

The Effect of Weather on Subjective Well-being

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Abstract

In this paper, I analyze subjective well-being data collected in the Princeton Affect and Time Survey, and investigate the responsiveness of well-being to climate and transitory weather conditions. I study general satisfaction questions about life in general, life at home, health and one's job, as well as questions concerning feelings intensities during specific episodes. I find that women are much more responsive than men to the weather, and that life satisfaction decreases with the amount of rain on the day of the interview. Low temperatures increase happiness and reduce tiredness and stress, raising net affect, and high temperatures reduce happiness, consistent with the fact that the survey was conducted in the summer.