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## Preface

An increasing problem in many countries is the aging of the population, necessitating family caregiving that may pose serious burdens on the caregiving individuals. How should a researcher approach the burdens and strategies of caregiving? Here are two examples:

### EXAMPLE 1:

Lai and Thompson (2011) contacted 340 family members who cared for an elderly person. They conducted a telephone interview with each family member and gave them a structured questionnaire that included measures of caregiving burden, demographics, and social support. They used statistical methods to assess the impact of perceived adequacy of social support on the caregiving burden among male and female caregivers; that is, did caregivers who thought they received more support feel less of a burden? Part of the results of their multiple regressions are included in table 1.

The authors conclude: “Perceived adequacy of social support was the most important correlate of caregiving burden for female caregivers and the second most important correlate of caregiving burden for male caregivers. For both male and female caregivers, the perceived adequacy of