\]](#)



Click or tap image to download report on direct care workers in the U.S.

3 Ways to Improve the TV Caregiving Picture

1

Show care as a shared effort between family members and friends or paid care workers.

2

Include care workers as skilled, professional and essential members of the team.

3

Represent every member of a care circle with agency—care is an equal partnership!