

# An exploration of the Impact of Child Loss on Career Decision-Making and Trajectory

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# Background

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*“There is no word in the English language for a parent who loses a child. When our parents die, we are orphans. When our spouse dies, we are widowed. When a child dies, we are speechless”*

*Lisa Belkin - Motherlode Blog, February 4, 2010*

# Literature Review

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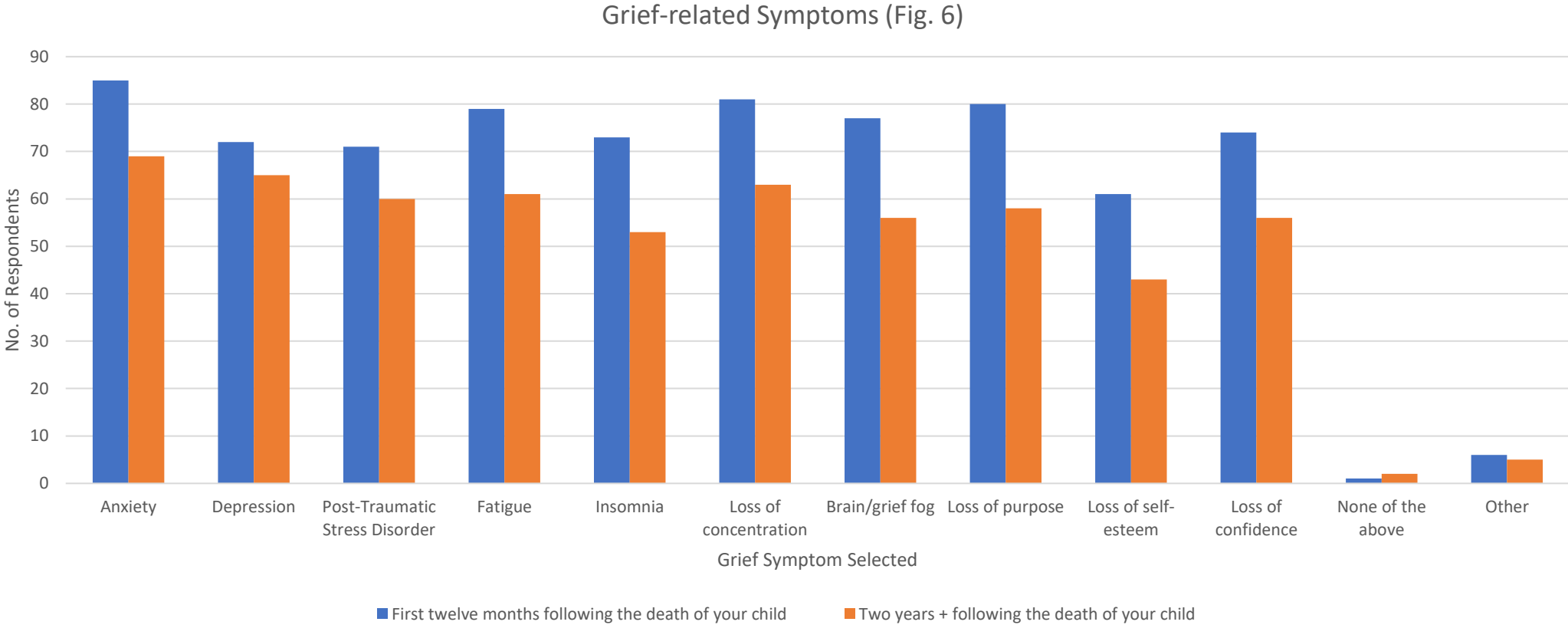
- ❖ The emotional impact of child loss
- ❖ The influence of gender in grief and bereavement
- ❖ The impact of child loss on work and career
- ❖ Relevant career theory

# Methods

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- ❖ Single stage online survey – mixed methods
- ❖ Participants and Snowball Sampling
- ❖ Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis
- ❖ Ethical considerations

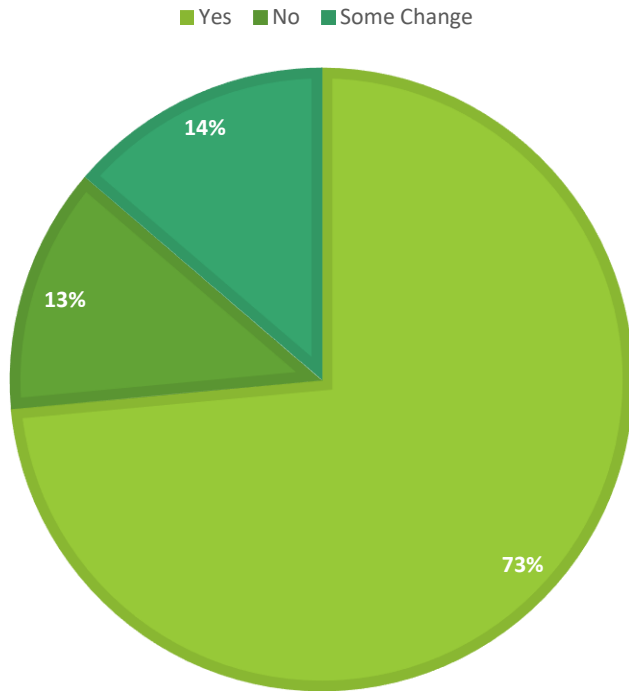
# Findings



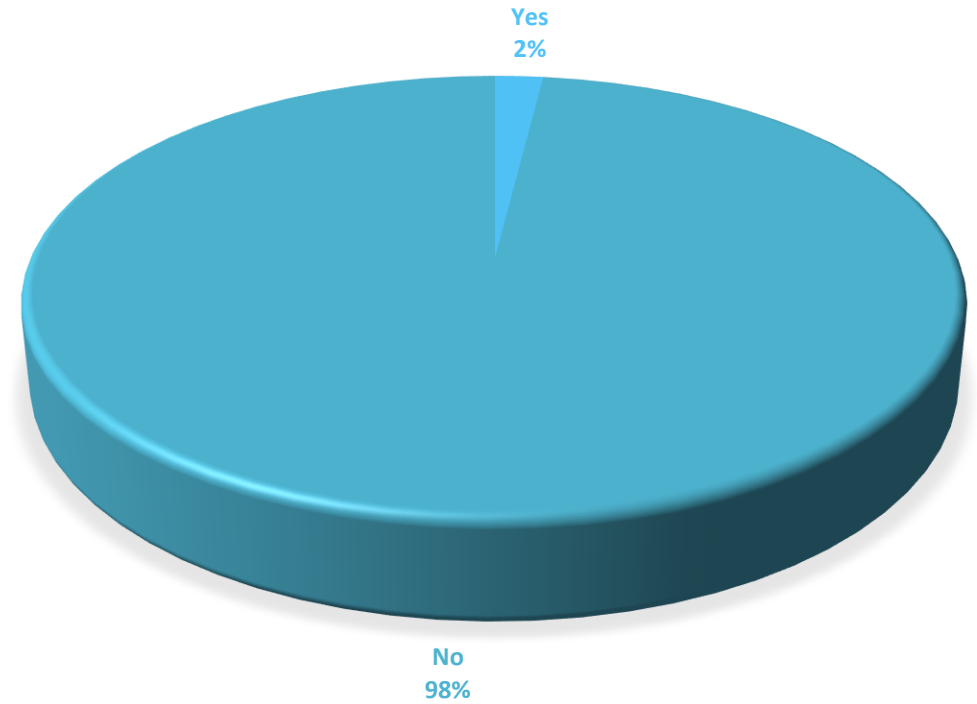
# Findings

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Has there been a change in your view of the importance of work and career since the loss of your child/children? (Fig.7 )



Proportion of Participants who has spoken to a careers practitioner (Fig. 9)



# Discussion

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- ❖ Depth, Intensity and Longevity of Grief Symptoms
- ❖ Employers and Adjustments
- ❖ Perceptions of Career
  - Career theory – decision making and emotions
  - What this means for Career Practitioners