

WORLD DATABASE OF HAPPINESS

Archive of research findings on subjective enjoyment of life

Annual Report 2022

Aims

Accumulation of scientific knowledge on happiness, in order to provide a basis for informed decisions by individuals and organizations.

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 syntheses.
- Using the collection for synthesis of research findings on happiness and particular topics, such as private wealth, and updating these reviews periodically.

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 in transgender people: 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 January 15, 2023*

- Bibliography: **15.857** publications in Bibliography of Happiness, of which 8045 report an empirical study that is eligible for inclusion in the findings archive
- Measures of happiness: **2.905** measures of happiness, mostly single survey questions varying in wording and response scale.
- Distributional findings: **23.148** distributional findings in the general public
- Correlational findings: **23.237** correlational findings.

Reports

The following reports are generated automatically

- *Single nation reports*: Selection of all findings in a particular nation. [Example Netherlands](#)
- *Multiple nation reports*. Selection of distributional findings in nations sorted by measure type and within measure type by year
- [Rank reports on happiness in nations](#)
- [Trend reports on happiness in nations](#)

Website

<https://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl>

Users	since start in 1998	added in 2022
• Page views	18.942.216	1.561.040 !
○ Unique visitors		± 50.000 ¹
○ From N countries		177
• Citations (Google Scholar)	4.045	325
• Media mentions (Nexis Uni)	594	23
• Datafiles provided on demand (StatesOfNations, TrendsInNations)	± 2.000	- ²

The number of visits to the website had tripled in 2021 and doubled again in 2022.

The increasing use of the database seems to be due to the:

- improved website; look and search options
- use of links to finding pages in the database used in reports of research syntheses
- rise of happiness research

Additions	since start in 1998	added in 2022
• Publications in bibliography	15.857	286
• Studies using a valid happiness measure	16.369	269
• Measures of Happiness used in these studies	1.502	3
• Distributional findings		
○ In places (nations, regions)	20.439	7.734
○ In publics other than general	3.149	99
• Correlational findings	23.237	1.250
• Categories in classifications		
○ In bibliography	2.056	11
○ In correlational findings	5.113	584
○ In publics other than general	234	3

¹ Total in first and second half year 61.933; part will have visited the website in both periods

² Counts stopped since datasets are made available for download from website

Re-design website

- The new website was launched in August 2020 and was further improved in 2021 and 2022.
- The re-design being completed, old website will be closed in the spring 2023
- IT-EUR remains available for further improvement in the context of an internship in the fall of 2023

Publications in 2022 based on the database

- [Open letter to president Putin about coming Fall of Russian Happiness](#)
- [On-line 'findings archive': A new tool for research synthesis](#)
- [Happiness and personal wealth; An updated research synthesis using an online finding archive](#)

Accepted for publication

- [Does urban green add to happiness? A research synthesis using an online finding archive](#)
- Perceived meaning of life and satisfaction with life: A research synthesis using an online finding archive
- Growth of knowledge about happiness

Under review (available as EHERO working paper)

- [Effects of policy interventions on the happiness of targeted people: A research synthesis using an online findings-archive](#)
- [Happiness in transgender people. A research synthesis using an online finding archive](#)
- [Does happiness foster social bonds? A research synthesis using an online finding archive](#)
- Happiness in Nations, special issue for International J of happiness and Development
- Did average happiness change over the years? Findings from the World Database of Happiness

People:

The only paid position (Ivonne Buit 0.4 fte.) ended by September 2022 due to lack of funding. The number of volunteers declined due to death (Piet Ouweneel) and illness (Jan and Janna van de Vooren, Frank van der Vlucht). Recruitment of new volunteers hindered by closure of Third Age academy HOVO.

- **Home team**
 - 8 persons of which 7 volunteers.
 - Together about 2,5 fte. in 2022.
- **External associates**
 - 35 of which 20 were active in 2022
 - 5 new associates were recruited in 2022
- **Guests:**
 - 1 emeritus professor from USA: Mark Chekola
 - 2 guest researchers from Taiwan: Wan-Chen Hsu (Jenny), Nuan-Ching Huang (Sunny)
 - 4 interns: from Germany (Silke Kegel, Lucas Hoferer), China (Yezhen Fang) and the USA (Teddy Mangiarotti)
- **IT support:** Redesign of the website by 4 members of Erasmus IT department (Phillip Brands, Ferry de Groot, Omar Gabriel-Tellers, Robin Fredriks)

Planning for 2023

- Trial paid entry: Invitation to authors of papers once their paper is included in the Bibliography
- Revision of the instructions for entering research findings in the Access database. Next to the textual manual a visual demonstration
- Instructions for continuation of the project after Veenhoven's time
- Revision of the list of statistics used in correlational findings and the related introductory text (prepared by Teije Euverman)
- Update of finding reports for correlational findings, storing in [RePub](#)

- Application of the database on particular subjects, together with [research associates](#)

Happiness in publics

- Happiness of housewives (Shoirakhon Nurdinova)
- Happiness in adolescents (Arslan Gokmen)

Happiness in places

- Happiness in *regions* (Dimitriz Ballas+ team)
- Happiness in *Croatia* (Maja Tadic)
- Happiness in Ethiopia (Billy Sisay)
- Happiness in *Kazakhstan* (Shyryn Tlenchiyeva)
- Happiness in *Indonesia* (Yuffi Adriani)
- Happiness in India (Nidhi Sharma)
- Happiness in *Romania* (Sergiu Baltatescu)
- Happiness in *South Africa* (Neil Bernard)
- Happiness in *Uzbekistan* (Shoirakhon Nurdinova, Rauf Salahodjaev)
- Happiness in Ukraine (Illia Yagiyayev)
- Happiness in Russia (Anna Shrikanova + team)
- Happiness in Turkey (Melodi Buket)
- Happiness in remote areas (Antje Jantsch, Lucas Hoferer)
- Why are the *Danes happier than the Dutch* (Jeroen Boelhouwer SCP)

Determinants of happiness

- Effect of *public policies* on happiness (Serkan Akilli, Bekir Celic)
- Effect of societal *modernization* on happiness (Paul Thomas)
- Effect of *city design* on happiness (Sahar Samavati)
- Effect of *retirement* on happiness (Susan Hu, Sunny Huang, Jenny Hsu)
- Effect of *sporting* on happiness (Sajadeh Mortazavi)
- Effect of use of *stimulants* on happiness (Valerie McGaha)
- Effect of *education* on happiness (Paulo Dias, Anna Costa, Angela Leite)
- Effect of *public spending* on average happiness in nations (Renaud Gaucher)
- Effect of *mental disorders* on happiness (Virag Zabo)
- Effects of income/poverty on happiness (Azhar Hussian)

- Effects of local democracy on happiness (Maoliang Ye)

Consequences of happiness

- Effect of happiness on productivity at work (Yezhen Fang) (Renaud Gaucher)

Topics in happiness Economics (Shruti Agrawal)