Journal Watch – Bereavement – May 2018

Article:
What sources of bereavement support are perceived helpful by bereaved people and why? Empirical evidence for the compassionate communities approach.

Aoun SM, Breen LJ, White I, Rumbold B, Kellehear A


Article link: DOI: 10.1177/0269216318774995

Review:

Strengths: Large sample size. Helpfulness categorized based on SPS model which offers a conceptualization of six separate functions of social support, offering insightful data. Multidisciplinary questionnaire development. Blind coding by two independent authors to standardize coding.

Weaknesses: Non-random sample, possible introduction of bias due to sampling method. No comprehensive model for unhelpful supports. The mode of response does not allow for clarifying questions. Non-Canadian setting.

Relevance to Palliative Care: Grief and bereavement are an inextricable part of end-of-life care which carry their own morbidity and mortality. Whereas most research focuses on acute care models of therapeutic intervention, this paper explores helpful interventions from a population perspective.