

The Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) was developed by Judi's House/JAG Institute, in partnership with the New York Life Foundation, to quantify childhood bereavement rates. The CBEM roadmap is designed to guide childhood bereavement champions through using national, state, and local data to advocate for increased awareness, education, and resources.

The Childhood Bereavement Landscape

A staggering 1 in 11 children in the United States will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18 according to the 2025 CBEM National Report. The CBEM provides critical data to researchers, practitioners, educators, and policymakers who advocate for the millions of children navigating grief nationwide. This information helps communities evaluate the impact of unaddressed grief, grief resources, and ultimately, contribute to improved outcomes for grieving families everywhere.

Childhood grief impacts communities on individual, family, and systems levels. **Understanding the magnitude of childhood bereavement is key to taking action.** With proper understanding we can ensure adequate resources are available to those needing care.



Cost of Inaction: A Critical Junction

Research shows that bereaved children have an increased risk of developmental disruptions. **Unaddressed childhood grief and trauma can lead to adverse health outcomes including decreased academic performance, mental health issues, relationship problems, and early mortality.***

Appropriate grief support promotes healthy development in the face of childhood bereavement. The CBEM reinforces the need for access to grief-focused education and programming that helps communities respond with compassion and confidence.

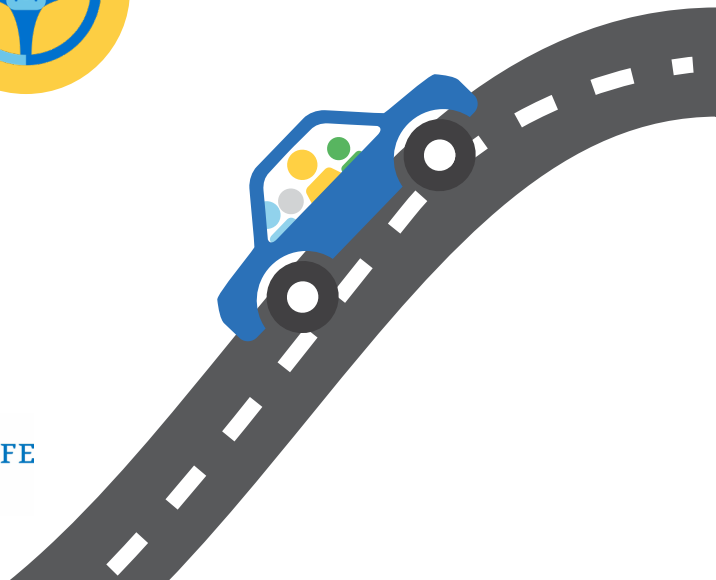
*Bergman et al. (2017). BMC Palliative Care, 16 (39).



Driven by Data

Previous efforts to estimate the prevalence of childhood bereavement have been hindered by methodological, reporting, and data source limitations. The CBEM analyzes publicly available population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention using established estimation methods.

Nationally, the 2025 CBEM results indicate more than 6.4 million children will lose a parent or sibling by age 18. That number more than doubles to approximately 15.5 million by age 25. Analyzing one year of data shows that in 2023, 1,040 children were newly bereaved due to parent or sibling death each day.



Your Route to Resources — Join us in elevating childhood bereavement as a critical priority. You can keep kids on a healthy track by using CBEM resources to educate your community and increase awareness.

CBEM Data

The CBEM Dashboard and Reports provide an overview of the prevalence of childhood bereavement at national, state, and regional levels. Using up-to-date data, **new data are released annually to help bereavement champions stay informed about changing needs in their communities.**

Download national and state data and reports at cbem.judishouse.org or request customized reports at judishouse.org/custom-cbem-reports-services.

Action Plan Worksheet

The [Action Plan Worksheet](#), released in May along with our CBEM National and State Reports, is designed to strategically guide individuals and organizations through discussing childhood bereavement with influential leaders, partners, and community members. This planning resource is helpful whether organizing a brainstorming session or starting a conversation with local officials.

Social Media & Key Messages

Social media is an essential resource for increasing awareness of childhood bereavement by sharing information and fostering connections with a wider audience.

Cross-platform messaging is essential to generating increased awareness about the significance of childhood bereavement. Connect with others invested in children's well-being through curated CBEM [social media graphics](#) and [key messages](#).

Tag us when citing CBEM data on your social channels:

Facebook: [@JudisHouseDenver](#)

Instagram: [@JudisHouse](#)

LinkedIn: [@Judis House/JAG Institute](#)

YouTube: [@JudisHouseDenver](#)

Use hashtags #CBEM #childhoodgrief

Video

Our [CBEM video](#) is a quick way to introduce new audiences to our tools and clearly explain why childhood bereavement is a **critical priority**. CBEM findings, national and state prevalence rates, and the impact of childhood grief are visually summarized in under three minutes.

How to Cite

The CBEM represents the most comprehensive and timely estimates of childhood bereavement prevalence.

Drive constituents to original sources by accurately citing the CBEM. For information on CBEM development and methods, check out our article, "[COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on childhood bereavement for youth of color: Reflections and recommendations](#)," published in *Frontiers in Pediatrics*. To learn how to cite the CBEM, visit judishouse.org/cbem-methodology-resources.

2025 CBEM National and State Reports
Judi's House. (2025). CBEM Results derived from CDC data, 2009-2023. cbem.judishouse.org

COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on childhood bereavement for youth of color: Reflections and recommendations. Burns, M., Landry, L., Mills, D., Carlson, N., Blueford, J.M., & Talmi, A. (2023). *Frontiers in Pediatrics*, 11.