

## Friends have (slightly) similar genomes

A study from a controversial pair of US researchers claims that we are more genetically similar to our friends than we are to strangers.

Looking at differences between nearly 2,000 people, recruited as part of a heart study in a small US town, they found that friends shared about 0.1% more DNA, on average, than strangers.

While small, this is the same level of similarity expected for fourth cousins.

Other scientists are sceptical about the paper, which was published in PNAS.

“I think that they’re unusual findings, and that usually draws criticisms from scientists,” said Prof James Fowler, one of the study’s authors and a professor of both medical genetics and political science at the University of California, San Diego.

**Read the full, original story here: [Do friends have similar genomes?](#)**