



Who's in my family?
Using consultations with children and young
people to design a survey instrument

The Australian Child Wellbeing Project
ISCI 2015 Cape Town

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Aims

A mixed method **child-centred** study

Privilege the voices of **marginalised** young people

Define & measure young people's wellbeing

Policy relevant

Aims

Survey of wellbeing among 9-13 year olds

Nationally representative, internationally comparable

Multi-dimensional approach

Speaks to the lives of marginalised young people

Approach: Phase 1

We talked with 100 young people in 4 states & territories

Six 'marginalised' groups and two 'mainstream' groups

Focus groups and personal interviews

'The Good life' and challenges in achieving it

Phase 1: Talking with young people



Phase 1: Talking with young people

Main dimensions

-Family

- Friends
- School
- Community
- Health
- Money
- etc....

"Well I have my sister and my mum and my dad. So that's my basic family and then adding the pets, Spence and a couple of goldfish."

Phase 2: Survey development

School based survey of students - years 4, 6 & 8

Most questions from other surveys

Some new or little used items

Self-complete, audio assist

Survey instrument - domains

Family

School

Health

Friends

Bullying

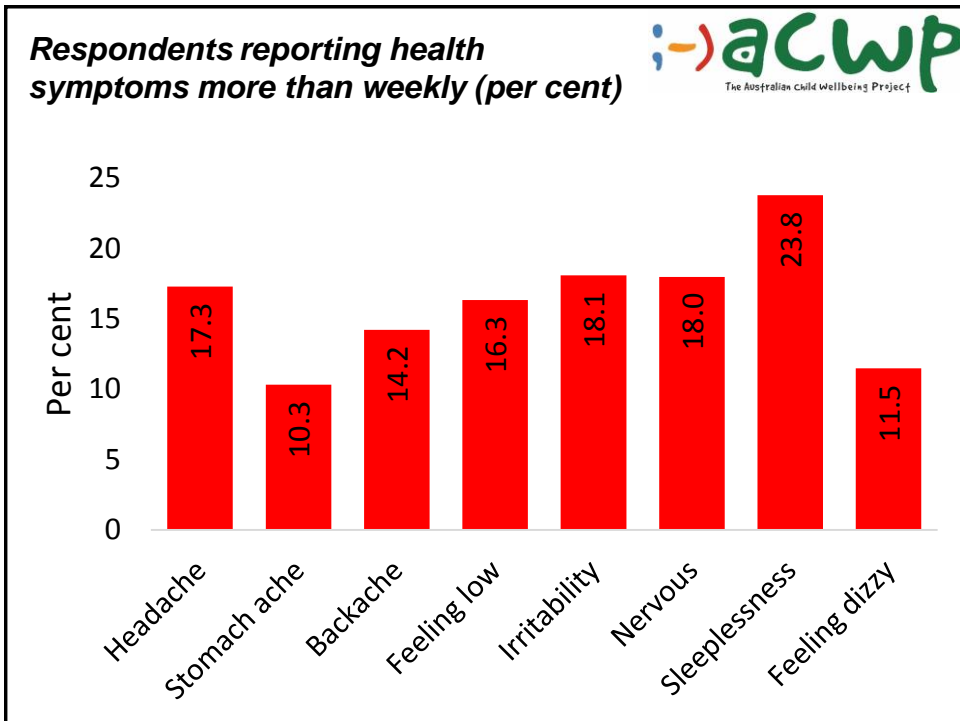
Material wellbeing

Subjective wellbeing

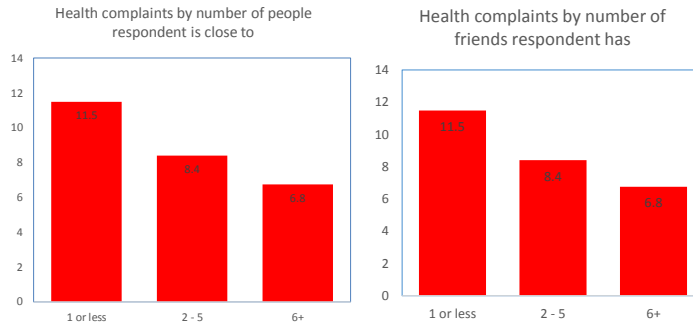
Question 13 of 51

Here is a circle with you at the centre. Here are some people you may know. How close are these people to you? Drag them into the circle, as close to you as you feel they are. If you don't know a person or you don't feel close to them, just leave it where it is.

- Mother
- Father
- Stepfather
- Stepmother
- Other child
- Pet
- Sister
- Brother
- Uncle
- Aunt
- Grandmother
- Grandfather
- Foster father
- Foster mother
- Other adult



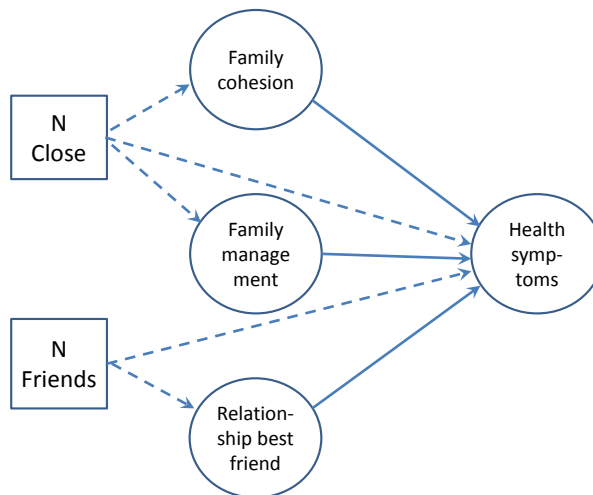
Support networks & health complaints



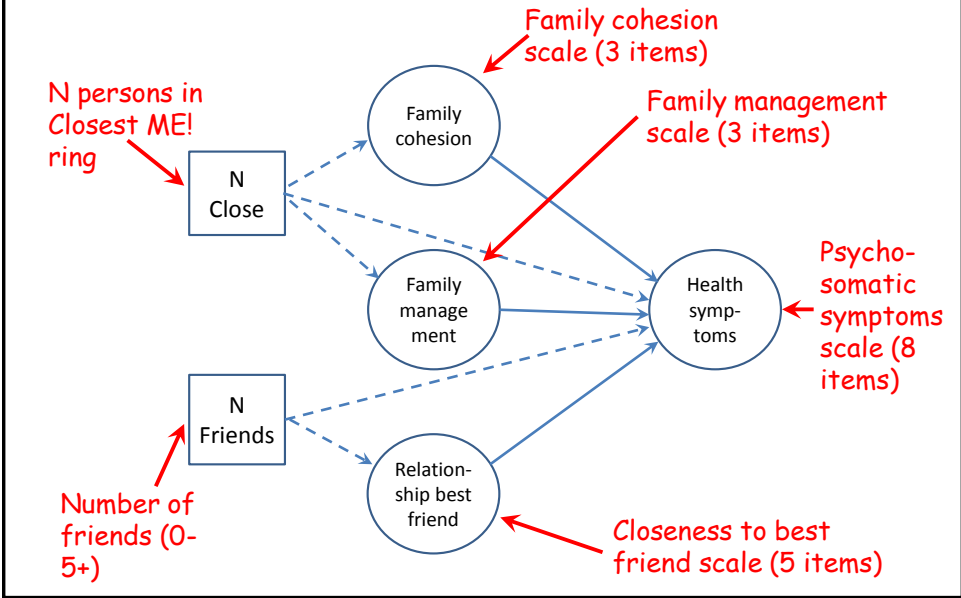
Question: is the effect of network size direct or through other indicators of closeness/support?

What's the relationship between support networks & outcomes?

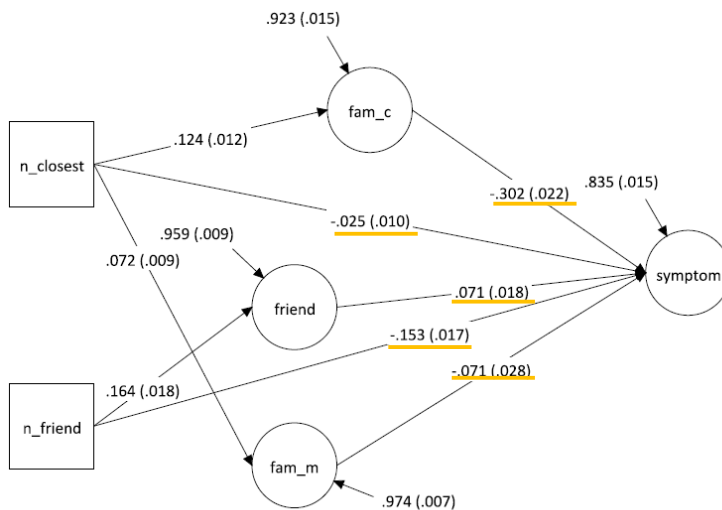
Structural equation model



What's the relationship between support networks & outcomes?

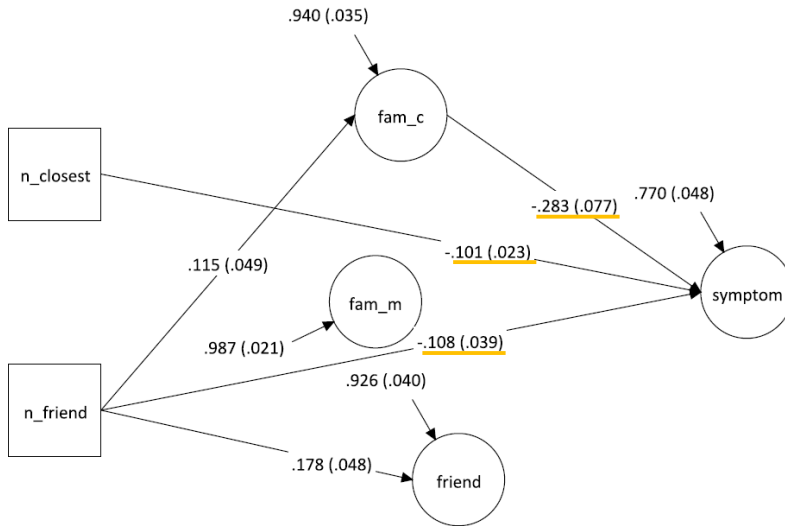


What's the relationship between support networks & outcomes? All young people



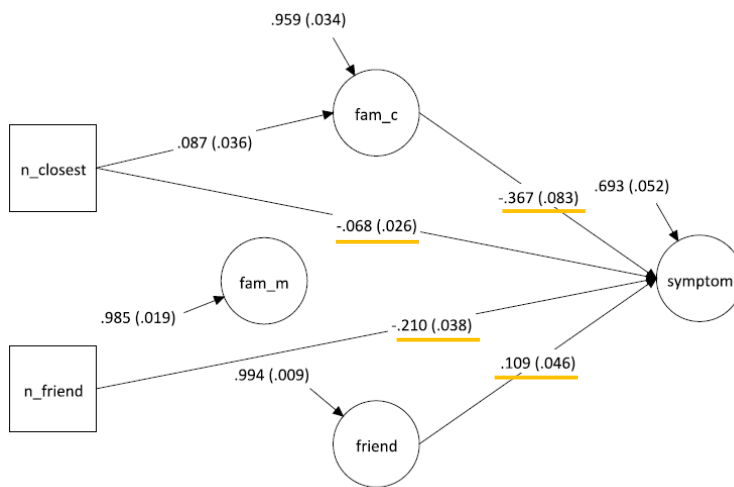
What's the relationship between support networks & outcomes?

Young people with disability



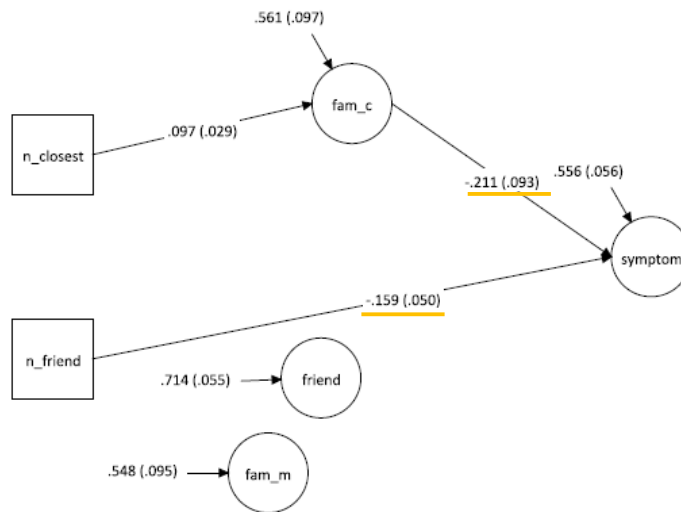
What's the relationship between support networks & outcomes?

Materially disadvantaged young people



What's the relationship between support networks & outcomes?

Culturally & linguistically diverse young people



Conclusions

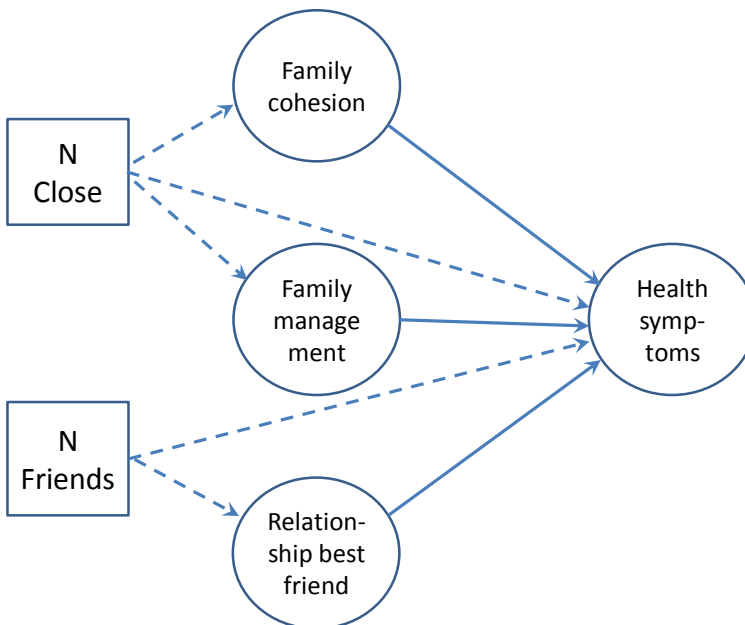
- Support networks matter for young people's health & wellbeing
- Quantity & quality appear to be both important
- Quantity appears to matter more for marginalised young people
 - a case of quantity of people replacing other forms of support...?

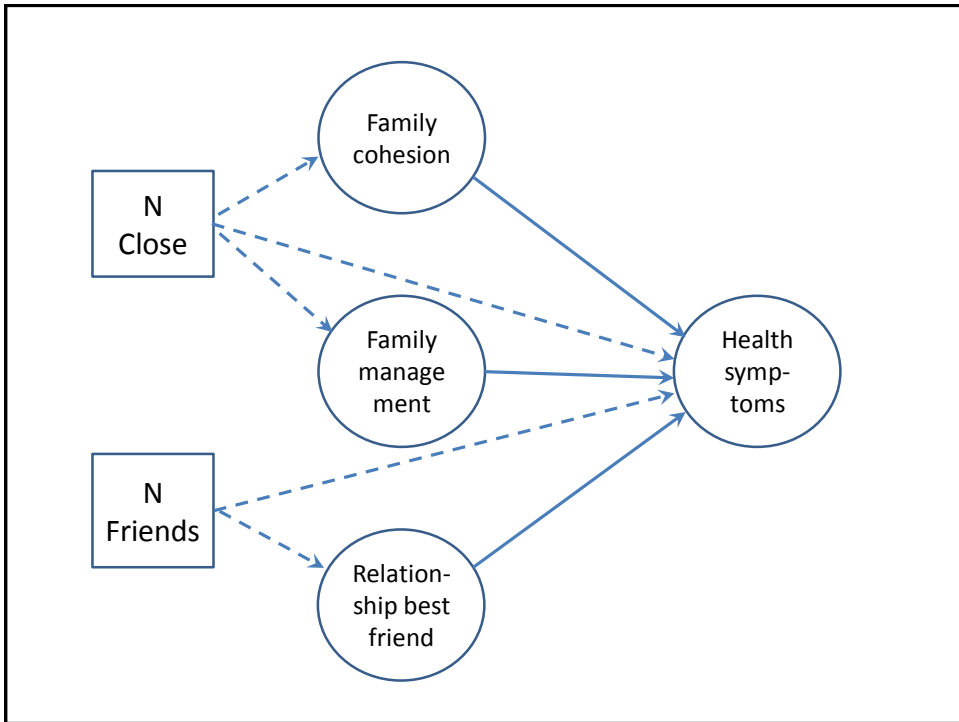


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