

# WORLD DATABASE OF HAPPINESS

## Archive of research findings on subjective enjoyment of life

### Annual Report 2023

#### 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 1, 2024*

- Bibliography: **16.176** publications in Bibliography of Happiness, of which **8.372** report an empirical study that is eligible for inclusion in the findings archive
- Measures of happiness: **2.915** measures of happiness, mostly single survey questions varying in wording and response scale.
- Distributional findings: **23.467** distributional findings in the general public
- Correlational findings: **24.094** correlational findings.

## Reports

The following reports are generated automatically

- *Single nation reports*: Selection of all findings in a particular nation.
- *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](#)

[Example Netherlands](#)

## Website

<https://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl>

Users	since start in 1998	added in 2023
• Page views	26.274.046	<b>7.331.830 !!</b>
• Citations ( <a href="#">Google Scholar</a> )	4.080	35
• Media mentions ( <a href="#">Nexis Uni</a> )	1.008	414

The number of visits to the website was 4,7 times higher in 2023 than in 2022.

This marks a continuous growth, visits 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 2023
• Publications in bibliography	16.176	319
• Of which report an eligible study	8.372	327
• Measures of Happiness used in these studies	2.915	10
• Distributional findings		
○ In places (nations, regions)	21.788	1.349
○ In publics other than general	2.689	
• Correlational findings	24.094	857
• Categories in classifications		
○ In bibliography	2.095	39
○ In correlational findings	5.315	202
○ In publics other than general	235	1

## Software

More efficient entry of publications in happiness in the Bibliography is now possible using an Excell application developed by Jos Richters.

## Re-design website

- The new website was launched in August 2020 and was further improved in 2021 and 2022.
- Some last improvements were planned for the fall of 2023 in the context of an internship at IT-EUR. This did not happen. Progress in 2024 unsure
- The re-design being completed, old website was be closed in the spring 2023.

## Publications in 2023 based on the World Database of Happiness

- [Trend Happy Life Years in nations 1946-2019](#)
- [Groeiende kennis over geluk](#)
- [Does happiness add to performance at work?](#)
- [Does urban green add to happiness?](#)
- [Questionnaires francophones sur la qualite de vie au travail: que mesurent-ils? Comment mieux mesurer?](#)
- [Is life really getting worse?](#)
- [World Database of Happiness](#)

### *Accepted for publication in 2024*

- [Does happiness foster social bonds? A research synthesis using an online finding archive](#)
- [Schooling does not add to your personal happiness but adds to average happiness of all.](#)
- [World Database of Happiness: A finding archive](#)
- [World Database of Happiness: Use for comparison across cultures](#)
- [In pursuit of happiness for a greater number: a personal account](#)
- [Does happiness differ across cultures?](#)
- [Did average happiness in nations change over the years?](#)
- [Growing knowledge about happiness](#)
- [Happiness in urban environments, what we know and do not know yet](#)

### *Under review*

- [Happiness in transgender people. A research synthesis using an online finding archive](#)
- [Demise of the Easterlin Paradox](#)
- [Charting happiness in regions, using the World Database of happiness](#)
- [Special issue on happiness in nations for the International J of Happiness and Development](#)
- [Will working after retirement make you happy?](#)
- [How the COVID-19 epidemic affected life-satisfaction in the Netherlands](#)

**People:**

**Home team**

- 8 persons, all volunteers.
- Together about 2,0 fte. in 2023.
- **External associates**
  - 32 of which 18 were active in 2023
  - 1 new associate joined in 2023
- **Guests:**
  - Dr. Hatime Kalimcelebi, from Turkey on effect of economic growth on happiness
  - Dr. Arceli Perez-Garcia, from Spain on effect of education on happiness
  - Annegeke Jansen, From Leiden University on trend in Happy Life Years
- **IT support:** incidental support for website maintenance by Phillip Brands and Ferry de Groot
- **Hosting:** Preparation for storing of version 1 in the university library by Peter van Huisstede and Jos Westerbeke.

## Planning for 2024

- Preparation for the closing and saving of the database as WDH version 1 after Veenhoven's time
  - Cleaning-up of the archive
  - Completing the Bibliography up to and including 2020
  - Making provisional copies of
- Facilitation of continuation in new versions by others
  - Instruction for continuation of the database as a whole or parts of it
  - Revision of the instructions for entering research findings in the database.
  - Instruction for application of the finding-archive technique on other subjects than happiness
  - Preparation of a mailing to all authors in the (updated) Bibliography in which options for building on version 1 are explained
- Application of the database on particular subjects, together with research associates

### *Happiness in publics*

- Happiness of housewives (Shoirakhon Nurdinova)
- Happiness of single mothers (Suzanne Elzas)

### *Happiness in places*

- Happiness in *South Africa* (Neil Bernard)
- 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 use of *stimulants* on happiness (Valerie McGaha)
- Effect of *education* on happiness (Paulo Dias, Anna Costa, Angela Leite, Araceli Garcia-Perez)
- Effect of *public spending* on average happiness in nations (Renaud Gaucher)
- Effect of *mental health care* on average happiness in nations (Daan-Max VanDongen)

### *Consequences of happiness*

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

### *Topics in happiness Economics* (Shruti Agrawal)