

"Traumatic Grief and Substance Use in Adolescence"

MUSC Teen
Science Ambassador

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Background

- Research suggests that 34.2% of people with substance use disorder showed signs of traumatic grief.
- In today's climate, more youth are experiencing loss and grief.
- More information is needed to aid adolescents with learning how to cope with grief instead of turning to substance use.

Research Question

Is traumatic grief associated with substance use in adolescence?

Methods

- Google Scholar was used to conduct searches using the search terms, "Traumatic Grief", "Substance Use", and " Adolescents"
- The search yielded 11,000 sources
- 3 sources were selected for this project..

References



Findings

- Childhood Traumatic Grief (CTG) arises
 when children experiences a loss that is
 traumatic in nature (e.g. loss during a
 natural disaster, car accident, school
 shooting, etc.)
- Adolescents experiencing CTG may believe that using substances helps to cope with grief by numbing or relieving the pain.
- For the moment substance use may feel like a good coping skill. In the long-term, using substances does not change the fact that a loved one is still gone and it is also not good for the body,

THE PROPERTY OF CHILDREN IN THE U.S. WILL EXPERIENCE THE DEATH OF A PARENT OR SIBLING BY AGE 18 CHILDREN IN THE U.S. WILL EXPERIENCE THE DEATH OF A PARENT OR SIBLING BY AGE 18 CONTRACTOR OF CHILDREN ARE BEREAVED 12.7M SHORE THAN 2X HIGHER CONTRACTOR SIBLING BY AGE 25

Reflections



- West Ashley High School
- 11th grade
- Favorite moment: When we played Family Feud.
- Advice for a new Ambassador: That Dr.
 Bryant is the best! And she laughs loud.

Mentorship

- Dr. Brittany Bryant
- Michelle Cordova-Huerta
- "Show up as your authentic self!" -Dr. Brittany Bryant

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