

CARP Dementia Poll Report May 2 2014

Key Findings

Almost all members have been affected by dementia, either through a close family member or one or more people they know. The large minority are, or know caregivers to those with dementia, and virtually all agree that dementia as a problem is on the increase with no solution in sight.

One half says families have been subjected to extreme stress by dementia, and, possibly as a result, almost all agree with CARP's approach of relieving stress on caregivers. Wide majorities also agree with CARP solutions like more training for health care professionals and first responders, patient navigators to smooth out passage through the health care system and embedding final directives in law.

There is wide awareness there is no cure or treatment for dementia and, as such, there is strong approval for CARP's strategy of mitigating stress on caregivers.

Members agree that funding for home care and Personal Care Workers is key to both reducing stress on caregivers and harm reduction for sufferers. At the same time there is strong disagreement Canada is prepared for the potential economic impact of dementia.

Close to three quarters of members have experienced or know someone who has had clinical depression, including a substantial minority of members themselves, and in most cases, these incidents were treated with medication and/or psychotherapy. There is wide agreement Canada does not have an adequate system for dealing with seniors with mental health issues.

Detailed Findings

The vast majority of members have been touched by dementia (80%), either a family member (6%), someone they know (36%) or more than one person (35%).

Has someone close to you or someone you know been diagnosed with some form of dementia?

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| YES | 80% |
| Me | 1% |
| Spouse | 5% |
| Sibling | 3% |
| Someone I know | 36% |
| More than one person | 35% |
| No | 20% |

Four-in-ten (43%) members are (20%), or know someone who is a caregiver to someone with dementia (33%).

Are you a caregiver to someone with dementia or do you know someone who is?

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| YES | 43% |
| Me | 10% |
| Someone I know | 33% |
| No | 57% |

There is almost universal agreement the number of cases of dementia will increase in the future (95%) and one half expresses this opinion strongly (53%).

Do you agree or disagree that as the aging population grows, the number of cases of dementia will increase?

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| AGREE | 95% |
| Agree strongly | 53% |
| Agree | 42% |
| DISAGREE | 1% |
| Disagree | 1% |
| Disagree strongly | * |
| DON'T KNOW | 4% |

There is equally high agreement that individuals themselves are more likely to suffer dementia because of longer life spans (94%).

As people live longer, do you agree or disagree there's a greater chance that individuals will suffer dementia at some point?

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| AGREE | 94% |
| Agree strongly | 45% |
| Agree | 49% |
| DISAGREE | 2% |
| Disagree | 2% |
| Disagree strongly | * |
| DON'T KNOW | 4% |

The wide majority disagree enough is being done to prepare for the increase in dementia (82%).

Do you agree or disagree enough is being done to prepare for this coming increase?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| AGREE | 8% |
| Agree strongly | 3% |
| Agree | 5% |
| DISAGREE | 82% |
| Disagree | 38% |
| Disagree strongly | 44% |
| DON'T KNOW | 11% |
| NO INCREASE IN DEMENTIA COMING | 1% |

One half of members say dementia has exposed a caregiver to extreme stress (51%), while about one seventh say caring for a dementia sufferer has not affected their family (14%).

How has dementia affected your family or the family of someone you know?

| | |
|--|------------|
| Imposed extreme stress on caregiver | 51% |
| Hasn't affected family | 14% |
| Caused family rifts | 7% |
| Drawn family closer | 6% |
| Imposed financial hardships | 5% |
| OTHER | 8% |
| DON'T KNOW ANYONE WITH DEMENTIA | 10% |

The wide majority applaud CARP's approach of supporting caregivers in absence of a cure for dementia (88%), and more than half say this approach is excellent (56%). Almost no members disagree there is a looming dementia crisis (1%).

CARP recommends a comprehensive, nationally funded strategy that would start with caregiver support, including work leave protection, professional training, financial support and respite opportunities. How good an idea is this?

| | |
|---|------------|
| EXCELLENT/GOOD IDEA | 88% |
| Excellent idea, caregivers are at the front lines | 56% |
| Good idea, will give some help to caregivers | 32% |
| OK/POOR IDEA | 8% |
| OK idea, nothing special | 6% |
| Poor idea, wouldn't help caregivers | 2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 3% |
| DON'T AGREE THERE IS DEMENTIA CRISIS | 1% |

The vast majority thinks more training in dementia awareness among medical personnel and first responders is a good idea (85%), and close to two thirds think it "excellent" (61%).

Another CARP solution is better professional training for doctors and nurses on dealing with dementia, as well as training for first responders and Personal Cares Workers (PCWs). How good an idea is this?

| | |
|---|------------|
| EXCELLENT/GOOD IDEA | 85% |
| Increase awareness/respect for caregivers | 61% |
| Professionals not well-trained now | 26% |
| OK/POOR IDEA | 10% |
| OK idea, nothing special | 9% |
| Poor idea, more training not the answer | 1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2% |
| DON'T AGREE THERE IS DEMENTIA CRISIS | 1% |

The patient navigator idea is liked by the wide majority (86%), and one half think it an excellent initiative (53%).

Another CARP solution is a seamless and holistic approach to moving the patient through the healthcare system, with the assistance of a navigator and a team approach to deal with multiple conditions dementia patients may develop. How good an idea is this?

| | |
|---|------------|
| EXCELLENT/GOOD IDEA | 86% |
| Excellent idea, ensure family-focused care | 53% |
| Good idea, current approach is scattershot | 33% |
| OK/POOR IDEA | 10% |
| OK idea, nothing special | 5% |
| Poor idea, more bureaucracy | 5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 3% |
| DON'T AGREE THERE IS DEMENTIA CRISIS | 1% |

Formalizing the power of final directives and DNRs is also well-liked (84%), and, once again, the majority think it an excellent initiative (54%).

Another CARP solution is to embed the power of a final directive, or Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) in law to make sure that patients are ensured the level of care they planned for. How good an idea is this?

| | |
|---|------------|
| EXCELLENT/GOOD IDEA | 84% |
| Excellent idea, guarantee final wishes met | 54% |
| Good idea, law is murky now | 30% |
| OK/POOR IDEA | 8% |
| OK idea, nothing special | 6% |
| Poor idea, don't believe in DNRs | 3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 6% |
| DON'T AGREE THERE IS DEMENTIA CRISIS | 1% |

Three quarters of members are aware there is no cure for dementia (77%).

As far as you know, are there any effective treatments or cures for dementia?

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Yes | 3% |
| No | 77% |
| DON'T KNOW | 20% |

The strong majority approve of CARP's approach of helping caregivers in absence of a cure (79%), although one tenth think efforts should be made to find one (11%).

In fact, dementia is currently untreatable. Is CARP's approach of mitigating harm, raising awareness and supporting caregivers the right approach to dealing with dementia or not?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Yes, need to help families/caregivers now | 79% |
| No, more attempts should be made to find cure | 11% |
| More study needed | 7% |
| OTHER/DON'T KNOW | 4% |

One half of members agree more funding for PCWs and home care is the answer eliminating stress on caregivers (49%), while fewer mention temp care facilities (17%), respite leave (14%) or counseling and support (12%).

What is the best way of reducing or eliminating harm or stress to caregivers to those with dementia?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Funding for home care/PCWs | 49% |
| Temporary care facilities | 17% |
| Respite leave | 14% |
| Counseling/support for caregivers | 12% |
| OTHER/DON'T KNOW | 8% |

Special residential facilities are the best way to ensure harm reduction to dementia patients (28%), followed by more funding for home care and PCWs and special gated "dementia villages" with easily navigated features (19% each).

What is the best way of eliminating stress or harm to those with dementia?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Specially designed residential facilities | 28% |
| Funding for home care/PCWs | 19% |
| Gated dementia villages/easily navigated | 19% |
| Awareness among service personnel | 8% |
| Personalized supervised care | 6% |
| Cognitive exercises/training | 4% |
| Training for first responders | 2% |
| Nursing home | 2% |
| Medication | 1% |
| OTHER/DON'T KNOW | 12% |

There is very wide disagreement (82%) Canada is prepared for the economic impact of dementia.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates dementia costs Canada \$15 billion a year and warns that the costs will increase as the population ages. Do you agree or disagree Canada is prepared for the economic impact of dementia?

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| AGREE | 10% |
| Agree strongly | 4% |
| Agree | 6% |
| DISAGREE | 82% |
| Disagree | 45% |
| Disagree strongly | 38% |
| DON'T KNOW | 8% |

Fully 7-in-10 members (71%) have themselves suffered (13%) or know someone who has suffered clinical depression (58%).

Have you or has anyone you know ever suffered from clinical depression?

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| YES | 71% |
| Me | 13% |
| Someone I know | 58% |
| No | 21% |

The most common treatment for depression is medication alone (28%) followed by psychotherapy and medication (22%). One tenth suffered hospitalization (9%) while a similar proportion got no treatment (10%)

How was this episode or episodes of depression treated?

| | |
|--|------------|
| Medication | 29% |
| Psychiatry/psychotherapy and medication | 22% |
| Hospitalization and medication | 9% |
| No treatment, suffered through it | 6% |
| No treatment, still suffering | 4% |
| OTHER/DON'T KNOW | 6% |
| DON'T KNOW ANYONE CLINICALLY DEPOSESSED | 25% |

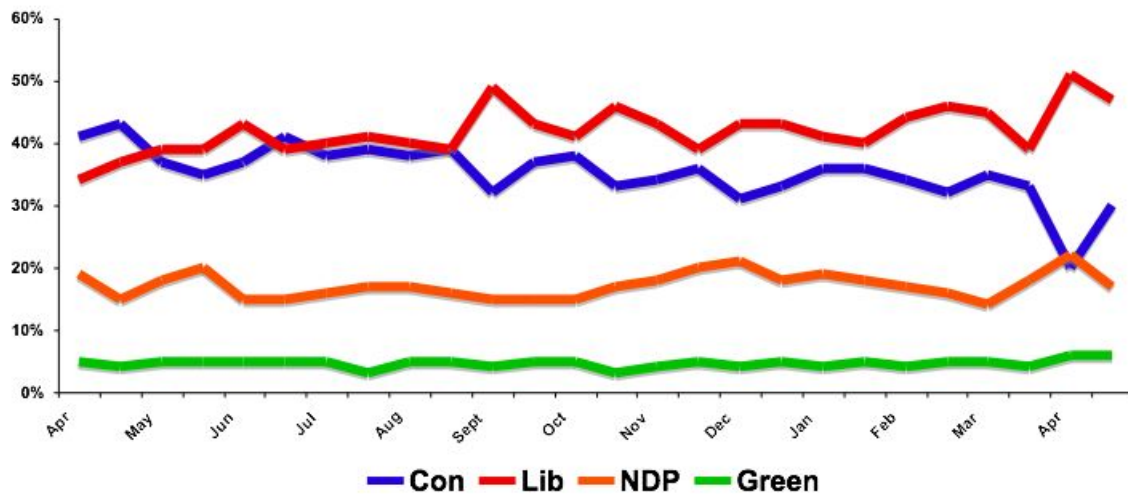
There is wide disagreement Canada is set up to help older Canadians with mental health issues (82%).

Do you agree or disagree Canada has an effective system for dealing with mental health issues among older Canadians?

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| AGREE | 7% |
| Agree strongly | 1% |
| Agree | 6% |
| DISAGREE | 82% |
| Disagree | 51% |
| Disagree strongly | 31% |
| DON'T KNOW | 13% |

Electoral Preference

The Liberals increased their share among decided voters dramatically from 36% to 51%, a new high in our 6 years of polling, before retreating to 47%, while the Conservatives have tumbled from 33% to 20%, a new low for them, before rebounding to 30%. The NDP is back in third place with 17% of the vote



More than 2600 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between April 17 and 20 and 10, 2014. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20