

PARENTAL DEATH. THE EFFECTS OF PARENTAL DEATH IN EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Guided by a life course perspective, attachment theory, and gender theory, this study aims to describe the effects of death of a parent, as well as continuously living with one parent dead (in contrast to having two parents alive) on emotional and psychological development. This study reviews the evidence regarding the parental death on adolescent's acute and long term psychological adjustment as well as the clinical literature describing interventions for bereaved families. This study is based in important descriptions and controversies surrounding childhood bereavement, with a focus on the more recent and the prospective studies. The theoretical model for this descriptive study is based on extensive research and theories of death as a traumatic process. A detailed analysis will be performed to examine the relation of the three key elements of this study: death (parental death), adolescent bereavement and emotional, psychological development. This study aims to: Describe the effects of the death of a parent on the adolescent emotional and psychological development. Research questions: Death of which parent affects most in emotional and psychological development of the adolescent? Are there gender differences in coping with the death of a parent? Which aspects of emotional and psychological development affect more the death of a parent? It has been found that the highest rates of reported difficulties are found in adolescent boys more than in adolescent girls. Also, this study's results reveal that a father's death leads to more negative effects for sons than daughters and a mother's death leads to more negative effects for daughters than sons.

Keywords: *parental death, grief, adolescent bereavement, emotional and psychological development, effects*