CBEM

CHILDHOOD BEREAVEMENT ESTIMATION MODEL

National 2020

The Issue

Childhood bereavement is a critical issue and an increasingly important national priority. The death of a parent, sibling, or other important person in a child's life has been noted to be one of the most frequently reported disruptive childhood experiences.[1,2] Understanding the number of children impacted by death is essential to help every bereaved child find hope and healing.

CBEM

The Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM)[3] approximates rates of U.S. children and youth who will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the time they reach adulthood. Results from the CBEM are updated annually using national, state, and regional vital statistics.[4] This report uses data from 2014 to 2018 in an enhanced framework to present projected CBEM* results.

1 in 14

children in the U.S. will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18

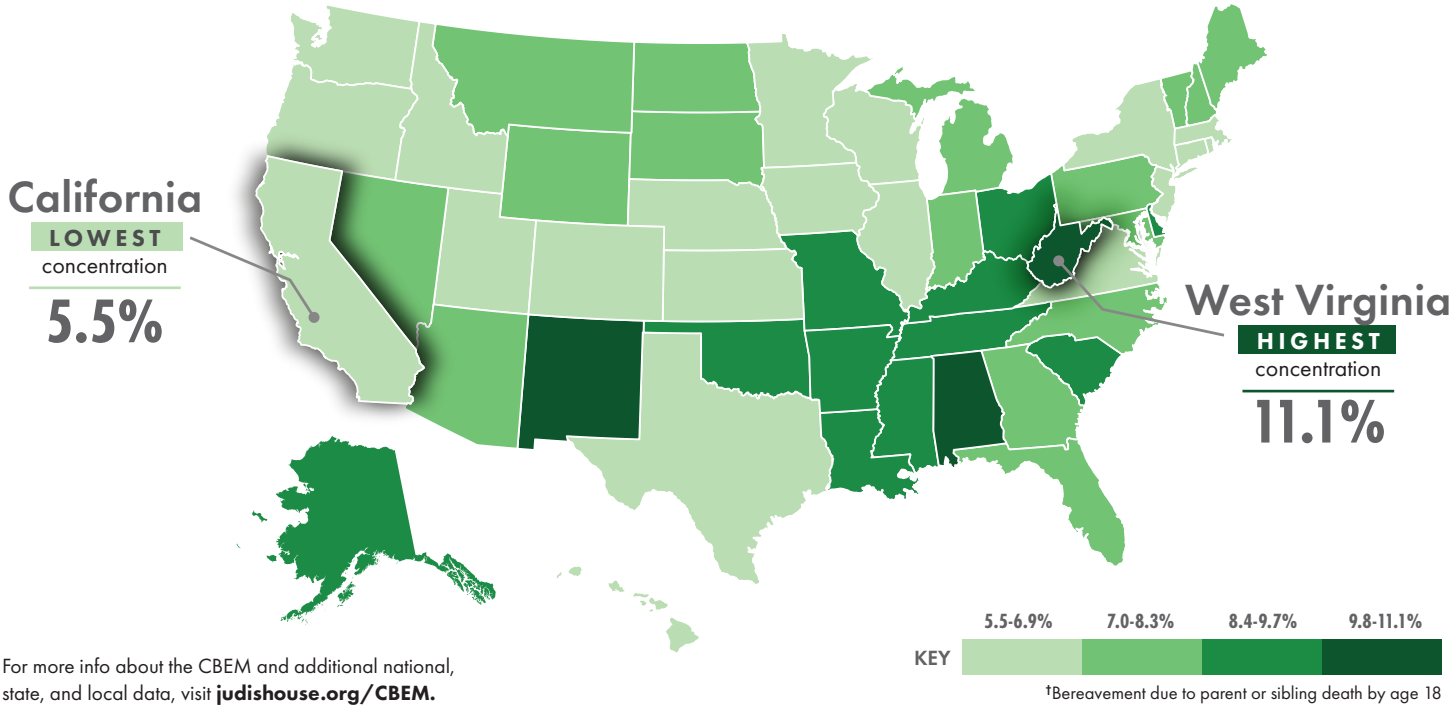
7.2% ~ 5.2M

children will be bereaved by age 18

& MORE THAN **DOUBLES** **13.2M**

youth will be bereaved by age 25

Childhood Bereavement by State†



For more info about the CBEM and additional national, state, and local data, visit **judishouse.org/CBEM.**

†Bereavement due to parent or sibling death by age 18

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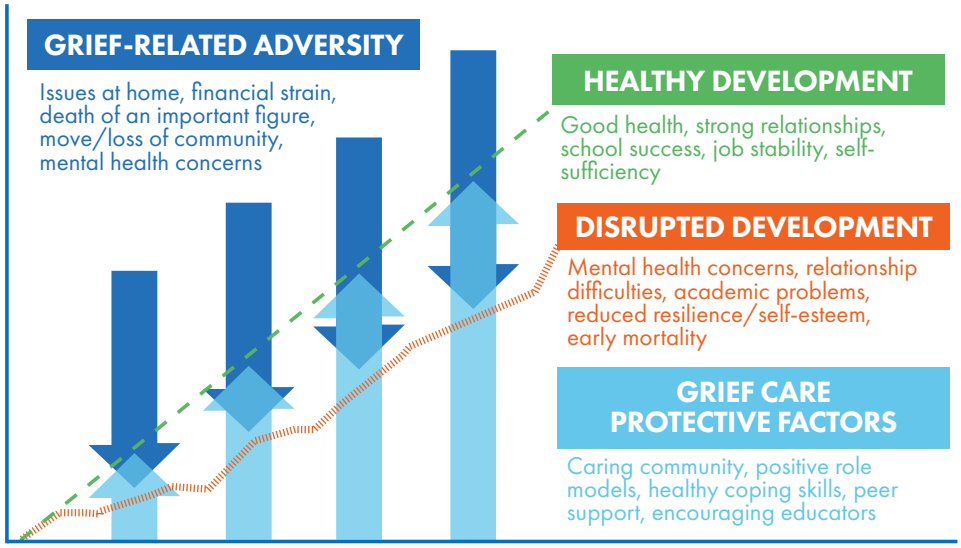
Childhood Bereavement: The Cost of Inaction

Experiencing a significant death loss during childhood often results in profound stress and adversity. Without appropriate support, this experience can derail a child's development.[5,6,7] For the millions of youth who are bereaved, access to comprehensive grief-focused, trauma-informed care and resources is essential. Now is the time for advocates, policy makers, practitioners, educators, and researchers to unite in support of these children and their families.[8] By investing in awareness and prevention, we can create social change that ensures a compassionate response for all grieving children and promotes healthy growth.



Graph adapted from: Harvard University Center on the Developing Child

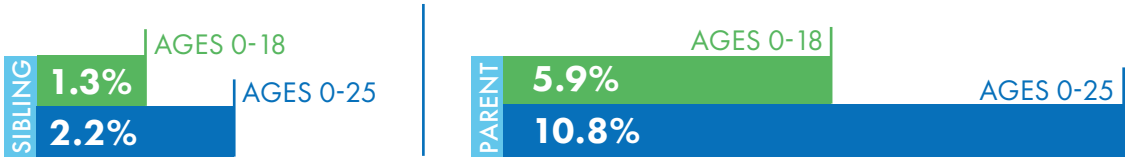
Leading Causes of Death[4]

Percentages reflect the proportion of total deaths caused by each of the leading causes for youth and adults according to the CDC.

Youth Ages 0 - 24‡		Adults Ages 25 - 60‡
26.6% - **Accidents**	#1	**Cancer** - 23.2%
18.1% - **Conditions Related to Birth**	#2	**Heart Disease** - 17.8%
9.9% - **Suicide**	#3	**Accidents** - 15.7%
9.3% - **Birth Defects**	#4	**Suicide** - 5.6%
9.0% - **Homicide**	#5	**Liver Disease** - 4.1%

Death of a Sibling & Death of a Parent

The CBEM provides separate, independent estimates for youth who will experience the death of a parent or of a sibling.



Sources

1. Pynoos et al. (2014). *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy, 6*(Suppl 1), S9-S17.
2. Nickerson et al. (2013). *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy, 5*(2), 119-127.
3. Burns et al. (2020). *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, Advanced online publication.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC WONDER Online Databases.
5. Brent et al. (2012). *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology, 41*, 778-791.
6. Yu et al. (2017). *JAMA Pediatrics, 171*: 538–545.
7. Oosterhoff et al. (2018). *School Psychology Quarterly, 33*(3), 372-380.
8. Griese et al. (2018). *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 87*(5), 540-548.

*Please see the CBEM Technical Appendix for additional information

‡Age ranges for leading causes of death align with CBEM analyses

For more info about the CBEM and additional national, state, and local data, visit **judishouse.org/CBEM**

judi's house JAG Institute
For Grieving Children and Families

Judi's House/JAG Institute is a research-based nonprofit organization in Denver, Colorado devoted solely to supporting grieving children and their families. Our vision is that no child should be alone in grief.

NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION

Judi's House/JAG Institute partnered with the New York Life Foundation to help support grieving children and families by creating the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM).

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