## Supplementary file 2: Key characteristics of included reviews (n=212)

| **First author (year)** | **Review aim** | **Review type****Number of included studies** | **Focus** | **Characteristics of the bereaved****Restrictions on inclusion****Nature of death**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aehlig (2021) | To review the current knowledge about associations between attachment styles and prolonged grief in bereaved adults | Systematic reviewn=25 | Risk factors for PGD | Family or friendsAdultsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Ainscough (2022) | To assess the effectiveness of bereavement support interventions for parents of an infant or a child who has died from a medical condition or in unforeseen circumstances | Systematic reviewn=8 (9 articles) | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | ParentsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Albuquerque (2016) | To present the current knowledge on the effects of the death of a child on the marital relationship (and associated variables), and on the effect of the marital relationship on parents’ individual adjustment to the loss | Systematic reviewn=24 | General grief reactions | ParentsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Alves-Costa (2021) | To review the psychological interventions available for individuals bereaved by homicide and report their effectiveness | Systematic reviewn=7  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychological | Family or friendsViolent or unnatural death - Homicide |
| Anderson (2022) | To explore factors that influence the process of adjustment following the death of a partner at a younger than expected age | Systematic reviewn=13 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Spouse or partner Adults 50 years or youngerNo specific cause/type of death |
| Andriessen (2016) | To disentangle pre- and post-loss features that affect response to grief in adolescents bereaved by suicide | Systematic reviewn=58 | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiences  | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedChildren or young peopleSuicide |
| Andriessen (2019) | To assess the evidence of effectiveness of interventions for people bereaved by suicide | Systematic reviewn=11 (12 articles) | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedSuicide |
| Andriessen (2019) | To investigate what is known of the effects of postvention service delivery models and the components that may contribute to the effectiveness | Systematic reviewn=8 (plus 12 guidelines) | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Structured/formal support | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedSuicide |
| Andriessen (2020) | To assess what is known about the grief and mental health of people bereaved by euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide | Systematic reviewn=8 (10 articles) | Risk factors for PGD Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAssisted suicide/euthanasia |
| Arruda (2017) | To examine and synthesise the evidence on grief and bereavement in Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias caregivers | Systematic reviewn=19 (including 1 SR) | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectiveness Intervention type:Non-specific | Informal/family carersHealth condition or terminal illness (Alzheimer's disease and related dementias) |
| Asgari (2022) | To synthesise the results of studies about grief interventions and their effectiveness | Review of reviewsn=16 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Baffour-Awuah (2020)a | To explore and summarise the existing literature about the experiences of perinatal loss among couples in sub-Saharan Africa, and to identify the relevant support health professionals and the community give to improve the well-being of parents experiencing perinatal loss | Systematic reviewn=8 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsSub-Saharan AfricaPerinatal loss |
| Barnes (2020) | To synthesise the grief experiences of health professionals associated with paediatric death in healthcare settings | Systematic reviewn=12 (13 articles) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals - healthcareNo specific cause/type of death |
| Bartone (2019) | To assess the evidence regarding benefits of peer support services for bereaved survivors of sudden or unexpected death | Systematic reviewn=32 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Peer support | Family member, close friend, or co-workerSudden or unexpected death |
| Bergman (2017) | To systematically review studies about effective support interventions for parentally bereaved children and to identify gaps in the research | Systematic reviewn=17  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Child or their remaining caregiver Children and young peopleNo specific cause/type of death |
| Berry (2021) | To identify and synthesise common, experiential themes from qualitative studies of parents who experienced perinatal loss | Systematic reviewn=5 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| Bindley (2019) | To summarise published research on experiences of social and structural inequities in the context of bereavement due to life-limiting illness | Systematic reviewn=15  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults; high-income countriesHealth condition or terminal illness (expected death of an adult) |
| Bjelland (2022) | To identify factors that relieve or contribute to distress for deceased organ donor families in the time since the decision to donate | Systematic reviewn=17 | Risk factors for PGDGeneral grief reactionsGrief and bereavement experiences | Family or friendsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Bloomer(2022) | To synthesise research evidence on the experience of the nurse after the death of a patient in adult critical care | Systematic reviewn=35 (36 articles) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals - NursesNo specific cause of death - specific setting (ICU/critical/care)  |
| Boven (2022) | To identify the role hospitals take in providing bereavement care after an in-hospital adult death | Systematic reviewn=47  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause of death - specific setting (hospital death) |
| Brekelmans (2022) | To give an overview of different bereavement support strategies and possible different effects on anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and complicated grief | Systematic reviewn=7 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type: Non-specific (hospital settings) | Family or friendsNo specific cause of death - specific setting (ICU/critical care) |
| Bristowe (2016) | To identify and appraise the evidence of the bereavement experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans people who have lost a partner | Systematic reviewn=13 (23 articles) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Spouse or partnerLGBT+No specific cause/type of death |
| Brown-Brundage (2021) | To document the grief experiences of long-term care staff and benefits of end-of-life planning | Systematic reviewn=19  | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals: long-term care staffNo specific cause of death - specific setting (long-term care) |
| Burden (2016) | To systematically review, evaluate and summarise the current evidence regarding the psychosocial impact of stillbirth to parents and their families | Systematic reviewn=144 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents with family (grandparents, siblings, or future children, including a surviving multiple) Perinatal loss |
| Burrell (2022) | To synthesise evidence on the impact of funeral practices on bereaved friends and relatives’ mental health and experience of bereavement | Systematic reviewn=17 | Risk factors for PGDGeneral grief reactions | Family or friendsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Butler (2015) | To review, critique and synthesise current research studies that examine parental perceptions of healthcare provider actions during and after the death of a child | Systematic reviewn=15 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Butler (2015) | To review and synthesise the best available evidence exploring the family experience of the death of their child in the paediatric ICU | Systematic reviewn=15 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents with family (siblings, grandparents, or legal guardians)No specific cause of death - specific setting (paediatric ICU) |
| Byeon (2020) | To review systematically the effects of grief-focused interventions, applied to dementia caregivers, on emotional burden including sadness | Systematic reviewn=5  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Informal/family carersHealth condition or terminal illness (dementia) |
| Causer (2019) | To address the question "what are the features of the experiences of workers in health, education or social care roles following the death by suicide of a client, patient, student or service user?" | Systematic reviewn=11 (12 articles) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals: Health, education or social careSuicide |
| Causer (2022) | To explore the impact of colleague suicide on surviving co-workers and review postvention guidance for workplaces | Systematic reviewn=17 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Work colleagueSuicide |
| Charrois | To evaluate the effectiveness of psychotherapeutic interventions and compare the content and delivery methods of interventions associated with greatest reductions in psychological distress in women after perinatal loss | Systematic reviewn=13 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychological | Parents (mothers)Adults; femalesPerinatal loss |
| Cheer (2016) | To deepen understanding of how Asia-Paciﬁc women experience the phenomenon of still-birth | Systematic reviewn=6 (7 articles) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents (mothers)Females; Asia-PacificPerinatal loss |
| Chen (2018) | To systematically review and synthesise the experience of bereavement after patients' deaths, and in particular, its core process, in professional caregivers' own descriptions | Systematic reviewn=23 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals: Healthcare No specific cause/type of death |
| Chen (2018) | To identify interventions for bereaved preschool-age children and examine their effectiveness | Systematic reviewn=17 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | ChildChildren and young people (3-5 years)No specific cause/type of death |
| Chen (2019) | A scoping review of quantitative research that examines (a) how researchers define and measure professional caregivers’ bereavement after patients’ deaths; and (b) what the findings are | Systematic reviewn=12 | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals - Healthcare No specific cause/type of death |
| Clabburn (2021) | To investigate how bereaved young people continue bonds with deceased family members | Systematic review n=20 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ChildChildren and young people (24 years or younger)No specific cause/type of death |
| Coelho (2017) | To synthesise recent research to develop further knowledge about the family experience of anticipatory grief during a patient’s end of life | Systematic reviewn=29  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Family or friendsAdults Health condition or terminal illness (advanced disease/end-of-life) |
| Coffey (2016) | To gain an understanding of what parents perceived as good practice in care during and after stillbirth | Systematic reviewn=8 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsHigh-income countries with maternity services comparable to the UKPerinatal loss |
| Connolly (2015) | To conduct a systematic review on the effects of homicide on surviving family members | Systematic reviewn=40 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Family or friendsViolent or unnatural death (homicide) |
| Crawley (2022) | To report the prevalence of pre-death and post-death grief and to synthesise associated factors and the relationship between pre-death factors and post-death grief and services used to manage grief | Systematic reviewn=55 | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD General grief reactions | Informal/family carersAdults Health condition or terminal illness (dementia) |
| Crispus (2015) | To summarise and critically evaluate the evidence informing the provision of standard care practices and psychosocial interventions following stillbirth | Systematic reviewn=20  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychosocial | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| D'Alton (2022) | To identify potential risk and protective factors for maladaptive coping following sibling bereavement and the inﬂuence of these factors on adjustment to loss | Systematic reviewn=25  | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiences | SiblingChildren and young peopleNo specific cause/type of death |
| Davidow (2022) | To examine the interventions and outcomes that have been studied for late-life spousal bereavement | Systematic reviewn=22 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Spouse or partnerAdults (average age over 50 years)No specific cause/type of death |
| de Andrade Alvarenga (2021) | To synthesise qualitative evidence from primary studies to better understand the experience of the spirituality of parents and its relationship to adapting following stillbirth | Systematic reviewn=21 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| de Lopez (2020) | To evaluate the eﬀect of grief interventions for children and adolescents who have lost a parent or sibling | Systematic reviewn=8 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Child/siblingChildren and young peopleNo specific cause/type of death |
| De Rosbo-Davies (2022) | To synthesise peer-reviewed literature on daughters' experiences of maternal bereavement | Systematic reviewn=21 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Daughter - death of mother (at any age up to 50 years)FemalesNo specific cause/type of death |
| Delalibera (2015) | To investigate the effect of family dynamics on adult family members’ grieving process | Systematic reviewn=15 | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactions | Family or friendsAdultsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Dias (2019) | To describe the interventions for bereaved parents and evaluate intervention effectiveness | Systematic reviewn=9 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | ParentsHealth condition or terminal illness (acute or chronic illness) |
| Djelantik (2020) | To estimate a pooled prevalence of prolonged grief disorder in individuals bereaved due to unnatural causes | Systematic reviewn=25 | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdultsViolent or unnatural death (unnatural loss) |
| Dolan (2022) | To present the effectiveness of cognitive behavioural therapy and mindfulness-based interventions for perinatal grief, to report patient experiences of the interventions, and to determine which intervention can be more effective in managing symptoms of complicated perinatal grief | Systematic reviewn=8  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:CBT and mindfulness therapy | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| Donovan (2015) | To identify services offered to bereaved families in perinatal, neonatal, and paediatric hospital settings and summarise the psychosocial impact of these services and published recommendations for best practice hospital-based bereavement care | Systematic reviewn=34 | Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific (hospital settings) | Parents with family (siblings or grandparents for interventions)No specific cause of death - specific setting (hospital settings) |
| Dorman (2022) | To find and describe literature relating to family experiences in paediatric hospice palliative care throughout the end-of-life care journey including grief and bereavement | Systematic reviewn=9 (10 articles) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Family or friends Health condition or terminal illness (paediatric hospices) |
| Duncan (2015) | To assess evidence on the prevalence of self-blame, guilt, and shame in bereaved parents, as well as the relationships between self-blame, guilt, and shame and any measures of psychological adaptation after loss | Systematic reviewn=18  | General grief reactions | ParentsAdultsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Duncan (2020) | To identify approaches used to support children who are grieving, and to explore implications for teachers | Systematic reviewn=15 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Child Children and young people (3 to 18 years)No specific cause/type of death |
| Dutta (2019) | To understand the lived experience of parents who have lost their child to a chronic life-limiting condition | Systematic reviewn=25 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents  Adults Health condition or terminal illness (chronic life-limiting illness) |
| Eddinger (2021) | To produce an overview of treatments used to concurrently reduce symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder and prolonged grief disorder  | Systematic reviewn=14 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdultsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Efstathiou (2019) | To investigate the state of ICU bereavement support globally, and the availability and effectiveness of bereavement support interventions | Systematic reviewn=14 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type: Non-specific (hospital settings) | Family or friendsNo specific cause of death - specific setting (Adult ICU) |
| Eisma (2021) | To identify quantitative research examining relationships between emotion regulation and complicated grief | Systematic reviewn=64  | Risk factors for PGD | Family or friendsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Ellis (2016) | To analyse the available evidence on parents’ views on the experience of going through a stillbirth, or key healthcare workers experiences of caring for couples dealing with a stillbirth | Systematic reviewn=52 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents or healthcare workersHigh-income countries (Europe, North America, Australia and South Africa)Perinatal loss |
| Endo (2015) | To evaluate the efficacy of interventions for bereaved parents and siblings following a child's death | Systematic reviewn=8 (9 articles) | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Parents with family (siblings)No specific cause/type of death |
| Enez (2017) | To investigate which psychotherapy-based intervention are designed for the treatment of complicated grief and to assess the effectiveness of these interventions | Systematic reviewn=21 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychological  | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults No specific cause/type of death |
| Evans (2020) | To evaluate the impact of public stigma on bereavement of suicide survivors | Systematic reviewn=11 | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiences | Family or friendsAdultsSuicide |
| Falzarano (2022) | To synthesise the literature documenting the bereavement experiences of the Latino/a community, evaluate the strength of the evidence, and provide recommendations for research | Systematic reviewn=26 (including 1 SR; 2 commentaries and 5 narrative reviews) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults; Latino or LatinaNo specific cause/type of death |
| Fee (2021) | To synthesise qualitative research evidence reporting adults' experiences of pre-loss grief within cancer care | Systematic reviewn=13  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Fernandez-Basanta (2020) | To synthesise research findings regarding the coping experiences of parents following perinatal loss | Systematic reviewn=14  | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| Fernandez-Ferez (2021) | To determine the efficacy of nursing interventions to facilitate the process of grief as a result of perinatal death | Systematic reviewn=4 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific (nursing) | Parents (mothers)FemalesPerinatal loss |
| Fernandez-Fernandez (2022) | To find out whether there is a relationship between the experience of grief facing the loss of a loved one and the development of resilience | Systematic review n=24  | General grief reactions | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Finlayson-Short (2020) | To systematically review the quality of evidence regarding the effectiveness of supports for people affected by suicide | Systematic reviewn=15 (1 not bereaved) | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Community-based | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedSuicide |
| Fiore (2021) | To investigate whether the Dual Process Model of Coping with Bereavement (DPM) accurately represents the bereavement experience, and whether DPM-based interventions are more effective than traditional grief therapy | Systematic reviewn=22  | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:based on the dual process model of coping | Family or friendsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Flach (2022) | To identify the factors associated with the development and prevention of complicated grief in women who have lost a baby | Systematic reviewn=23 | Risk factors for PGD | Parents (mothers)Adults; femalesPerinatal loss |
| Galazzi (2022) | To investigate the connection between intensive care unit diaries and the grieving process experienced by family members of adult patients deceased in the intensive care unit | Systematic reviewn=6 | Intervention effectiveness Intervention type:ICU diaries | Parents with family (spouses, daughters, sons, and close friends)No specific cause of death: specific setting (ICU/critical care) |
| Gamondi (2019) | To systematically review family experiences of assisted dying | Systematic reviewn=19 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Informal/family carersAssisted suicide/euthanasia |
| Garcini (2021) | To systematically review the methodology and findings of scientific studies and reviews of bereavement among widowed Latinos in the USA | Systematic reviewn=19 (including 6 narrative reviews) | Grief and bereavement experiencesGeneral grief reactions | Spouse or partnerLatinos; USANo specific cause/type of death |
| Goodall (2022) | To analysing the research on continuing bonds in individuals bereaved by suicide. It aims to characterise aspects of the continuing bond including how they manifest, and whether those bereaved experience them as positive or negative | Systematic reviewn=15  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedSuicide |
| Grijo (2021) | To explore the outcomes of dignity therapy in palliative care patients' family members | Systematic reviewn=8 | Intervention effectiveness/Implementation Intervention type:Dignity therapy | Family or friendsAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (end of life) |
| Grose (2018) | To synthesise findings on the effect of perceived caregiver burden on post-bereavement mental health in bereaved caregivers of cancer patients | Systematic reviewn=14 (20 articles) | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD | Informal/family carersAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Hai (2018) | To investigate the spirituality/religiosity’s relationship with bereavement among college students | Systematic reviewn=8 | General grief reactions | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdult college students (17 to 34 years); USANo specific cause/type of death |
| Hanschmidt (2016) | To provide a critical overview on the current state of research on suicide survivor stigma and to investigate the influence of stigma on grief trajectories and survivors’ well-being | Systematic reviewn=25 | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactions | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedSuicide |
| Harrop (2020) | To review the quantitative and qualitative evidence on the effectiveness and impact of interventions and services providing support for adults bereaved through advanced illness | Systematic reviewn=31 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (advanced illness) |
| Harrop (2020) | To synthesise the evidence regarding system-level responses to mass bereavement events | Systematic reviewn=6  | Intervention effectiveness/ implementationIntervention type:systems-based approaches | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedMass events (natural or human-made disasters as well as pandemics) |
| Hay (2022) | To identify how grief affects students in higher education and the types of support they seek and/or ﬁnd beneﬁcial | Systematic reviewn=30 | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGDGeneral grief reactionsGrief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults (students in higher education) No specific cause/type of death |
| Haylett (2021) | To determine the current state of science regarding bereaved parenting | Systematic reviewn=20 | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Heazell (2016) | To establish the effect of stillbirth on parents, families, health-care providers, and societies worldwide | Systematic reviewn= 42 or 43 on interventions; 144 on experiences | Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Parents with family Perinatal loss |
| Heeke (2019) | To identify the correlates of PGD in adults exposed to violent loss | Systematic reviewn=37  | Risk factors for PGD | Family or friendsAdultsViolent or unnatural death |
| Hennegan (2015) | To collate and critically appraise extant evidence for the impact of contact with the stillborn infant on parental mental health, well-being, and satisfaction | Systematic reviewn=11 (18 articles) | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Parental contact with stillborn baby | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| Hewison (2019) | To summarise the evidence concerning the provision and effectiveness of bereavement support in the UK; to examine the role of informal support in bereavement; and to determine the effect of unsupported bereavement in the UK to identify gaps in service provision and areas of need for bereavement services | Systematic reviewn=23 | Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults; UKNo specific cause/type of death |
| Higgins (2022) | To examine peer-led interventions for people bereaved by suicide | Systematic reviewn=10 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Peer support | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedSuicide |
| Ho (2022) | To identify, evaluate, and summarise the findings of all relevant individual studies regarding spontaneous miscarriage psychological treatment and patient experiences in various clinical settings in the USA | Systematic reviewn=6 | Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Parents (mothers)Adults; females; USAPerinatal loss |
| Hoffmann (2018) | To integrate findings on psychosocial outcomes after parental or sibling cancer bereavement | Systematic reviewn=24 | General grief reactions | Child/siblingChildren and young people Health condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Holm (2019) | To examine factors that influence the health of older widows and widowers | Systematic reviewn=12 | Extent of PGDGeneral grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiences | Spouse or partnerAdults aged 60 years or olderNo specific cause/type of death |
| Holtslander (2017) | To conduct a qualitative meta-summary to explore the experiences of bereaved informal/family carers of people who received palliative care services, regardless of their underlying disease | Systematic reviewn=47 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Informal/family carersHealth condition or terminal illness (end of life) |
| Huberty (2017) | To identify and evaluate intervention studies that target mental and/or physical health outcomes in women who have experienced stillbirth | Systematic reviewn=2 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Parents (mothers)Females Perinatal loss |
| Ing (2022) | To assess the availability and efficacy of interventions open to adolescents and young adults bereaved by a parent’s or sibling’s cancer | Systematic reviewn=40 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychosocial | Child/siblingChildren and young people (15 to 25 years)Health condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Ito (2022) | To explore previous findings about families’ experiences of grief and bereavement in the emergency department to clarify and understand their experience | Systematic reviewn=20 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Family or friendsNo specific cause of death - specific setting (emergency departments) |
| Ito (2023) | To identify risk factors for post-intensive care syndrome-family and determine the effect size of individual risk factors | Systematic reviewn=17 (2 on PGD) | Risk factors for PGD | Family or friendsNo specific cause of death - specific setting  (ICU deaths)  |
| Jackson (2019)a | To explore the experiences of pre- and post-bereaved carers, and the information that they receive in the acute hospital setting | Systematic reviewn=10  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Informal/family carersNo specific cause of death - specific setting (acute hospital death) |
| Jessop (2022) | To systematically review the health impact of expected parental death on adolescent and young adult children and provide a basis for further research and clinical practice | Systematic reviewn=10 | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD General grief reactions | ChildChildren and young people (15 to 25 years)Health condition or terminal illness  |
| Jiao (2021) | To identify what is already known about parent–child relationships in widowed families | Systematic reviewn=36 | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactions | Child and spouse (surviving parent)No specific cause/type of death |
| Johannsen (2019) | To evaluate the efficacy of psychological interventions for grief in bereaved adults and explore the possible moderating influence of various study characteristics | Systematic reviewn=31 RCTs | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychological | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults No specific cause/type of death |
| Jones (2019) | To report on research conducted on men's experiences of grief and loss following stillbirth and neonatal death in high-income, Western countries | Systematic review(including 6 SRs)n=27  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents (fathers)Males; high-income countries (UK, Europe, North America and Australia)Perinatal loss |
| Jones (2022) | To investigate the effectiveness of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for managing grief experienced by bereaved spouses or partners of adults who had received palliative care | Systematic reviewn=2 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Acceptance and Commitment Therapy | Spouse or partnerAdults Health condition or terminal illness (end of life) |
| Journot-Reverbel (2017) | To assess psychosocial interventions specifically targeting children and adolescents bereaved by suicide | Systematic reviewn=2 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type: Psychosocial (support groups) | Child/siblingChildren and young peopleSuicide |
| Kabatchnick (2016)a | To explore the sequelae and support of surviving siblings of completed suicide victims in the United States | Systematic reviewn= not reported (book chapter) | Grief and bereavement experiences | SiblingChildren and young people; USASuicide |
| Kakarala (2020) | To evaluate the extent to which neurological reward pathways are associated with prolonged grief disorder | Systematic reviewn=24 | Risk factors for PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Kaspersen (2022) | To investigate the follow-up and support offered by health services, peer support services, and other resources available (e.g., internet-based resources) for families bereaved by suicide | Systematic reviewn=63 | Grief and bereavement experiences Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Defined parents with family (parents, spouse/partner, siblings, and children)High-income countriesSuicide |
| Kenny (2020) | To examine the social support needs of parents bereaved from childhood cancer | Systematic reviewn=11 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsHealth condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Killikelly (2018) | To review recent studies of grief in refugees and post-conﬂict survivors in terms of the type of approach to cultural adaptation (etic or emic), the unique culturally relevant symptoms of grief revealed and the rates of disordered grief identiﬁed across the diﬀerent etic and emic approaches | Systematic reviewn=24  | Extent of PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults; refugees/migrants/asylum seekers/people living in a (post-) conflict zoneNo specific cause/type of death |
| King (2022) | To explore the effects of early parental death on bereaved children's mental health | Systematic reviewn=8 | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactions | ChildChildren and young peopleNo specific cause/type of death |
| Kingdon (2015) | To identify healthcare worker practices that parents’ value. The research question was how does the approach of healthcare professionals to seeing and holding the baby following stillbirth impact parents’ views and experiences? | Systematic reviewn=12  | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| Kochen (2020) | To provide an overview of well-defined bereavement interventions performed by regular health care professionals, and aimed at supporting parents in coping with loss, during both the end of their child’s life and after their child’s death, including effectiveness | Systematic reviewn=21 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific (health care professionals) | ParentsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Kokou-Kpolou (2020) | To review the prevalence rates of prolonged grief disorder, its comorbidities, and associated risk factors among adult refugees | Systematic reviewn=12  | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults; refugees, immigrants or asylum seekersNo specific cause/type of death |
| Komischke-Konnerup (2021) | To provide pooled prevalence estimates of the co-occurrence of prolonged grief disorder and other types of complicated grief reactions (depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress) | Systematic reviewn=23 | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdultsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Kuforiji (2022) | To develop deeper understanding of women's experience of care and support following perinatal death in high-burden settings | Systematic reviewn=8 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents (mothers) Females; ‘high burden' countries - with high perinatal death rates (Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia)Perinatal loss |
| Kuo (2017) | To synthesise the concepts of distinct depressive-symptom trajectories in previous studies by establishing a measurable standard and to estimate the prevalence of each re-categorised trajectory for family members grieving after the death of chronically ill patients | Systematic reviewn=6 | Extent of PGD | Family or friendsAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (chronic disease) |
| Kustanti (2021) | To summarise and synthesise the effectiveness of bereavement support for adult informal/family carers in palliative care | Systematic reviewn=19 RCTs | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type: Bereavement support (group or individual support) | Informal/family carersAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (end of life) |
| Kustanti (2022) | To determine the prevalence of grief disorders among families of patients with cancer | Systematic reviewn=19  | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD | Family or friendsAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Lalande (2022) | To better understand the experience of bereaved parents using support group services | Systematic reviewn=16  | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| Lancel (2020) | To establish the state of knowledge about the reciprocal relationship between grief and sleep difficulties or disorders | Systematic reviewn=85 (8 on complicated grief) | Risk factors for PGDIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Family or friends No specific cause/type of death |
| Laranjeira (2022) | To map and summarise findings from the existing literature regarding bereavement support interventions (i.e., psychosocial and psychotherapeutic interventions) for family carers of people who died of COVID-19 | Systematic reviewn=7  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychosocial & psychotherapeutic  | Informal/family carersAdultsCOVID-19 |
| Law (2019) | To review the needs of bereaved parents following the death of a young person from cancer and to inform the support they require from healthcare professionals from treatment centres | Systematic reviewn=16 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsHealth condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Lestienne (2021) | To examine the use and benefits of online resources dedicated to people bereaved by suicide | Systematic reviewn=12  | Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectiveness/ implementationIntervention type:Online or mobile | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedSuicide |
| Lichtenthal (2015) | To assess and appraise the literature on bereavement outcomes, follow-up, and needs to determine an evidence-based standard for routine assessment of bereavement needs of parents whose children died from cancer | Systematic reviewn=94 (including 1 integrated review) | Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectiveness Intervention type:Bereavement follow-up | Parents with family (siblings or grandparents) Health condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Linde (2017) | To provide an overview of the current state of evidence concerning the effectiveness of interventions that focus on grief for people bereaved by suicide | Systematic reviewn=7  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedSuicide |
| Logan (2018) | To explore bereaved, decedent, and respondent-related determinants of the provision of social support | Systematic reviewn=42 | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Lopez Perez (2022) | To determine the factors associated with complicated grief in the end-of-life phase within the palliative care context | Systematic reviewn=17  | Risk factors for PGD | Informal/family carersAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (end of life) |
| Lord (2017) | To understand the experiences of staff supporting adults with intellectual disabilities with issues of death, dying and bereavement | Systematic reviewn=13 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals - care workers for bereaved people who have a learning disabilityNo specific cause/type of death |
| Lundorff (2017) | To estimate the prevalence of prolonged grief disorder in the general adult bereaved population | Systematic reviewn=14 | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdultsnon-violent death |
| Maass (2022) | To summarise the evidence of bereavement groups for symptoms of grief and depression | Systematic reviewn=14 RCTs | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Bereavement groups | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdultsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Mason (2020) | To describe risk and protective factors for complicated grief; examine current complicated grief interventions; and conduct a gap analysis of the interventions given the risk and protective factors | Systematic reviewn=32 | Risk factors for PGDIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Informal/family carersAdults; North AmericaSpecific health condition or terminal illness |
| Mayland (2020) | To review and synthesise learning from previous literature focused on the impact on grief and bereavement during infectious disease outbreaks | Systematic reviewn=6 (including 1 SR) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults Health condition or terminal illness (pandemic or infectious disease) |
| Mayland (2021) | To review and synthesise the existing evidence on bereavement care, within the United Kingdom, for ethnic minority communities in terms of barriers and facilitators to access; models of care; outcomes from, and satisfaction with, service provision | Systematic reviewn=7 (including 1 narrative review) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceased UK ethnic minority populationsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Mc Grath-Lone (2022) | To identify key messages from research concerning families’ experiences of perinatal loss and their perceptions of good practice that may be applicable to infant removal at birth | Review of reviewsn=12 SRs | Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Defined parents with family (parents or family)UK or other high-income countriesPerinatal loss |
| McGill (2022) | To determine the feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of brief contact interventions when delivered to people who have been bereaved and to describe the characteristics and outcomes of the interventions delivered and investigated to date | Systematic reviewn=15 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Brief contact | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| McNeil (2020) | To review the current literature on parental grief and bereavement in low- and middle-income countries | Systematic reviewn=11 (including 1 SR) | Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | ParentsLow- and middle-income countriesNo specific cause/type of death |
| McNeil (2021) | To characterise the grief and bereavement experiences of fathers after the death of a child | Systematic reviewn=21 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents (fathers)MalesNo specific cause/type of death  |
| Meller (2019) | To examine the grief experiences of nurses who work in hospital settings after the death of a patient in their care and the factors that may impact nurses experiencing grief within the workplace | Systematic reviewn=5  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals - nurses No specific cause of death - specific setting (acute hospital settings) |
| Meunier (2021) | To review and synthesise the extent of scientific literature on the specific experiences of workers coping with perinatal loss and the resulting bereavement | Systematic reviewn=15  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents (working parents)Perinatal loss |
| Morris (2019) | To review research on parental grief resulting from the death of a younger, typically dependent child in the paediatric range, and its lasting impact on parents | Systematic reviewn=42  | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD General grief reactions | ParentsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Moss (2021) | To map bereavement interventions to established core outcomes for evaluating bereavement support among informal caregivers, and to identify grief support interventions that improve informal caregivers’ ability to cope with the grief | Systematic reviewn=3 RCTs | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type: Non-specific (hospital settings) | Informal/family carersNo specific cause of death - specific setting (ICU) |
| Nielsen (2016) | To investigate key issues relating to anticipatory grief and preparedness for the death; definitions, measurement tools, and potential effects on outcomes for adult informal/family carers of adult terminally ill patients | Systematic reviewn=34  | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactions | Informal/family carersAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (terminal illness, end of life) |
| O'Riordan (2022) | To undertake a systematic review of the existing literature on complicated grief in people with intellectual difficulties | Systematic reviewn=18 (including 4 literature reviews & commentaries) | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGDIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedIntellectual disabilityNo specific cause/type of death |
| Obst (2020) | To summarise and appraise the literature focusing on men’s grief following pregnancy loss and neonatal loss | Systematic reviewn=46 | Grief and bereavement experiencesGeneral grief reactions | Parents (fathers)Males Perinatal loss |
| Ogwulu (2015) | To explore the intangible costs of stillbirth in terms of their duration and economic implication | Systematic reviewn=20 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsHigh-income countriesPerinatal loss |
| Pachalla (2021) | To investigate the efficacy of bereavement support programs for siblings, extended family (other than parents), and community members after paediatric death | Systematic reviewn=4 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Siblings, extended family (not parents), or community membersUSANo specific cause/type of death |
| Pan (2021) | To estimate the rate of complicated grief among Chinese people | Systematic reviewn=13 | Extent of PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedChina, Hong Kong or TaiwanNo specific cause/type of death |
| Paraiso Pueyo (2021) | To identify nursing interventions to help parents of neonates admitted to neonatal intensive care units cope with perinatal loss | Systematic reviewn=9 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific (nursing) | Parents with family (immediate family)Perinatal loss (neonatal ICU) |
| Parisi (2019) | To investigate the relationship between substance misuse and complicated grief | Systematic reviewn=12 | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGDIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceased No specific cause/type of death |
| Parro-Jimenez (2021) | To review the status of the psychopathological research of complicated grief in adult population of Spain, specifically the prevalence and risk factors | Systematic reviewn=12  | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD | Family or friendsAdults; SpainNo specific cause/type of death |
| Patinadan (2022) | To review empirical interventions or interventional components that were observed to lessen or adaptively direct the experience of anticipatory grief for patients at the end of life and their family members | Systematic reviewn=10 RCTs | Intervention effectiveness Intervention type:Non-specific - prevention (anticipatory grief) | Family or friendsAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (end of life) |
| Pearce (2021) | To identify what works, how, and for whom, in the management of complicated grief in primary care | Systematic reviewn=42 (including 1 SR) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Family or friendsAdults; high- or middle-income countriesNo specific cause/type of death |
| Pelacho-Rios (2022) | To compile the most recently published interventions in bereavement support for parents who have lost a child, being particularly interested in those made from a meaning-centred approach | Systematic reviewn=21 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Parents with family No specific cause/type of death |
| Pentaris (2022) | To review available empirical studies that explore the role of faith when grieving, among LGBTQIA+ individuals | Systematic reviewn=5  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedLGBT+No specific cause/type of death |
| Peters (2016) | To explore the meaningfulness of non-pharmacological care experienced by families throughout the experience of stillbirth from diagnosis onwards | Systematic reviewn=10  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents with family (siblings or grandparents)Perinatal loss |
| Piil (2019) | To explore how informal caregivers of patients with primary malignant brain tumour (high-grade glioma) experience and manage their life situation after the death of the patient | Systematic reviewn=4 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Informal/family carersHealth condition or terminal illness (cancer - high-grade glioma) |
| Polita (2020) | To synthesise qualitative evidence about the bereavement experience of parents following the death of a child due to cancer | Systematic reviewn=14 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsHealth condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Purrington(2021) | To examine the available evidence on psychological adjustment to spousal bereavement in older adults | Systematic reviewn=15 | General grief reactions | SpouseAdults (65 years or older); western cultures in the Northern HemisphereNo specific cause/type of death |
| Rait (2021) | To determine the effectiveness of bereavement interventions in reducing persisting psychological distress in bereaved family members after death in an adult ICU | Systematic reviewn=5 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Family or friendsAdultsNo specific cause of death - specific setting (ICU) |
| Raymond (2017) | To investigate nurses' roles and responsibilities in providing bereavement care during the care of dying patients within acute care hospitals | Systematic reviewn=7 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals - nurses No specific cause of death - specific setting (hospital - acute care) |
| Reime (2022) | To explore knowledge regarding professional helpers' experiences of providing assistance to people bereaved after a drug-related death | Systematic reviewn=no studies | Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals - ‘professional helper' Drug related deaths |
| Ridley (2020) | To describe the methods, structures, and procedures of bereavement care for children and adolescents after the loss of a sibling, and the impact on the families benefiting from these interventions | Systematic reviewn=23  | Intervention effectiveness/ implementation  Intervention type:Non-specific | SiblingChildren or young peopleHealth condition or terminal illness (medical illness or unforeseen circumstances) |
| Riegel (2019) | To describe the practice of memory making as part of end-of-life care within an adult intensive care setting and determine reported outcomes from studies to date | Systematic reviewn=7 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Memory making  | Family or friendsHealth condition or terminal illness (end of life) |
| Roberts (2019) | To characterise the studies published in the last 5 years on grief interventions for bereaved older adults | Systematic reviewn=24 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychological (psychotherapy or psychotropic) | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults (over 65 years old)No specific cause/type of death |
| Roberts (2020) | To explore the lived experiences of surviving caregivers of parentally bereaved children | Systematic reviewn=14 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents or caregivers whose children were bereaved of a parentNo specific cause/type of death |
| Robinson (2019) | To examine the evidence for the usefulness of online peer support groups for bereaved persons | Systematic reviewn=9  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Online or mobile; peer support | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Russ (2022) | To synthesise existing research on attachment patterns in adults experiencing complicated grief | Systematic reviewn=22 | Risk factors for PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults No specific cause/type of death |
| Sajan (2022) | To identify recurrent themes and reactions of suicide survivors in their varying social interactions following the suicide and the impact of these social interactions on the grief process | Systematic reviewn=58 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedSuicide |
| Sampson (2020) | To identify what we know about the relationship between continuing bonds and adaptation to bereavement | Systematic reviewn=16 | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactions | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Sanderson (2022) | To identify risk factors associated with complicated grief among family members of ICU decedents | Systematic reviewn=7  | Risk factors for PGD | Family or friendsAdults No specific cause of death - specific setting (ICU) |
| Schoonover (2022) | To clarify from the standpoint of bereaved parents what are considered helpful and unhelpful characteristics of informal support given by the support network of bereaved parents | Systematic reviewn=52 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Schoonover (2022) | To explore which support and accommodation strategies by the workplace are identified to be helpful versus unhelpful by bereaved parents in the workplace | Systematic reviewn=11 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Scott (2020) | To examine systematically whether there is an association between informal social support from family and friends after bereavement through sudden and/or violent causes and post-bereavement wellbeing | Systematic reviewn=16  | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactions | Family or friendsAdultsViolent or unnatural death  |
| Seo (2020) | To review studies investigating the effect of bereavement care provided for parents in the neonatal intensive care unit | Systematic reviewn=5  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type: Non-specific (hospital settings) | ParentsPerinatal loss (Neonatal ICU) |
| Setubal (2021) | To identify and synthesise the literature on existent instruments specifically measuring the grieving process after any perinatal loss and to identify factors that could moderate grief reactions | Systematic reviewn=67 (39 for factors and 6 for interventions) | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactionsIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| Shakespeare (2019) | To perform a qualitative meta-summary of parents' and healthcare professionals' experiences of care after stillbirth in low- and middle-income countries | Systematic reviewn=34 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents and healthcare professionalsLow- and middle-income countriesPerinatal loss |
| Shaohua (2021) | To evaluate the effectiveness of psychosocial interventions in reducing depression, anxiety, and grief among parents after perinatal loss | Systematic reviewn=17 RCTs | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychosocial | ParentsAdultsPerinatal loss |
| Shariff (2017) | To identify challenges and facilitators that nurses experience in delivering bereavement support during and after sudden or unexpected death in Intensive Care Units | Systematic reviewn=15 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Professionals - nursesSudden or unexpected death (ICU or critical care) |
| Shields (2017) | To examine studies that investigate the grief process of those bereaved by suicide | Systematic reviewn=11  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Family or friendsSuicide |
| Shulla (2018) | To examine sex differences in internalised and externalised behaviour and PTSD symptoms related to grief during adolescence | Systematic reviewn=14 | Grief and bereavement experiencesGeneral grief reactions | Child/sibling Children and young people No specific cause/type of death |
| Skantharajah (2022) | To explore the current state of knowledge toward grief and bereavement of informal caregivers of adult/geriatric patients in the hospice and palliative/end-of-life care realm within North America | Systematic reviewn=29 | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD General grief reactionsGrief and bereavement experiences | Informal/family carers North AmericaHealth condition or terminal illness (end of life) |
| Stiffler (2017) | To understand parental coping and healing after the loss of an infant | Systematic reviewn=3 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents with family (grandparents)No specific cause/type of death |
| Taggart (2015) | To identify relevant and pertinent themes and interventions within the literature relating to childhood traumatic grief | Systematic reviewn=11 | Risk factors for PGD Grief and bereavement experiencesIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedChildren and young people (aged 0 to 26 years); Sub-Saharan AfricaViolent or unnatural death |
| Talseth (2017) | To develop an interpreted synthesised understanding of responses of survivors of suicide loss to the suicidal death of a close person | Systematic reviewn=15  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceased Suicide |
| Thiemann (2021) | To identify, appraise and summarise the literature concerning the prevalence of prolonged grief disorder in older adults | Systematic reviewn=9 | Extent of PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults (65 years or older)Any non-violent death |
| Thornton (2019)a | To summarise and synthesise extant literature on memory making in bereavement care for parents who experience the death of a newborn | Systematic reviewn=25  | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsPerinatal loss |
| Thrower (2022) | To identify current interventions addressing the grief and bereavement experiences of informal caregivers of geriatric patients in the Canadian palliative/end-of-life care realm | Systematic reviewn=18 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Informal/family carersCanadaHealth condition or terminal illness (terminal illness) |
| Titlestad (2021) | To identify and synthesise patterns in qualitative and quantitative studies that shed light on how family members experience drug death bereavement | Systematic reviewn=8 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents with family (child, sibling, spouse, partner or grandparent)Drug-related death |
| Treml (2021) | To investigate definitions and measurement tools of pre-loss grief and preparedness for death, as well as the associations of both constructs with caregiver characteristics, pre-loss psychological aspects and post-loss adjustment among caregivers of people living with terminal cancer | Systematic reviewn=35 | Risk factors for PGD | Informal/family carersAdultsHealth condition or terminal illness (cancer) |
| Uphoff (2022) | To summarise available evidence on the effectiveness of interventions to promote and protect mental health relating to four key life events and transitions: pregnancy and early parenthood, bereavement, unemployment, and housing problems | Review of reviews:n=18 SRs (12 synthesised) | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults working-age (19 to 64 years)No specific cause/type of death |
| van Denderen (2015) | To critically review the available evidence regarding psychopathology experienced by the homicidally bereaved | Systematic reviewn=8 (13 articles) | Extent of PGD | Family or friendsViolent or unnatural death (homicide) |
| van Kempen (2022) | To provide insight into the content of follow-up conversations between bereaved parents and regular healthcare professionals (HCPs) in paediatrics and how parents and HCPs experience these conversations | Systematic reviewn=10  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents or healthcare professionalsNo specific cause/type of death  |
| Vedder (2022) | To establish the extent of scientific evidence on the role of loneliness in adjustment to bereavement in adulthood | Systematic reviewn=63 (20 reported grief) | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactionsIntervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychological | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdultsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Vig (2021) | To study prevailing accounts of bereaved parents following the death of a child aged 0 to 12 years | Systematic review n=111 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents (and/or legal guardians)No specific cause/type of death |
| Vrkljan (2019) | To examine the effectiveness of interventions that target the three most common transitions in later life, namely bereavement, retirement, and relocation | Systematic reviewn=7 RCTS | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Non-specific | SpouseAdults aged 50 years or olderNo specific cause/type of death |
| Wagner (2020) | To investigate the effectiveness of web-based bereavement interventions compared with control groups in reducing symptoms of grief in adults | Systematic reviewn=7 RCTs | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Online or mobilePsychological | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdultsNo specific cause/type of death |
| Waller (2016) | To examine the relative proportion of descriptive, measurement and intervention research in grief counselling, and the quality and effectiveness of intervention studies | Systematic reviewn=126 (76 intervention) | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychological (grief counselling) | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedAdults No specific cause/type of death  |
| Wang (2018) | To summarise the research literature on spousal bereavement and/or widowhood in late life, with an emphasis on immigrants to Western countries in general and older Chinese adults | Systematic reviewn=50 | General grief reactions Grief and bereavement experiences | SpouseAdults (65 years or older); immigrants in Western countries and Chinese older adults in Mainland China or Hong KongNo specific cause/type of death |
| Weiskittle (2018) | To critically evaluate the existent literature on the effectiveness of visual art modalities with the bereaved | Systematic reviewn=27 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Art/visual therapy | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Williams (2020) | To understand the lived experiences of male partners during and after miscarriage, and to identify any support requirements | Systematic reviewn=22 (27 articles) | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents (fathers)Males; high-income countriesPerinatal loss |
| Williams (2021) | To identify from the existing literature if physical activity can benefit grief outcomes in individuals who have been bereaved | Systematic reviewn=25  | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Physical activity | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Wilson (2017)a | To synthesise the existing evidence regarding the impact of psychosocial interventions to assist adjustment to grief, pre- and post-bereavement, for family carers of people with dementia | Systematic reviewn=3 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Psychosocial  | Informal/family carersHealth condition or terminal illness (dementia) |
| Wilson (2017) | To determine the state of bereavement services evaluation, to catalogue service types, and to identify which service or services, if any, demonstrate clear evidence of effectiveness | Systematic reviewn=38 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Structured/formal support | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Wilson (2020) | To identify and consolidate contemporary evidence on: the incidence or prevalence of prolonged or persistent grief; and who develops it or is diagnosed as suffering from it, and correspondingly what causative factors or predictors are associated with prolonged or persistent grief | Systematic reviewn=11  | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Wilson (2022) | To determine the extent of research on bereavement humour, and explore and describe the research evidence available at this time | Systematic reviewn=11 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Wojtkowiak (2020) | To analyse ritual in evidence-informed treatments for prolonged and traumatic grief; to learn what kind of ritual acts help in dealing with prolonged grief | Systematic reviewn=22 | Intervention effectivenessIntervention type:Interventions that included ritual elements  | Non-specific relationship to the deceasedNo specific cause/type of death |
| Wray (2022) | To systematically identify and synthesise qualitative literature exploring support experiences of parentally bereaved children and surviving parents | Systematic reviewn=15 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Child and spouse (surviving parent) No specific cause/type of death |
| Wright (2020) | To derive an understanding of how spirituality and perinatal bereavement intersect | Systematic reviewn=12  | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parents (mothers)FemalesPerinatal loss |
| Wright (2022) | To identify the unique needs of older adults after the loss of an adult child | Systematic reviewn=26 | Grief and bereavement experiences | ParentsAdults (mean age 60 years or older)No specific cause/type of death |
| Yan (2022) | To review the literature on grief and bereavement of family and friends following medical assistance in dying | Systematic reviewn=28 (Including 3 SRs and 3 reviews) | Risk factors for PGD General grief reactionsGrief and bereavement experiences | Family or friendsAssisted Suicide/euthanasia  |
| Yuan (2022) | To estimate the prevalence of prolonged grief disorder (PGD) and its symptoms amongst Chinese parents who lost their only child and cannot have a second child (Shidu parents) and identify subgroups at elevated risk for PGD | Systematic reviewn=7 | Extent of PGDRisk factors for PGD | ParentsChinaNo specific cause/type of death |
| Ζavrou (2016) | To investigate the experience of people whose family member has died by suicide, with an emphasis on how they experience and make sense of the effects of the event, and the support they receive | Systematic reviewn=4 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Family or friendsSuicide |
| Zavrou (2022) | To synthesise qualitative data on the interpretation of loss in suicide-bereaved family members, their coping strategies and the impact on themselves and their family | Systematic reviewn=16 | Grief and bereavement experiences | Parent with family (spouses, children, or siblings)Suicide |
| Zuelke (2021) | To conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis on the effectiveness and feasibility of internet- and mobile-based interventions against symptoms of grief after bereavement | Systematic reviewn=9 RCTs | Intervention effectiveness/ implementation Intervention type:Online or mobilePsychological  | Non-specific relationship to the deceased AdultsNo specific cause/type of death |

aThese five reviews were included and coded based on the information in the title and abstract only as the full text was not readily available at the time of conducting the research.

NB: Details relating to the characteristics of the bereaved, restrictions on inclusion, and nature of death are based on reported eligibility criteria.

ICU=intensive care unit; LGBTQIA+=lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual or other; PGD=prolonged grief disorder; RCT=randomised controlled trial; SR=systematic review.