

Experience Camps Fact Sheet

Mission	We give grieving children experiences that will change their lives forever.
Founded	2009
Location	National programs; grieving children from 32 states and 4 countries served via 10 week-long summer camp programs in California, Georgia, Maine, Michigan, and Pennsylvania
Ages served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and teens, ages 9 - 17, who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling or primary caregiver are eligible for camp • Young Adults program for those in their 4 years after high school • Educational and awareness programs like Talk About Grief reach families and people of all ages
Cost	No cost
Program hours	450,000+ total program hours with grieving kids
Growth rate	<p>23% increase in applications in 2020</p> <p>500% increase in the waiting list over the past five years</p>
Volunteers	400 / year; 1000 since 2009
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of participating children report higher self esteem and less loneliness • 85% of participants return to Experience Camps each year • 63% of children participating in Experience Camps reported that they have used their "grief skills" to help others cope with the pandemic

Grief Fact Sheet

The need to Talk About Grief

- 54% of people struggle to find grief resources.
- 57% of those who lost a parent during childhood report that support from family and friends waned within 3 months, although it took an average of six years to move forward.

COVID-19 and grief

- 2.1 million Americans are grieving the loss of a loved one to COVID-19.
- For every 100,000 Americans who die from COVID-19, between 125,000 and 150,000 young people (ages 10 to 29) will be impacted.
- COVID-19 related deaths of relatives who represent key sources of social support can fundamentally alter youths' economic security and, in turn, the success and timing of their transition to adulthood.

Rates of childhood grief

- 5.2 million U.S. children, or 7.2%, experience the death of a parent or sibling.
- 1 in 14 U.S. children experience the death of a parent or sibling before age 18.
- The death of a parent has left 1.5 million U.S. children living in a single-parent household.

Potential impacts of childhood bereavement

- Childhood grief is associated with: developmental disruptions, including relationship, academic, and career functioning; substance abuse; mental health challenges, including depression and suicide; and poverty.
- Children who lost a parent while growing up are 50% more likely to die in early adulthood within 20 years following their loss.
- Death has an intergenerational impact. Among adults who lost a parent when they were growing up, 79% said that when they became a parent, they missed having the guidance of the parent who died. 80% said the experience was the hardest thing they ever had to face.