

## World Database of Happiness



### Correlational Findings on Happiness and LIFE HISTORY Subject Code: L8

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#### *Classification of Findings*

<i>Subject Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Nr of Studies on this Subject</i>
L8	LIFE HISTORY	1
L8.1	Earlier life (antecedents of happiness)	1
L8.2	Change in life	0
L8.3	Later life (consequences of happiness)	0
Appendix 1	Happiness Items used	
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Appendix 4	Further Findings in the World Database of Happiness	
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Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2009, Netherlands

## Correlational finding on Happiness and LIFE HISTORY

Subject code: L8

**Study** DANNE 2001

*Reported in:* Danner, D.D.; Snowdon, D.A.; Friesen, W.V.  
 Positive Emotions in Early Life and Longevity: Findings from the Nun Study.  
 Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 2001, Vol. 80, 804 - 813. ISSN 0022  
 3514  
 Page in Report: 810;809

*Population:* Nuns who lived in cloister since early adulthood. Followed into old age, USA, 1993

*Sample:* Non-probability chunk sample

*Non-Response:* 17%

*N:* 180

**Correlate**

*Authors label:* mortality rate

*Our classification:* LIFE HISTORY, code L8

*Measurement:* 1. Died before 1993  
 2. Still alive

All nuns were born before 1917 and joined the congregation  
 between 1931 and 1943

*Measured Values:* N: I:23; II:30; III:13; IV:10

*Remarks:* Mortality of all causes.

**Observed Relation with Happiness**

*Happiness  
 Measure*

*Statistics Elaboration/Remarks*

[A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/a](#)

Happiness in young adulthood, as apparent in  
 autobiography written around age 25

<u>A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/a</u>	<u>D%=-34</u>		quartiles positive words			
			I(least)	II	III	IV(most)
		% died:	55	59	33	21
<u>A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/b</u>	<u>D%=-30</u>		quartiles positive sentences			
			I(least)	II	III	IV(most)
		% died:	54	58	35	24
<u>A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/b</u>	<u>B=-1.4</u> <u>p&lt;.00</u>	B denotes % died per % positive sentences in autobiography B controled for age and education				

## Correlational finding on Happiness and Earlier life (antecedents of happiness)

Subject code: L8.1

### Study CHIRI 1982

*Reported in:* Chiriboga, D.A.  
Consistency in Adult Functioning. The Influence of Stress.  
Ageing and Society, 1982, Vol. 2, 7 - 29. ISSN p 0144 686X; ISSN e 1469 1779  
Page in Report: 23

*Population:* People in transition followed 11 years, metropolis, USA, 1969-1980

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:* Attrition after 11 years 24%

*N:* 163

### Correlate

*Authors label:* Life history (2)

*Our classification:* Earlier life (antecedents of happiness), code L8.1

*Measurement:* Set 1: Earlier demographic characteristics (11 years ago  
T5:1969)

- 1 Stage of life
- 2 Religious participation
- 3 Income
- 4 Socioeconomic status

Set 2: Earlier psychosocial characteristics (11 years ago  
T5:1969)

- 5: Psychiatric symptoms
- 6: Happiness
- 7: Self criticism
- 8: Future extension
- 9: Number of drs visits
- 10: Activity scope

Set 3: Earlier stress (6 years ago  
T3:1974)

- 11: Negative events
- 12: Positive events
- 13: Transitional status

Set 4: Earlier stress (4 years ago T4:1976)

- 14: Negative events
- 15: Positive events

Set 5: Current stress (T5:1980)

- 16: Positive events
- 17: Negative events

## Observed Relation with Happiness

*Happiness  
Measure*

*Statistics Elaboration/Remarks*

O-HL/c/sq/v/3/cb

R<sup>2</sup>=

Male

Female

R<sup>2</sup>

Ra<sup>2</sup>

R<sup>2</sup>

Ra<sup>2</sup>

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set 1	.09	.03	.06	.00
set 1+2	.23	.09	.26	.15
set 1+2+3	.28	.10	.32	.19
set 1+2+3+4	.31	.10	.36	.20
set 1+2+3+4+5	.45	.25	.50	.35

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Happiness assessed at T5(1980)

## Appendix 1: Happiness Items used

<i>Happiness Item Code</i>	<i>Full Text</i>
A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/a	<p>Number of positive emotion words in autobiography</p> <p>Content analysis by count of words/phrases that reflected an emotional experience as either positive, neutral or negative. Coders were instructed not to code possible elicitors of emotion (such as death of a relative) but only the words that describe the emotion that was experienced. They were also instructed not to code words like good or bad, if these did not describe an emotional experience.</p>
A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/b	<p>Number of positive emotion sentences in autobiography</p> <p>Content analysis by count of sentences that reflected an emotional experience as either positive, neutral or negative. Coders were instructed not to code possible elicitors of emotion (such as death of a relative) but only the words that describe the emotion that was experienced. They were also instructed not to code words like good or bad, if these did not describe an emotional experience.</p>
O-HL/c/sq/v/3/cb	<p>Selfreport on single question:</p> <p>In general, how happy are you these days .....? 3 very happy 2 pretty happy 1 not too happy</p>

## Appendix 2: Statistics used

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
B	<p>REGRESSION COEFFICIENT (non-standardized) by LEAST SQUARES (OLS)</p> <p>Type: test statistic</p> <p>Measurement level: Correlate: metric, Happiness: metric</p> <p>Theoretical range: unlimited</p> <p>Meaning:</p> <p><math>B &gt; 0</math> A higher correlate level corresponds with, on an average, higher happiness rating.</p> <p><math>B &lt; 0</math> A higher correlate level corresponds with, on an average, lower happiness rating.</p> <p><math>B = 0</math> Not any correlation with the relevant correlate.</p>
D%	<p>DIFFERENCE in PERCENTAGES</p> <p>Type: descriptive statistic only.</p> <p>Measurement level: Correlate level: dichotomous, but nominal or ordinal theoretically possible as well. Happiness level: dichotomous</p> <p>Range: [-100; +100]</p> <p>Meaning: the difference of the percentages happy people at two correlate levels.</p>
$R^2$	<p>COEFFICIENT of DETERMINATION</p> <p>Type: test statistic</p> <p>Measurement level: Correlates: all metric, Happiness: metric</p> <p>Range: [0; 1]</p> <p>Meaning:</p> <p><math>R^2 = 0</math> « no influence of any correlate in this study has been established.</p> <p><math>R^2 = 1</math> « the correlates determine the happiness completely.</p>

## Appendix 3: About the World Database of Happiness

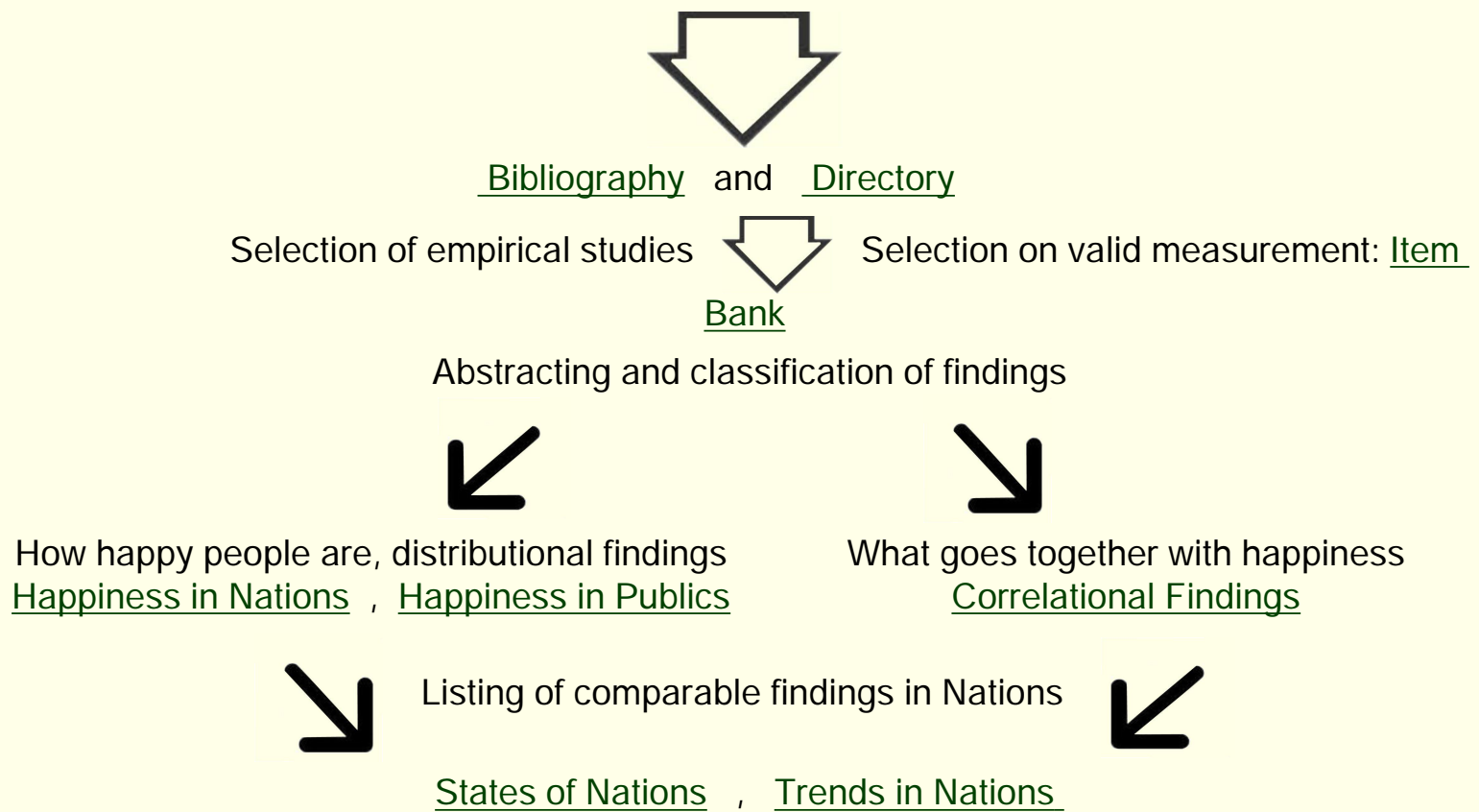
### Structure of the collections

The World Database of Happiness is an ongoing register of scientific research on the subjective enjoyment of life.

It brings together findings that are scattered throughout many studies and provides a basis for synthetic work.

World literature on Happiness

Selection on subject



## Size of the collections

1226 Happiness measures (Item Bank)

4258 Nations surveys in 206 Nations

149 Distinguished publics in 1199 studies

12032 Correlational findings in 1196 studies

## Appendix 4 Further Findings in the World Database of Happiness

<i>Main Subjects</i>	<i>Subject Description</i>	<i>Number of Studies</i>
A1	ACTIVITY: LEVEL (how much one does)	58
A2	ACTIVITY: PATTERN (what one does)	32
A3	AFFECTIVE LIFE	48
A4	AGE	400
A5	AGGRESSION	12
A6	ANOMY	32
A7	APPEARANCE (good looks)	15
A8	ATTITUDES	6
A9	AUTHORITARIANISM	4
B1	BIRTH CONTROL	1
B2	BIRTH HISTORY (own birth)	201
B3	BODY	77

C1	CHILDREN	1
C2	CHILDREN: WANT FOR (Parental aspirations)	6
C3	CHILDREN: HAVING (parental status)	195
C4	CHILDREN: CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE'S CHILDREN	25
C5	CHILDREN: RELATION WITH ONE'S CHILDREN	8
C6	CHILDREN: REARING OF ONE'S CHILDREN (parental behavior)	26
C7	COMMUNAL LIVING	9
C8	CONCERNS	18
C9	COPING	43
C10	CREATIVENESS	6
C11	CULTURE (Arts and Sciences)	8
D1	DAILY JOYS & HASSLES	5
E1	EDUCATION	302
E2	EMPLOYMENT	363
E3	ETHNICITY	98
E4	EXPRESSIVE BEHAVIOR	12
F1	FAMILY OF ORIGIN (earlier family for adults, current for young)	236
F2	FAMILY OF PROCREATION	58
F3	FAMILY OF RELATIVES	157
F4	FARMING	25
F5	FREEDOM	32
F6	FRIENDSHIP	152
G1	GENDER	370
G2	GRIEF	1
H1	HABITS	1
H2	HANDICAP	25
H3	HAPPINESS: VIEWS ON HAPPINESS	49
H4	HAPPINESS: DISPERSION OF HAPPINESS	10
H5	HAPPINESS: CAREER	191
H6	HAPPINESS: CORRESPONDENCE OF DIFFERENT MEASURES	310
H7	HAPPINESS OF OTHERS	0
H8	HAPPINESS: REPUTATION OF HAPPINESS	19
H9	HEALTH-BEHAVIOR	25
H10	HELPING	5
H11	HOPE	8
H12	HOUSEHOLD: COMPOSITION	137
H13	HOUSEHOLD: WORK	32
H14	HOUSING	106
I1	INCOME	552



I2	INSTITUTIONAL LIVING	43
I3	INTELLIGENCE	71
I4	INTERESTS	8
I5	INTERVIEW	73
I6	INTIMACY	103
L1	LANGUAGE	2
L2	LEADERSHIP	8
L3	LEISURE	206
L4	LIFE APPRAISALS: OTHER THAN HAPPINESS	368
L5	LIFE CHANGE	35
L6	LIFE EVENTS	86
L7	LIFE GOALS	75
L8	LIFE HISTORY	2
L9	LIFE STYLE	22
L10	LOCAL ENVIRONMENT	374
L11	LOTTERY	8
L12	LOVE-LIFE	31
M1	MARRIAGE: MARITAL STATUS CAREER	64
M2	MARRIAGE: CURRENT MARITAL STATUS	543
M3	MARRIAGE: RELATIONSHIP	115
M4	MARRIAGE: PARTNER	46
M5	MEANING	23
M6	MEDICAL TREATMENT	81
M7	MENTAL HEALTH	218
M8	MIGRATION: TO OTHER COUNTRY	29
M9	MIGRATION: MOVING WITHIN COUNTRY (residential mobility)	17
M10	MIGRATION: MIGRANT WORK	3
M11	MILITARY LIFE	7
M12	MODERNITY	6
M13	MOOD	246
M14	MOTIVATION	7
N1	NATION: NATIONALITY	29
N2	NATION: ERA (temporal period)	41
N3	NATION: NATIONAL CHARACTER (modal personality)	29
N4	NATION: CONDITION IN ONE'S NATION	430
N5	NATION: POSITION OF ONE'S NATION	1
N6	NATION: ATTITUDES TO ONES NATION	152
N7	NATION: LIVABILITY OF ONE'S NATION	17
N8	NATION i: ATTITUDES IN	1

N9	REGION IN NATION	59
N10	NUTRITION	23
N21	ERA	0
O1	OCCUPATION	178
O2	ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION	17
P1	PERSONALITY: HISTORY	48
P2	PERSONALITY: CHANGE	10
P3	PERSONALITY: CURRENT ORGANIZATION	7
P4	PERSONALITY: CURRENT TRAITS	462
P5	PERSONALITY: LATER	23
P6	PHYSICAL HEALTH	427
P7	PLANNING	11
P8	POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR	231
P9	POPULARITY	26
P10	POSSESSIONS	60
P11	PRISON	1
P12	PROBLEMS	25
P13	PSYCHO-SOMATIC COMPLAINTS	62
P14	PETS	3
R1	RELIGION	251
R2	RESOURCES	9
R3	RETIREMENT	89
R4	ROLES	23
S1	SCHOOL	129
S2	SELF-IMAGE	237
S3	SEX-LIFE	61
S4	SLEEP	16
S5	SOCIAL MOBILITY	17
S6	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: PERSONAL CONTACTS	69
S7	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION : VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS	131
S8	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: TOTAL (personal + associations)	34
S9	SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS	154
S10	SOCIAL SUPPORT: RECEIVED	62
S11	SOCIAL SUPPORT: PROVIDED	6
S12	SPORTS	38
S13	STIMULANTS	49
S14	SUICIDE	8
S15	SUMMED DETERMINANTS	92
T1	TIME	53

T2	THERAPY	38
T3	TOLERANCE	37
V1	VALUES: CAREER	8
V2	VALUES: CURRENT PREFERENCES (own)	73
V3	VALUES: CLIMATE (current values in environment)	7
V4	VALUES: SIMILARITY (current fit with others)	12
V5	VICTIM	14
W1	WAR	5
W2	WISDOM	2
W3	WORK: CAREER	2
W4	WORK: CONDITIONS	68
W5	WORK: ATTITUDES	347
W6	WORK: PERFORMANCE (current)	29
W7	WORRIES	31
XX	UNCLASSIFIED	25

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## Appendix 5: Related Subjects

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Related Subject(s)</i>
L8.1 Earlier life (antecedents of happiness)	S15.1.1 Summed effect of earlier conditions
L8.1 Earlier life (antecedents of happiness)	B2 BIRTH HISTORY (own birth)
L8.2 Change in life	L5 LIFE CHANGE
L8.3 Later life (consequences of happiness)	S15.1.4 Summed later-life conditions

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## A report of the World Database of Happiness, Correlational Findings