

New study investigates perceived interactions with deceased partners or spouses

October 25 2023



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

A [new study](#) published in *OMEGA—Journal of Death and Dying* investigates perceived interactions with the deceased (ADCs), "a phenomenon reported across societies, with 30–34% of individuals likely experiencing at least one ADC in their lifetime," according to the research.

Despite this prevalence, studies examining the impact of ADCs' on those who have lost partners are limited. The researchers surveyed 70 individuals reporting partner ADCs via an [online survey](#).

Of the respondents, 40% said their experiences accelerated their recovery, and 42.9% confirmed that the experiences significantly influenced their grieving process.

In total, 61% of the respondents said they hoped for continued contact; the experiences did not make their pain worse. Regarding grief-related sadness, 41% reported no change due to the ADCs, while 40% expressed less sadness. Forty-seven percent said that ADCs eased acceptance of their loss.

The data suggests that ADCs may play a therapeutic role in [grief](#) and healing, despite differing effects on sadness and [recovery](#).

The researchers write, "This study underscores the ADCs' possible positive influence on bereaved partners, advocating for a deeper understanding of this [phenomenon](#) in the grieving process."

More information: Jennifer K. Penberthy et al, Description and Impact of Encounters With Deceased Partners or Spouses, *OMEGA—Journal of Death and Dying* (2023). [DOI: 10.1177/00302228231207900](#)

Provided by University of Virginia

Citation: New study investigates perceived interactions with deceased partners or spouses (2023, October 25) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-10-interactions-deceased-partners-spouses.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.