

Data supplement

Table DS1 Study characteristics				
Study	Selection of participants	Participants (number recruited, age, gender, ethnicity)	Time since bereavement and relationship to deceased	Intervention and comparison (duration and intensity)
Campbell (2002) ¹⁴ USA	The intervention group consisted of all self-referrals to an urban crisis centre 1999–2001. People in the comparison group lived outside the area or the suicide was prior to 1999	I: <i>n</i> =50 Mean age 41 years (s.d.=12) 36% male, 96% White C: <i>n</i> =50 Mean age 39 years (s.d.=15) 36% male, 99% White <i>Baseline measures</i> Mental health or grief status not reported	Immediate (intervention delivered at scene of suicide) Mixed relationships	I: Active outreach to scene of suicide (duration and intensity unclear) C: No intervention <i>Co-interventions</i> None reported
Constantino <i>et al</i> (2001) ¹⁵ USA	Participants recruited through press advertisements and community referrals such as by funeral home directors and mental health professionals. People with a BDI score >30 were referred for psychotherapeutic treatment. Participants were randomised to bereavement group or social group	Total: <i>n</i> =60 ^a Age 24–70 years 17% male, 91% White <i>Baseline measures</i> BDI mean score 18.66 (s.d.=11.24) BSI mean score 0.99 (s.d.=0.69)	11 months (s.d.=9, range 1–27) Spouse	I: Bereavement group C: Social group (both 1.5 h weekly sessions over 8 weeks) <i>Co-interventions</i> None reported
De Groot <i>et al</i> (2007) ²⁰ The Netherlands	Participants were recruited through GPs. Coroners reported suicide deaths to the research team who then contacted relevant GPs. GPs were approached about 236 of the 401 suicides during the study period. First-degree relatives > 15 years old and spouses of the deceased were eligible for inclusion. Of 166 families approached, 74 consented to participate. Participants were randomised to the intervention or usual care	I: <i>n</i> =74 (41 families) Mean age 43 years (s.d.=3.7) 41% male, ethnicity not reported C: <i>n</i> =60 (33 families) Mean age 43 years (s.d.=13.5) 22% male, ethnicity not reported <i>Baseline measures</i> ITG mean score I: 78.8 (s.d.=21.2), C: 74.6 (s.d.=20.9) CESD: mean score I: 20.6 (s.d.=12.3), C: 24.4 (s.d.=2.5)	Baseline assessments were conducted 2.5 months following bereavement. The intervention was implemented 3–6 months after the suicide Spouse or first-degree relatives	I: Family-based CBT (four 2 h sessions) C: Usual care <i>Co-interventions</i> Both groups used other sources of support: I: primary healthcare 53%, mental healthcare 35%, other 49%; C: primary healthcare 50%, mental healthcare 32%, other 54%
Farberow (1992) ¹⁸ USA	Participants were recruited through self-referral, suggestion about the intervention from a therapist, physician, family member or friend, or hearing about the programme through a helpline or media. The intervention group comprised participants who completed the eight-session programme. The comparison group comprised people who completed baseline questionnaires but dropped out after attending one or no session	I: <i>n</i> =60 Mean age 40 years (range 10–60+) ^b 30% male, ethnicity not reported C: <i>n</i> =22 Mean age 37 years (range 10–60+) ^b 23% male, ethnicity not reported <i>Baseline measures</i> Mental health or grief status not reported	I: 10 months ^b (range 3–48) C: 10 months (range 3–48) Mixed relationships	I: Bereavement group (1.5 h weekly sessions over 8 weeks) C: No intervention or dropped out after one session <i>Co-interventions</i> Some participants had participated in group or individual psychotherapy since their loss, but it is unclear how many and whether this was in conjunction with the intervention being evaluated
Kovac & Range (2000) ¹⁶ USA	Undergraduate students were selected for participation if they had been bereaved through suicide in the previous 2 years, were close to the deceased and were upset by the suicide. Closeness and upset were assessed on a 5-point Likert scale (1 very close/upset, 5 not close/upset at all). Students scoring 1–3 were included Participants were randomised to the profound or trivial writing condition	I: <i>n</i> =20 Mean age 23 years (s.d.=7) 25% male, 90% White C: <i>n</i> =22 Mean age 25 years (s.d.=8) 14% male, 91% White <i>Baseline measures</i> IES mean score I: 27.60 (s.d.=17.67), C: 31.93 (s.d.=15.60) GRQ mean score I: 36.20 (s.d.=14.87), C: 45.73 (s.d.=12.05)	I: 13 months (s.d.=9) C: 12 months (s.d.=7) Relationship not stated	I: Profound writing exercise C: Trivial writing exercise (both 15 min biweekly sessions over 2 weeks) <i>Co-interventions</i> None reported
Pfeffer <i>et al</i> (2002) ¹⁷ USA	Families with children were identified from medical examiners' lists of consecutive suicides 1996–1999. Children were excluded if they had a current psychiatric disorder (<i>n</i> =27), had a mental disability, did not have a participating caretaker, did not speak English or were not between 6 years and 15 years old. Families were assigned in alternating order to intervention or no intervention	I: <i>n</i> =39 Mean age 10 years (s.d.=3) 41% male, 71% White C: <i>n</i> =36 Mean age 11 years (s.d.=4) 36% male, 67% White <i>Baseline measures</i> RCMAS mean score I: 49.5 (s.d.=9.6), C: 51.0 (s.d.=10.1) CDI mean score I: 46.8 (s.d.=8.9), C: 51.7 (s.d.=13.1)	I: 10 months (s.d.=13) C: 17 months (s.d.=34) Mixed familial relationships	I: Bereavement group (delivered separately for children and parents): 1.5 h weekly sessions over 10 weeks C: No intervention <i>Co-interventions</i> The intervention group did not receive other interventions; 20% of the comparison group sought other interventions

(Continued)

Table DS1 (continued)

Study	Selection of participants	Participants (number recruited, age, gender, ethnicity)	Time since bereavement and relationship to deceased	Intervention and comparison (duration and intensity)
Poijula <i>et al</i> (2001) ¹³ Finland	Participants were classmates of students who had died through suicide. The intervention received depended upon the school attended. It is unclear whether all classmates were selected for the intervention	School A: <i>n</i> =31 School B: <i>n</i> =32 School C: <i>n</i> =36 Mean age 15 years (s.d.=0.5) 52% male, ethnicity not reported <i>Baseline measures</i> Mental health or grief status not reported	Immediate intervention delivered 1 day to 1 week after suicide Classmates of deceased (friends and non-friends)	School A: No intervention after first two suicides and FTT and PD following third School B: Inadequate intervention following first suicide and FTT and PD following second suicide School C: FTT and PD after first and only suicide <i>Co-interventions</i> None reported
Seguin <i>et al</i> (2004) ¹⁹ Canada	Participants were recruited through self-referral to the centre. Information about the support groups was disseminated through the community, coroners and police in contact with those bereaved. The duration of the intervention depended on the geographical location of the bereaved	Group A: <i>n</i> =25 Mean age 41 years, 16% male Group B: <i>n</i> =13 Mean age 42 years, 17% male Group C: <i>n</i> =15 Mean age 40 years, 27% male Group D: <i>n</i> =16 Mean age 42 years, 31% male Ethnicity not reported <i>Baseline measures</i> BDI mean score: A: 15 (s.d.=9.37), B: 20.67 (s.d.=9.95), C: 17.73 (s.d.=11.4), D: 21 (s.d.=9.42)	Group A: 10–11 months (range 1–120) Group B: 5 months (range 1–20) Group C: 6 months (range 1–16) Group D: 14 months (range 3–71) Mixed relationships	Four bereavement groups Group A: 8 weekly 2.5 h sessions over 2 months Group B: 8 fortnightly 2 h sessions over 4 months Group C: 11 fortnightly 3 h sessions over 6 months Group D: 17 sessions (2.5 h) over 12 months <i>Co-interventions</i> None reported

BDI, Beck Depression Inventory; BSI, Brief Symptom Inventory; C, control or comparison group; CBT, cognitive-behavioural therapy; CDI, Children's Depression Inventory; CESD, Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression scale; FTT, first talk-through; GP, general practitioner; GRQ, Grief Response Questionnaire; I, intervention group; IES, Impact of Event Scale; ITG, Inventory for Traumatic Grief; PD, psychological debriefing; RCMAS, Revised Children's Manifest Anxiety Scale.
a. Data not available separately for the two groups.
b. Estimated.