



Effects of the age of the deceased and kinship to the deceased on bereavement outcomes

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Abstract

This study aimed to examine the effects of the age of the deceased and the kinship to the deceased on bereavement outcomes. Previous studies reported a negative association between age and both positive as well as negative bereavement outcomes, while significant differences in bereavement outcomes were found between different relationship losses. Since the effect of age or kinship on bereavement outcomes could be explained by one another and the two factors could interact, the present study compared the associations between them and bereavement outcomes after considering them independently. This study analyzed linguistic characteristics of grieving submissions on Reddit to reflect on the bereavement outcomes of bereaved authors. Both age and kinship were found to associate with bereavement outcomes. Significant differences in positive growth, emotionality, health and suicidal risk were found between losing different kinships. Older decedents were also found to correlate with better health but higher suicidal risk. The interaction between word count and kinship but not between age and kinship was found in the association between kinship and health. This study investigated the associations between age, kinship and bereavement outcomes to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of risk factors, provide insights into identifying at-risk populations and providing interventions.