



# CARING AND DISABILITY IN IRELAND

**DATE:** 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

**EVENT:** Irish Women's Parliamentary Caucus Workshop On The Care Economy

**SPEAKERS:** Karina Doorley, Brendan Walsh

# INTRODUCTION

ESRI research has focused on issues of relevance to the care economy

- Childcare
- Disability
- Home support for older people
- Family and professional carers
- Sustainable residential care
- Tax and welfare

# EVALUATION OF 2012 CARERS' STRATEGY

## PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED

### Family carers

Priority Area	Ranked
Income support	1
Supports and services, esp. home-based	2
Respite	3

### Other stakeholders

Priority Area	Ranked
Community-based supports	1
Income support	2
Respite	3

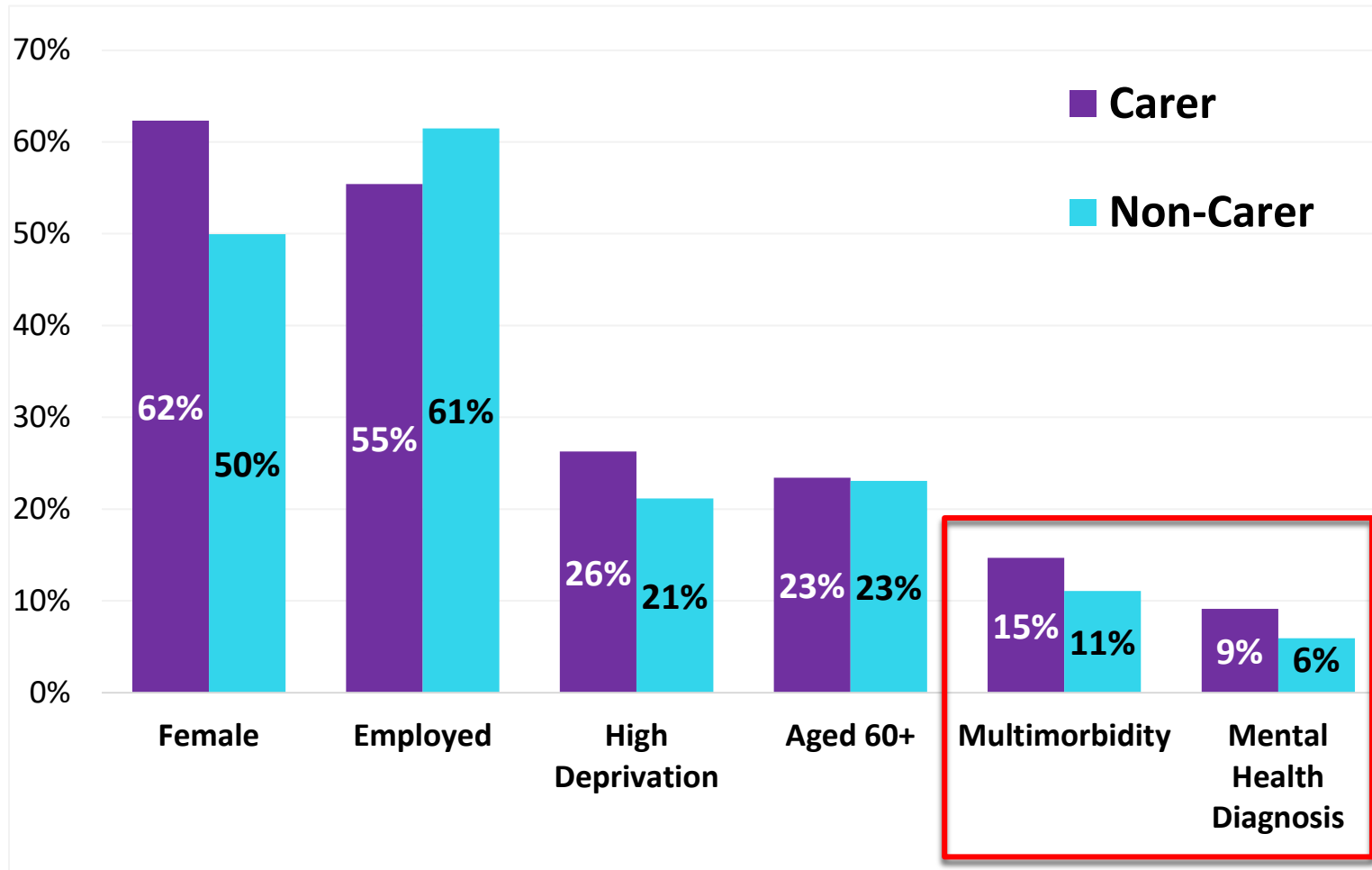


# CARERS' HEALTH

EVIDENCE FROM THE HEALTHY IRELAND SURVEY



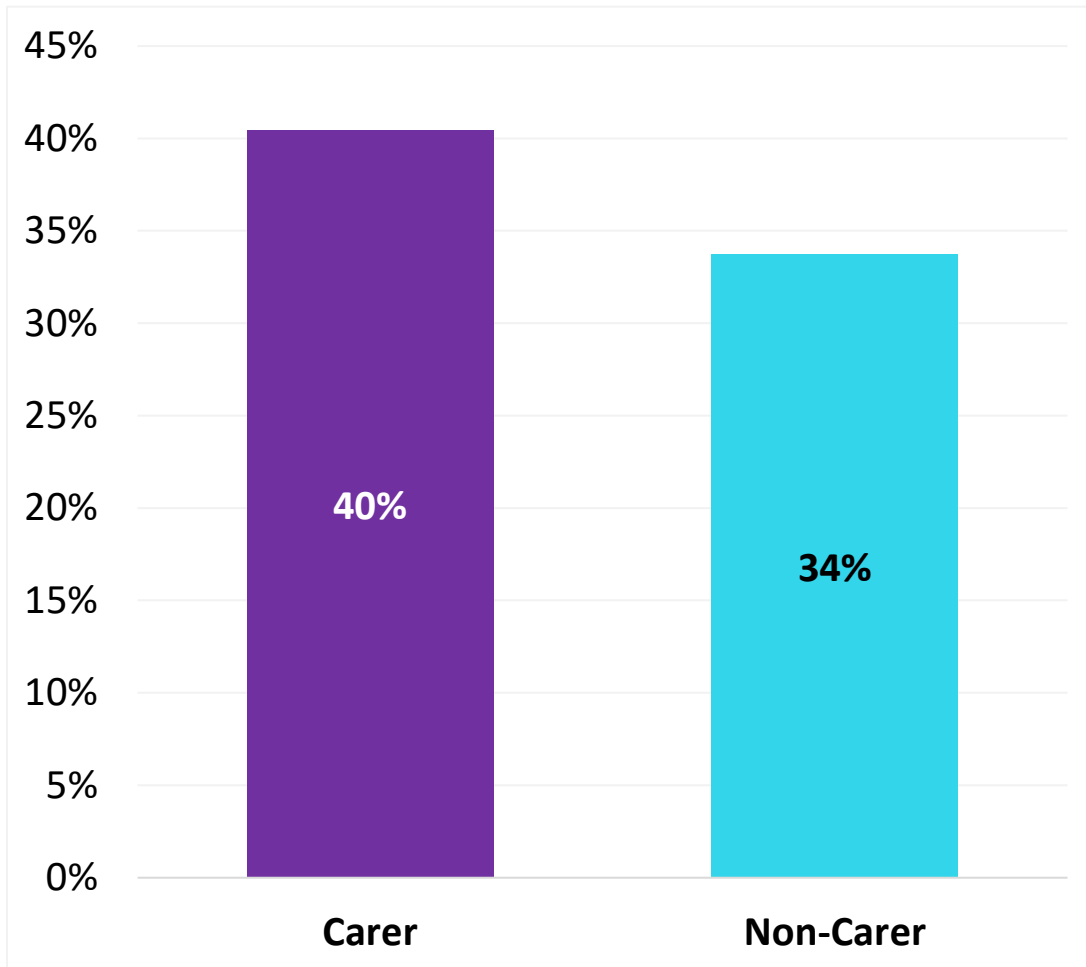
# CARERS' HEALTH



- Carers have poorer health than non-carers
- **15%** have at least 2 chronic conditions (multimorbidity)
- **9%** have a mental health diagnosis (e.g. anxiety, depression)
- **Caring Transmission:** Carers are more likely to require care in the future

*Authors' calculations using Healthy Ireland Survey data.*

# CARERS' HEALTH DURING COVID-19

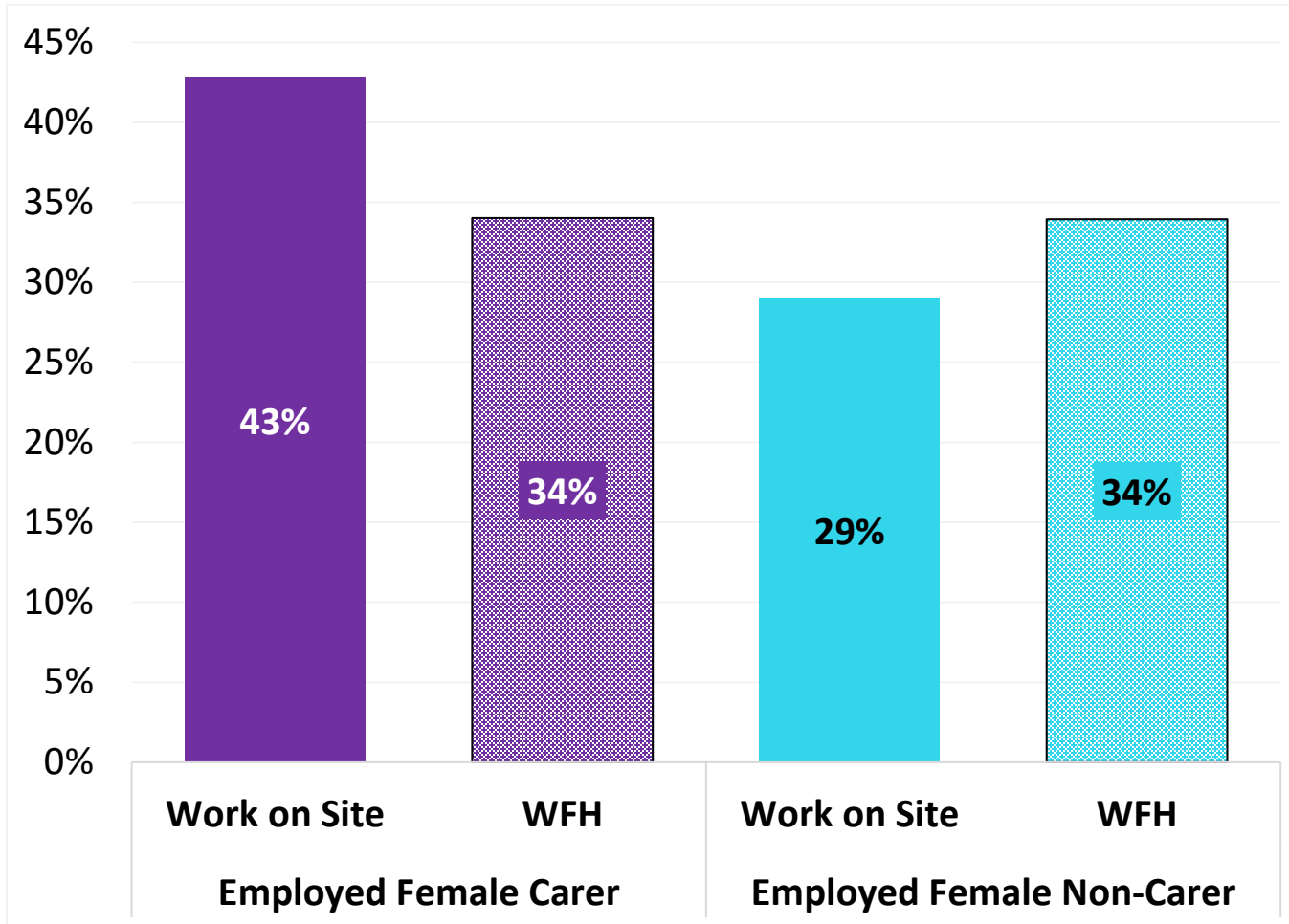


*Authors' calculations using Healthy Ireland Survey data.*

*Since the start of COVID-19 restrictions in March, would you say that your mental health has worsened?*

- **40%** of carers reported worse mental health

# CARERS' HEALTH DURING COVID-19: WORKING FROM HOME



*Since the start of COVID-19 restrictions in March, would you say that your mental health has worsened?*

- **WFH** during Covid-19 for employed females (aged <66) may ameliorate some mental health problems



# STATUTORY HOME SUPPORT SCHEME

RESEARCH FUNDED BY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH/ESRI RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN HEALTHCARE REFORM





# STATUTORY HOME SUPPORT SCHEME

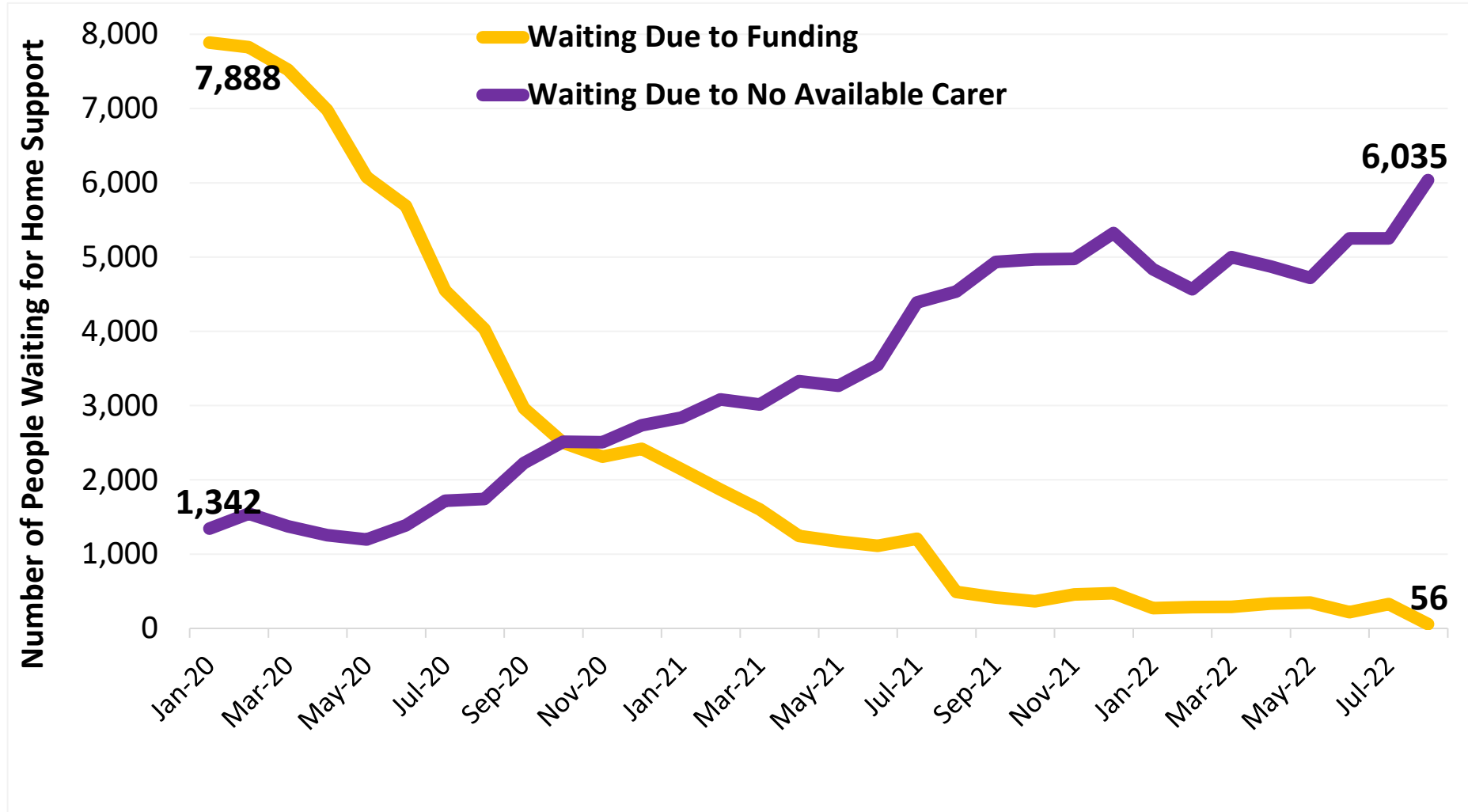
- A new model of care for Older People, based around Statutory Home Support Scheme, will increase demand for professional carers substantially

	<u>2019 Hours (Baseline)</u>	<u>Potential Scenario</u>
<b>Public Home Support Schemes</b>	18.6 Million	20.9 Million
<b>Reduce Nursing Home Admissions</b>		<b>5.1 Million</b>
<b>Reduce Family Carers Hours</b>		<b>5.3 Million</b>
<b>Private Hours</b>	6.1 Million	<b>8.6 Million</b>
<b>Waiting Lists</b>	1.6 Million	1.7 Million
<b><u>Total Home Support Demand</u></b>	<b><u>26.3 Million</u></b>	<b><u>41.6 Million</u></b>

*Walsh & Lyons (2021).*

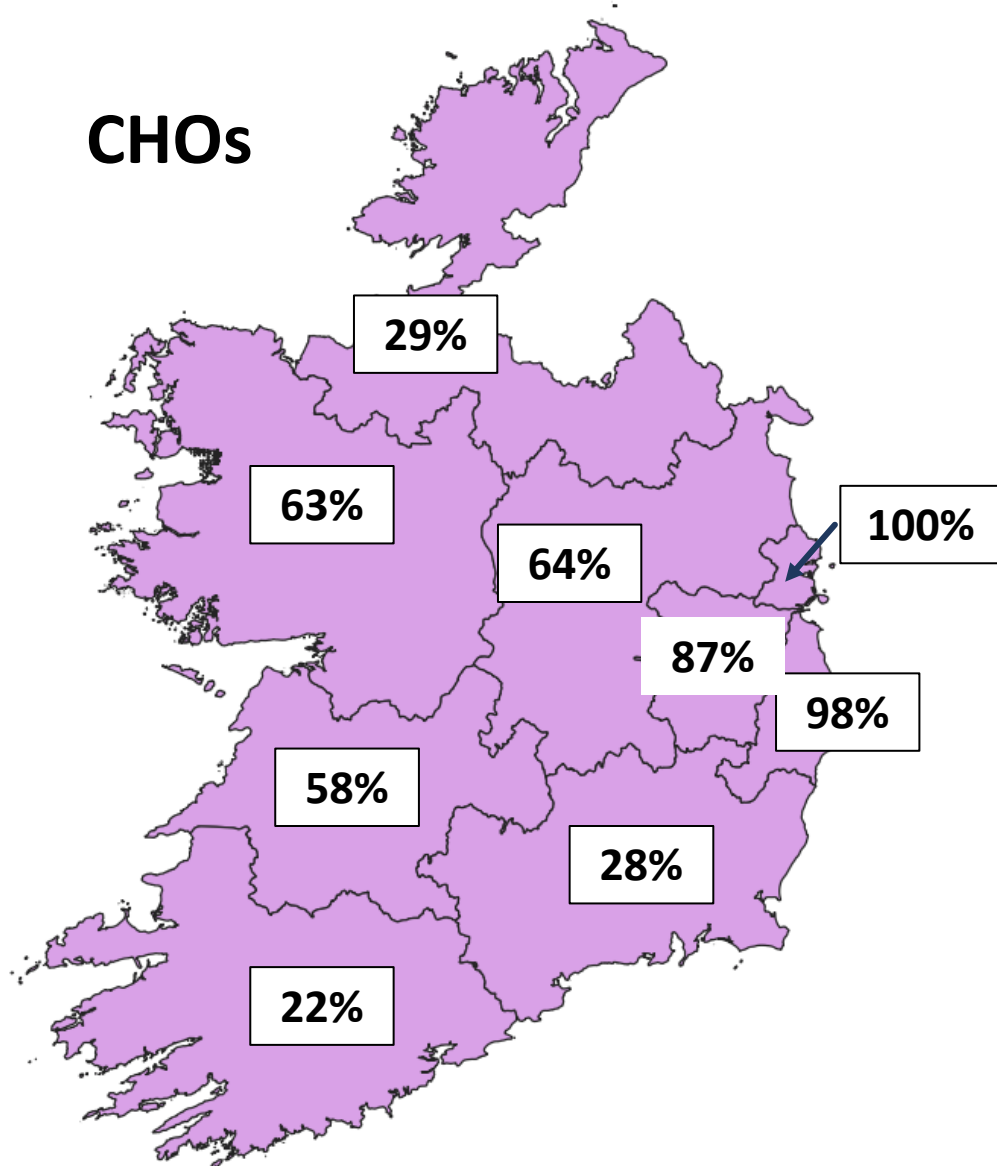
- Home support € projected to be €1.2bn–€3bn in 2035 (Walsh et al., 2021)

# BUT... WE LACK PROFESSIONAL CARERS



# % OF HOME SUPPORT HOURS PROVIDED BY PRIVATE PROVIDERS

## CHOs



- Home Support is largely devolved to local areas
- Since 2012, the State has relied on private (& voluntary) providers to provide home support
- Over 100 Home Support Providers
- Large differences in private provision across CHOs
  - 22%-29% in CHO1/CHO4
  - Up to 100% in Dublin

# AND... CARING IS A PRECARIOUS PROFESSION

	Carer*	Nurse
<b>Age (mean)</b>	44 years	42 years
<b>Female</b>	<b>84.8%</b>	93.0%
<b>Medical Card</b>	46.6%	46.0%
<b>Private Health Insurance</b>	30.4%	68.3%
<b>Married</b>	59.0%	71.8%
<b>Non-Irish Born</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	23.3%
<b>Live in Most Deprived Area</b>	<b>28.5%</b>	10.0%
<b>Rural</b>	36.8%	32.7%

\* Includes Residential Care workers

Walsh & Lyons (2021): Calculations using Healthy Ireland Survey data.

- Professional carers one of the most deprived employment groups
- Healthcare Support Assistant Salary:
  - **HSE:** €29,062 - €37,600
  - **Private:** €22,000 - €28,000
- Salary often based upon care provided
  - Recipients can cancel, can be admitted to hospital, etc.

# KEY POINTS

- Family carers are the bedrock of caring in Ireland
- Success of the Statutory Home Support Scheme is dependent upon family/professional carers and wider health and social care system working together
- **Potential policies to consider:**
  - **Carer Registry:** Little info available on carer numbers, profiles or working conditions
  - **Carer Training:** 16% have no professional caring qualification, 50%+ have no specific treatment in Dementia care (Conyard et al., 2020)
  - Quick rollout of **InterRAI** Single Assessment Tool
  - Changes to **18.5 hours** Carer's Benefit and **3/5 day** Jobseekers Allowance rules



# TAX AND WELFARE



# INTRODUCTION

- Strong culture of distributional impact assessment in Ireland
  - “Poverty proofing” since 1997
  - Social & Poverty Impact Assessment framework for budgetary cycles
- SWITCH tax-benefit model
  - a partnership between ESRI & government departments
- Equality budgeting
  - Gender budgeting (Doorley et al., 2018, funded by PBO)
  - Disability budgeting (Doorley & Regan, 2022)

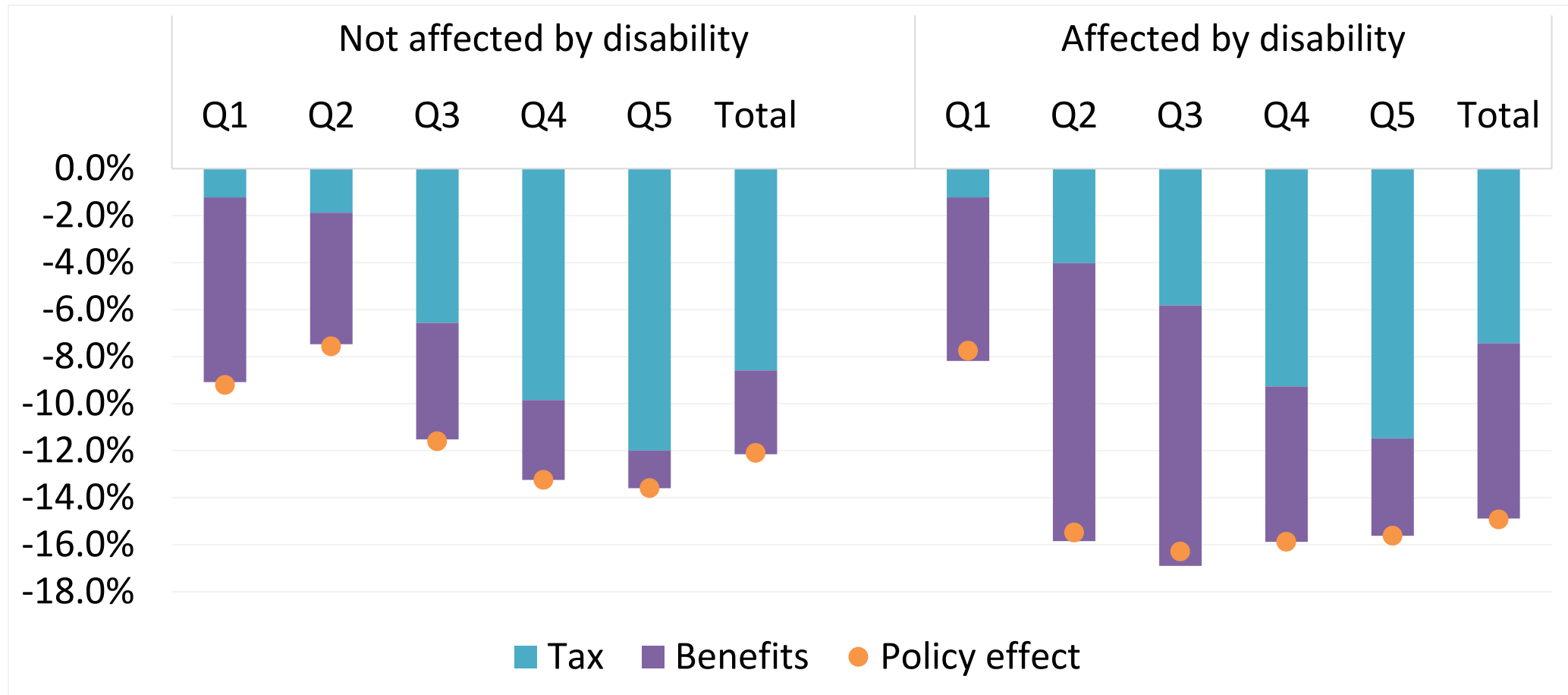
# IMPORTANCE OF DISABILITY BUDGETING

- Disability is associated with higher risk of poverty and decreased standard of living (Gannon, 2005; Cullinan et al., 2011)
- Employment rates one-half those of people without a disability
  - Important as no in-built indexation rules in Irish tax and welfare policy
- Definition of **households affected by disability**, based on available data.
  - Self-declared “Disabled or/and unfit to work”
  - In receipt of Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Illness Benefit, Carer’s Allowance



# DISABILITY BUDGETING 2007-2019

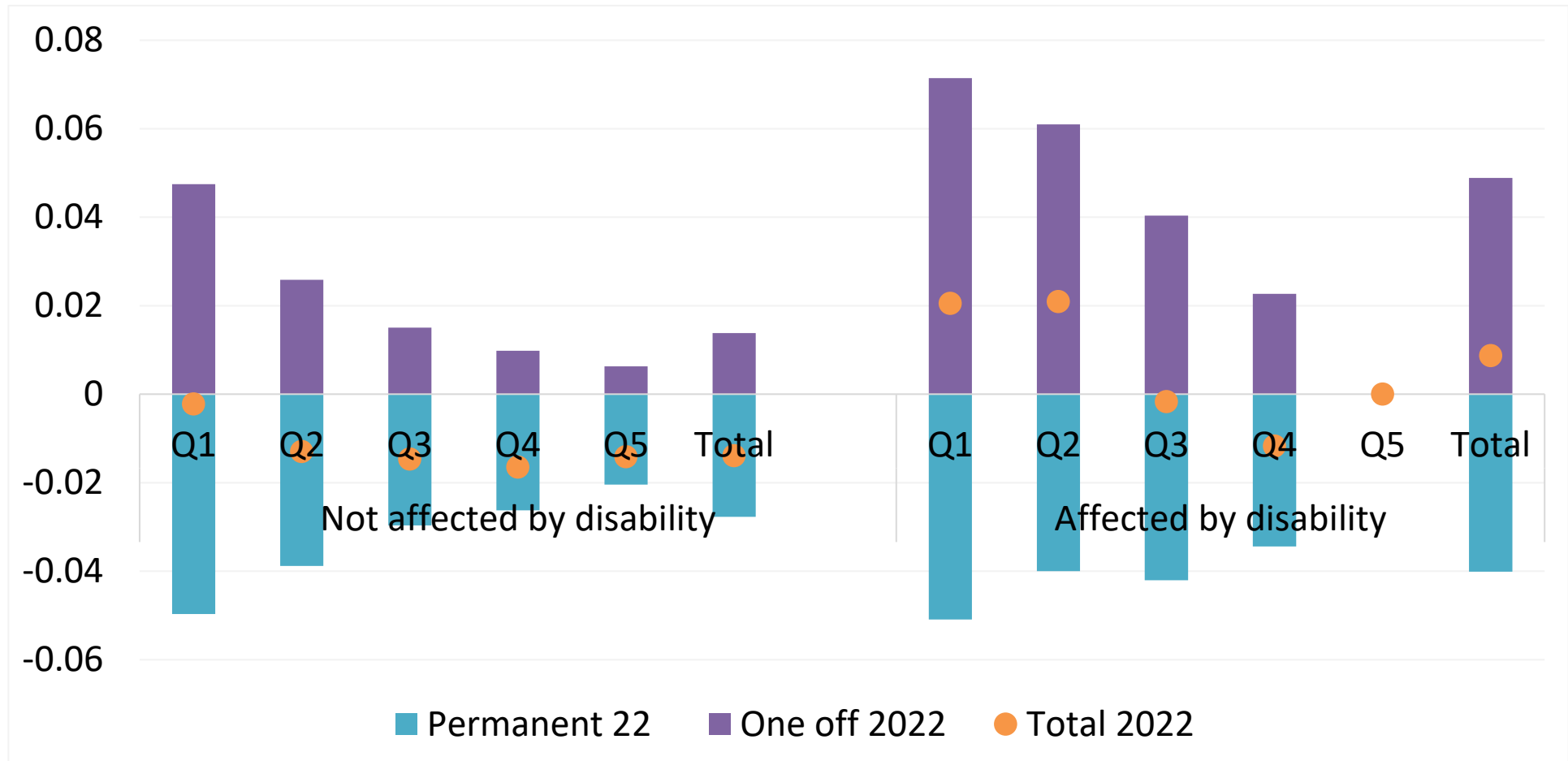
- Compared to inflation-proofed 2007 policies, 2019 policies decreased the income of households affected by disability more than households not affected by disability



Authors' calculations using EUROMOD linked to EU-SILC data.

# DISABILITY BUDGETING 2020-2022

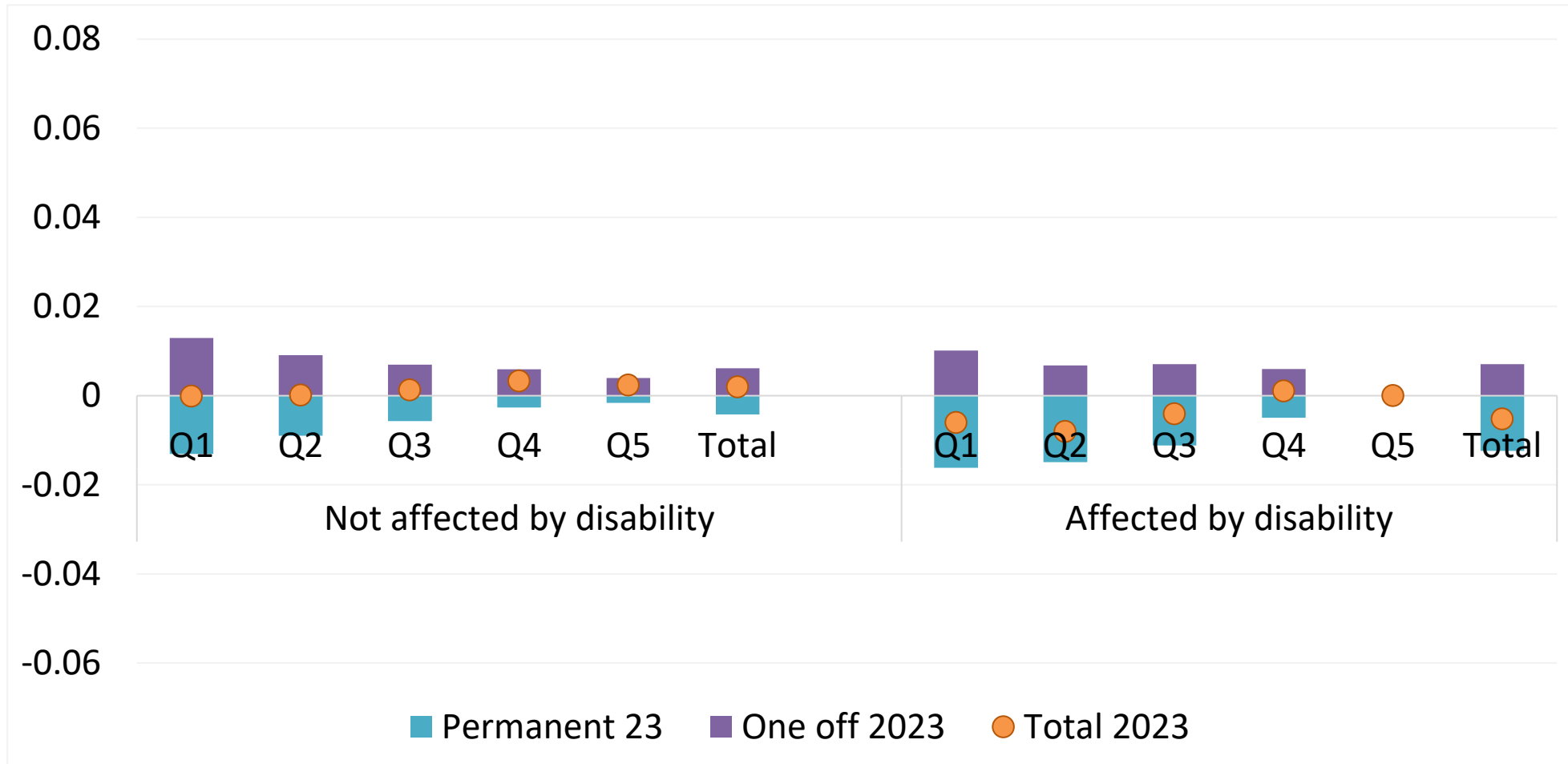
- Compared to inflation-proofed 2020 policies, households affected by disability are slightly better off in 2022 thanks to one-off policies



Authors' calculations using EUROMOD linked to EU-SILC data.

# DISABILITY BUDGETING 2022-2023

- Compared to inflation-proofed 2022 policies, households affected by disability will be slightly worse off in 2023



Authors' calculations using EUROMOD linked to EU-SILC data.

# DISCUSSION

- The number of people and households affected by disability has grown by up to one-half since 2007
- Households affected by disability are more reliant on welfare payments
- Cuts/freezes to payments affect them more, particularly given their higher cost of living
- Future attempts to equality-proof budgetary policy should consider that welfare changes disproportionately impact households affected by disabilities