

Accepted Manuscript

Title: Smile or Die: Can Subjective Well-Being Increase Survival in the Face of Substantive Health Impairments?

Authors: Martin Binder, Guido Buenstorf

PII: S1570-677X(18)30020-0
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.08.004>
Reference: EHB 731

To appear in: *Economics and Human Biology*

Received date: 18-1-2018
Revised date: 22-7-2018
Accepted date: 7-8-2018



Please cite this article as: Binder M, Buenstorf G, Smile or Die: Can Subjective Well-Being Increase Survival in the Face of Substantive Health Impairments?, *Economics and Human Biology* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.08.004>

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

Smile or Die: Can Subjective Well-Being Increase Survival in the Face of Substantive Health Impairments?¹

Martin Binder^{*a,b}, Guido Buenstorf^{c,d}

^aBard College Berlin, Platanenstr. 24, 13156 Berlin, Germany

^bLevy Economics Institute of Bard College, Blithewood, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York 12504-5000, USA

^cUniversität Kassel, Fachbereich Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Nora-Platiel-Str. 4, 34109 Kassel, Germany

^dUniversity of Gothenburg, Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Box 625, 405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden

*Corresponding author (Email address: m.binder@berlin.bard.edu)

Highlights

- Subjective well-being increases survival in BHPS panel data set for UK
- This effect captures in part the assessment of one's health status
- This effect disappears when controlling for endogeneity by lagging SWB
- Specific illnesses (e.g. cancer) decrease survival but SWB does not moderate this
- SWB is at best protective rather than curative when it comes to mortality

Abstract

A robust relationship between subjective well-being and mortality has been established in the literature, but few studies address how subjective well-being interacts with the impact of concrete diseases on survival. In addition, issues of endogeneity between bad health and subjective well-being are ignored when it comes to survival. We assess both for the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS; 1991-2008) and specifically analyze whether subjective well-being predicts better chances of surviving diseases such as cancer or heart conditions. We find that several of the studied diseases consistently decrease survival chances in our sample (e.g. hazard ratio 3.47 for cancer), also when controlling for the severity of health problems. But our results do not suggest that well-being mitigates the effect these diseases have on mortality. Life satisfaction also does not predict longer survival in the data set if we control for the endogeneity of subjective well-being.

¹ Thanks for helpful comments to participants at the EVO workshop 2015 and the FU Berlin Economics Research Seminar 2015 and to our anonymous referees. The authors are grateful for having been granted access to the BHPS data set, which was made available through the ESRC Data Archive. The data were originally collected by the ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change at the University of Essex (now incorporated within the Institute for Social and Economic Research). Neither the original collectors of the data nor the Archive bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here. Remaining errors are ours alone. This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/11004772>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/11004772>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)