The More, the Merrier:
The Relationship between Socioeconomic Status, Well-being, and Friendship
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188 first year UBC students were surveyed.

Type: Longitudinal (September to January)

Key Variables:
- Objective SES
  - Annual Family Income
  - Mother’s Education
  - Father’s Education
- Subjective SES
  - MacArthur Scale of Subjective Social Status
- Well-being
  - SPANE (Positive Affect)
  - SWLS
  - FS
- Friendship
  - Change in # of close friends

RESULTS

Relationship between Subjective SES and Well-being

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friendship</th>
<th>Well-being</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective SES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r(97) = .046</td>
<td>r(95) = .057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subjective SES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r(182) = .081</td>
<td>r(181) = .197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>p &lt; .01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISCUSSION

Positive Relationship: Subjective SES and Well-being
- Subjective SES has been found to be more strongly related to health outcomes than objective SES. Consistent with prior research, a similar relationship may be present for well-being, suggesting that relative standing may be more important than absolute standing.

REFERENCES

No Relationship: Objective SES and Well-being
- We may not have detected a relationship between these variables because selective answering of the objective SES question reduced our sample size.

No Relationship: SES and Friendship
- Although people have been found to form friendships based on similarities, SES may not be a salient dimension for similarity judgments.
- Change in close friends may not be a sensitive enough measure for assessing friendship formation.

Limitations and Future Directions
- Use different friendship measures such as time spent with friends, types of friendships, etc.
- Experimental design to see if causal relationships exist

Importance
- A stepping stone towards interventions aimed at helping low SES students

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