

Children's Grief Awareness Day



FACTS & STATS

CHILDREN & GRIEF INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

THE BREADTH OF THE ISSUE

According to the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model:

- 1 in 13 (or nearly 8 percent) of children in the US will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18—equating to 5.6 million bereaved US children and teens.
- This number more than doubles to 13.9 million when you increase the age to 25.
- Nearly 80 percent of those who lost a parent said it was the hardest thing they have ever had to face.
- 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.

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.
- This number does not include extended family or close friends, longtime co-workers or next-door neighbors, many of whom, the study said, are deeply affected, too.

According to the medical journal of Pediatrics, from April 2020 through June 2021, 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.

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!

