

HHS Public Access

Author manuscript *J Appl Gerontol.* Author manuscript; available in PMC 2022 September 14.

Published in final edited form as:

J Appl Gerontol. 2022 June ; 41(6): 1568–1575. doi:10.1177/07334648221079110.

Sleep Quality Reports from Family Caregivers and Matched Non-Caregiving Controls in a Population-Based Study

Marcela D. Blinka^a, Adam P. Spira^{a,b,c}, Orla C. Sheehan^a, Tom Cidav^a, J. David Rhodes^d, Virginia J. Howard^e, David L. Roth^{a,f,g}

^aCenter on Aging and Health, Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, Johns Hopkins University, 2024 East Monument Street, Suite 2–700, Baltimore, MD 21205 USA

^bDepartment of Mental Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Hampton House Room 794, 624 North Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21205 USA

^cDepartment of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205 USA

^dDepartment of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294 USA

^eDepartment of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294 USA

^fDepartment of Epidemiology, School of Public Health (joint appointment) Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21205 USA

^gDepartment of Biostatistics, School of Public Health (joint appointment) Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21205 USA

Abstract

The stress of family caregiving may affect many health-related variables, including sleep. We evaluated differences in self-reported sleep quality between incident caregivers and matched non-caregiving controls from a national population-based study. Caregivers and controls were identified in the REasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) study and matched on seven different demographic and health history factors. Caregivers reported significantly longer sleep onset latency than controls, before and after adjusting for covariates (ps < 0.05). No differences were found on measures of total sleep time or sleep efficiency. Among caregivers only, employed persons reported less total sleep time and number of care hours was **a** significant predictor of total sleep time. Dementia caregivers did not differ from other caregivers. This is one of the few population-based studies of sleep quality in family caregivers. Additional

Corresponding Author: Marcela D. Blinka, Center on Aging and Health, Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, Johns Hopkins University, 2024 East Monument Street, Suite 2–700, Baltimore, MD 21205 USA, mblinka1@jhmi.edu. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Adam Spira received an honorarium as a consultant to Merck and honoraria from Springer Nature Switzerland AG for guest editing special issues of *Current Sleep Medicine Reports*.

Research Ethics

The REGARDS and CTS were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Boards of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (IRB No. 020925004) and Johns Hopkins University (IRB No. 00096563) respectively.

research is needed to examine whether sleep disturbance contributes to greater health problems among caregivers.

Keywords

Sleep quality; Sleep onset latency; Family caregiving; Population-based study

Introduction

Most of the day-to-day caregiving for older adults in the United States is provided by informal/family caregivers, and with the growing size of the older population, the number of caregivers for older adults is large. In 2016 the Committee on Family Caregiving for Older Adults of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine estimated that there are about 18 million caregivers of older adults with limitations in health or mobility (Schulz & Eden, 2016). A 2020 survey by the AARP and National Alliance for Caregiving estimated that more than 50 million Americans provide unpaid care for adult family members or friends (AARP, 2020). The number of Americans who are 80 years or older is expected to rise from about 13 million in 2015 to about 35 million in 2050 (Redfoot et al., 2013). Therefore, the importance of studying caregivers, and the impact of caregiving on their health is unmistakable.

Caregivers can experience high levels of stress, which may affect their physical and psychological health. Research has found that caregivers have higher rates of depression and anxiety compared to non-caregivers (Haley et al., 2020; Pinquart & Sörensen, 2003), greater physical, psychological and financial burdens, have less time for other family members, and may be less likely to participate in preventive health activities (Collins & Swartz, 2011). Caregiving has also been associated with poor sleep, which in turn can affect quality of life and health generally (Groeger et al., 2014; Mather et al., 2020; McCoy & Strecker, 2011; Narang et al., 2012; Petrov et al., 2018; Spira et al., 2010; Tapp et al., 2017; Tempesta et al., 2015).

Numerous previous studies have compared the sleep of caregivers to non-caregivers. Fonareva and colleagues (2011), compared samples of caregivers for persons with dementia, with non-caregivers who were matched on age and sex and found that the dementia caregivers spent less time in more restful sleep stages and more time in less restful sleep stages than the non-caregivers (Fonareva et al., 2011). A small sample of female veteran caregivers were found to experience higher levels of stress-related sleep disturbances compared to non-caregivers (Song et al., 2020). Similarly, Rowe et al. (2008) found that a convenience sample of older dementia caregivers experienced shorter sleep times, took longer to fall asleep, and reported higher levels of fatigue compared to older non-caregivers, and Fekih-Romdhane et al. (2020) found that caregivers of patients with psychiatric disorders exhibited worse overall scores in the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index Scale (PSQI) than age and sex matched non-caregivers. Castro et al. (2009) found no differences between nine female caregivers and 34 non-caregiving women on multiple sleep characteristics,

although an association was found between increased levels of depressive symptoms in the caregivers, and longer sleep latency.

A recent meta-analysis of dementia caregiving studies found that caregivers got significantly less sleep than non-caregiving controls (Gao et al., 2019). However, all of the studies included in that meta-analysis and the other previous studies reviewed above consisted of comparisons of convenience samples of caregivers, usually identified in clinical settings, and non-caregiving controls, often consisting of healthy volunteers. Such clinical or convenience samples of caregivers are known to report greater behavioral and psychological problems than more representative population-based samples of caregivers (Pruchno et al., 2009), and healthy volunteers recruited through different enrollment methods than caregivers undoubtedly differ from the caregivers in many different ways (Roth et al., 2015).

The present study examined the relationship between caregiving, multiple self-reported measures of sleep duration and quality, and demographic covariates, using a national, population-based sample of Black and White adult incident caregivers and matched controls. In addition, within the caregiver sample, we investigated potential predictors of sleep, including depressive symptoms, type of caregiving (e.g., dementia, physical disability, stroke, mental illness, and disabling sensory impairments), caregiver employment status, caregiver co-residence with the care-recipient, and caregiver demographics.

Design and Methods

REGARDS

The REasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) Study is a population-based study of a national sample of adults over age 45 in the US (Howard, V. J. et al. 2005). The objective of the study is to identify the causes for the high rate of stroke mortality among Black adults and residents of the Southern United States. The REGARDS study sample comprises 30,239 non-Hispanic Black and White adult participants, who were 45 or more years of age when enrolled from 2003 to 2007. The study deliberately oversampled Black adults and residents of the southern United States. The study design, sampling, enrollment and follow up procedures have been described in more detail previously (Howard, V. J. et al. 2005). Potential participants were initially sent a letter about the study and then contacted by telephone by trained interviewers. Once eligibility was determined and participants provided verbal consent, a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) was conducted to collect demographic, medical history, measures of quality of life, and stroke risk factors. About 4 weeks after the telephone interview, participants were visited in-home to obtain physical measurements (e.g., height, weight) and blood samples. Ongoing brief CATI interviews are carried out semi-annually to assess possible stroke events, and a second comprehensive telephone interview and in-home assessment were carried out between 2013 and 2015, approximately 9 years after the initial in-home visits (Howard, G. et al. 2017).

Caregiving Transitions Study—The Caregiving Transitions Study (CTS) is ancillary to the REGARDS study and examines the health effects of caregiving among the REGARDS participants who have transitioned into a caregiving role between their 1st and 2nd in-home

visits. A detailed description of the design, sampling, and participant enrollment for the CTS have been described elsewhere (Roth, Haley, Rhodes, et al., 2020). Briefly, the incident caregivers enrolled in the CTS were identified by asking REGARDS participants if they were providing care on an ongoing basis to a family member, friend, or neighbor with a chronic illness or a disability, including any help with basic activities (e.g., dressing, bathing, grooming), managing bills, arranging for medical care, watching or supervising a person, or providing transportation. Participants who answered "yes" were further questioned regarding their relationship with the person receiving care, whether they lived with that person, the year and month they began providing care because of that person's health problem, whether or not they provided care to a person with dementia, and the number of hours of care provided per week. REGARDS participants were eligible to be enrolled as incident caregivers in the CTS if they answered "yes" to the caregiving status question and began providing care at least six months after the 1st REGARDS in-home assessment and at least three months before the 2nd REGARDS in-home assessment. The care recipients for whom the caregivers provided care had to be adults who were not residing in a nursing home, assisted living facility, or another residential care setting. In addition, the caregivers had to live either with or within 50 miles of the care recipients and had to be providing at least five hours of care per week in order to be eligible for enrollment in the CTS.

Enrolled incident caregivers were matched to a non-caregiving randomly selected control person in the REGARDS study based on up to seven demographic and health history factors including age, sex, race, education level, marital status, self-rated health at the REGARDS baseline CATI, and self-reported history of cardiovascular disease at the REGARDS baseline CATI. All non-caregiving controls reported no extended family caregiving responsibilities throughout their participation in the REGARDS study. The CTS was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Boards of the institutions conducting the study.

Measures

Sleep Variables—During the second comprehensive telephone interview for the REGARDS study, participants were asked the following questions about their sleeping habits: (A) "Thinking about a typical day for you, what time do you usually start trying to fall asleep?"; (B) "How many minutes does it usually take you to fall asleep, after you start trying to fall asleep?"; (C) "How much time, in minutes, do you usually spend awake in between the time you first fall asleep and the time you wake up and start your day?"; and (D) "Thinking about a typical day, what time do you usually wake up?" From the participant's responses to these questions, we calculated sleep onset latency (SOL: Question B), wake after sleep onset (WASO: Question C), total time in bed (TIB: duration between response to Question A and Question D), total sleep time (TST: TIB - (SOL + WASO)), and sleep efficiency (SE: TST/TIB x 100).

Other Variables—Participants reported sex, race, and date of birth at the baseline REGARDS CATI, and current employment status at the 2nd comprehensive interview. Both caregivers and controls completed the 10-item short form of the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression (CES-D) scale (Andresen et al., 1994), which measures depressive

symptoms, at the second comprehensive interview. Body Mass Index (BMI; kg/m²) was obtained from objective height and weight measurements during in-home visits (Howard, G. et al. 2017; Howard, V. J. et al. 2005). Categorical variables for BMI were used in the analyses (< 18.5 = underweight; 18.5 - 25 = normal; 25 - 30 = overweight; > 30 = obese).

Participants

A total of 251 incident caregivers and 251 matched controls were enrolled into the CTS. Among the 251 caregivers, 7 reported that they started providing care after the second comprehensive telephone interview for the REGARDS study when the sleep questions were administered, and 8 additional caregivers reported that they started providing care less than 3 months before that telephone interview. These 15 participants were not included in the present analyses. In addition, 7 caregivers did not complete the sleep questions, and 8 had missing data on at least one of the covariates (e.g., depressive symptoms, BMI). This left 221 (88%) of the 251 incident caregivers enrolled in the CTS who were included in the present analyses. For the non-caregiving controls, one participant did not complete the sleep questions, and 3 had missing data on at least one of the covariates. This left 247 (98%) of the 251 non-caregiving controls in the CTS who were included in the present analyses.

Statistical Analysis—Descriptive analyses were performed on the sleep questions to examine distributions and the possibility of individual outliers. No extreme outliers were detected. Linear multiple regression models were used to compare differences in sleep variables between incident caregivers and non-caregiving controls before and after adjustment for participant race, sex, age, BMI category (underweight, normal, overweight, and obese), and the 10-item CES-D score of depressive symptoms. One of these CES-D items asks about restless sleep, and sensitivity analyses were conducted using a 9-item CES-D score with this item removed. These analyses did not differ in any substantive ways from the results using the 10-item CES-D, so only the results with the 10item measure are further reported.

For analyses of caregivers only, potential predictors of sleep disturbance were examined including whether the caregiver lives with the care recipient, provides care for a person with dementia, the number of caregiving hours provided, and employment status. Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05, and covariate-adjusted means were interpreted for clinical significance. Statistical analyses were performed using SAS® (version 9.4, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC).

Results

The participants' demographic characteristics are shown in Table 1. Incident caregivers and non-caregiving controls were primarily white, female, retired or not employed outside the home, and in their mid to late 60s. A slightly but not significantly higher percentage of incident caregivers were obese compared to controls. Because the caregivers and non-caregiving controls were matched by design on age, sex, and race, there were no differences on these characteristics.

Unadjusted differences in sleep characteristics between caregivers and matched noncaregiving controls are reported in Table 2. On average, total sleep time of incident caregivers and non-caregiving controls was similar. Incident caregivers took, on average, 4.4 minutes longer to fall asleep compared to non-caregiving controls (p = 0.031) and tended to spend 13.4 more minutes in bed than non-caregiving controls (p = 0.081). We did not find any other significant differences in self-reported measures of sleep between incident caregivers and non-caregiving controls.

The results of the multiple regression analyses examining effects of caregivers versus controls and the covariates on sleep characteristics are reported in Table 3. Those analyses showed that incident caregivers took, on average, 4.16 more minutes to fall asleep than controls after adjusting for covariates (p = 0.038). Among the covariates, there were no significant predictive effects for race or sex with sleep quality measures. Older age, however, significantly predicted more total time in bed (p = 0.004) and total sleep time (p = 0.003). The depressive symptoms measure was statistically significant predictor of more time in bed (p = 0.003), greater sleep onset latency (p < 0.001), more time wake after sleep onset (p < 0.001) and lower sleep efficiency (p < 0.001). In addition, combined across both caregivers and controls, the underweight BMI group reported lower sleep efficiency than the normal weight BMI group (p = 0.030). Model R² statistics indicated that statistically significant but relatively modest proportions of variance were accounted for by the predictors, collectively, on each outcome, with higher proportions of variance accounted for, approaching 10%, for sleep onset latency and sleep efficiency.

The results of the multivariable models predicting sleep quality among caregivers only are summarized in Table 4. Those analyses revealed that employed caregivers spent 49.24 fewer minutes in bed (p < 0.001) and had 45.12 less total sleep time (p = 0.002), on average, compared to non-employed (e.g., unemployed, retired) caregivers. Providing a greater number of care hours also significantly predicted longer TST (p = 0.037).

Discussion

This study compared the self-reported sleep characteristics of incident caregivers and a carefully-matched sample of non-caregiving controls using data from a national populationbased study. We found that caregivers took significantly longer to fall asleep (i.e., longer SOL) than non-caregivers. Depressive symptoms were found to be related to four of our five sleep measures across both caregivers and controls. Because increased depression is known to be associated with sleep disturbance (Ypsilanti et al., 2018), these effects (TIB, SOL, WASO, and SE) support the validity of the self-reported sleep measures used in the REGARDS study.

To our knowledge, the design of this population-based study is unique compared to previous studies of the association between family caregiving and sleep quality. In our study, the non-caregiving control sample was carefully matched to caregivers based on up to seven factors, whereas other studies utilized convenience samples or matched caregiver/non-caregiver samples with a small number of criteria (e.g., sex, age, marital status) (Castro et al., 2009; Fekih-Romdhane et al., 2020; Fonareva et al., 2011; Song et al., 2020). In addition, previous

studies were focused on caregivers for a specific condition, such as caregivers for dementia (Castro et al., 2009; Fonareva et al., 2011; Gao et al., 2019; Rowe et al., 2008), patients with psychotic disorders (Fekih-Romdhane et al., 2020) or to a particular group - female veteran caregivers (Song et al., 2020) or spousal caregivers (Mills et al., 2009;).

Our findings have some similarities to those of other researchers who also found significant differences in sleep quality using convenience samples. Fekih-Romdhane et al, (2020), compared "sleep quality" based on PSQI scores among caregivers, and also found significant differences related to age, but did not measure the specific sleep parameters (TIB and TST) that we identified as significant. Rowe et al. (2008) found differences in objectively measured TST, SE, SOL and WASO, their results differ from ours in subtle but important ways. In our study, we found that subjectively measured SOL was significantly different between caregivers and controls, whereas Rowe et al. (2008) found that differences in SOL were only significant when measured objectively.

Fonareva et al. (2011) and Rowe et al. (2008) found, using objective measures, that caregivers took significantly longer to fall asleep than did noncaregivers, with relatively small (n = 20 and n = 31, respectively) convenience samples of dementia caregivers. Our study, using self-reported sleep measures, found similar results (longer SOL), but is unique in the literature in that we used a larger and more heterogeneous, population-based sample of caregivers, with both dementia and non-dementia caregivers included in our sample. We also enrolled individually-matched non-caregiving controls. Our results confirm the earlier findings with respect to SOL and suggest that they can be extended to other types of caregivers beyond dementia caregivers.

Conversely, our results are not consistent with the meta-analysis findings of Gao et al. (2019). We did not find any differences between caregivers and controls on total sleep time, nor did we find any differences between dementia caregivers and caregivers of other conditions. Explanations for these differences between our findings and those of other studies may be based on differences in sample selection. As noted above, in our study we evaluated incident caregivers from a population-based parent study. The caregivers in the present analyses became caregivers after they were already enrolled in the REGARDS study. Caregiving status, therefore, was not a consideration in the initial enrollment into the REGARDS study, and this may reduce the selection biases that are worrisome when convenience samples of pre-existing caregivers and non-caregivers are compared. In addition, the differences in sleep quality identified in prior studies for specific types of caregivers may generalize to the broader population of caregivers. In our sample, we include a broad range of caregiver characteristics (e.g., multiple care-recipient conditions, co-residing and non-co-residing caregivers, working and non-working caregivers).

The observed difference between caregivers and non-caregivers on sleep onset latency was just over 4 minutes, on average. At first glance, this might appear to be a small difference. However, additional descriptive analyses indicated that 29.2% of caregivers reported taking 30 or more minutes to fall asleep compared to 21.8% of controls. Thus, caregivers were 34% more likely to have sleep onset latency of a half hour or more compared to controls. Other important effects on sleep quality appeared in the analysis among the caregivers

only. We found that caregivers who were employed slept less, and spent less time in bed compared to non-employed caregivers. These findings may reflect the pressures of the time commitments of both working and caregiving (employed caregivers versus non-employed caregivers). Among these caregivers, employment and caregiving demands could reduce the time available for sleep. We also found that depressive symptoms were predictive of sleep quality in both caregivers and controls, which is not surprising since depression has been associated with sleep disturbances (Ypsilanti et al., 2018). Our finding that the underweight BMI group reported lower sleep efficiency than the normal weight BMI group differs somewhat from other caregiver studies (Eleuteri et al., 2018) which found that for caregivers with low depressive symptoms, higher sleep disturbances were associated with higher BMI.

The lack of significant differences between dementia caregivers and other types of caregivers is consistent with other findings from the CTS (Roth, Haley, Sheehan, et al., 2020; Sheehan et al., 2020). Sheehan and colleagues (2020) found that observed differences between dementia caregivers and non-dementia caregivers on levels of stressors, burden, and measures of well-being could be accounted for by the greater number of caregiving hours and total number of care recipient problems encountered by dementia caregivers compared to non-dementia caregivers; after adjustment, no differences between dementia and non-dementia caregivers were found on burden and well-being factors. Similarly, Roth and colleagues (2020) found that dementia caregivers did not exhibit any differences in specific inflammatory biomarkers compared to matched controls (Roth, Haley, Sheehan, et al., 2020). This suggests that, to the extent that dementia caregiving is viewed as more stressful than other types of caregiving, this difference is not reflected in corresponding differences between most of the behavioral or biological variables for dementia and non-dementia caregivers measured in the study, including sleep quality.

Our study has some limitations that should be taken into consideration when interpreting the results. The lack of longitudinal data does not allow observations of changes in sleep patterns of caregivers and non-caregivers over time. Thus, our study is a "snapshot" in time comparison of sleep in incident caregivers and non-caregivers. The reliance on self-reported, subjective sleep parameters also does not provide objective measures of the sleep parameters evaluated. Future studies could be improved by employing actigraphy and polysomnography to provide objective measures of sleep quality in population-based samples. Additionally, our study only included Black and White adult participants and may not be generalizable to other racial and ethnic groups.

In our population, caregivers took longer to fall asleep than non-caregivers and we know from prior work (Groeger et al., 2014; Mather et al., 2020; McCoy & Strecker, 2011; Narang et al., 2012; Petrov et al., 2018; Spira et al., 2010; Tapp et al., 2017; Tempesta et al., 2015) that poor sleep quality increases the risk of developing physical and mental impairments. As the population ages the need for caregivers will rise and addressing caregivers' poor sleep quality may become a public health imperative, particularly as the physical and mental consequences of poor sleep quality in caregivers could also impact the care recipients they care for. Effective interventions to assess and improve caregivers' sleep quality are needed.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the other investigators, the staff, and the participants of the REGARDS study for their valuable contributions. A full list of participating REGARDS investigators and institutions can be found at https://www.uab.edu/soph/regardsstudy/

Funding

The authors disclosed receipt of the following financial support for the research, authorship, and publication of this article: This research project is supported by cooperative agreement U01 NS041588 co-funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Service. The Caregiving Transitions Study is further supported by an investigator-initiated grant [RF1 AG050609] from the NIA. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NINDS or the NIA. Representatives of the NINDS were involved in the review of the manuscript but were not directly involved in the collection, management, analysis, or interpretation of the data.

References

- American Association of Retired Persons and National Alliance for Caregiving. Caregiving in the United States 2020. Washington, DC: AARP. May 2020. 10.26419/ppi.00103.001
- Andresen EM, Malmgren JA, Carter WB, & Patrick DL (1994). Screening for depression in well older adults: Evaluation of a short form of the CES-D. American journal of preventive medicine, 10(2), 77–84. [PubMed: 8037935]
- Castro CM, Lee KA, Bliwise DL, Urizar GG, Woodward SH, & King AC (2009). Sleep patterns and sleep-related factors between caregiving and non-caregiving women. Behavioral sleep medicine, 7(3), 164–179. [PubMed: 19568966]
- Collins LG, & Swartz K. (2011). Caregiver care. American family physician, 83(11), 1309–1317. [PubMed: 21661713]
- Eleuteri S, Norton MC, Livi F, Grano C, Falaschi P, Violani C, ... & Lombardo C. (2018). Sleep quality as predictor of BMI in non-depressed caregivers of people with dementia. Eating and Weight Disorders-Studies on Anorexia, Bulimia and Obesity, 23(5), 553–560.
- Fekih-Romdhane F, Mhedhbi N, Ben Ali S, & Cheour M. (2020). Sleep quality in caregivers of older patients with schizophrenia spectrum and bipolar disorders: A case-control study. Clinical gerontologist, 43(5), 533–544. [PubMed: 31640481]
- Fonareva I, Amen AM, Zajdel DP, Ellingson RM, & Oken BS (2011). Assessing sleep architecture in dementia caregivers at home using an ambulatory polysomnographic system. J Geriatr Psychiatry Neurol, 24(1), 50–59. doi:10.1177/0891988710397548 [PubMed: 21320949]
- Gao C, Chapagain NY, & Scullin MK (2019). Sleep duration and sleep quality in caregivers of patients with dementia: A systematic review and meta-analysis. JAMA network open, 2(8), e199891-e199891.
- Groeger JA, Stanley N, Deacon S, & Dijk D-J (2014). Dissociating effects of global SWS disruption and healthy aging on waking performance and daytime sleepiness. Sleep, 37(6), 1127–1142. [PubMed: 24882908]
- Haley WE, Roth DL, Sheehan OC, Rhodes JD, Huang J, Blinka MD, & Howard VJ (2020). Effects of Transitions to Family Caregiving on Well-Being: A Longitudinal Population-Based Study. Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.
- Howard G, Safford MM, Moy CS, Howard VJ, Kleindorfer DO, Unverzagt FW, ... Lackland DT (2017). Racial differences in the incidence of cardiovascular risk factors in older black and white adults. Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 65(1), 83–90. [PubMed: 27666895]
- Howard VJ, Cushman M, Pulley L, Gomez CR, Go RC, Prineas RJ, . . . Howard G. (2005). The reasons for geographic and racial differences in stroke study: objectives and design. Neuroepidemiology, 25(3), 135–143. doi:10.1159/000086678 [PubMed: 15990444]
- Mather MA, Laws HB, Dixon JS, Ready RE, & Akerstedt AM (2020). Sleep Behaviors in Persons With Alzheimer's Disease: Associations With Caregiver Sleep and Affect. Journal of Applied Gerontology, 0733464820979244.

- McCoy JG, & Strecker RE (2011). The cognitive cost of sleep lost. Neurobiology of learning and memory, 96(4), 564–582. [PubMed: 21875679]
- Mills PJ, Ancoli-Israel S, von Känel R, Mausbach BT, Aschbacher K, Patterson TL, ... Grant I. (2009). Effects of gender and dementia severity on Alzheimer's disease caregivers' sleep and biomarkers of coagulation and inflammation. Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, 23(5), 605–610. [PubMed: 18930805]
- Narang I, Manlhiot C, Davies-Shaw J, Gibson D, Chahal N, Stearne K, . . . McCrindle BW (2012). Sleep disturbance and cardiovascular risk in adolescents. Cmaj, 184(17), E913–E920. [PubMed: 23027917]
- Petrov ME, Howard G, Grandner MA, Kleindorfer D, Molano JR, & Howard VJ (2018). Sleep duration and risk of incident stroke by age, sex, and race: the REGARDS study. Neurology, 91(18), e1702-e1709.
- Pinquart M, & Sörensen S. (2003). Differences between caregivers and noncaregivers in psychological health and physical health: A meta-analysis. Psychology and Aging, 18(2), 250– 267. doi:10.1037/0882-7974.18.2.250 [PubMed: 12825775]
- Pruchno R, Wilson-Genderson M, & Cartwright FP (2009). Depressive symptoms and marital satisfaction in the context of chronic disease: a longitudinal dyadic analysis. Journal of Family Psychology, 23(4), 573. [PubMed: 19685992]
- Redfoot D, Feinberg L, & Houser AN (2013). The aging of the baby boom and the growing care gap: A look at future declines in the availability of family caregivers: AARP Public Policy Institute Washington, DC.
- Roth DL, Fredman L, & Haley WE (2015). Informal caregiving and its impact on health: a reappraisal from population-based studies. Gerontologist, 55(2), 309–319. doi:10.1093/geront/ gnu177 [PubMed: 26035608]
- Roth DL, Haley WE, Rhodes JD, Sheehan OC, Huang J, Blinka MD, . . . Durda P. (2020). Transitions to family caregiving: Enrolling incident caregivers and matched non-caregiving controls from a population-based study. Aging Clinical and Experimental Research(32), 1829–1838. doi: 10.1007/ s40520-019-01370-9 [PubMed: 31630377]
- Roth DL, Haley WE, Sheehan OC, Huang J, Rhodes JD, Durda P, . . . Cushman M. (2020). The transition to family caregiving and its effect on biomarkers of inflammation. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 117(28), 16258-16263.
- Rowe MA, McCrae CS, Campbell JM, Pe Benito A, & Cheng J. (2008). Sleep pattern differences between older adult dementia caregivers and older adult noncaregivers using objective and subjective measures. Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine, 4(4), 362–369. [PubMed: 18763429]
- SAS Institute Inc 2013. SAS/ACCESS® 9.4 Interface to ADABAS: Reference. Cary, NC: SAS Institute Inc.
- Schulz R, & Eden J. (2016). Families caring for an aging America: National Academies Press Washington, DC.
- Sheehan OC, Haley WE, Howard VJ, Huang J, Rhodes JD, & Roth DL (2020). Stress, burden, and well-being in dementia and nondementia caregivers: Insights from the caregiving transitions study. The Gerontologist.
- Song Y, Carlson GC, McGowan SK, Fung CH, Josephson KR, Mitchell MN, . . . Alessi CA (2020). Sleep disruption due to stress in women veterans: a comparison between caregivers and noncaregivers. Behavioral sleep medicine, 1–12. [PubMed: 30380915]
- Spira AP, Friedman L, Beaudreau SA, Ancoli-Israel S, Hernandez B, Sheikh J, & Yesavage J. (2010). Sleep and physical functioning in family caregivers of older adults with memory impairment. International psychogeriatrics/IPA, 22(2), 306.
- Tapp H, Derkowski D, Calvert M, Welch M, & Spencer S. (2017). Patient perspectives on engagement in shared decision-making for asthma care. Family Practice, 34(3), 353–357. doi:10.1093/fampra/ cmw122 [PubMed: 28034918]
- Tempesta D, De Gennaro L, Natale V, & Ferrara M. (2015). Emotional memory processing is influenced by sleep quality. Sleep medicine, 16(7), 862–870. [PubMed: 26008959]

Ypsilanti A, Lazuras L, Robson A, & Akram U. (2018). Anxiety and depression mediate the relationship between self-disgust and insomnia disorder. Sleep health, 4(4), 349–351. [PubMed: 30031527]

Table 1:

Demographic characteristics for incident caregivers and non-caregiving controls

Variable	Incident Caregivers	Non-caregiving Controls	p value
Ν	221	247	
Age at 2^{nd} REGARDS interview, $M(SD)$	69.24 (8.13)	68.69 (7.42)	0.443
Sex, female, N(%)	146 (66.06)	163 (65.99)	0.987
Race, Black, N(%)	80 (36.20)	88 (35.63)	0.898
Employed, $N(\%)$	58 (26.24)	80 (32.39)	0.146
Body mass index, $N(\%)$			0.136
Underweight	2 (0.90)	3 (1.21)	
Normal	37 (16.74)	59 (23.89)	
Overweight	84 (38.01)	98 (39.68)	
Obese	98 (44.34)	87 (35.22)	
CES-D (10-item)	3.99 (4.40)	3.77 (4.10)	0.575

CED-D = Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression scale; M = mean; SD = standard deviation

Table 2:

Unadjusted comparisons of self-reported sleep characteristics for incident caregivers and non-caregiving controls.

Variable M (SD)	Caregivers	Controls	p-value
Total sleep time (hours)	7.51 (1.41)	7.44 (1.43)	0.617
Time in bed (hours)	8.21 (1.34)	7.99 (1.41)	0.081
Sleep onset latency (hours)	0.37 (0.41)	0.29 (0.31)	0.031
Wake after sleep onset (hours)	0.36 (0.60)	0.33 (0.53)	0.549
Sleep efficiency (Total sleep time / Time in bed)	1.42 (0.23)	1.45 (0.20)	0.228

M = mean; SD = standard deviation

Author Manuscript

Table 3:

•	controls
	-caregiving
	non
-	matched
•	and
	caregivers
•	incident
	II
;	quality
,	t sleep
	õ
	regressior
	ltivariable
	Mu

	TST		TIB		SOL		WASO		SE	
	Estimate (SE)	<i>p</i> value	Estimate (SE)	<i>p</i> value	Estimate (SE)	<i>p</i> value	Estimate (SE)	P value	Estimate (SE)	<i>p</i> value
Caregivers vs. Controls	4.74 (8.29)	0.568	12.82 (7.62)	0.093	4.16 (2.00)	0.038	1.22 (3.23)	0.707	-1.27 (1.21)	0.294
Race (Black)	-6.38 (8.94)	0.476	-0.55(8.10)	0.946	0.09 (2.14)	0.966	2.28 (3.47)	0.511	-1.77 (1.31)	0.177
Age	1.72 (0.57)	0.003	1.49 (0.52)	0.004	-0.08 (0.14)	0.577	0.05 (0.22)	0.809	0.08~(0.08)	0.319
Sex (female)	3.97 (9.22)	0.667	5.78 (8.43)	0.493	0.02 (2.22)	0.993	-0.40(3.59)	0.911	-0.02 (1.35)	0.991
BMI (Ref = Normal)										
Underweight	-57.43 (38.88)	0.140	-21.92 (37.53)	0.560	10.03 (9.66)	0.300	25.64 (15.39)	0.096	-12.36 (5.68)	0.030
Overweight	-1.92 (11.50)	0.867	-0.75 (10.46)	0.943	-2.10 (2.78)	0.450	4.57 (4.46)	0.306	-1.25 (1.68)	0.458
Obese	-14.84(11.71)	0.206	-10.12 (10.63)	0.342	1.44 (2.82)	0.611	4.89 (4.54)	0.282	-2.12 (1.71)	0.215
CES-D (10-item)	0.34 (0.97)	0.722	2.66 (0.88)	0.003	1.37 (0.23)	<.001	1.60 (0.38)	<0.001	-0.78 (0.14)	<.001
Model R ²	0.041	0.028	0.047	0.004	0.097	<.001	0.050	0.005	0.096	<.001
TST = total sleen time. TI	B = time in hed: St	OI – sleen	onset latency: WA	SO – wake	after cleen onset:	SF — sleen	efficiency: BMI -	asm whod -	e indev	

Outcome variables are scaled in minutes per 1-point change in the predictor.

Author Manuscript

Table 4:

Blinka et al.

Multivariable regression of sleep quality among incident caregivers

	TST		TIB		SOL		WASO	_	SE	
	Estimate (SE)	<i>p</i> value	Estimate (SE)	<i>p</i> value	Estimate (SE)	<i>p</i> value	Estimate (SE)	<i>p</i> value	Estimate (SE)	<i>p</i> value
Dementia Caregivers	17.43 (12.21)	0.155	18.50 (10.90)	0.091	-1.40 (3.58)	0.696	-2.36 (5.36)	0.660	0.70 (2.08)	0.736
Employment Status	-45.12 (14.00)	0.002	-49.20 (12.99)	< 0.001	-6.59 (4.19)	0.117	0.94 (6.23)	0.880	0.08 (2.38)	0.973
Live with Care Recipient	-25.78 (14.71)	0.081	-14.54 (13.26)	0.274	3.75 (4.33)	0.388	3.31 (6.46)	0.609	-2.86 (2.50)	0.255
Care Hours	1.80(0.86)	0.037	0.98 (0.78)	0.207	0.08 (0.25)	0.760	-0.60 (0.38)	0.118	$0.18\ (0.15)$	0.229
Duration of Care (per years)	2.64 (2.51)	0.294	3.02 (2.29)	0.189	0.22 (0.74)	0.769	-0.22 (1.11)	0.847	-0.08 (0.43)	0.860
Model R ²	0.157	0.001	0.156	<.001	0.089	0.083	0.072	0.260	0.093	0.097

Note: All effects adjusted for the covariate effects of race, age, sex, BMI, and CES-D

TST = total sleep time; TIB = time in bed; SOL = sleep onset latency; WASO = wake after sleep onset; SE = sleep efficiency Outcome variables are scaled in minutes per 1-point change in the predictor.