

WORLD DATABASE OF HAPPINESS

Archive of research findings on subjective enjoyment of life

Annual Report 2019

Aims Accumulation of scientific knowledge on happiness.

Approach

- Gathering *all* the empirical research findings on happiness and presenting these in an easy to overview standardized way.
- Updating this collection continuously, thus providing a basis for ongoing research synthesis.

Technique

Findings are described in a standard format and terminology on electronic *finding pages*. These pages are stored in an online *findings-archive* where they can be selected and sorted in various ways.

The technique allows for a new way of research reviewing, in which links to online pages with full detail are used.

Example: [Happiness of the self-employed: A research synthesis using an online findings archive.](#)

Collections

The World Database of Happiness consists of the following collections, which can be browsed on the website:

Contents by December 31, 2019

- Bibliography: 14.320 publications in Bibliography of happiness, of which 7.428 report an empirical study that is eligible for inclusion in the findings archive
- Measures of happiness: 1.217 measures of happiness, mostly single survey questions varying in wording and response scale.
- Distributional findings: 12588 distributional findings in the general public, of which 8.821 in 173 nations and 3.767 findings in 2.456 regions and cities in nations. 2673 findings in 173 special publics
- Correlational findings: 18.760 correlational findings observed in 2.451 studies, excerpted from 1.843 publications.

Reports

The following reports are generated automatically

- *Publication reports*: Selection of publications on a particular subject. [Example income](#)
- *Nation reports*: Selection of all findings in a particular nation. [Example Netherlands](#)
- *Public reports*: Selection of all findings on a particular group [Example Retired](#)
- *Correlation reports*: Selection of correlational finding on a particular topic [Example age](#)

Website

<https://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl>

Uses in 2019	<i>since start in 1998 uses by end 2019</i>	<i>added in 2019</i>
• Visitors website	1.363.906	167.320
• Citations (Google Scholar)	3.500	159
• Media mentions (Nexis Uni)	547	168
• Datafiles provided on demand (StatesOfNations, TrendsInNations)	1.682	42

Additions in 2019

• Publications in bibliography	14.320	1.272
• Studies using a valid happiness measure	7.328	614
• Measures of Happiness	1.331	114
• Distributional findings		
○ In places (nations, regions)	12.597	9
○ In publics other than general	2.673	462
• Correlational findings	18.960	1.708
• Categories in classifications		
○ In bibliography	1.877	227
○ In correlational findings	3.836	441
○ In publics other than general	211	410

Re-design website. Beta

Publications in 2019 based on the database

- [Private wealth and happiness A research synthesis using an online findings-archive](#)
- [Will healthy eating make you happier? A research synthesis using an online findings-archive](#)
- [Did the Easterlin Paradox apply in South-Korea 1980-2015? A case study](#)
- [Meten van kennelijke welvaart met gelukkige levensjaren](#)
- [Have the Japanese become happier over the last 50 years? Healing broken time-series data](#)
- [Does the internet make us happier?](#)

Plans for 2020

- Launch new website
- Trial paid entry
- Recruiting sponsors for particular sections of the database
- Recruiting associates who take responsibility for a particular section of the database
- Article in Journal on Research Synthesis

- Presentation of the database and applications at the ISQALS conference August 2020 in Rotterdam
- Application on particular subjects
 - Happiness of transgenders
 - Update of earlier review papers
 - Happiness and Healthy eating
 - Does internet make you happier?
- Revision subject classifications, bibliography and correlational findings
- Update of finding reports for correlational findings, storing in REPUB

People

- Home team
 - 19 persons of which 15 volunteers.
 - Together about 3 fte. in 2019.
 - 2 active volunteers died in December 2019: Anneke Blok and Gerard Wildschut
- External associates
 - 6 of which 3 are active
- Guests
 - Master students: 3
 - PhD students: 3
 - Professors: 2

1 Dutch, 7 foreign