

To whom it may concern,

I realise the quote below is from a stakeholder, but I don't think it is exactly correct. People who experience high grief intensity (i.e., PGD) are at a many-fold increase of suicide and of course people bereaved by suicide are at risk of PGD, but it is also very true that people bereaved from many causes of death can and do experience PGD (e.g., homicide, accidents, motor vehicle crashes, and so called natural deaths in palliative care). It is PGD/grief distress that matters, not suicide per se.

135 people affected by each death seems high, and doesn't differentiate between people most affected and others. For comparison, research shows that an average of 9 people are affected by each COVID-19 death.

“Bereavement support is a critical component of the mental health and suicide prevention system. Researchers have found that bereaved people are 65% more likely to attempt suicide if they are grieving for loved ones who took their own lives. Beyond the tragic loss of a person to suicide, the impact of suicide deaths are felt by up to 135 people, including family members, friends, work colleagues and first responders at the time of death. (sr. 266)”

Kind regards,

Lauren