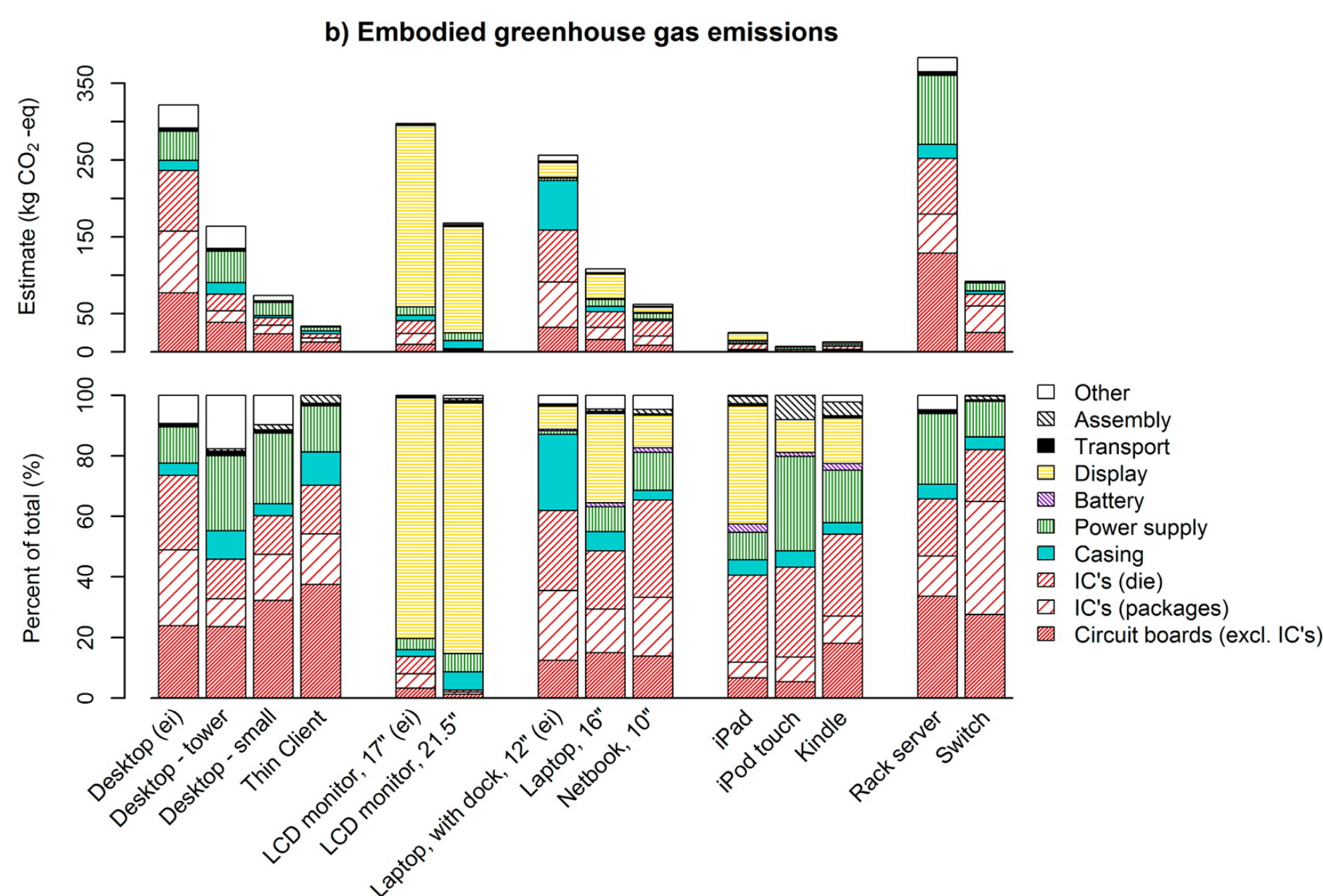


ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND ETHICS

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Negative Environmental Impacts

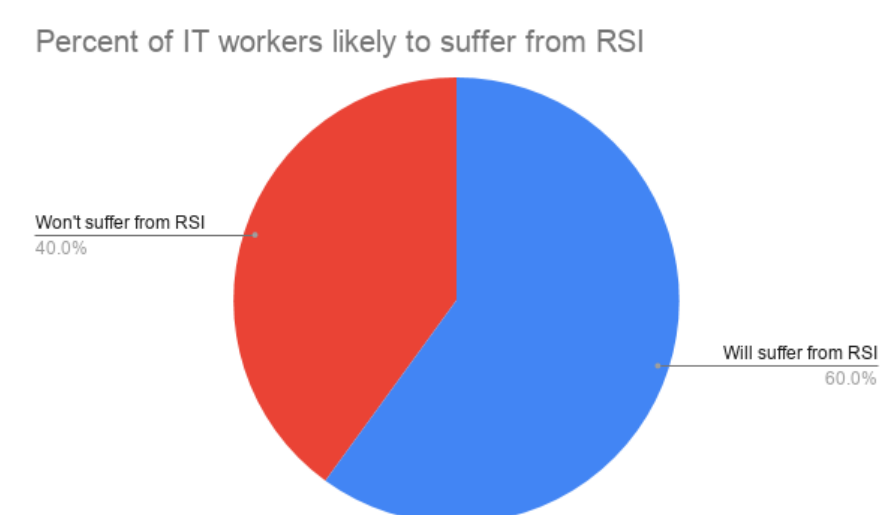
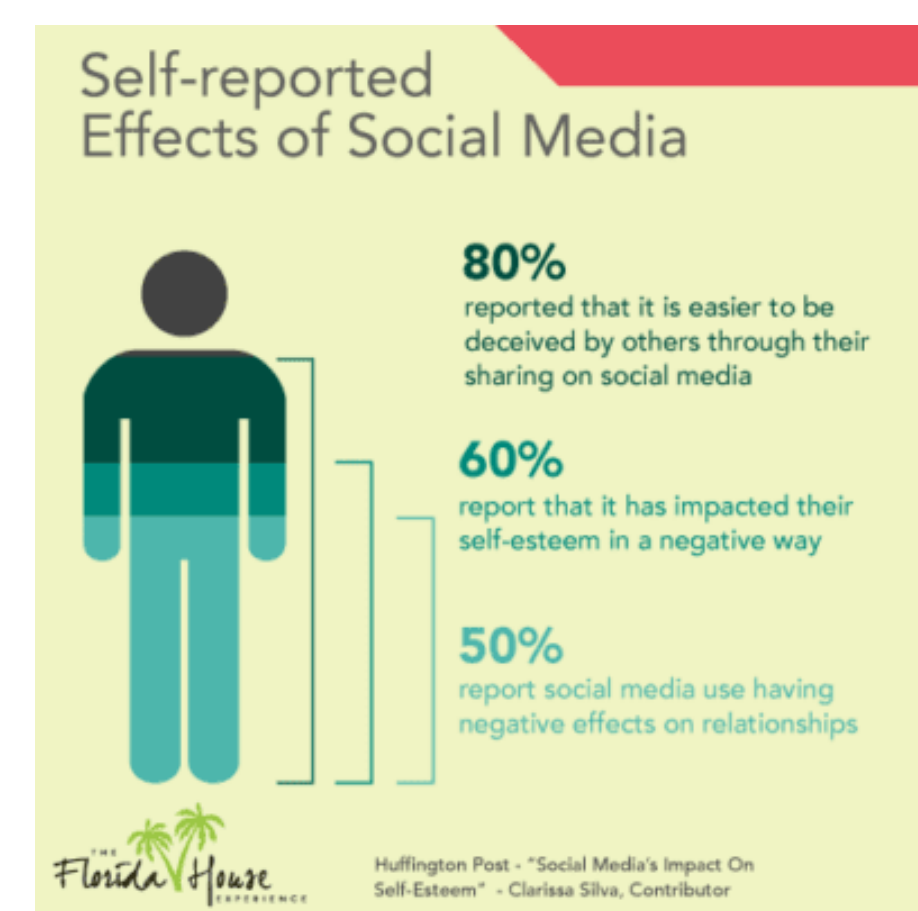


The majority of the CO₂ generated from the production of devices is from display panels, which require sulfur hexafluoride for the etching of silicon. The simplest way to reduce the dependence on this chemical is to use a different process for etching involving a different chemical, such as fluorine gas, which will have a zero GWP. Some companies have already implemented full F-GHG reduction measures, but the largest players in the market, LG Display, BOE, and Samsung, have not fully implemented their proposed measures as of 2018.

Desktop Ethical Issues

An ethical issue that could arise from the use of desktop computers is the continued development and use of machine learning and algorithms to replace the judgement of humans. For example, facial recognition and hiring/performance algorithms were mentioned in the movie *Coded Bias*, with other examples being social media recommendation and filtering algorithms, such as Youtube's infamous monetization algorithm. The main problem with machine learning is that it leads to black-box algorithms that are near-impossible to understand by humans. Thus, I would propose that the use of algorithms should be monitored and regulated in certain cases. For example, hiring algorithms might be regulated by reducing the impact that they have on the hiring process, or having researchers develop a list of relatively unbiased algorithms that are permitted to be used. Understanding the thought process of an algorithm derived from the process of machine learning is currently difficult, so funding the development of techniques to analyze such an algorithm could also be useful in determining and reducing bias.

Negative Health Impacts



Social media companies should look to reduce the toxic like-driven economy on their sites, and more resources should be given healthcare workers and services that are directly attempting to resolve the increase in mental health issues. As for physical injuries, more consumer education is required for safe computer usage to prevent RSI and back pain. Workplaces should also be providing or funding the purchase of ergonomic equipment, especially given the work from home norm brought about by COVID-19.

Mobile Ethical Issues

An ethical issue that could arise from the use of mobile devices is the surveillance performed by both governments and corporations. Governments commonly perform indiscriminate scraping of data, whether that be text messaging logs, public social media posts, or even chat logs from messaging services. They claim to do this to help protect the country, but surveillance agencies already have more than enough data, but are still failing to catch terrorists. The only real way to reduce this warrantless surveillance is to enforce stricter legislation against indiscriminate government surveillance, and increase organizational transparency. Companies also collect a lot of user data, but they use this for targeted advertising. Many social media sites have no real way to opt out of this collection, and some, such as Facebook, even collect data about users who are not signed up. The best way to give citizens more control of their data would also be to create legislation that protects customers, such as California's privacy laws or GDPR.