The effect of maternal mortality on infant mortality is well researched. Few studies, however, have addressed the relationship between parental mortality and child’s survival to the end of childhood (15 years), bringing into account the age of the child at the time of death of the parent. This project estimates the impact of a parent's death on the survival prospects of children aged 1 to 15 years.

Taking into account the characteristics of the data, we formulated 5 hypotheses.

H1: The death of a mother has a larger effect than the death of a father.
H2: The effect of the death of a parent is larger for younger children, and declines as the time after the death of a parent increases.
H3: The death of a parent has a different effect on male and female children.
H4: Children who had two literate parents had the highest survival rates.
H5: Children who lost a parent benefited from the presence of older siblings (replacement effect).

**DATA**
- Louis Henry Database (41 French parishes, 1670-1829).
- Children born between 1670 and 1820
- Only children from first marriages
- Only children who survived their first year and did not die within 28 days before or after the death of a parent (to rule out deaths from epidemic causes)
- Sample size from Henry database:

**RESULTS**

Age at Mother’s Death (MC) & Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at Mother’s Death (MC)</th>
<th>2.4940**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at Mother’s Death (NMC)</td>
<td>2.3509***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at Father’s Death</td>
<td>1.3996*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration Since Mother’s Death (MC)</td>
<td>0.9609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration Since Mother’s Death (NMC)</td>
<td>0.9528**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration Since Father’s Death</td>
<td>0.9742</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**METHOD**
- We use a discrete-time method, where the dependent variable of interest is the event of death between the age of 1 and 15. Estimation is performed using a generalized linear mixed effects model with logistic distribution. We include household random effects to capture unobserved within-household heterogeneity. We include the following relevant covariates as fixed effects: (analysis time effects, father death indicator, mother death indicator, duration since parental death, parental literacy, time-trend, sibship size at birth, gender, village fixed effects, and parental death interactions)
- Deaths from non-maternal mortality may be more highly influenced by socioeconomic conditions. To account for this potential bias, we separated deaths of mothers by cause.

**CONCLUSIONS**
- The effect of losing a mother on the risk of death in childhood is greater than the effect of losing a father.
- The death of a parent has the greatest effect on the morality risk for younger children, and the risk declines as children age.
- We find ambiguous differences in the effects of parental loss on childhood mortality for boys and girls.
- Our research shows no consistent effect of parental literacy on mortality risk during childhood after the death of a parent.
- The number of older siblings has a beneficial effect on the risk of death during childhood for those children who lost a parent (support for the replacement hypothesis).
- Incomplete data resulted in small sample sizes for those who lost a father and for those who lost a mother from maternal-related causes after the age of one (at the birth of a younger sibling). Use of larger datasets containing more information on date of death could help strengthen our conclusions.