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Longevity Centre UK

# Secondary data analysis on bereavement: Insights and challenges

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What happens next

# Key points for today

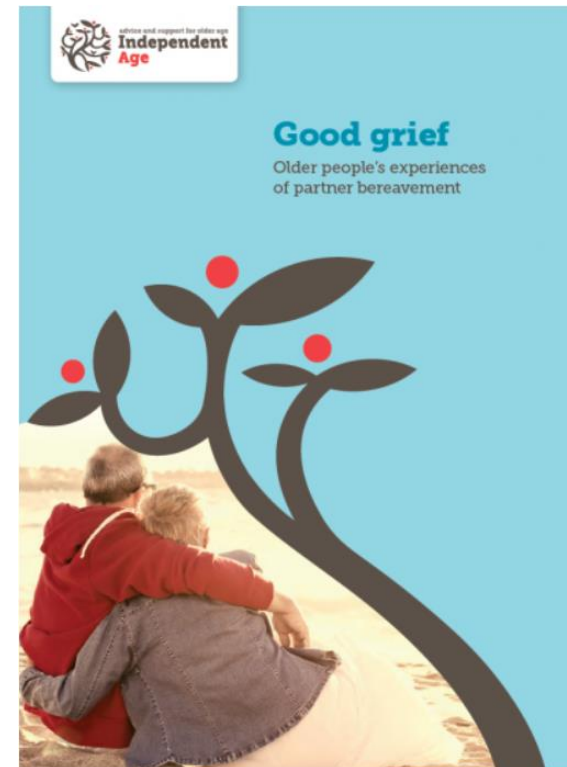
- Exploring bereavement in secondary data
- Key findings from ELSA
- Implications for policy

# Bereavement and secondary data

- Rich survey data exist in the UK, covering a wide range of topics
- Few focus on the experience of bereavement
  - VOICES – unpaid carers' views on quality of care
- Greater challenges in understanding the impact of bereavement over time

# Research on bereavement

- *Good grief* – 2018 report from Independent Age
- ILC provided quantitative analysis using the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)
- Focus on partner loss between waves
  - Limitations due to interval censoring



# Key findings from ELSA

- Only a small proportion of people aged 50+ lost their partners between waves: 1.7% in 2014/15 to 2.9% in 2010/11
  - Differences may relate to refreshing the sample
  - Overall, 9.7% across the period 2002-2015
- Of those bereaved, 47% were aged 65-79; but nearly a quarter of those 80+ were bereaved
- The bereaved reported worse outcomes across a range of health- and wellbeing-related indicators – especially depression

# Key findings from ELSA

	Not Bereaved	Bereaved	<i>N</i>
Not lonely (3-4)	74.1%	36.1%	7706
Moderately lonely (5-6)	20.9%	34.2%	
Highly lonely (7-9)	5.0%	29.7%	
Not isolated (0)	40.0%	45.7%	6964
Moderately isolated (1-2)	54.0%	50.4%	
Highly isolated (3-4)	6.0%	3.8%	

# Implications for policy

- Need for robust, representative data over time
- Specific challenges for underrepresented groups (e.g. BAME, migrants, LGBT+)
- Bereavement in later life may take a different shape than bereavement earlier in the life course – will consequent impacts on people's ability to cope and the kinds of support needed.



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# Thank you

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