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INFORMANT REPORTS AND THE ABILITY TO PREDICT PARTICIPANT HEALTH OUTCOMES

Natalie Stephanus

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This project looked into how informant reporting on a variety of personality factors affects the ability to predict several health outcomes. The hypothesis was that the type of informant does indeed play a role in how well an informant can predict health outcomes of a participant, and while one type of informant may be better at predicting one health outcome, a different type of informant could better predict another health outcome. Using a mediation analysis, each of these types of relationships (spouse, family, friend, etc.) were looked at as predictors for three outcomes: social functioning, energy/fatigue, and general health change. The NEO-PI that both the informants and participants filled out was also involved in the analysis. In order to do mediation analyses, conditions have to be met involving statistical significance, and a majority of the correlation coefficients from the NEO-PI, the nature of relationship, and the health outcomes were not significant. Because of this, a majority of these mediation analyses could not be conducted fully, leaving the results of this project inconclusive. From the few that were statistically significant, we found that type of informant does have an effect on the ability to predict certain health outcomes.