

**Selected Findings for the Social Assistance Sector
By Occupation
From the 2010 National Health Interview Survey –
Occupational Health Supplement
(NHIS-OHS)**

Background

In 2010, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), recognizing a growing need for current, national estimates on work-related health and safety conditions, sponsored an occupational health supplement (OHS) to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

The interviewed sample adult component of the 2010 NHIS consisted of 27,157 persons, of whom approximately 17,524 had been employed in the past 12 months. The sample is designed and weighted to produce national estimates.

For more information on the NHIS and to access the 2010 NHIS data, please refer to the following website: (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>)

Purpose

This profile summarizes the 2010 NHIS-OHS data for the Social Assistance sector through figures and tables in an effort to provide sector leaders with information so they can better understand health and exposure burdens specific to their industry.

In the 2010 NHIS-OHS, the sample of those employed by the Social Assistance sector consisted of 495 persons, representing approximately 4 million workers. This profile summarizes the prevalence of selected health outcomes; work organization and psychosocial factors; and physical and chemical exposures among workers in the Social Assistance sector. All Social Assistance workers are compared to all U.S. workers combined, and comparisons are made among Social Assistance occupational categories, although small sample sizes within several of the categories limit the reporting of some estimates.

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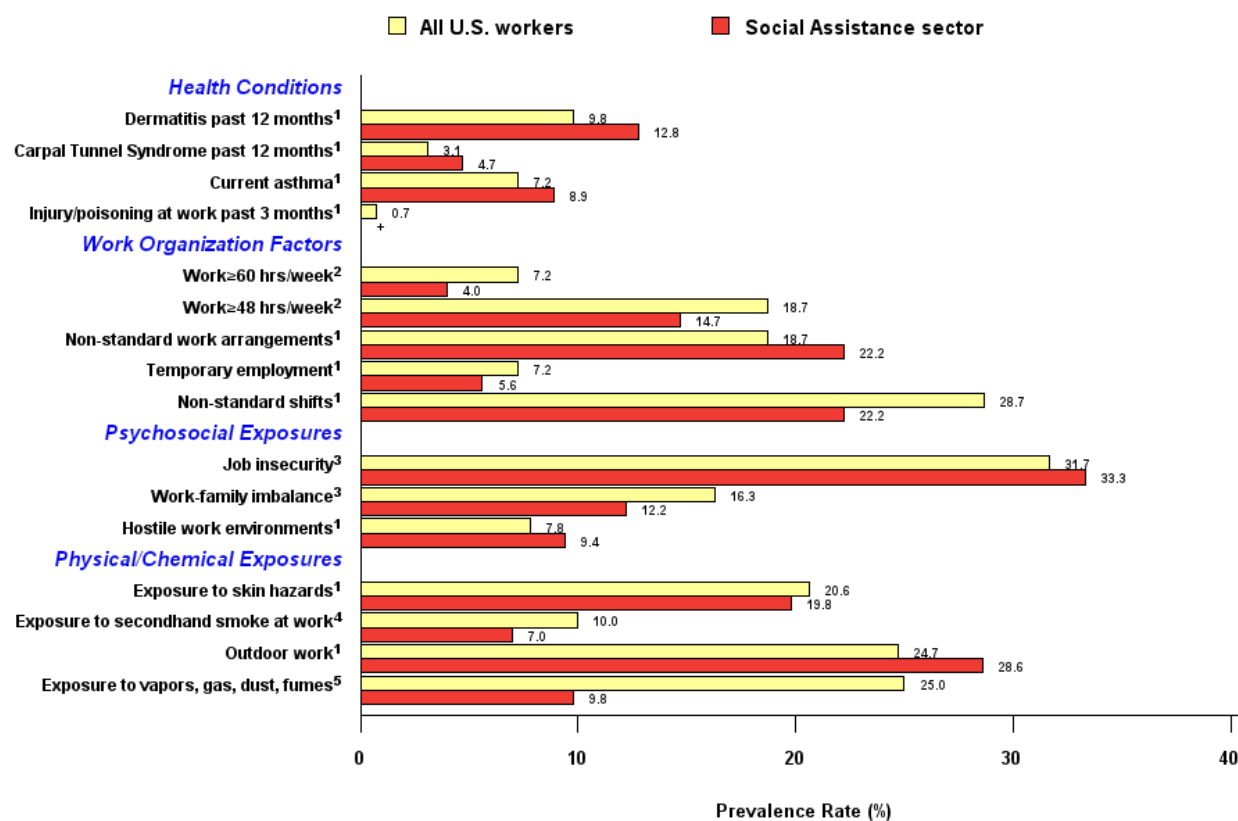
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Table A. U.S. Social Assistance sector workers by occupational category, 2010

Occupational category	Census 2010 occupation codes	Estimated Population Represented by Sample	% of U.S. Social Assistance Workforce
Community and social service occupations (all)	2000-2060	770,801	19.2
Social workers	2010	359,538	9.0
Social and human service assistants	2016	130,327	3.3
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	All other Census occupation codes	3,243,259	80.8
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	2300	519,172	12.9
Childcare workers	4600	964,910	24.0
Personal care aides	4610	385,084	9.6
Total		4,014,060	100

*Highlighted rows represent subsets of rows above.

Figure 1. Prevalence of selected health conditions; work organization and psychosocial factors; and physical and chemical exposures among U.S. workers (Social Assistance sector vs. All U.S. workers, 2010)



¹Among U.S. adults who have worked in the past 12 months.

²Among U.S. adults who have worked in the past 12 months, who only held 1 job.

³Among U.S. adults who were employed in the week prior to interview.

⁴Among non-smoking U.S. adults who have worked in the past 12 months.

⁵Exposure during longest-held job (all other exposures refer to current or most recent job).

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

Table 1. Prevalence of selected health conditions; work organization and psychosocial factors; and physical and chemical exposures among U.S. workers (Social Assistance sector vs. All U.S. workers, 2010)

		All U.S. workers			Social Assistance sector		
		Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
Health Conditions	Dermatitis in the past 12 months¹	9.8	0.3	9.2-10.3	12.8	1.8	9.2-16.4
	Carpal tunnel syndrome in the past 12 months¹	3.1	0.2	2.8-3.4	4.7	1.2	2.3-7.2
	Current asthma¹	7.2	0.2	6.7-7.6	8.9	1.5	6.1-11.8
	Injury or poisoning at work in the past 12 months¹	2.8	0.4	2.0-3.4	+	+	+
Work Organization Factors	Work 60 hours a week or more²	7.2	0.3	6.7-7.7	4.0	1.1	2.0-6.1
	Work 48 hours a week or more²	18.7	0.4	18.0-19.5	14.7	2.0	10.7-18.7
	Non-standard work arrangements¹	18.7	0.4	18.0-19.4	22.2	2.2	17.9-26.5
	Temporary employment¹	7.2	0.3	6.7-7.7	5.6	1.0	3.6-7.6
	Non-standard shifts¹	28.7	0.5	27.8-29.7	22.2	2.4	17.4-27.0
Psychosocial Exposures	Job insecurity³	31.7	0.5	30.8-32.6	33.3	2.8	27.9-38.8
	Work-family imbalance³	16.3	0.4	15.6-17.1	12.2	1.7	8.8-15.7
	Hostile work environments¹	7.8	0.3	7.3-8.4	9.4	1.7	6.2-12.6
Physical/Chemical Exposures	Exposure to potential skin hazards at work¹	20.6	0.4	19.8-21.3	19.8	1.9	16.1-23.5
	Exposure to secondhand smoke at work⁴	10.0	0.3	9.3-10.6	7.0	1.5	4.0-10.0
	Exposure to outdoor work¹	24.7	0.4	23.8-25.6	28.6	2.4	23.9-33.3
	Exposure to vapors, gas, dust, or fumes⁵	25.0	0.4	24.2-25.8	9.8	1.8	6.3-13.3

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³ Among U.S. adults who were employed in the week prior to interview.

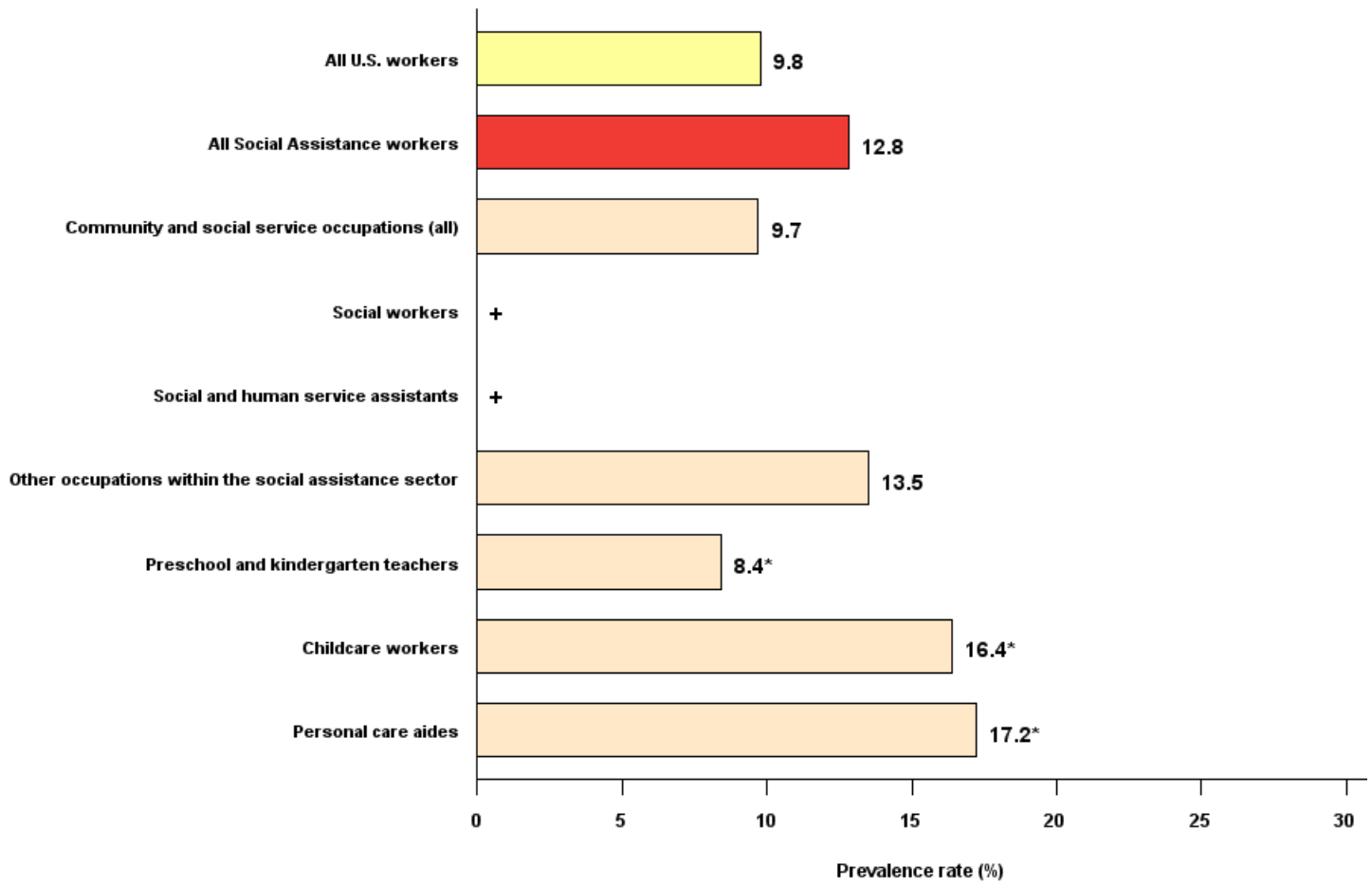
⁴ Among non-smoking U.S. adults who have worked in the past 12 months.

⁵ Exposure during longest-held job (all other exposures refer to current or most recent job).

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

Figure 2. Prevalence of dermatitis in the past 12 months among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

NHIS Question: During the past 12 months, have you had dermatitis, eczema or any other red, inflamed skin rash?



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Table 2. Prevalence of dermatitis in the past 12 months among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

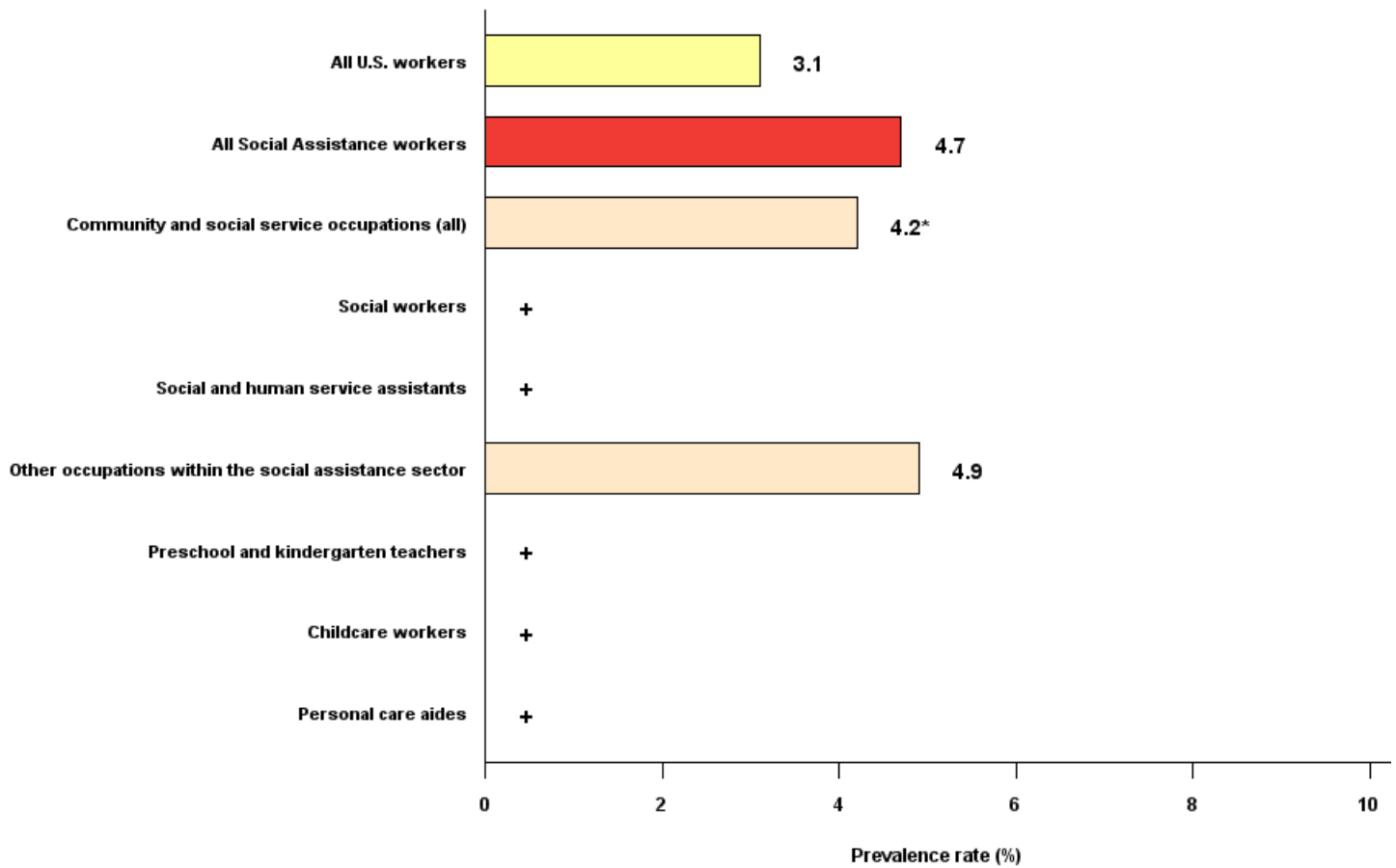
	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	9.8	0.3	9.2-10.3
All Social Assistance workers	12.8	1.8	9.2-16.4
Community and social service occupations (all)	9.7	2.9	4.0-15.3
Social workers	+	+	+
Social and human service assistants	+	+	+
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	13.5	2.1	9.4-17.7
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	8.4*	4.2	0.2-16.7
Childcare workers	16.4*	5.1	6.4-26.4
Personal care aides	17.2*	8.1	1.2-33.1

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Figure 3. Prevalence of carpal tunnel syndrome in the past 12 months among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

NHIS Question: Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that you have a condition affecting the wrist/hand called carpal tunnel syndrome? During the past 12 months, have you had carpal tunnel syndrome?



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Table 3. Prevalence of carpal tunnel syndrome in the past 12 months among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

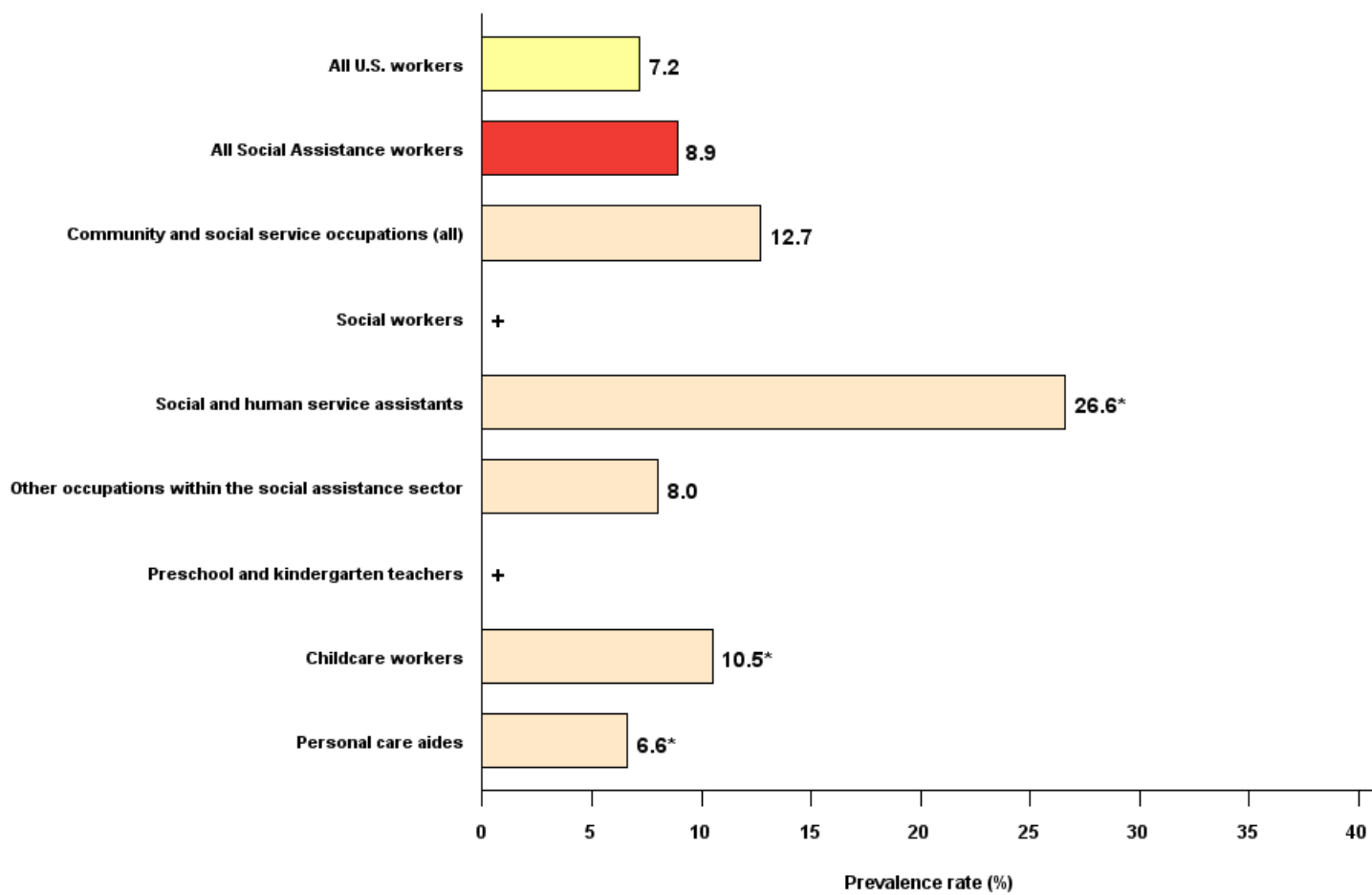
	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	3.1	0.2	2.8-3.4
All Social Assistance workers	4.7	1.2	2.3-7.2
Community and social service occupations (all)	4.2*	1.8	0.5-7.8
Social workers	+	+	+
Social and human service assistants	+	+	+
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	4.9	1.5	2.0-7.7
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	+	+	+
Childcare workers	+	+	+
Personal care aides	+	+	+

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Figure 4. Prevalence of current asthma among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

*NHIS Question: Have you ever been told by a doctor or health professional that you had asthma?
Do you still have asthma?*



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Table 4. Prevalence of current asthma among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

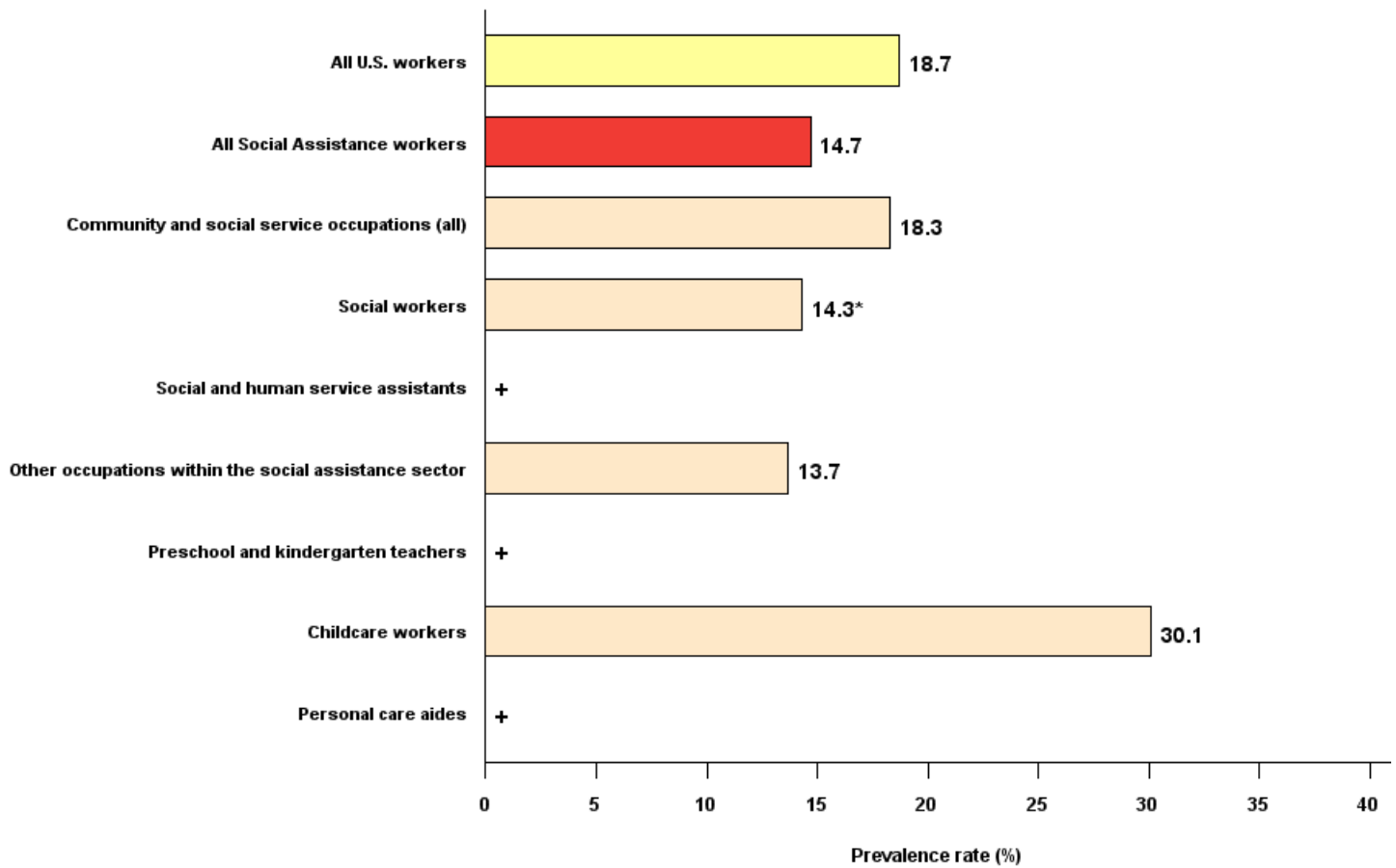
	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	7.2	0.2	6.7-7.6
All Social Assistance workers	8.9	1.5	6.1-11.8
Community and social service occupations (all)	12.7	3.1	6.6-18.9
Social workers	+	+	+
Social and human service assistants	26.6*	11.8	3.5-49.8
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	8.0	1.6	4.9-11.2
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	+	+	+
Childcare workers	10.5*	4.0	2.6-18.3
Personal care aides	6.6*	3.2	0.3-12.9

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Figure 5. Prevalence of working 48 hours a week or more among U.S. adults working one job at the time of interview by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

*NHIS Question: How many hours did [person] work last week?
 (This question may have been answered by proxy because it was part of the
 Family Questionnaire. If the person was not at work last week, the person/proxy
 was asked about average work hours per week.)*



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Table 5. Prevalence of working 48 hours a week or more among U.S. adults working one job at the time of interview by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

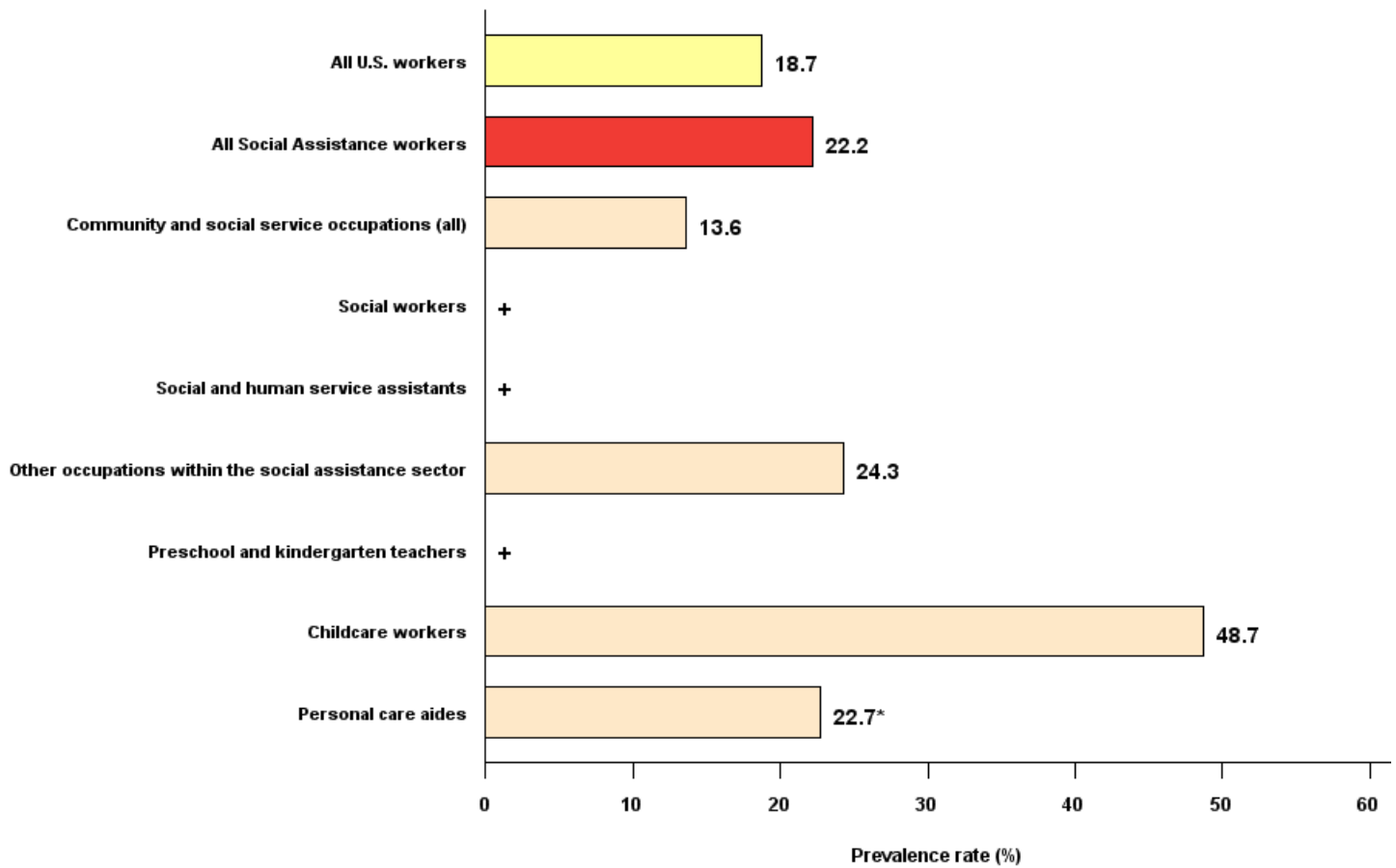
	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	18.7	0.4	18.0-19.5
All Social Assistance workers	14.7	2.0	10.7-18.7
Community and social service occupations (all)	18.3	4.5	9.5-27.1
Social workers	14.3*	5.4	3.7-24.9
Social and human service assistants	+	+	+
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	13.7	2.3	9.3-18.2
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	+	+	+
Childcare workers	30.1	5.1	20.0-40.2
Personal care aides	+	+	+

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Figure 6. Prevalence of non-standard work arrangements among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

*NHIS Question: Which of the following best [describes/described] your work arrangement?
 (Non-standard work arrangement = independent contractor, independent consultant, or freelance worker;
 on-call, and [work/worked] only when called to work; paid by a temporary agency;
 or [work/worked] for a contractor who provides workers and services to others under contract)*



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Table 6. Prevalence of non-standard work arrangements among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

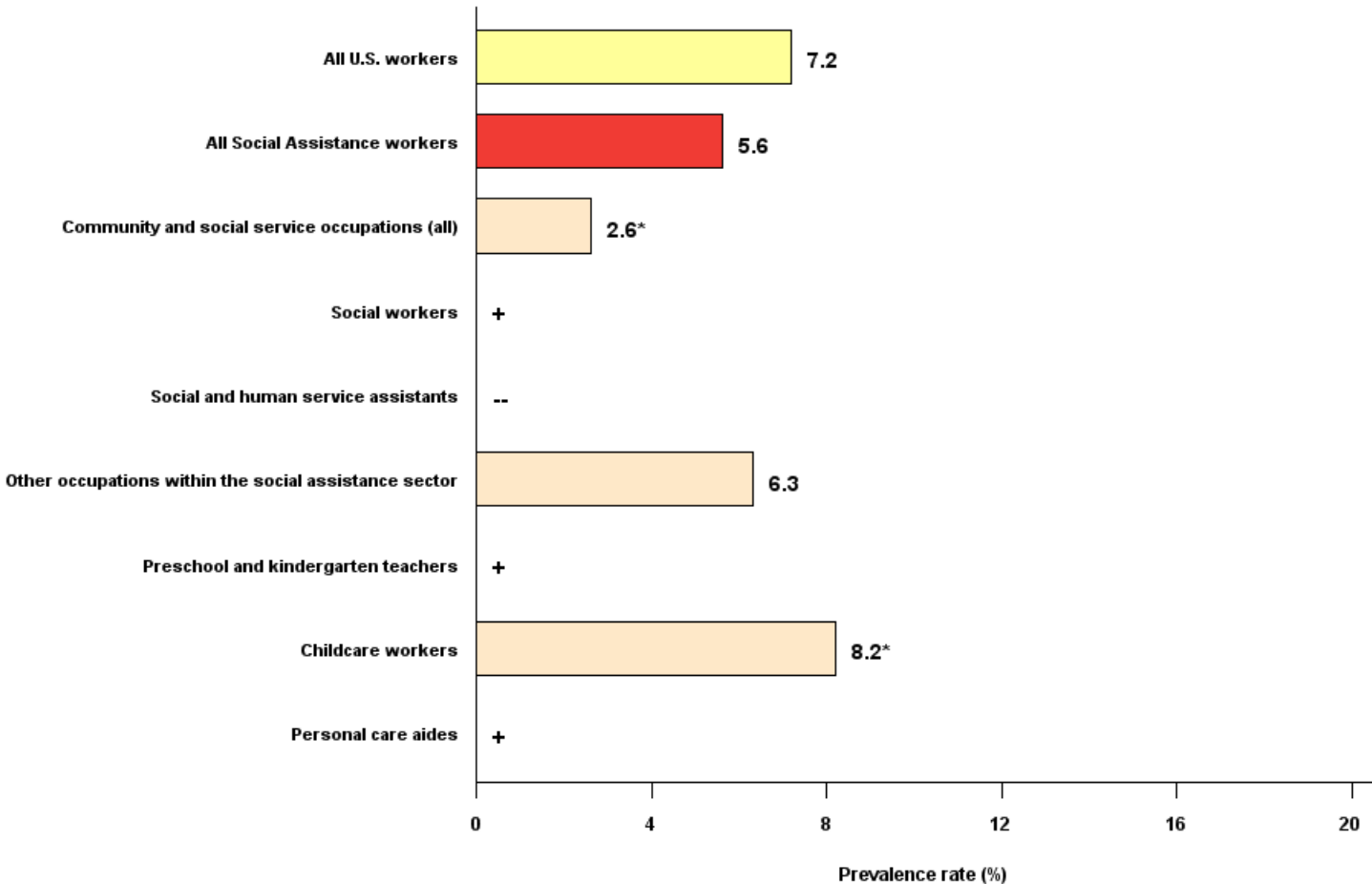
	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	18.7	0.4	18.0-19.4
All Social Assistance workers	22.2	2.2	17.9-26.5
Community and social service occupations (all)	13.6	4.0	5.7-21.5
Social workers	+	+	+
Social and human service assistants	+	+	+
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	24.3	2.6	19.1-29.4
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	+	+	+
Childcare workers	48.7	5.9	37.0-60.4
Personal care aides	22.7*	7.5	7.9-37.5

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Figure 7. Prevalence of temporary employment among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

NHIS Question: [Is your/was your] job temporary?



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 + Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.
 -- No cases detected, likely due to insufficient sample size.

Table 7. Prevalence of temporary employment among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	7.2	0.3	6.7-7.7
All Social Assistance workers	5.6	1.0	3.6-7.6
Community and social service occupations (all)	2.6*	1.2	0.2-5.0
Social workers	+	+	+
Social and human service assistants	--	--	--
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	6.3	1.2	4.0-8.7
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	+	+	+
Childcare workers	8.2*	2.5	3.3-13.1
Personal care aides	+	+	+

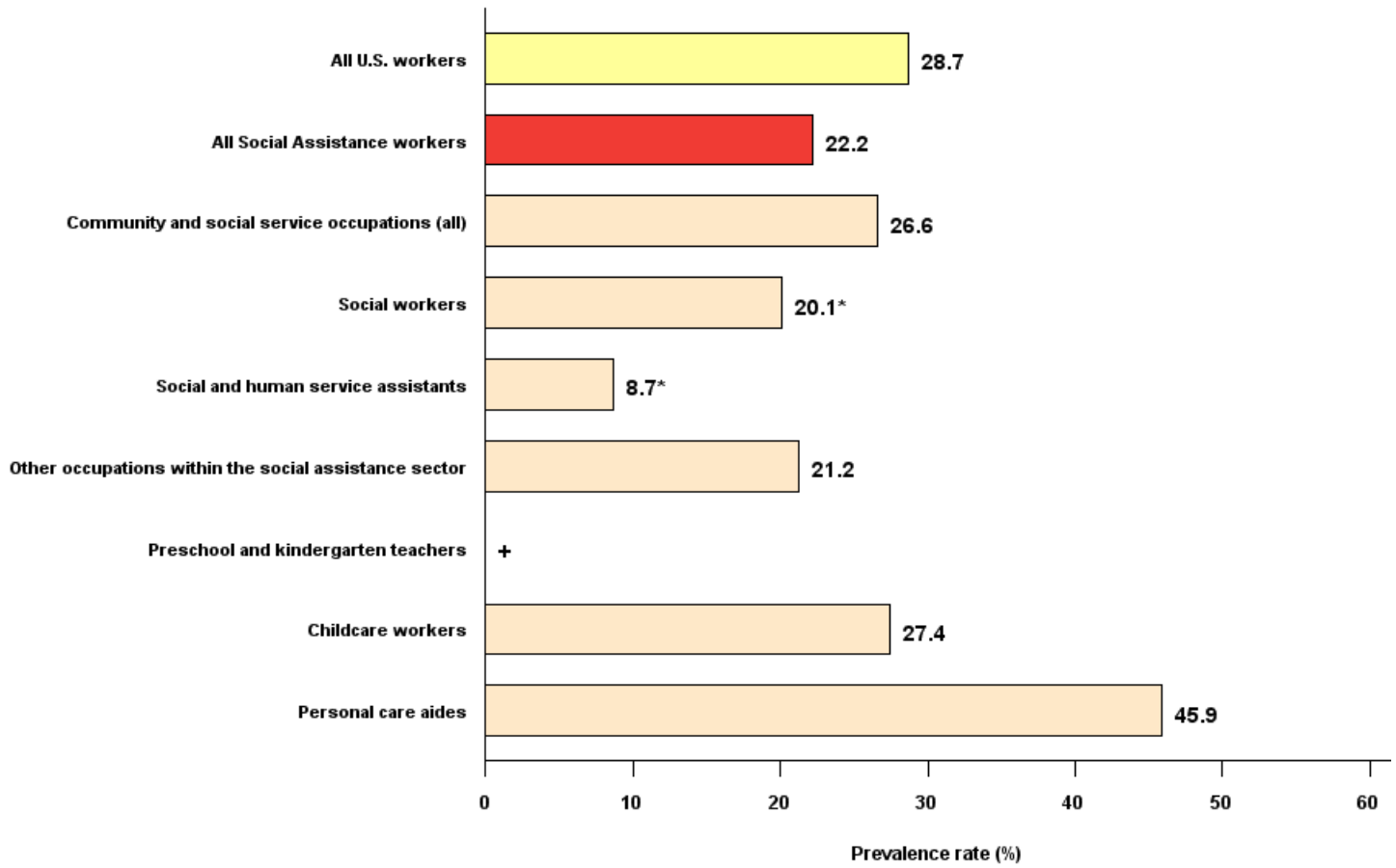
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-- No cases detected, likely due to insufficient sample size.

Figure 8. Prevalence of non-standard shifts among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

*NHIS Question: Which of the following best describes the hours you usually [work/worked]?
 (Non-standard shift = a regular evening shift; a regular night shift; a rotating shift;
 or some other schedule not including a regular daytime schedule)*



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Table 8. Prevalence of non-standard shifts among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

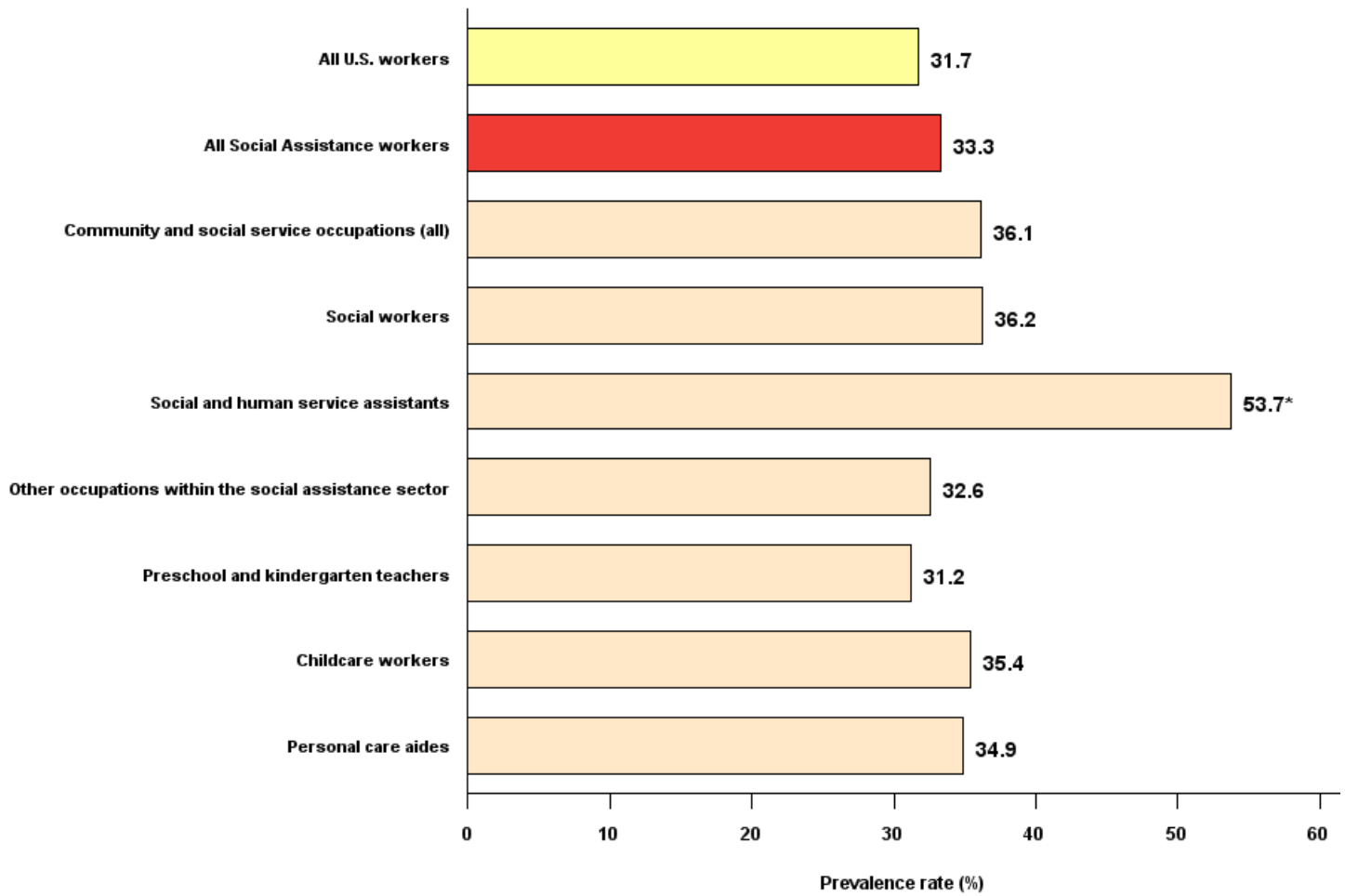
	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	28.7	0.5	27.8-29.7
All Social Assistance workers	22.2	2.4	17.4-27.0
Community and social service occupations (all)	26.6	4.9	17.1-36.2
Social workers	20.1*	6.8	6.7-33.6
Social and human service assistants	8.7*	4.1	0.6-16.8
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	21.2	2.9	15.5-26.8
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	+	+	+
Childcare workers	27.4	5.7	16.1-38.6
Personal care aides	45.9	7.8	30.6-61.1

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Figure 9. Prevalence of job insecurity among working U.S. adults by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

*NHIS Question: I [am/was] worried about becoming unemployed.
(Job insecurity = strongly agree or agree)*



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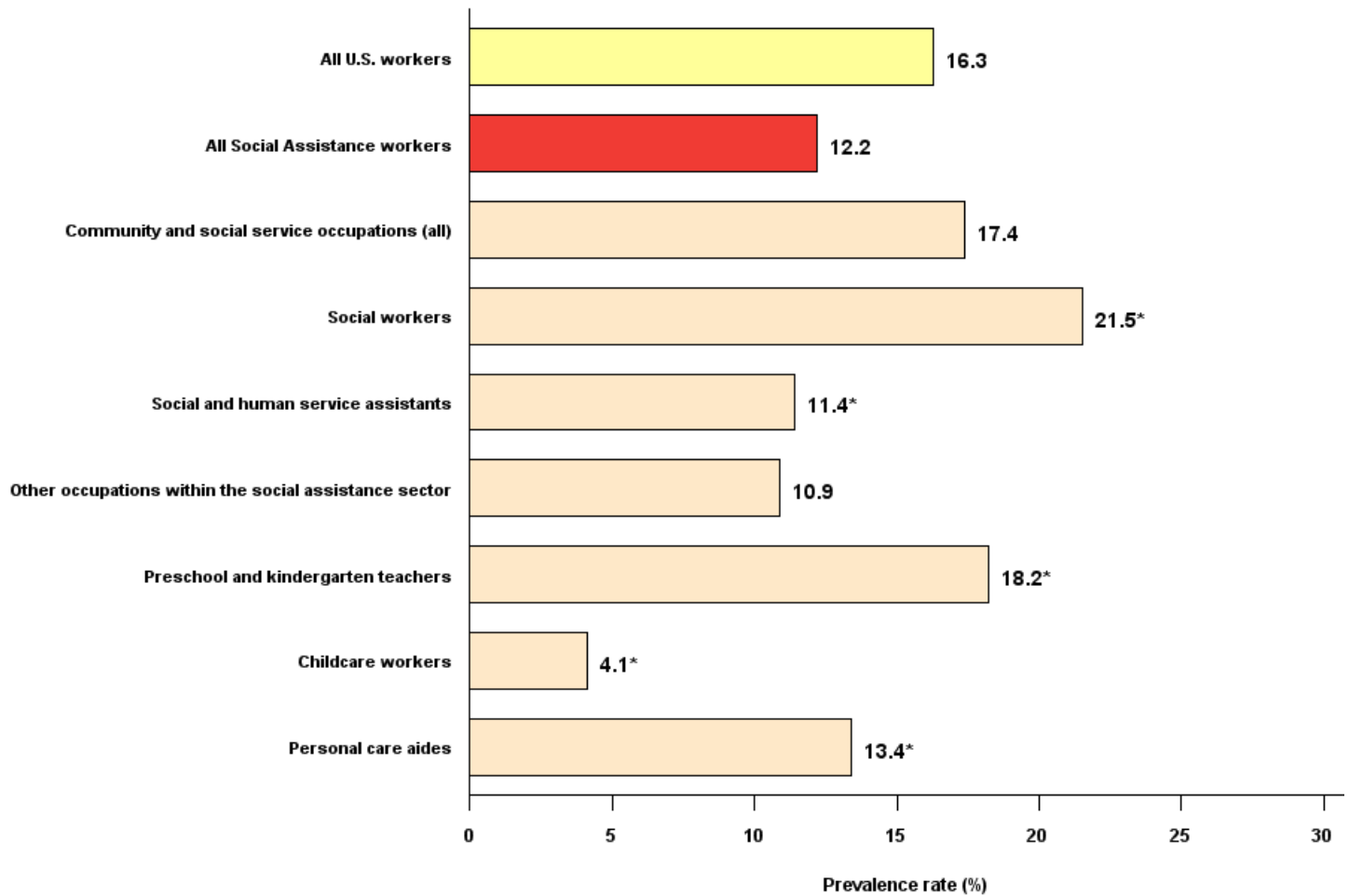
Table 9. Prevalence of job insecurity among working U.S. adults by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	31.7	0.5	30.8-32.6
All Social Assistance workers	33.3	2.8	27.9-38.8
Community and social service occupations (all)	36.1	5.9	24.4-47.8
Social workers	36.2	8.0	20.4-52.0
Social and human service assistants	53.7*	17.4	19.5-87.9
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	32.6	3.0	26.7-38.6
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	31.2	7.1	17.1-45.2
Childcare workers	35.4	6.5	22.7-48.1
Personal care aides	34.9	7.5	20.1-49.7

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Figure 10. Prevalence of work-family imbalance among working U.S. adults by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

*NHIS Question: It [is/was] easy for me to combine work with family responsibilities.
(Work-family imbalance = disagree or strongly disagree)*



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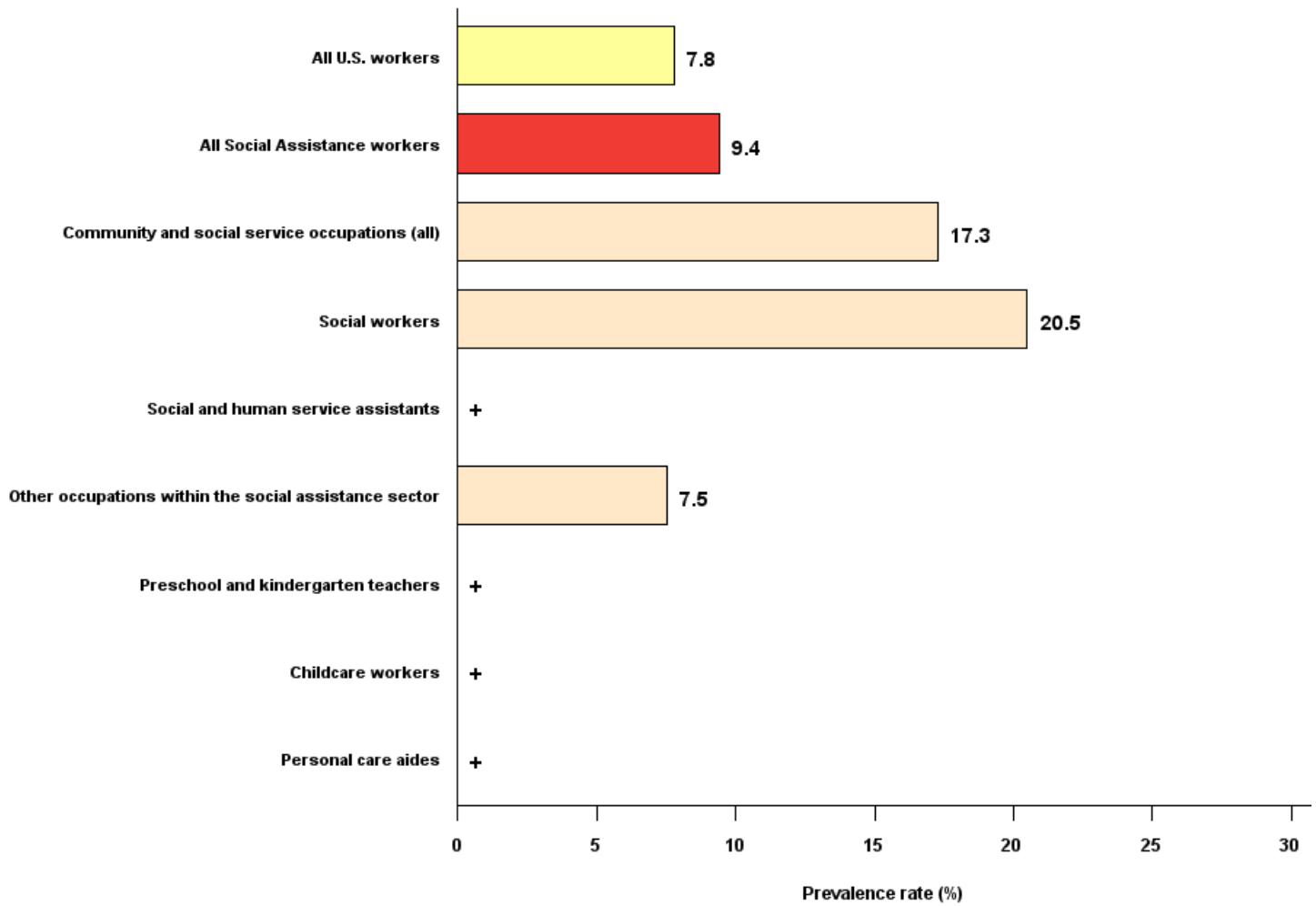
Table 10. Prevalence of work-family imbalance among working U.S. adults by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	16.3	0.4	15.6-17.1
All Social Assistance workers	12.2	1.7	8.8-15.7
Community and social service occupations (all)	17.4	4.4	8.7-26.1
Social workers	21.5*	6.7	8.3-34.8
Social and human service assistants	11.4*	5.3	1.1-21.8
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	10.9	1.8	7.4-14.5
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	18.2*	5.9	6.6-29.7
Childcare workers	4.1*	1.7	0.7-7.5
Personal care aides	13.4*	5.5	2.5-24.3

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Figure 11. Prevalence of hostile work environments among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

NHIS Question: During the past 12 months, were you threatened, bullied, or harassed by anyone while you were on the job?



+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

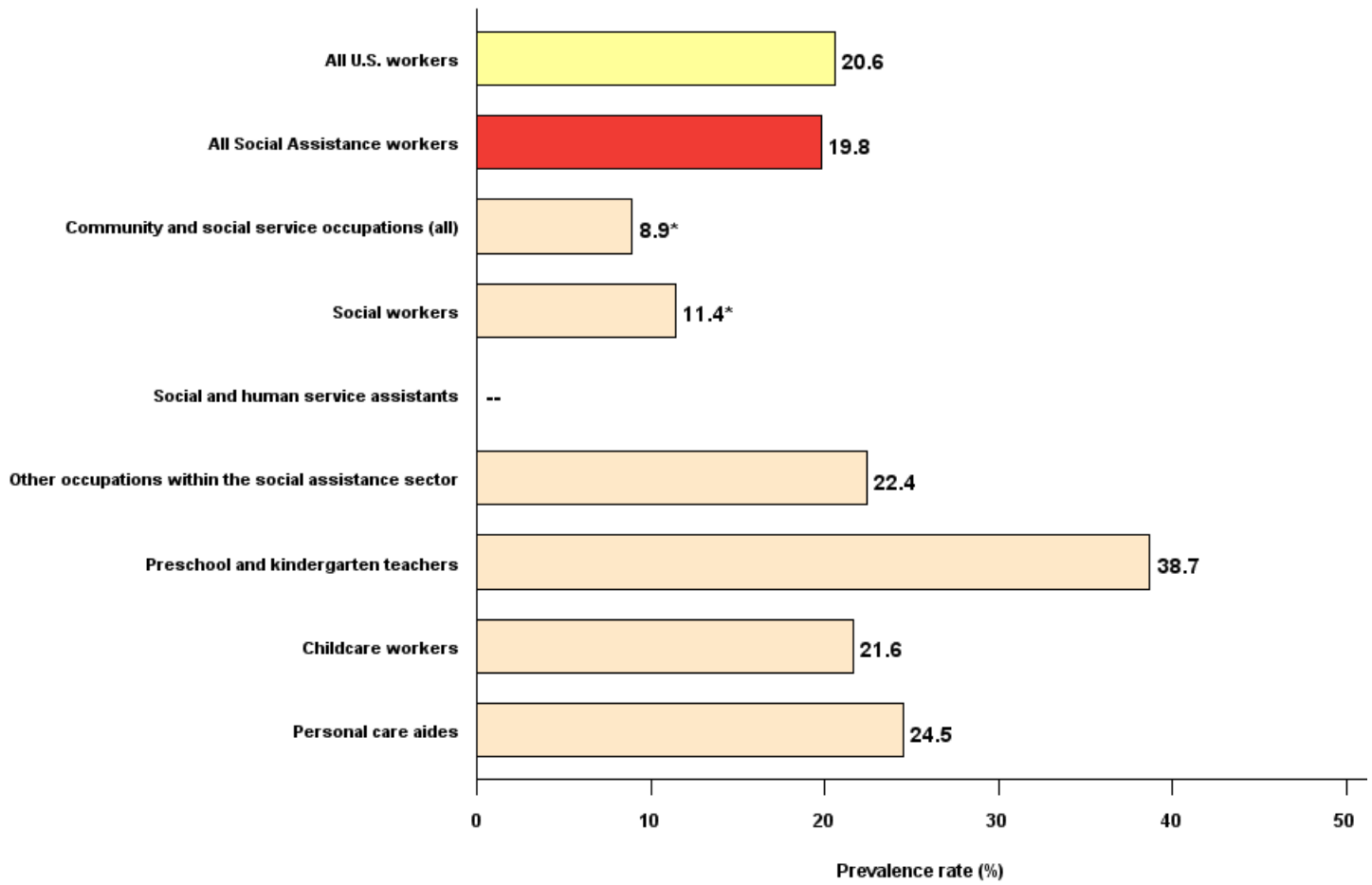
Table 11. Prevalence of hostile work environments among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	7.8	0.3	7.3-8.4
All Social Assistance workers	9.4	1.7	6.2-12.6
Community and social service occupations (all)	17.3	4.1	9.2-25.3
Social workers	20.5	5.8	9.0-32.0
Social and human service assistants	+	+	+
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	7.5	1.8	3.9-11.1
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	+	+	+
Childcare workers	+	+	+
Personal care aides	+	+	+

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

Figure 12. Prevalence of exposure to potential skin hazards at work among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

NHIS Question: During the past 12 months, did you regularly handle or were you in skin contact with chemical products or substances at work twice a week or more?



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-- No cases detected, likely due to insufficient sample size.

Table 12. Prevalence of exposure to potential skin hazards at work among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

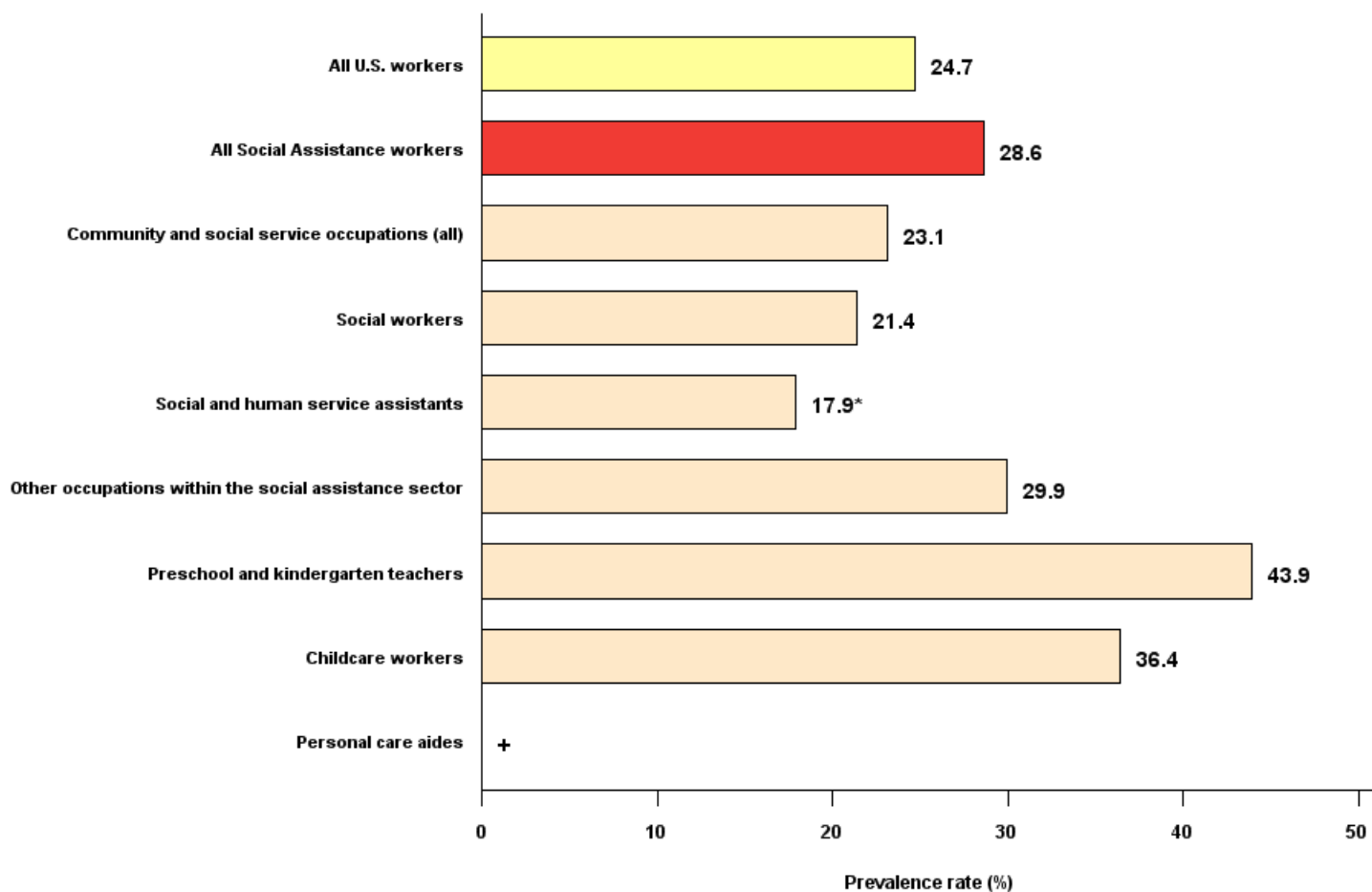
	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	20.6	0.4	19.8-21.3
All Social Assistance workers	19.8	1.9	16.1-23.5
Community and social service occupations (all)	8.9*	3.0	3.1-14.7
Social workers	11.4*	4.8	1.9-20.9
Social and human service assistants	--	--	--
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	22.4	2.2	18.0-26.8
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	38.7	7.1	24.8-52.6
Childcare workers	21.6	6.0	9.9-33.4
Personal care aides	24.5	7.0	10.7-38.3

* These estimates have a relative standard error >30% and <50% and should be used with caution as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

-- No cases detected, likely due to insufficient sample size.

Figure 13. Prevalence of exposure to outdoor work among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

NHIS Question: During the past 12 months, did you regularly work outdoors twice a week or more?



* These estimates have a relative standard error >30% and <50% and should be used with caution as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

Table 13. Prevalence of exposure to outdoor work among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

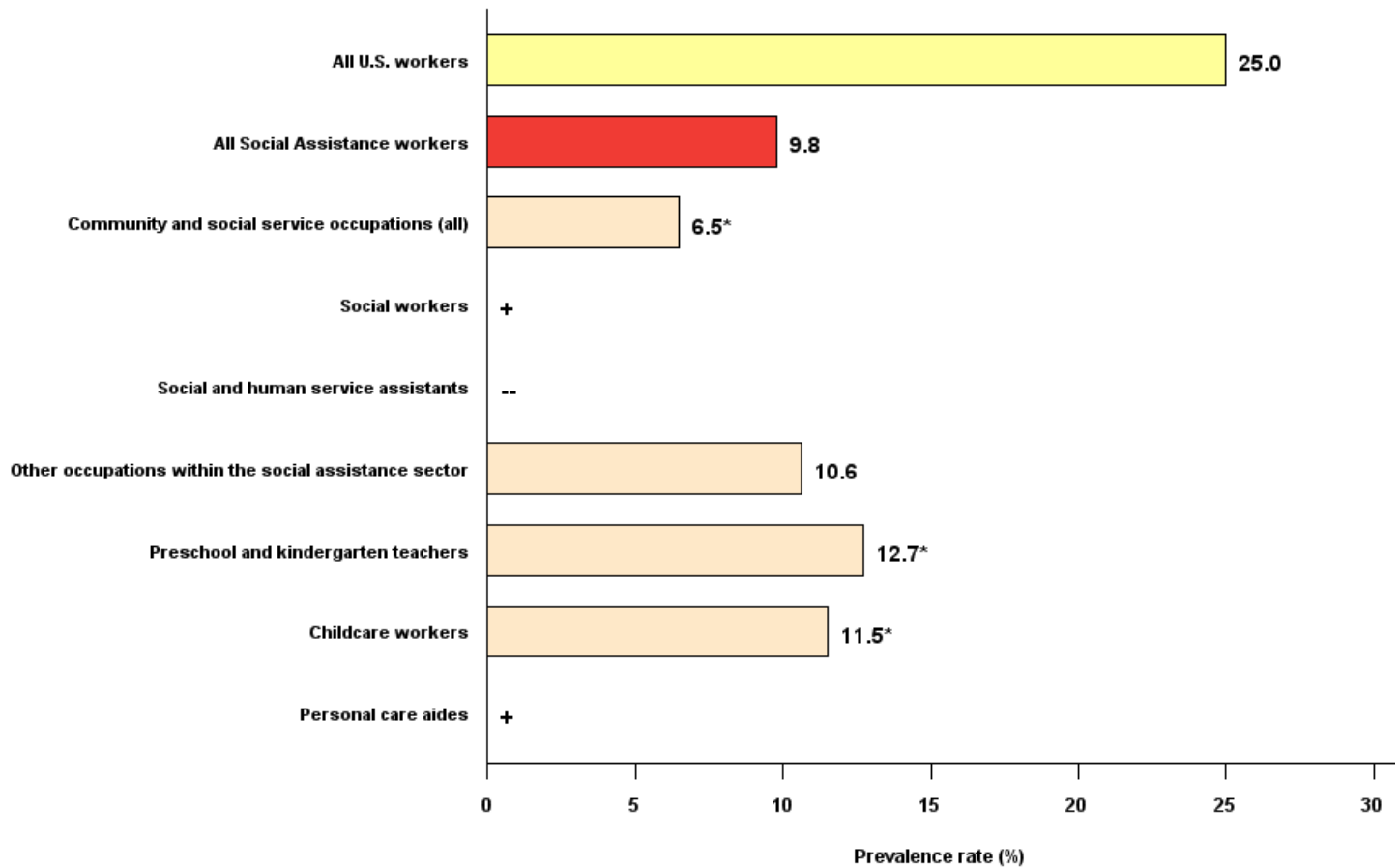
	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	24.7	0.4	23.8-25.6
All Social Assistance workers	28.6	2.4	23.9-33.3
Community and social service occupations (all)	23.1	4.4	14.3-31.8
Social workers	21.4	6.2	9.3-33.6
Social and human service assistants	17.9*	8.8	0.7-35.2
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	29.9	2.8	24.5-35.4
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	43.9	7.6	29.0-58.8
Childcare workers	36.4	5.8	25.1-47.7
Personal care aides	+	+	+

* These estimates have a relative standard error >30% and <50% and should be used with caution as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

Figure 14. Prevalence of exposure to vapors, gas, dust, or fumes among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

*NHIS Question: This next question refers to the job you held the longest.
Were you regularly exposed to vapors, gas, dust, or fumes at work twice a week or more?*



* These estimates have a relative standard error >30% and <50% and should be used with caution as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

-- No cases detected, likely due to insufficient sample size.

Table 14. Prevalence of exposure to vapors, gas, dust, or fumes among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	25.0	0.4	24.2-25.8
All Social Assistance workers	9.8	1.8	6.3-13.3
Community and social service occupations (all)	6.5*	2.8	1.0-11.9
Social workers	+	+	+
Social and human service assistants	--	--	--
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	10.6	2.0	6.6-14.6
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	12.7*	5.4	2.1-23.3
Childcare workers	11.5*	3.9	3.8-19.1
Personal care aides	+	+	+

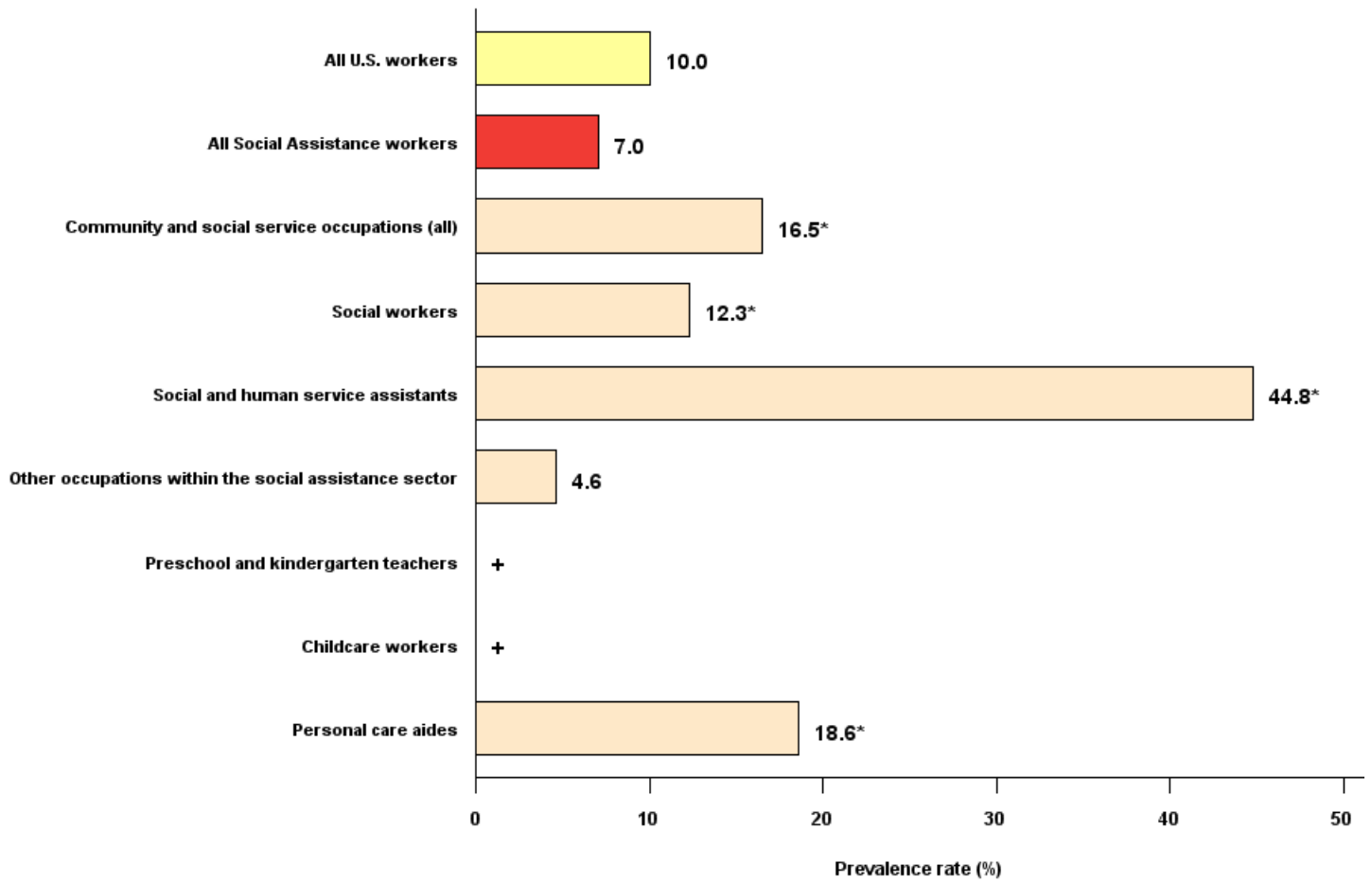
* These estimates have a relative standard error >30% and <50% and should be used with caution as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

-- No cases detected, likely due to insufficient sample size.

Figure 15a. Prevalence of exposure to secondhand smoke at work among non-smoking U.S. adults by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

NHIS Question: During the past 12 months, were you regularly exposed to tobacco smoke from other people at work twice a week or more?



* These estimates have a relative standard error >30% and <50% and should be used with caution as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

Table 15a. Prevalence of exposure to secondhand smoke at work among non-smoking U.S. adults by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

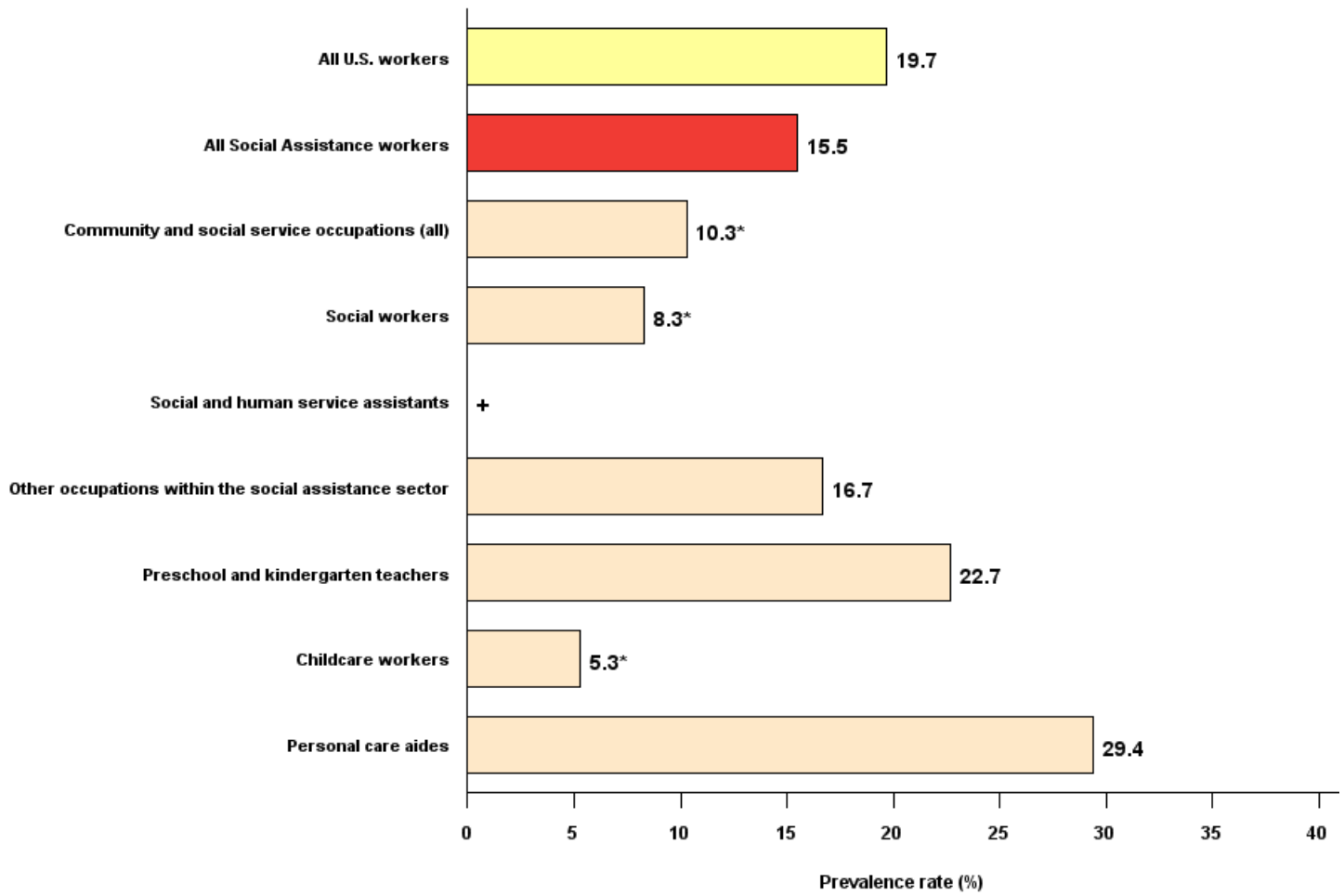
	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	10.0	0.3	9.3-10.6
All Social Assistance workers	7.0	1.5	4.0-10.0
Community and social service occupations (all)	16.5*	5.4	5.9-27.1
Social workers	12.3*	5.3	1.8-22.8
Social and human service assistants	44.8*	17.6	10.1-79.5
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	4.6	1.3	2.0-7.1
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	+	+	+
Childcare workers	+	+	+
Personal care aides	18.6*	8.0	2.8-34.5

* These estimates have a relative standard error >30% and <50% and should be used with caution as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

Figure 15b. Prevalence of smoking among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

NHIS Question: Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days or not at all?



* These estimates have a relative standard error >30% and <50% and should be used with caution as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

Table 15b. Prevalence of smoking among U.S. adults who worked in the past 12 months by Social Assistance occupational category, 2010

	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error of Prevalence	95% Confidence Interval
All U.S. workers	19.7	0.4	18.9-20.4
All Social Assistance workers	15.5	1.9	11.7-19.3
Community and social service occupations (all)	10.3*	3.2	4.0-16.5
Social workers	8.3*	3.8	0.9-15.8
Social and human service assistants	+	+	+
Other occupations within the social assistance sector	16.7	2.3	12.3-21.2
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	22.7	6.6	9.7-35.7
Childcare workers	5.3*	2.1	1.3-9.3
Personal care aides	29.4	8.6	12.4-46.4

* These estimates have a relative standard error >30% and <50% and should be used with caution as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.

+ Estimates with a relative standard error >50% are not shown as they do not meet NCHS reliability/precision standards.