

# Technology & the Dynamics of Care for Older People

...to the ... .. t\_w ... .. w  
... .. t\_w ... ..

Figure 1  
A Care Triangle

Source: Figure by the authors.

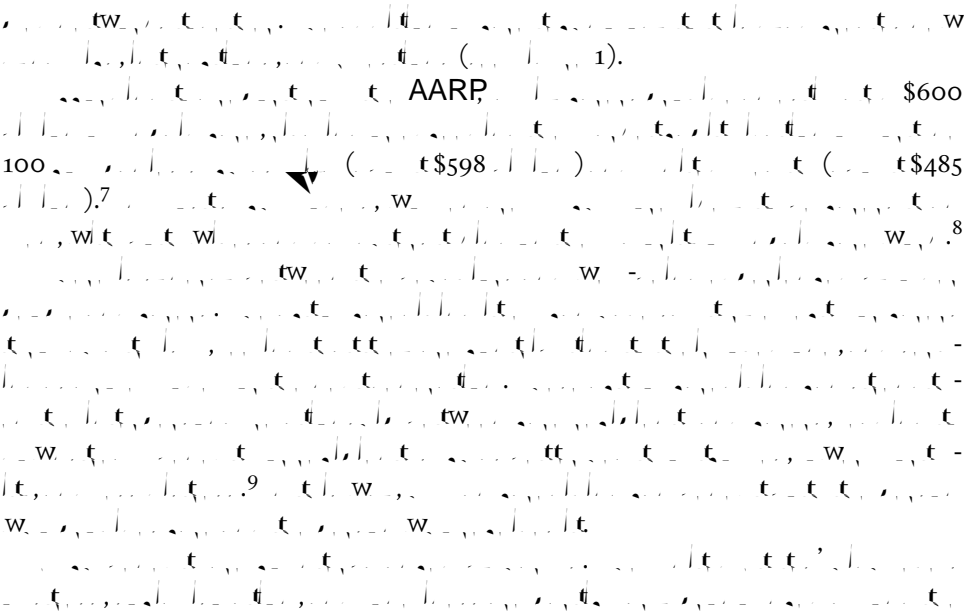




Table 1  
 Care Work Occupations and Women’s Employment, 2000–2026:  
 Different Measures of Potential Job Change

	2000		2005		2010		2015		2020		2026	
	W	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W	E

ACS-American Community Survey; BLS-Bureau of Labor Statistics. Source: Institute for Women’s Policy Research, *Work and Family in the 21st Century* (Institute for Women’s Policy Research, 2019), 62. For methodology, see *ibid.*, “Methodological Appendix,” 75.

Health care professionals who practice in the home are more susceptible to a range of injuries and hazards because, unlike medical facilities, the home environment is more variable and generally not designed for the delivery of health care services. For example, although such tasks as lifting, pushing, and pulling are often performed by health care professionals, in the home they have less human assistance, usually no ergonomically designed equipment, and the environment is typically less appropriate (e.g., small spaces, crowded rooms) than in institutional health care facilities. Consequently, tasks may be performed in awkward positions or involve more strain and exertion—and may thereby result in injury. Formal caregivers whose jobs involve substantial time on personal care tasks, such as transferring, bathing, and dressing, have been found to incur among the highest rates of musculoskeletal injuries.

**Table 2**  
 Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook 2023:  
 Home Health and Personal Care Aides



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Home Health and Personal Care Aides Occupational Outlook Handbook (U.S. Department of Labor, 2022), <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/health-care/home-health-aides-and-personal-care-aides.htm>.

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

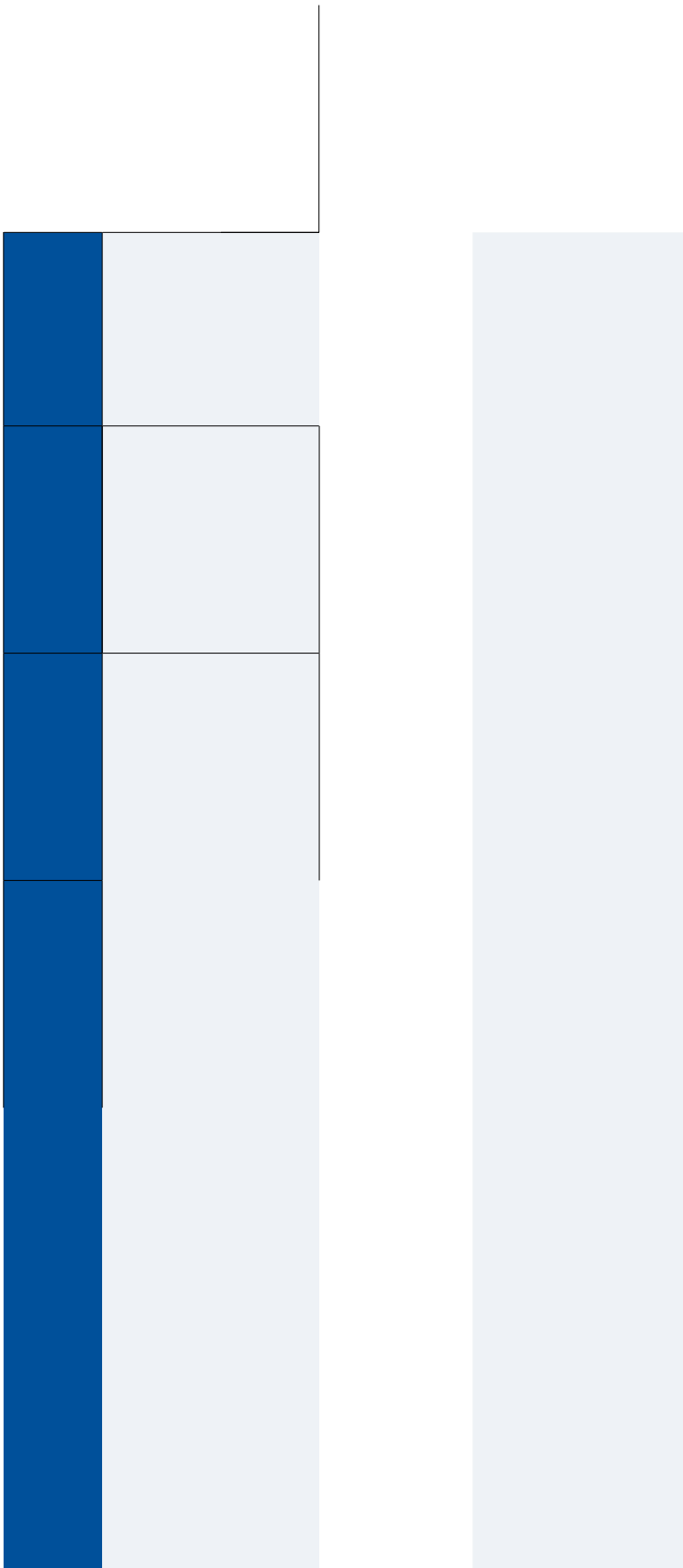






Table 3  
Technologies of Care: Types, Problems, Examples, Affordances, and Visions of Automation

• , "	- ž	œ • ž f	- † • "	€ ™ š	) ,
	œ	•	• , "	ž ž • ž • ž •	•
œ •	- • - œ	œ • - ž	-	" • , •	• "
" ž • •	• • œ	• œ	" • - • ~ "	™ ž • ž š š ž • œ	• "



...t...<sup>30</sup>...w...  
...t...  
...tw...  
...<sup>31</sup>...  
...w...  
...w...w...







- <sup>8</sup> Ann Bookman and Delia Kimbrel, "Families and Elder Care in the Twenty-First Century," *Journal of Aging and Health*, 21 (2) (2011): 117–140, <https://doi.org/10.1353/foc.2011.0018> and Angelina Grigoryeva, "Own Gender, Sibling's Gender, Parent's Gender: The Division of Elderly Parent Care among Adult Children," *Journal of Aging and Health*, 82 (1) (2017): 116–146, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122416686521>
- <sup>9</sup> Ranak B. Trivedi, John Piette, Sephan D. Fihn, and David Edelman, "Examining the Inter relatedness of Patient and Spousal Stress in Heart Failure: Conceptual Model and Pilot Data," *Journal of Aging and Health*, 27 (1) (2012): 24–32, <https://doi.org/10.1097/JCN0b013e3182129ce7> and Ranak B. Trivedi, Cindie Slightam, Vincent S. Fan, et al., "A Couples' Based Self-Management Program for Heart Failure: Results of a Feasibility Study," *Journal of Aging and Health*, 4 (2016), <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2016.00171>
- <sup>10</sup> National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, *Caregiving in the U.S. 2020* (National Alliance for Caregiving, 2020), <https://www.caregiving.org/research/caregiving-in-the-us/caregiving-in-the-us-2020>
- <sup>11</sup> EM ( )Tj9:ID 6://6495-2020

- Overworked: A Cross-National Perspective on Care Workers,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 149 (4) (2010).
- <sup>17</sup>Hess and Hegewisch, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 13–14.
- <sup>18</sup>The National Research Council, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 50.
- <sup>19</sup>Karen Cook, Russell Hardin, and Margaret Levi, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2005).
- <sup>20</sup>Lynch, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*; Abbie Lieberman, Aaron Loewenberg, Ivy Love, et al., *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (New America, 2021), <https://www.newamerica.org/new-practice-lab/reports/valuing-home-child-care-workers>; and Eileen Boris and Jennifer Klein, “Organizing Home Care: Low-Waged Workers in the Welfare State,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 34 (1) (2006): 81–108.
- <sup>21</sup>Ron Acierno, Melba A. Hernandez, Ananda B. Amstadter, et al., “Prevalence and Correlates of Emotional, Physical, Sexual, and Financial Abuse and Potential Neglect in the United States: The National Elder Mistreatment Study,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 100 (2) (2010): 292–297, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2009.163089>.
- <sup>22</sup>There is an emerging social scientific literature that examines the impact of technology on relationships between home care workers and clients (for instance, Alana Lee-Glaser, “Uberized Care: Employment Status, Surveillance, and Technological Erasure in the Home Health Care Sector,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 42 [1] [2021]: 24–34, <https://doi.org/10.1111/awr.12215>), and parents and children (for instance, Clara Berridge and Terrie Fox Wetle, “Why Older Adults and Their Children Disagree About In-Home Surveillance Technology, Sensors, and Tracking,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 60 [5] [2020]: 926–934, <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnz068>).
- <sup>23</sup>Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 3rd ed. (University of California Press, 2012); and Allison J. Pugh, “Constructing What Counts as Human at Work: Enigma, Emotion, and Error in Connective Labor,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 67 (14) (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1177/00027642221127240>.
- <sup>24</sup>See, in this issue, Brian Christian, “Computational Frameworks for Human Care,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 154 (1) (Winter 2025): 183–197, <https://www.amacad.org/daedalus/computational-frameworks-human-care>.
- <sup>25</sup>Peter Nagy and Gina Neff, “Imagined Affordance: Reconstructing a Keyword for Communication Theory,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 1 (2) (2015), <https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305115603385>.
- <sup>26</sup>For an overview, see Jenny Davis, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (MIT Press, 2020).
- <sup>27</sup>Yolande Strengers and Jenny Kennedy, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (MIT Press, 2020).
- <sup>28</sup>Lucy Suchman, “The Uncontroversial ‘Thingness’ of AI,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 10 (2) (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517231206794>.



- <sup>31</sup>Ibid.; and Benjamin Lipp, "Robot Drama: Investigating Frictions between Vision and Demonstration in Care Robotics," *Journal of Care Robotics*, 49 (2) (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1177/01622439221120118>.
- <sup>32</sup>Allison Pugh, "Constructing What Counts as Human at Work: Enigma, Emotion, and Error in Connective Labor," *Journal of Care Robotics*, 67 (14) (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1177/00027642221127240>.
- <sup>33</sup>Jennifer Robertson, *Robot Nation: How the Robots Are Taking Over Our Lives* (University of California Press, 2017). For pushback against the essentializing tendency to gloss Japan as "robot ready," see Wright, *Robot Nation*.
- <sup>34</sup>The issue of companion robots has been debated extensively among feminist bioethicists. For one overview and intervention, see Mercer E. Gary, "Care Robots, Crises of Capitalism, and the Limits of Human Caring," *Journal of Care Robotics*, 14 (1) (2021): 19–48, <https://doi.org/10.3138/ijfab-2020-07-28>.
- <sup>35</sup>Cook, Hardin, and Levi, *Robot Nation*.
- <sup>36</sup>Karen Levy, Lauren Kilgour, and Clara Berridge, "Regulating Privacy in Public/Private Space: The Case of Nursing Home Monitoring Laws," *Journal of Care Robotics*, 26 (2019).
- <sup>37</sup>David J. Autor, "Why Are There Still So Many Jobs? The History and Future of Workplace Automation," *Journal of Care Robotics*, 29 (3) (2015): 3–30.
- <sup>38</sup>Paula England, "Emerging Theories of Care Work," *Journal of Care Robotics*, 31 (2005): 381–399, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.soc.31.041304.122317>; Pugh, "Constructing What Counts as Human"; Hochschild, *The Managed Heart*; Nancy Folbre, *The Invisible Heart* (New Press, 2001); and Anne-Marie Slaughter and Hilary Cottam, "We Need a New Economic Category," *The Atlantic*, September 23, 2021, <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/09/new-economy-caregiving/620160>.
- <sup>39</sup>The sociological literature on care work has a long, complicated relationship with the role of emotion for paid care workers. For a recent overview of this literature that calls