

WORLD DATABASE OF HAPPINESS

Archive of research findings on subjective enjoyment of life

Annual Report 2020

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: [Will happiness-trainings make us happier? 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, 2020

- Bibliography: 14.725 publications in Bibliography of happiness, of which 7.641 report an empirical study that is eligible for inclusion in the findings archive
- Measures of happiness: 1.351 measures of happiness, mostly single survey questions varying in wording and response scale.
- Distributional findings: 12.705 distributional findings in the general public, of which 9130 in 173 nations and 3.575 findings in 2.299 regions and cities in nations. 3050 findings in 175 special publics
- Correlational findings: 19.808 correlational findings observed in 2.555 studies, excerpted from 1.882 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 2020	since start in 1998 uses by end 2020	added in 2020
• Visitors website ¹	1.442.444	78.518
• Citations (Google Scholar)	3.520	160
• Media mentions (Nexis Uni)	576	39
• Datafiles provided on demand (StatesOfNations, TrendsInNations)	1.688	33

Additions in 2020: Less than usual due to Corona pandemic

• Publications in bibliography	15.787	1.467
• Studies using a valid happiness measure ²	14.769	313
• Measures of Happiness used in these studies	1.351	20
• Distributional findings		
○ In places (nations, regions)	12.705	108
○ In publics other than general	3.050	377
• Correlational findings	19.808	848
• Categories in classifications		
○ In bibliography	2.001	124
○ In correlational findings	4.037	201
○ In publics other than general	211	0

Re-design website.

- The new website was launched in August 2020 and was further improved in the following months
- Introductory texts to collections were revised

Publications in 2020 based on the database

- [Will happiness-trainings make us happier? A research synthesis using an online findings-archive](#)
- [Happiness and consumption: A research synthesis using an online finding archive](#)
- [Wat heet geluk? Hoe bepalen we hoe gelukkig we zijn?](#)

¹ Since launch of the new website in August 2020C visits are recorded on the EUR counter Elastics. That number was extremely high because of indexing machines and hackers looking for soft spots, So, we better look at the number of unique visitors, which was 42.204. Since we know from earlier counts that the percentage of returning visitors is about 10%, the number of visits in the second half of 2020 must have been about 46.500 Google Analytics recorded 29,125 visitors in the 1st half of 2020, of which 11 % returning, which makes together 32.038. The number of visits over the whole year then add up to 78.518 visits. This is the number mentioned above. Google Analytics recorded another 5.162 visitors in the 2nd half of 2020, which may not have been included in the EUR Elastics count. If so, the number of visits was about 83.680

² Earlier reports mentioned the number of publications that report a study in which a valid measure of happiness was used. Since many publications report more such studies than one, the actual number of publications is substantially higher.

Under review (available as EHERO working paper)

- [Happiness of the self-employed](#)
- [Happiness and internet use](#)
- **Finding archive technique**
- [Daily happiness](#)
- [Happy Life Years in Indonesia](#)

Plans for 2021

- Completion of the new website
 - Adding reports, which are now still on the old website
 - Improving search facilities
- Trial paid entry:
 - Invitation to authors of promising papers once their paper is included in the Bibliography
- Recruiting sponsors for particular sections of the database (with Erik Bemelmans)
 - Indirect using seminar for sectors, to begin with: health insurance, pensions, banks
 - Direct mailing of sponsor proposals, to begin with sex-industry and dating sites
- Recruiting associates who take responsibility for a particular section of the database
 - Call in publications about the database
 - Invitation to researchers who seem to focus on happiness
- Article on technique of a finding archive in a journal on research methods
- Presentation of the database and applications at international [conference in Luxemburg](#)
- Signaling of the database in newsletters of research associations
- Application on particular subjects
 - Happiness of transgenders (Jos Veenhoven)
 - Effects on happiness of public policy (Serkan Akilli, Muberra Hatun Burak)
 - Effects on happiness of societal modernization (Paul Thomas)
 - Effects on happiness of city design (Sahar Samavati)
 - Effect on happiness of urban green (Ruut Veenhoven, Jan Ott)
 - Correlation of happiness with satisfaction of needs and wants (Ruut Veenhoven, Nivre Wagner, Jan Ott)
 - Why are the Danes happier than the Dutch (Jeroen Boelhouwer SCP, Sasqia Chin Hon Foei, Ruut Veenhoven)
 - Update of earlier review papers
 - Wealth and happiness (Antje Jantsch)
 - Happiness training (Ad Bergsma, Ivonne Buijt, Ruut Veenhoven)
- Revision of the list of statistics used in correlational findings and the related introductory text (Teije Euverman)
- Update of finding reports for correlational findings, storing in REPUB

People: less activity in 2020 due to Corona pandemic and closure of university

- **Home team**
 - 16 persons of which 14 volunteers.
 - Together about 2 fte. in 2020.
 - 2 volunteers withdrew for health reasons (Jan and Janna Koopman)
 - 2 volunteers could not work this year due to illness (Joop Mulder, Piet Ouweneel)
- **External associates**
 - 18 of which 9 were active in 2020
 - 9 new associates were recruited after launch of the new website
- **Guests (on distance)**
 - Master students: 2 (Nivre Wagner, Muberra Hatun Burak)
 - PhD students: 1 (Renaud Gaucher)
 - Professors: 0