

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT

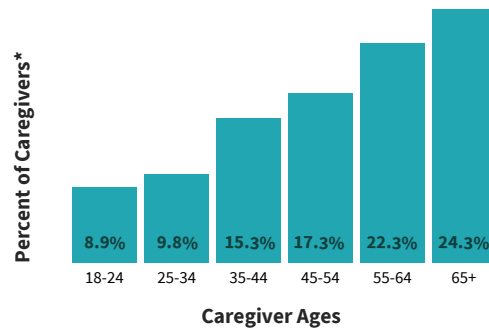
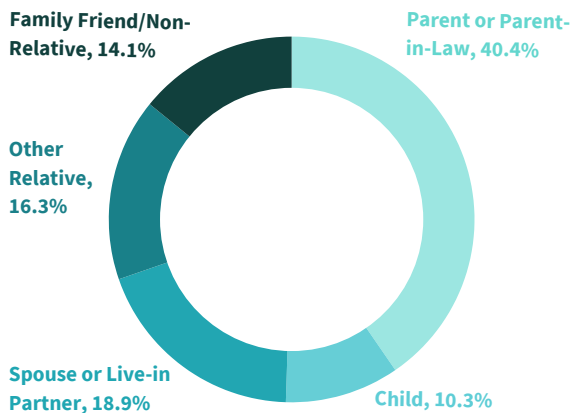
Unpaid Caregivers in Illinois



- **1 in 6 adults** in Illinois are caregivers, providing essential care to family members or friends with disabilities or health challenges but are **not compensated** for their care work.
- **19% of caregivers** provide care for **40 hours or more per week**. Among these caregivers, **51% are not in paid employment**, highlighting the economic barriers faced by those providing unpaid care to family members and loved ones.
- **55% of caregivers are women**. 51% of caregivers have been providing care for more than 2 years.
- **11%** of those who *aren't* caregivers **expect to become caregivers** in the next 2 years.

2 in 5 (40%) of caregivers are caring for **their parent or parent-in-law**, nearly **1 in 5 (19%)** are caring for **their spouse or live-in partner**, and **16%** are **caring for other relative(s)**.

Illinois' older adult population (60 years and older) is expected to **grow rapidly** in the coming decades, outpacing the growth of all other age groups. This could potentially impact caregiver demographics in the future. Currently, **47% of Illinois' caregivers are 55 years or older**.



*The percentages do not sum to 100% due to 2.2% of respondents indicating "don't know," refusing to answer, or having missing data.

- **34% of caregivers have a disability** themselves, adding to the challenges they may face in providing care while managing their own health needs.
- In Illinois, an estimated **271,000 direct care job openings** will need to be filled by 2032, yet they remain **vastly underpaid**. Nearly **15,000 people remain on waiting lists** for home and community-based services. About **76% of working people in Illinois do not have paid family leave** through their jobs. These factors highlight the need for support for Illinois' caregivers.

To learn more about what's needed for an equitable care infrastructure for all of Illinois' families see the Care Can't Wait [Illinois Care Voter Guide](#).