how depressive symptoms are affected differentially in adulthood by the deaths of mothers, fathers, and siblings, as well as by the gender of survivors. We address these questions using data collected from approximately 600 adult children nested within 250 later-life families, in which approximately 55% experienced the death of at least one parent and 15% experienced the death of a sibling in the previous decade. Preliminary multilevel regression analyses showed that deaths of siblings predicted sisters’ but not brothers’ depressive symptoms. In the case of parents, only mothers’ deaths were found to predict daughters’ depressive symptoms, whereas neither parents’ deaths predicted sons’ well-being. Further, these patterns differed little by time since death. Qualitative data revealed that women were more likely to report that both their mothers’ and siblings’ deaths had led to higher conflict within the sibling network, which previous research has shown predicts psychological well-being. Taken together, these findings demonstrate the salient role of gender in shaping well-being in the face of events of deaths of parents and siblings in adulthood.

SANDWICH GENERATION CAREGIVING AMONG BABY BOOMER AND GENERATION X CAREGIVERS IN THE UNITED STATES

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Sandwich generation caregivers are generally those who care for both a child and an older adult. Baby Boomer and Generation X belong to this age cohort. Using data from the 2015-2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Caregiver Module, we compared the prevalence and characteristics of sandwich caregivers across these two generations. Data represent adults from 44 jurisdictions. We categorized caregivers into generations using their age at the time of the survey (N=34,777). Sandwich caregivers were classified as those who lived with a child (≤18 years) and provided care/assistance to a parent/grandparent with a long-term illness/disability during the past 30 days. Prevalence ratios (PR) from log-binomial regression models that included generation, sandwich caregiver status, sex, and race/ethnicity were used to compare weighted estimates. Six percent of Baby Boomers and 31% of Generation X were sandwich caregivers (p<0.001). In adjusted models, sandwich caregivers had a lower prevalence of any chronic health condition (PR=0.77, p=0.01) and fair/poor health (PR=0.87, p=0.003) than other caregivers, but similar frequent mental and physical distress prevalence. Baby Boomer caregivers were more likely to report a chronic health condition, fair/poor health, and frequent physical distress than their Generation X counterparts, but less likely to report frequent mental distress. Sandwich caregivers in these generations appear to be in better health than other caregivers. Nonetheless, it is critical to support the needs of sandwich caregivers as they age, given their important role in meeting the needs of both children and older adults and the additional challenges created by the pandemic.