



FACTS & STATS

CHILDREN & GRIEF INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

"Childhood grief profoundly impacts bereaved youth, families, and communities. The death of an important person in a child's life is one of the most frequently reported adverse childhood experiences. Unaddressed childhood grief and trauma can lead to short- and long-term difficulties including poor academic performance, mental health issues, and early mortality." (Judi's House/JAG)

THE BREADTH OF THE ISSUE

According to the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM):

- 1 in 12 (or more than 8 percent) of children in the US will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18—equating to 6 million bereaved US children and teens.
- This number more than doubles to 14.7 million when the age is increased to 25.
- Nearly 80 percent of those who lost a parent said it was the hardest thing they have ever had to face.
- Looking at bereavement figures for a single year shows that nearly 1,200 children under the age of 18 were newly bereaved every day in 2021.
- Those who lost a parent growing up said it took 6+ years before they could move forward, yet 57 percent reported that support from family and friends waned within the first 3 months following the loss.
- 59 percent of adults who lost a parent growing up say they have experienced more feelings of sadness or depression in their life compared to most adults.

THE IMPACT OF COVID

More than 72,000 children in the US lost a parent to COVID-19 and over 67,000 lost a grandparent caregiver in the home, while more than 13,000 children lost their only in-home caregiver.

According to Sociologists at Penn State and the University of Southern California who developed a "bereavement multiplier":

- For every death on average, 9 close relatives are left behind.
- That number includes, for each person who has died, an average of 2.2 bereaved children and 4.1 bereaved grandchildren.
- These numbers do not include extended family or close friends, longtime co-workers or next-door neighbors, many of whom, the study said, are deeply affected, too.
- From April 2020 through June 2021, according to the medical journal Pediatrics, 140,000 U.S. children lost a parent or caregiver, with children of racial and ethnic minorities accounting for a disproportionate number of the children who suffered such a loss.
- 70 percent of caregiver loss affected those aged 13 and younger. 50 percent of caregiver loss was among elementary and middle-school aged children, and 20 percent was among those from birth to 4 years old.
- Because of the pandemic, nearly 7 in 10 parents agree that grief support should be a priority for schools. (Survey by the New York Life Foundation)
- The number of children who in 2023 will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18 increased in 46 states and Washington D.C. compared to 2022 results, reflecting the impacts of the pandemic on childhood bereavement. (2023 CBEM)



Children's Grief Awareness Day



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THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORT

Bereaved children feel understood and validated when caregivers openly discuss the person and/or the death. (Shapiro DN, Howell KH, Kaplow JB. Associations among mother-child communication quality, childhood maladaptive grief, and depressive symptoms. *Death Studies*. 2014)

Bereaved young children are more likely to be expelled from school, repeat a grade, less likely to be in gifted education programs and to have a disability. (Weaver, D., *Parental Mortality and Outcomes Among Minor and Adult Children* (2019) *Population Review*, Vol. 58, No. 2, Sociological Demography Press p. 23-60)

The earlier in life a child loses a parent, the more profound the impact. (Weaver, D., *Parental Mortality and Outcomes Among Minor and Adult Children* (2019) *Population Review*, Vol. 58, No. 2, Sociological Demography Press p. 23-60)

According to the New York Life Foundation's 2017 Bereavement Survey:

- More than two-thirds of educators "always" or "usually" see withdrawal, difficulty concentrating, absenteeism, and a decrease in academic performance after a death in a student's life.
- 7 in 10 teachers currently have at least one student in their class(es) who had lost a parent, guardian, sibling or close friend in the past year.

**Join children, teens and adults
across the nation and the world
in helping grieving kids know
they're not alone!**



Children's Grief
AWARENESS DAY
EDUCATE. EQUIP. HONOR.

