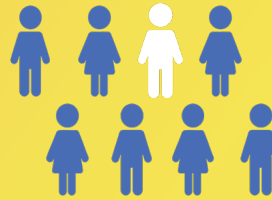


**Childhood bereavement is a critical issue and an increasingly important national priority.**

The Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model® (CBEM)<sup>1</sup> approximates rates of bereavement for U.S. youth. Results from the CBEM are updated annually using vital statistics<sup>2</sup> from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.\* The 2025 report reflects 2019 to 2023 data, the five most recent years available.

## 1 in 8



Mississippi children will experience the death of a **parent or sibling** by age 18

### 12.5% ~ 85K

children **will be** bereaved by age 18

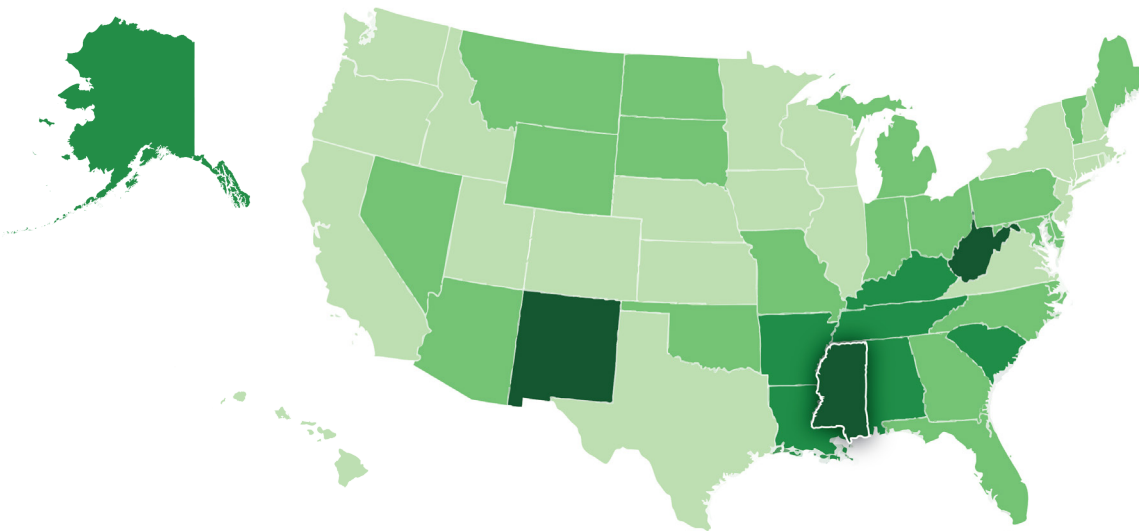
**HIGHER** than national rate of 8.9%

### & MORE THAN DOUBLES

### 201K

youth **will be** bereaved by age 25

## Childhood Bereavement Rates by State<sup>†</sup>



### KEY

6.8% - 8.7%

8.8% - 10.5%

10.6% - 12.4%

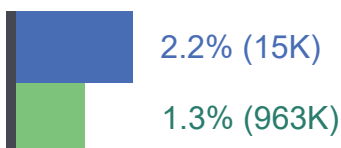
12.5% - 14.2%

<sup>†</sup>Bereavement due to parent or sibling death by age 18.

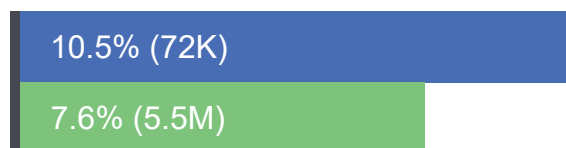
## Relationship to the Deceased

The CBEM provides independent estimates of the percentage and number of youth ages 0-17 who will experience the death of a parent or sibling.

### Sibling



### Parent



## CBEM Leading Cause of Death

The CBEM can produce bereavement estimates by cause of death. The tables below reflect the percentages of all **bereaved** children who will experience bereavement due to the leading causes of death for youth and adults, respectively.

### Death of a Sibling (Ages 0 - 17)

| Cause of Death              | Percentage of Bereaved Children† |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Conditions Related to Birth | 25.5%                            |
| Accidents                   | 20.1%                            |
| Birth Defects               | 12.5%                            |
| Homicide                    | 7.6%                             |
| Suicide                     | 2.7%                             |

### Death of a Parent (Ages 24 - 44)

| Cause of Death | Percentage of Bereaved Children† |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Accidents      | 30.3%                            |
| Heart Disease  | 12.7%                            |
| Homicide       | 12.1%                            |
| Suicide        | 7.5%                             |
| Cancer         | 7.3%                             |

†The percentage of bereaved children for a specific cause of death is calculated by dividing the number of children who will experience bereavement due to that cause by the number of all bereaved children.

## Cost of Inaction

The death of a parent, sibling, or other important person in a child's life is one of the most frequently reported disruptive childhood experiences<sup>3</sup> and without appropriate support, can adversely affect lifelong health and well-being.<sup>4</sup> The findings below represent research about the impact of bereavement in the U.S. and abroad.



**97%**  
of teachers

believe grief adversely impacts learning.<sup>5</sup>



Bereaved children are  
**2x MORE LIKELY**

to experience significant challenges at home.<sup>6</sup>



**1 in 4**  
youth

who die by suicide were bereaved.<sup>7</sup>



Bereaved youth are  
**175% MORE LIKELY**

to develop Substance Use Disorder in adulthood.<sup>8</sup>

## Call to Action

Projected CBEM results can help center childhood bereavement as a public health priority. States have the power to enact change locally. For example, [Utah](#) added a checkbox on death certificates to identify children who lost a caregiver and connect them with resources, while [New Jersey](#) passed legislation mandating grief education for students in grades 8 through 12. Together, we can ensure that comprehensive grief care becomes universally available.

To learn more about nationally available resources, visit [judishouse.org/essential-services](https://judishouse.org/essential-services).

## Sources

To access the reference material used in this report, please visit [judishouse.org/2025-CBEM-sources](https://judishouse.org/2025-CBEM-sources).



Judi's House/JAG Institute is a research-based nonprofit in Aurora, CO devoted to supporting grieving children and their families.



NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION

Judi's House/JAG Institute partnered with New York Life Foundation to create the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM).