**Overview of study**

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| Title of dataset: | Experiences of bereavement and self-harm among adolescents in Scotland |
| Data Description: | This dataset contains qualitative and quantitative data from a mixed methods interview study with young people, with the purpose of exploring bereavement experiences among adolescents in Scotland, as well as experiences with self-harm thoughts or behaviours. Some data with potentially identifying information have been redacted or pseudo-anonymised from the interview transcripts and self-harm questionnaire responses in order to preserve the anonymity of participants. Further information and a list of variable names and descriptions from which quantitative data have been redacted are provided at the end of the accompanying README file. |
| Investigator(s): | Laura del Carpio  Dr Susan Rasmussen (PI)  Dr Sally Paul |
| Funding source: | Wellcome Trust funded PhD studentship (Ref: 203349/Z/16/Z) |
| Institution: | University of Strathclyde |
| Dates of data collection: | Jun 2019 to Jan 2020 |
| Geographic location of data collection: | Scotland, United Kingdom |
| Dataset creator: | Laura del Carpio |
| Data made available: | This data is currently under analysis and will be made available upon completion of the project. |
| Keywords: | bereavement; grief; self-harm; suicide; death; adolescence |

**Methodology**

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| Project description: | The aim of this study was to explore the experiences of adolescents in Scotland who have experienced a bereavement. Findings from our previous quantitative schools-based investigation were explored further through qualitative in-depth interviews to learn more about the factors influencing young people’s bereavement experiences and outcomes. A further aim was to learn more about young people’s experiences with self-harm (thoughts or behaviours), through a brief self-report questionnaire and card sorting task.  A total of 13 adolescents (aged 16-18) were recruited for the study from various sources, all of whom had experienced a bereavement. Semi-structured interviews were conducted, audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim by the researcher, with salient uses of gesture and critical observations noted. The interview topics were structured in a way to learn more about the person who died, the relationship, knowledge about the death, impact on daily life, coping, social support, and beliefs around suicide. The transcriptions have been pseudo-anonymised.  Participants also completed a short self-report questionnaire on self-harm experiences, and some individuals took part in an optional card sorting task (Card Sort Task for Self-harm; Townsend et al., 2016) to learn more about their experiences surrounding past episodes of self-harm (thoughts or behaviours). This task involves individuals sorting cards relating to possible thoughts, feelings, behaviours, events, services and supports, and outcomes surrounding their first and last episodes of self-harm. Participants also rated their confidence in the accuracy of their recollections. Finally, a visual analogue scale of mood was used to gauge changes in emotional state at the start and end of the interview, and after the CaTS task if applicable.  This research offers valuable insights into the experience of young people in Scotland who have experienced the death of someone important to them, and findings (derived through a thematic analysis of the data) suggest that young people experience a wide range of reactions and responses following death, covering issues such as: reactions to death, systems of support, agency and power, personal growth and perspectives, and accumulating loss. |
| Materials: | **Demographic characteristics:** age, sex, gender, ethnicity  **Mood:** A visual analogue scale (VAS) based on Biddle et al. (2013) was used to gauge emotional state at the start and end of the interview, and after the CaTS task, if applicable. Participants were asked to respond to the question, *“How are you feeling?”* on a 10-point visual analogue scale with numbered responses from 0 (poor emotional state, with illustrated sad face), to 10 (best possible emotional state, with illustrated happy face). A neutral face was placed in the middle of the scale to aid understanding.  **Semi-structured interview schedule:** an interview guide was developed based on findings from our previous quantitative schools-based investigation. Interview questions were developed to learn more about the person who died, the relationship, knowledge about the death, impact on daily life, coping, social support, and beliefs around suicide. Interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim.  **Self-harm questionnaire:** A brief self-report questionnaire on self-harm or suicidal thoughts and behaviours was presented, which included the following items:  **Self-harm:** Five items from the CASE study questionnaire (Hawton et al., 2006) were used to measure self-harm. Participants were asked, *“Have you ever deliberately taken an overdose (e.g., of pills or other medication) or tried to harm yourself in some other way (such as cut yourself)?”* Follow-up questions inquired about timing, methods, and motivations relating to the self-harm, and a self-generated question was added to inquire about timing of the first episode of self-harm in relation to any bereavements.  **Self-harm/suicidal ideation:** Non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) thoughts were assessed with one item from the Self-Injurious Thoughts and Behaviours Interview (SITBI; Nock et al., 2007), asking participants: *“Have you ever had thoughts of purposely hurting yourself without wanting to die? (for example, cutting or burning)”.* Suicidal thoughts were assessed with the SITBI item, *“Have you ever had thoughts of killing yourself?”* Two self-generated questions were added to inquire about timing of the first episode of NSSI thoughts or suicidal thoughts in relation to any bereavements.  **Card Sort Task for Self-Harm:** Participants who reported previous thoughts or behaviours relating to self-harm or suicide were invited to take part in an optional card sorting task (CaTS; Townsend et al., 2016), which asks participants to sort cards relating to possible thoughts, feelings, behaviours, events, services and supports, and outcomes surrounding their first and last episodes of self-harm (thoughts or behaviours). Participants were also asked to rate their confidence in the accuracy of their recollections using a 5-point Likert scale from “*not at all confident*” to “*extremely confident*”, as suggested by Wadman et al. (2017). |
| Methodology: | Self-selected sample of adolescents in Scotland, aged 16-18 years old, who have experienced a bereavement. Data collection involved a face-to-face interview (audio-recorded and transcribed by the researcher; please note: pseudo-anonymised transcription data only available), self-report questionnaire on self-harm experiences, card-sorting task for self-harm, and visual analogue scale for mood. |
| Time dimensions: | Cross-sectional (one-time) study |
| Kind of data: | Text, Numeric |

**Description of dataset**

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| Status of data: | Complete |
| Name & version of software used to create data: | Microsoft Word 2013, Version 15.0.5357.1000  IBM SPSS Statistics, Version 27  Microsoft Excel 2013, Version 15.0.5353.1000 |
| File format of data: | Microsoft Word Document (.docx)  SPSS Statistics Data Document (.sav)  Microsoft Excel Document (.xlsx) |
| Restrictions on access to data: | Some data with potentially identifying information have been redacted from the interview transcripts in order to preserve anonymity of participants, and these instances have been replaced with a general description of the redacted text.  Furthermore, data from the self-harm questionnaire which includes potentially identifying information, notably free-text responses and information on dates, have also been redacted to preserve anonymity. A full list of variable names and descriptions from which data have been redacted are provided at the end of this accompanying README document. |
| Relations to other content: |  |

**Please note: variable names and corresponding labels with redacted data from the SPSS File (self-harm questionnaire) are as follows:**

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| **VARIABLE NAME** | **VARIABLE DESCRIPTION (LABEL)** |
| SSHTB\_4 | Self-harm (clarify understanding of SH; self-generated question)- Describe what you did to yourself on that occasion (Please give as much detail as you can – for example, the name of the drug taken in an overdose). |
| SSHTB\_7 | Self-harm (recency; Lifestyle & Coping Questionnaire)- Can you remember the date when you took your last overdose/tried to harm yourself (if you cannot remember the precise date, please provide the month or as much information as possible)? |
| SSHTB\_8 | Self-harm (clarify understanding of SH; Lifestyle & Coping Questionnaire)- Describe what you did to yourself on that occasion (Please give as much detail as you can – for example, the name of the drug taken in an overdose). |