

**Mujer Sana**  
**Final Report**  
**Similarities and Differences in Grief and Loss Experiences**  
**Among Racial/Ethnic Groups**  
**May, 2009**

**Experience with Grief and Loss Reported at Intake:**

**Ranking of Most Commonly Experienced (during Lifetime) Types of Grief or Loss by Racial/Ethnic Group**

Most commonly experienced types of grief or loss of the 65 specifically asked about	All participants (N = 829)	Caucasian (N = 456)	Latina (N = 149)	American Indian (N = 81)	African American (N = 48)	Multiracial (N = 69)	Other (N = 25)
Lost virginity	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Family member has a drinking or drug problem	2	2	4	3	4	2	5
Got in trouble with the law	3	3	2	6	3	2	2
Close family member died	4	6	3	2	2	4	2
Sexual partner "cheated" on you	5	4	7	4	4	5	8
Broke up with someone you were dating on a regular basis	6	5	6	7	7	7	4
Did not have a stable place to live	7	8	8	10	4	7	8
Fear that someone might physically hurt you	8	9	9	>10	>10	9	>10
Were a victim of crime	9	10	9	>10	9	>10	8
Family member went to jail/prison	9	>10	5	4	8	5	>10
Animal died	>10	7	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
Gained a lot of weight	>10	>10	9	9	10	10	5
Took care of relative's child(ren) because he/she was unable to do so	>10	>10	>10	8	>10	>10	>10
Were raped	>10	>10	>10	>10	10	>10	>10
Parents separated	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	10	>10
Pimped out or set up to have sex with someone by husband/significant other	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	5

Note: This table presents the top ten most commonly experienced types of grief or loss for each racial/ethnic group. Types of grief or loss that were experienced by equal numbers of participants within a subgroup were ranked equally and the rank that would have been used if the numbers were not equal was not used. For example, equal numbers of African American participant experienced a family with a drinking or drug problem, a sexual partner "cheating" on them, and not have a stable place to live. Consequently, these three types of grief or loss were given the same rank (i.e., 4). Because these 3 types would have been ranked 4, 5, and 6 if they were experienced by different numbers of participants, the next most commonly experienced type of grief or loss (i.e., broke up with dating partner) was ranked 7.

**All participants (N = 829):**

<i>10 Most commonly experienced types of grief or loss of the 65 specifically asked about</i>	<i>% experienced during lifetime</i>	<i>% considerably or extremely upset by event</i>	<i>% experienced during 30 days prior to intake</i>
<i>Lost virginity</i>	97	30	0
<i>Family member has a drinking or drug problem</i>	84	65	39
<i>Got in trouble with the law</i>	83	81	32
<i>Close family member died</i>	81	92	5
<i>Sexual partner "cheated" on you</i>	77	90	19
<i>Broke up with someone you were dating on a regular basis</i>	76	66	26
<i>Did not have a stable place to live</i>	71	87	37
<i>Fear that someone might physically hurt you</i>	67	86	31
<i>Were a victim of crime</i>	66	91	15
<i>Family member went to jail/prison</i>	66	61	14

**Caucasian participants (N = 456):**

<i>10 Most commonly experienced types of grief or loss of the 65 specifically asked about</i>	<i>% experienced during lifetime</i>	<i>% considerably or extremely upset by event</i>	<i>% experienced during 30 days prior to intake</i>
<i>Lost virginity</i>	98	27	0
<i>Family member has a drinking or drug problem</i>	86	65	35
<i>Got in trouble with the law</i>	82	82	32
<i>Sexual partner "cheated" on you</i>	78	90	16
<i>Broke up with someone you were dating on a regular basis</i>	77	66	25
<i>Close family member died</i>	76	92	5
<i>Animal died</i>	75	84	5
<i>Did not have a stable place to live</i>	73	88	38
<i>Fear that someone might physically hurt you</i>	72	88	30
<i>Were a victim of crime</i>	70	91	17

**Latina participants (N = 149):**

<i>10 Most commonly experienced types of grief or loss of the 65 specifically asked about</i>	<i>% experienced during lifetime</i>	<i>% considerably or extremely upset by event</i>	<i>% experienced during 30 days prior to intake</i>
<i>Lost virginity</i>	97	32	1
<i>Got in trouble with the law</i>	86	80	34
<i>Close family member died</i>	83	96	6
<i>Family member has a drinking or drug problem</i>	82	63	48
<i>Family member went to jail/prison</i>	78	58	17
<i>Broke up with someone you were dating on a regular basis</i>	77	68	30
<i>Sexual partner "cheated" on you</i>	75	88	25
<i>Did not have a stable place to live</i>	67	87	32
<i>Fear that someone might physically hurt you</i>	64	83	38
<i>Were a victim of crime</i>	64	92	13
<i>Gained a lot of weight</i>	64	71	25

**American Indian participants (N = 81):**

<i>10 Most commonly experienced types of grief or loss of the 65 specifically asked about</i>	<i>% experienced during lifetime</i>	<i>% considerably or extremely upset by event</i>	<i>% experienced during 30 days prior to intake</i>
<i>Lost virginity</i>	96	42	0
<i>Close family member died</i>	93	88	7
<i>Family member has a drinking or drug problem</i>	85	75	53
<i>Sexual partner "cheated" on you</i>	80	97	24
<i>Family member went to jail/prison</i>	80	74	22
<i>Got in trouble with the law</i>	79	81	32
<i>Broke up with someone you were dating on a regular basis</i>	70	70	24
<i>Took care of relative's child(ren) because he/she was unable to do so</i>	68	45	9
<i>Gained a lot of weight</i>	67	72	26
<i>Did not have a stable place to live</i>	59	92	28

**African American participants (N = 48):**

<i>10 Most commonly experienced types of grief or loss of the 65 specifically asked about</i>	<i>% experienced during lifetime</i>	<i>% considerably or extremely upset by event</i>	<i>% experienced during 30 days prior to intake</i>
<i>Lost virginity</i>	96	30	0
<i>Close family member died</i>	92	93	8
<i>Got in trouble with the law</i>	81	74	19
<i>Family member has a drinking or drug problem</i>	79	50	27
<i>Sexual partner "cheated" on you</i>	79	84	15
<i>Did not have a stable place to live</i>	79	84	52
<i>Broke up with someone you were dating on a regular basis</i>	75	47	17
<i>Family member went to jail/prison</i>	69	42	17
<i>Were a victim of crime</i>	60	90	6
<i>Gained a lot of weight</i>	58	50	23
<i>Were raped</i>	58	86	2

**Multiracial participants (N = 69):**

<i>10 Most commonly experienced types of grief or loss of the 65 specifically asked about</i>	<i>% experienced during lifetime</i>	<i>% considerably or extremely upset by event</i>	<i>% experienced during 30 days prior to intake</i>
<i>Lost virginity</i>	96	32	0
<i>Family member has a drinking or drug problem</i>	84	64	38
<i>Got in trouble with the law</i>	84	71	38
<i>Close family member died</i>	80	93	7
<i>Sexual partner "cheated" on you</i>	75	88	17
<i>Family member went to jail/prison</i>	75	65	20
<i>Broke up with someone you were dating on a regular basis</i>	73	68	32
<i>Did not have a stable place to live</i>	73	82	45
<i>Fear that someone might physically hurt you</i>	67	76	36
<i>Gained a lot of weight</i>	58	53	17
<i>Parents separated</i>	58	55	0

**Participants of "Other" Races/Ethnicities (N = 25):**

<i>10 Most commonly experienced types of grief or loss of the 65 specifically asked about</i>	<i>% experienced during lifetime</i>	<i>% considerably or extremely upset by event</i>	<i>% experienced during 30 days prior to intake</i>
<i>Lost virginity</i>	100	40	0
<i>Got in trouble with the law</i>	96	79	16
<i>Close family member died</i>	96	79	0
<i>Broke up with someone you were dating on a regular basis</i>	92	70	32
<i>Family member has a drinking or drug problem</i>	80	65	40
<i>Gained a lot of weight</i>	80	85	16
<i>Pimped out or set up to have sex with someone by husband/significant other</i>	80	40	0
<i>Sexual partner "cheated" on you</i>	76	84	28
<i>Did not have a stable place to live</i>	76	89	40
<i>Were a victim of crime</i>	76	84	12

## **Summary:**

There were a number of ways in which racial/ethnic groups were similar in their experiences of grief and loss. Grief and loss was commonly experienced by participants of all racial/ethnic groups. Participants commonly experienced grief and loss during their lifetime and during the 30 days prior to intake. The most commonly experienced grief and loss event experienced during the lifetime for all racial/ethnic groups was losing their virginity. Having a family member with an alcohol or other drug problem during their lifetime was also commonly experienced across groups. It was one of the top five most commonly experienced grief and loss events experienced during their lifetime of all groups, and it was one of the two most commonly experienced grief and loss events experienced during the 30 days prior to intake of all groups. Getting in trouble with the law and having had a close family member die during their lifetime were also commonly experienced across groups. These events were in the top five most commonly experienced grief and loss events experienced during their lifetime of all but one racial/ethnic group and one of the top ten for all of the groups. Having had a sexual partner “cheat” on them during their lifetime was also commonly experienced across groups. It was one of the top five most commonly experienced grief and loss events experienced during their lifetime of all but two racial/ethnic groups and one of the top ten for all of the groups. Having broke up with a dating partner and not having a stable place to live during their lifetime were in the top ten most commonly experienced grief and loss events experienced during their lifetime of all groups. Not having a stable place to live was also one of the two most commonly experienced grief and loss events experienced during the past 30 days prior to intake of 4 of the groups.

Racial/ethnic groups also differed from each other in multiple ways. Not having a stable place to live during their lifetime was the fourth most commonly occurring grief and loss event among African Americans, whereas it was the seventh or greater most commonly occurring for all other racial/ethnic groups. Having had a family member go to jail or prison during their lifetime was either fourth or fifth most commonly occurring for Latinas, American Indians, and Multiracial participants, whereas it was eighth or greater most commonly occurring for all other racial/ethnic groups. Gained a lot of weight and being pimped out by a husband or significant other during their lifetime were the fifth most commonly occurring grief and loss events among those of “other” race/ethnicity, whereas they were the ninth or greater most commonly occurring for all other racial/ethnic groups. Fear that someone might physically hurt them was one of the two most commonly experienced grief and loss events experienced during the past 30 days prior to intake among Latinas but not among any of the other groups. Getting in trouble with the law was one of the two most commonly experienced grief and loss events experienced during the past 30 days prior to intake among American Indians and multiracial participants but not among any of the other groups.