Key Findings to Share and Social Media Guidance

The Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) was developed by Judi’s House/JAG Institute, with philanthropic support from the New York Life Foundation, to approximate childhood bereavement rates due to the death of a parent or sibling. The CBEM equips partners and advocates with the data to understand the magnitude of grief across the U.S. and mobilize community-wide efforts to improve access to death loss-specific grief care for children and families.

Tip: Customize key messages and social media posts with relevant data by accessing the CBEM national and state reports, in addition to CBEM data tables.

Key Findings: 2023 CBEM Results

1. Six million, or 1 in 12 U.S. children, will experience the death of a parent of sibling by age 18 according to 2023 Projected Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) results. By age 25, that number more than doubles to ~ 14.7 million bereaved youths. CBEM results highlight the need for childhood bereavement resources and support in the U.S. and help bereavement champions remain up-to-date on the evolving needs of their communities.

2. Analyzing bereavement prevalence for a single year revealed that nearly 1,200 children under the age of 18 were newly bereaved every day in 2021.

3. According to 2023 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) results, the number of children who will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18 increased in 46 states and Washington D.C. compared to 2022 results, reflecting the impacts of the pandemic on childhood bereavement.

4. The Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) is a first-of-its-kind tool that uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to estimate the number of bereaved children.

5. The Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model’s (CBEM) methodology uses data from the most recent five-year period in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) WONDER databases. 2023 CBEM results were derived using data from 2017-2021.

Childhood Grief Key Messages

1. Long-overlooked, childhood bereavement continues to grow in importance as a national priority. Understanding the magnitude of childhood bereavement is key to driving necessary action that ensures adequate resources are available to those needing care.

2. Childhood grief profoundly impacts bereaved youth, families, and communities. The death of an important person in a child’s life is one of the most frequently reported adverse childhood experiences. Unaddressed childhood grief and trauma can lead to short- and long-term difficulties including poor academic performance, mental health issues, and early mortality.
3. Providing appropriate support to a grieving child can ease the impact of childhood bereavement and help keep them on track.

4. Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model results reinforce the need for access to grief-focused education and programming that help communities respond with compassion and confidence.

Social Media Guidance

Social media is an essential resource for increasing awareness about the magnitude of childhood bereavement with a wider audience. Use it to network with other individuals invested in children’s well-being through curated CBEM social media graphics and sample language found below.

Follow and tag Judi’s House/JAG Institute on these social platforms:

- Facebook: @JudisHouseDenver
- Instagram: @JudisHouse
- Twitter: @JudisHouse
- LinkedIn: LinkedIn.com/JudisHouse
- YouTube: YouTube.com/JudisHouseDenver

Strengthen the conversation by using the hashtags #CBEM and #ChildhoodGrief.

Suggested Social Media Posts:

1. According to the #CBEM, developed by [JUDIS HOUSE TAG], more than 6 million, or 1 in 12, children in the United States will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18. Learn more about the magnitude and impact of #ChildhoodGrief at judishouse.org/cbem.

2. The #CBEM estimates more than 6 million, or 1 in 12, children in the U.S. will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18. Be a good neighbor to grieving children and families in your community by accessing grief-related resources at judishouse.org/resources [OR insert link to organizational resources].

3. The 2023 #CBEM National Report shows that 6 million, or 1 in 12, children in the U.S. will be bereaved by age 18. Help elevate #ChildhoodGrief to a public priority by sharing the magnitude of this issue and leveraging CBEM data found at judishouse.org/cbem.

4. Six million, or 1 out of every 12, children will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18 according to the #CBEM. By sharing our research and best practice standards, we are building a grief-aware workforce so we can make sure grieving children get that care they need. Access the 2023 National CBEM Report at judishouse.org/cbem.

5. Analyzing #CBEM data for one year reveals that nearly 1,200 children under the age of 18 were newly bereaved each day in 2021. Learn more about the current prevalence of childhood bereavement across the U.S. by accessing CBEM data tables at judishouse.org/cbem-data-tables.