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Transmission of subjective well-being between mothers, fathers, and adolescent children:

The role of parenting, and personality factors

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This study investigates which factors promote the transmission of subjective well-being between mother-child, father-child, and mother-father dyads across a period of 7 years. The goal of the study was to analyze the effects of parenting and personality variables on the family process of transmission. The sample consisted of parents and their children traversing the period of adolescence and emerging adulthood (total n = 2032 families, GSOEP waves 2001-2008). We found bidirectional transmission of subjective well-being (life satisfaction) within all dyads. The effects from mothers to fathers, fathers to mothers and from parents to children were much stronger compared to the effects for the transmission from children to parents. Interestingly, tests on the influence of parenting on well-being revealed that the child-to-parent effects were much stronger in those families where adolescents did not perceive their parents as supportive and where parent-children conflicts were stronger when adolescents were 17 years old. Concomitant, in families where children perceived low supportive parenting, parent to children effects were very small. In addition, latent growth curve models showed bidirectional effects between the interindividual variability of fathers and mothers trajectories of well-being. Parents' initial well-being and the change in their trajectory of well-being predicted adolescents' initial and also their trajectory of well-being, while being partially mediated by measures of parenting. Effects of personality factors (Big Five) were

analyzed with subsamples of data collected from 2005 to 2008 ( $n = 311$  families). Among these, neuroticism of each family member was the strongest predictor with negative effects for each family member's well being (without bidirectional effects within dyads). Across all analyses, features of structural equation modeling allowed for controlling non-independence in the data (given e.g., by biological kin relatedness). Overall, this study points to the psychological function of the quality of shared environment (represented by supportive parenting) for the transmission from parents to children and children to parents of subjective well-being.