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Adult Children Caregivers Analysis

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Introduction

This document analyzes the characteristics of Mexican-American adult child caregivers from the Hispanic Established Populations for Epidemiologic Study of the Elderly (HEPESE) Wave 7 dataset (2010-2011). The analysis focuses specifically on adult children who provide care to their aging parents, examining different groups based on co-residence and household headship patterns.

Methodology

We examine three distinct groups of adult children caregivers:

- Co-residing adult children caregivers:** Adult children who live in the same household as their parent care recipients
- Adult children who moved in with parents (general):** Adult children who moved in with their parents without specifying caregiving as the primary reason
- Adult children who moved in for caregiving:** Adult children who moved in specifically to provide care to their parents

For each group, we analyze demographic characteristics, socioeconomic status, health status, caregiving intensity, and financial strain.

Results

Table 1: Characteristics of All Co-residing Adult Children Caregivers

All Co-residing Adult Children Caregivers (N = 191)

Characteristic	Category	n	%
Gender	Female	123.00	64.4

Gender	Male	68.00	35.6
Age group	Early Adulthood (18-44)	19.00	9.9
Age group	Early Retirement (65-75)	23.00	12.0
Age group	Late Middle Age (55-64)	87.00	45.5
Age group	Middle Age (45-54)	62.00	32.5
Education	Bachelor's+	34.00	18.3
Education	HS Graduate	52.00	28.0
Education	Less than HS	71.00	38.2
Education	Some College	29.00	15.6
Income	\$10,000-\$19,999	43.00	25.0
Income	\$20,000-\$29,999	28.00	16.3
Income	\$30,000-\$49,999	41.00	23.8
Income	\$50,000+	20.00	11.6
Income	< \$10,000	40.00	23.3
Medicaid status	Not on Medicaid	153.00	83.2
Medicaid status	On Medicaid	31.00	16.8
Marital status	Married	66.00	35.3
Marital status	Not married	121.00	64.7
Health status	excellent/good	102.00	53.7
Health status	fair/poor	88.00	46.3
Financial strain	Has financial strain	30.00	15.7
Financial strain	No financial strain	161.00	84.3
Caregiving intensity	High intensity	97.00	55.4
Caregiving intensity	Low intensity	10.00	5.7
Caregiving intensity	Moderate intensity	68.00	38.9
Household headship	Head of household	60.00	31.4
Household headship	Not head of household	131.00	68.6
Caregiving hours	Mean ADL hours/day	6.29	NA
Caregiving hours	Mean IADL hours/day	6.21	NA
Parent cognitive status	Parent does not have dementia	109.00	57.1

Parent cognitive status	Parent has dementia	82.00	42.9
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Note:

Data source: HEPESE Wave 7 (2010-2011)

Table 2: Characteristics of Adult Children Who Moved In with Parents (General)

Adult Children Who Moved In with Parents - General (N = 21)

Characteristic	Category	n	%
Gender	Female	18.00	85.7
Gender	Male	3.00	14.3
Age group	Late Middle Age (55-64)	12.00	57.1
Age group	Middle Age (45-54)	9.00	42.9
Education	Bachelor's+	3.00	14.3
Education	HS Graduate	6.00	28.6
Education	Less than HS	6.00	28.6
Education	Some College	6.00	28.6
Income	\$10,000-\$19,999	7.00	36.8
Income	\$20,000-\$29,999	5.00	26.3
Income	\$30,000-\$49,999	6.00	31.6
Income	\$50,000+	1.00	5.3
Medicaid status	Not on Medicaid	15.00	78.9
Medicaid status	On Medicaid	4.00	21.1
Marital status	Married	8.00	38.1
Marital status	Not married	13.00	61.9
Health status	excellent/good	14.00	66.7
Health status	fair/poor	7.00	33.3
Financial strain	No financial strain	21.00	100.0
Caregiving intensity	High intensity	9.00	60.0
Caregiving intensity	Low intensity	1.00	6.7
Caregiving intensity	Moderate intensity	5.00	33.3
Household headship	Head of household	12.00	57.1

Household headship	Not head of household	9.00	42.9
Caregiving hours	Mean ADL hours/day	9.46	NA
Caregiving hours	Mean IADL hours/day	6.11	NA
Parent cognitive status	Parent does not have dementia	12.00	57.1
Parent cognitive status	Parent has dementia	9.00	42.9

Note:

Data source: HEPESE Wave 7 (2010-2011)

Table 3: Characteristics of Adult Children Who Moved In for Caregiving

Adult Children Who Moved In for Caregiving (N = 27)

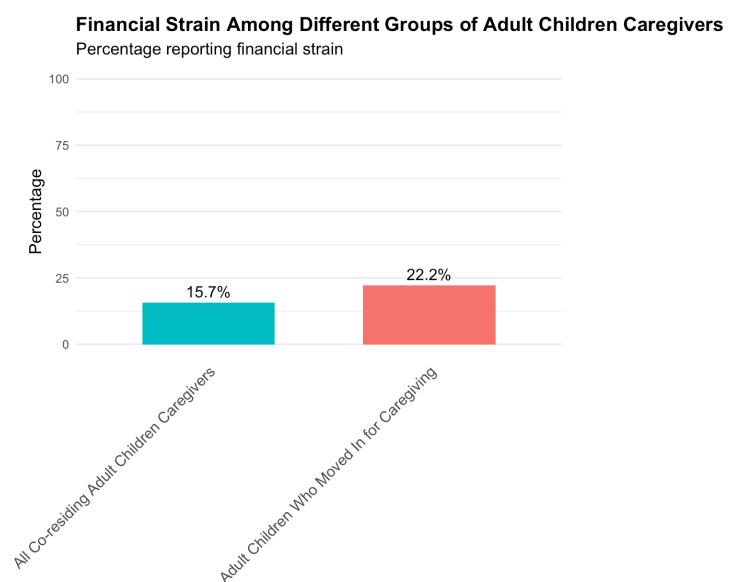
Characteristic	Category	n	%
Gender	Female	20.00	74.1
Gender	Male	7.00	25.9
Age group	Early Adulthood (18-44)	1.00	3.7
Age group	Early Retirement (65-75)	1.00	3.7
Age group	Late Middle Age (55-64)	15.00	55.6
Age group	Middle Age (45-54)	10.00	37.0
Education	Bachelor's+	6.00	23.1
Education	HS Graduate	6.00	23.1
Education	Less than HS	6.00	23.1
Education	Some College	8.00	30.8
Income	\$10,000-\$19,999	6.00	30.0
Income	\$20,000-\$29,999	3.00	15.0
Income	\$30,000-\$49,999	6.00	30.0
Income	\$50,000+	1.00	5.0
Income	< \$10,000	4.00	20.0
Medicaid status	Not on Medicaid	24.00	88.9
Medicaid status	On Medicaid	3.00	11.1
Marital status	Married	14.00	53.8
Marital status	Not married	12.00	46.2

Health status	excellent/good	17.00	63.0
Health status	fair/poor	10.00	37.0
Financial strain	Has financial strain	6.00	22.2
Financial strain	No financial strain	21.00	77.8
Caregiving intensity	High intensity	18.00	69.2
Caregiving intensity	Moderate intensity	8.00	30.8
Household headship	Head of household	4.00	14.8
Household headship	Not head of household	23.00	85.2
Caregiving hours	Mean ADL hours/day	8.05	NA
Caregiving hours	Mean IADL hours/day	8.04	NA
Parent cognitive status	Parent does not have dementia	15.00	55.6
Parent cognitive status	Parent has dementia	12.00	44.4

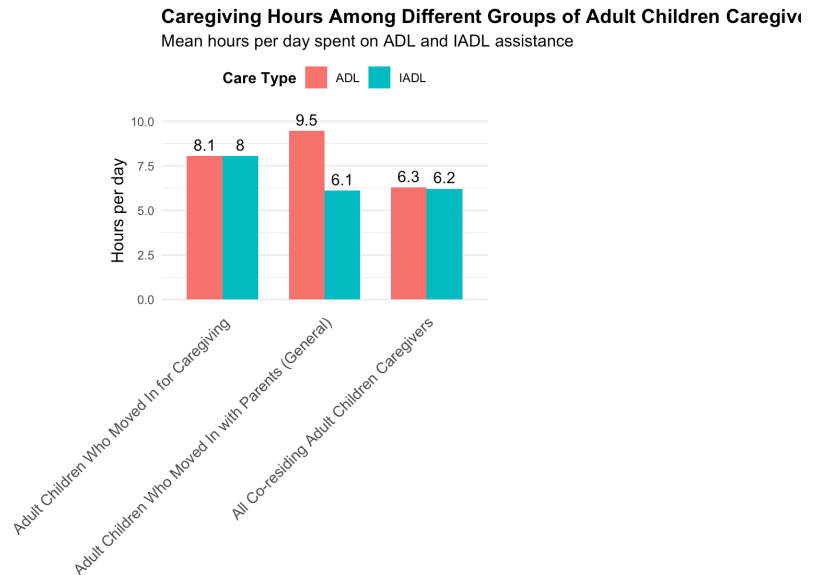
Note:

Data source: HEPSE Wave 7 (2010-2011)

Comparing Financial Strain Across Groups



Comparing Caregiving Hours Across Groups



Discussion

This analysis reveals several important patterns among adult children caregivers:

1. **Financial strain:** Adult children who moved in specifically for caregiving reasons experience higher rates of financial strain compared to caregivers who co-reside without discerning who moved in with whom (i.e., Table 1) (22.2% vs 15.7%).
2. **Caregiving intensity:** The data shows variation in caregiving intensity across different groups. Those who moved in specifically for caregiving spent more hours on caregiving tasks, relative to caregivers who co-reside without discerning who moved in with whom (8.04-8.05 ADL/IADL hours vs 6.21-6.29 ADL/IADL hours).
3. **Demographic differences:** There are notable demographic differences between adult children who moved in specifically for caregiving versus those who co-reside for other reasons, particularly in terms of gender distribution, marital status, and economic resources. For example, 11.1% of adult children who moved in for caregiving reasons report participating in Medicaid, vs 21.1% who moved in more generally, and 16.8% for those who co-reside without discerning who moved in with whom.
4. **Household headship:** Among adult children who moved in specifically for caregiving reasons, 85.2% are not the HOH vs 42.9% for adult children who moved in for general reasons. The pattern of

household headship varies across groups, which may have implications for financial decision-making, resource allocation, and caregiver autonomy within the household.

Limitations

Several limitations should be noted when interpreting these results:

1. The data is cross-sectional, limiting our ability to conduct analyses over time and to establish causal relationships between co-residence patterns and financial strain.
2. The sample sizes for some subgroups are prohibitively small ($n < 30$), which affects the reliability of estimates.
3. The HEPSE data is specific to Mexican-Americans in southwestern states and may not generalize to other Latino populations or regions.
4. Self-reported measures of financial strain and living arrangements may be subject to recall bias or social desirability effects.