

## World Database of Happiness



### Correlational Findings on Happiness and NATION: LIVABILITY OF ONE'S NATION Subject Code: N7

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University Rotterdam](#)

#### Classification of Findings

<i>Subject Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Nr of Studies on this Subject</i>
N7	NATION: LIVABILITY OF ONE'S NATION	0
N7.1	Presumed livability	1
N7.2	Apparent average livability	0
N7.2.1	Average health of citizens	1
N7.2.1.1	. prevalence of physical illness	0
N7.2.1.2	. prevalence of mental illness	0
N7.2.1.3	. life-expectancy in the nation	7
N7.2.1.4	. Disability adjusted life expectancy	0
N7.2.2	Average satisfaction of citizens	0
N7.2.2.1	. appraisal of specific aspects of life	1
N7.2.2.2	- average mood	0
N7.2.2.3	. overall evaluation of life-as-a-whole (happiness)	1
N7.2.2.4	. prevalence of suicide in nation	4
N7.3	Inequality in apparent livability	2
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Appendix 5	Related Subjects	

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 NATION  
 World Database of Happiness, Correlational Findings  
 Internet: [worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl](http://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl)  
 Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2009, Netherlands

## Correlational finding on Happiness and Presumed livability

Subject code: N7.1

## Study

## VLIER 2002A

*Reported in:* VandeVliert, E.; Janssen, O.

Competitive Societies are Less Competitive if the Women are Less Competitive than the Men.

Cross-Cultural Research, 2002, Vol. 36, 321 - 337 ISSN 1069 3971. DOI:10.1177/106939702237305

DOI: 10.1177/106939702237305

Page in Report: 329,331

*Population:* General public and students, in 42 nations, 1986*Sample:* Non-probability chunk sample*Non-Response:*

N: 42

## Correlate

*Authors label:* Societal development*Our classification:* Presumed livability, code N7.1

*Measurement:* Human Development Index

- buying power per head in nation
- level of education
- life expectancy

*Measured Values:* M = 0.80, SD = 0.14,*Remarks:* Data: Human Development Report 1994

## Observed Relation with Happiness

*Happiness Measure**Statistics**Elaboration/Remarks*O-Sum\*/sq/nt/11/ar=+.52  
p<.001

Average happiness by societal development in 42 nations

O-Sum\*/sq/nt/11/aB=+.26 nsB controled for:  
- overall competitiveness  
- gender gap in competitiveness  
- interaction of the above

## Correlational finding on Happiness and Average health of citizens

Subject code: N7.2.1

## Study

## OUWEN 1994

*Reported in:* Ouweneel, P.;Veenhoven, R.  
 Nation Characteristics and Average Happiness.  
 Working Paper, Department of Sociology, Erasmus University, 1994, Rotterdam, Netherlands  
 Page in Report:

*Population:* Adult, general public, 27 nations, ±1980

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:* n.a.

*N:* 27

## Correlate

*Authors label:* Health condition in nation (1)

*Our classification:* Average health of citizens, code N7.2.1

*Measurement:* Index of:  
 - infant mortality rate  
 - number of physicians per thousand - male life expectation

Source:Estes, R.J.-The social progress of nations  
 (1984, N.Y., Praeger)

## Observed Relation with Happiness

*Happiness Measure*

*Statistics*

*Elaboration/Remarks*

O-SLV\*/sq/nt/11/a

r=+.63  
p<.001

Mt ' Life Satisfaction Health score

Australia	7.67	18
Austria	7.10	18
Belgium	7.07	18
Brazil	7.03	11
Canada	7.60	18
Denmark	7.92	19
Finland	7.68	18
France	6.29	18
Germany	6.94	18
Greece	5.70	18
Great Britain	7.41	18
Italy	6.24	18
India	3.35	3
Ireland	7.58	18
Japan	6.20	19
Mexico	4.32	14
Netherlands	7.46	19
Norway	7.67	19
Philippines	6.60	12
Portugal	6.74	15
Singapore	7.12	17

S.Africa	6.43	7
S.Korea	5.50	16
Spain	6.22	18
Sweden	7.80	19
Switzerland	8.60	19
United States	6.94	18

O-HV\*/sq/vt/11/ar=+.55p<.01

Mt ' Happiness

Health score

Australia	7.75	18
Austria	6.68	18
Belgium	7.57	18
Brazil	7.22	11
Canada	7.76	18
Denmark	7.67	19
Finland	7.35	18
France	7.24	18
Germany	6.98	18
Greece	5.61	18
Great Britain	7.74	18
Italy	6.47	18
India	5.16	3
Ireland	7.82	18
Japan	6.94	19
Mexico	6.31	14
Netherlands	7.63	19
Norway	7.45	19
Philippines	6.47	12
Portugal	6.20	15
Singapore	7.24	17
S.Africa	7.03	7
S.Korea	6.21	16
Spain	6.84	18
Sweden	7.62	19
Switzerland	6.99	19
United States	7.55	18

## Correlational finding on Happiness and . life-expectancy in the nation

Subject code: N7.2.1.3

## Study

## BJORN 2008B

*Reported in:* Bjornskov, C.; Dreher, A.; Fischer, J.A.  
 Cross-Country Determinants of Life Satisfaction: Exploring Different Determinants across Groups in Society.  
 Social Choice and Welfare, 2008, Vol. 30, 119 - 173  
 Page in Report: 132,138,160

*Population:* 18+ aged, 70 nations, 1997-2000

*Sample:* Mixed samples

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 87748

## Correlate

*Authors label:* Infant mortality

*Our classification:* . life-expectancy in the nation, code N7.2.1.3

*Measurement:* Infant mortality in nation

*Remarks:* Source: World Bank (2005)

## Observed Relation with Happiness

Happiness Measure	Statistics	Elaboration/Remarks
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa</u>		Individual happiness (not average) by infant mortality in one's nation.
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa</u>	<u>Beta=-.01</u> <u>p&lt;.05</u>	All
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa</u>	<u>Beta=-.01</u> <u>p&lt;.10</u>	males
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa</u>	<u>Beta=-.01</u> <u>p&lt;.01</u>	females
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa</u>	<u>Beta=-.01</u> <u>p&lt;.01</u>	left voters
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa</u>	<u>Beta=-.01</u> <u>p&lt;.05</u>	right voters
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa</u>	<u>Beta=-.01</u> <u>p&lt;.05</u>	low income
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa</u>	<u>Beta=-.01</u> <u>p&lt;.01</u>	middle income
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa</u>	<u>Beta=-.01</u> <u>p&lt;.10</u>	high income
		Beta's controlled for: Area dummies and other cultural and human development variables: - primary schooling - secondary schooling - average IQ - fertility - life expectancy - gender equality - average temperature - latitude - longitude - English speaking

## Individual level variables:

- religion
- conservative ideology
- confidence in parliament
- trust most people
- income
- age
- gender
- education
- marital status
- children
- selfemployed
- housewife
- retired
- student
- unemployed
- service attendance (church etc.)
- belief in superior being

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## Correlational finding on Happiness and . life-expectancy in the nation

Subject code: N7.2.1.3

**Study****DEATO 2008**

*Reported in:* Deaton, A.  
Income Health, and Well-Being around the World: Evidence from the Gallup World Pol.  
Journal of Economic Perspectives, 2008, Vol. 22, 53-72. DOI: 10.1257/089533008785492315  
Page in Report: 61

*Population:* 15+ aged, 132 countries, 2006

*Sample:* Mixed samples

*Non-Response:* n.a.

*N:* 132000

**Correlate**

*Authors label:* Life expectancy

*Our classification:* . life-expectancy in the nation, code N7.2.1.3

*Measurement:* Life expectancy in 2005

*Remarks:* Data: Penn World Tables version 6.2

**Observed Relation with Happiness**

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
--------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------

<u>C-BW/c/sq/l/11/c</u>	<u>B=-.01 ns</u>	ALL countries, N=120 B (-.011)
<u>C-BW/c/sq/l/11/c</u>	<u>B=-.00 ns</u>	Among POOR countries, income < \$12.000, N=83 B (-.004)
<u>C-BW/c/sq/l/11/c</u>	<u>B=+.02 ns</u>	Among NOT POOR countries, income > \$12.000, N=37 B (+.018)  B's controled for: - logarithm of income 2003 - growth rate of income 2000-2003

## Correlational finding on Happiness and . life-expectancy in the nation

Subject code: N7.2.1.3

### Study

#### DEATO 2008

*Reported in:* Deaton, A.  
Income Health, and Well-Being around the World: Evidence from the Gallup World Pol.  
Journal of Economic Perspectives, 2008, Vol. 22, 53-72. DOI: 10.1257/089533008785492315  
Page in Report: 61

*Population:* 15+ aged, 132 countries, 2006

*Sample:* Mixed samples

*Non-Response:* n.a.

*N:* 132000

### Correlate

*Authors label:* Change in life expectancy

*Our classification:* . life-expectancy in the nation, code N7.2.1.3

*Measurement:* Change in life expectancy from 1990 to 2005

*Measured Values:* N=120

*Remarks:* Data: Penn World Tables version 6.2

### Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
--------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------

<u>C-BW/c/sq/l/11/c</u>	<u>B=+.04</u> <u>p&lt;.01</u>	Among ALL countries, N=120 B (+.044)
<u>C-BW/c/sq/l/11/c</u>	<u>B=+.04</u> <u>p&lt;.05</u>	Among POOR countries, income < \$12.000, N=83 B (+.036)
<u>C-BW/c/sq/l/11/c</u>	<u>B=-.06 ns</u>	Among NOT POOR countries, income > \$12.000, N=37 B (-.062)  B's controled for: - logarithm of income 2003 - growth rate of income 2000-2003

## Correlational finding on Happiness and . life-expectancy in the nation

Subject code: N7.2.1.3

### Study

#### OVASK 2006

*Reported in:* Ovasaka, T; Takashima, R.  
Economic Policy and the Level of Self-Perceived Well-Being: An International Comparison.  
Journal of Socio-Economics, 2006, Vol. 35, 308 - 325. ISSN 1053 5357 DOI:10,1016/j.socec.2005,11,054  
Page in Report: 7,17

*Population:* 18+ aged, 68 nations, 1990-2001.

*Sample:* Probability multi-stage cluster sample

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 120000

### Correlate

*Authors label:* Life expectancy

*Our classification:* . life-expectancy in the nation, code N7.2.1.3

*Measurement:* Life Expectancy at birth in years, averaged data for the 1990s.

*Measured Values:* M = 70,73; SD = 6,96; Range: 44,17 - 79,73.

*Remarks:* Source: The World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI).

### Observed Relation with Happiness



<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>O-HL/u/sq/v/4/a</u>	<u>B=+.01 ns</u>	Average happiness by Life Expectancy in 68 nations  B controlled for:(step 1) -GDP per capita -Economic freedom -Political freedom -GDP growth -Government size -Asia (dummy)
<u>O-HL/u/sq/v/4/a</u>	<u>B=+.00 ns</u>	B additionally controlled for: (step 2) -Educational attainment -Female labor participation -Unemployment rate -Inflation rate.
<u>O-HL/u/sq/v/4/a</u>	<u>B=+.01 p&lt;.05</u>	B additionally controlled for:(step 3) -GDP per capita of neighbors -Export -Import -Christianity (dummy) -Islam (dummy) -Population aging
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/a</u>	<u>B=+.06 p&lt;.01</u>	Average life-satisfaction by life-expectancy in 68 nations  B controlled for:(step 1) -GDP per capita -Economic freedom -Political freedom -GDP growth -Government size -Asia (dummy)
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/a</u>	<u>B=+.07 p&lt;.01</u>	B additionally controlled for: (step 2) -Educational attainment -Female labor participation -Unemployment rate -Inflation rate.
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/a</u>	<u>B=+.09 p&lt;.01</u>	B additionally controlled for:(step 3) -GDP per capita of neighbors -Export -Import -Christianity (dummy) -Islam (dummy) -Population aging

## Correlational finding on Happiness and . life-expectancy in the nation

Subject code: N7.2.1.3

## Study VEENH 1984/2

*Reported in:* Veenhoven, R.  
Conditions of Happiness. (Chapter 6: Happiness and Living Conditions; 6.1.1 and 6.1.2).  
D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1984, Dordrecht, Netherlands. ISBN 90 277 1792 3  
Page in Report: 152

*Population:* 15+ aged, general public, world population, 14 nations and regions, 1974-76

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 6563

## Correlate

*Authors label:* Average life expectancy (1)

*Our classification:* . life-expectancy in the nation, code N7.2.1.3

*Measurement:* Average life expectancy per country.

## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>	
<u>C-BW/c/sq/m/11/a</u>	<u>r=+.88</u> <u>p&lt;.001</u>	Mt happiness	Average life expectancy
		Australia	70.90
		USA	72.60
		Canada	72.85
		Great Britain	70.80
		France	72.50
		W-Germany	71.25
		Italy	71.95
		Benelux	72.80
		Scandinavia	73.75
		Brasil	59.35
		Mexico	64.70
		Africa (South of the Sahara)	41.60
		India	41.25
		Japan	73.75

## Correlational finding on Happiness and . life-expectancy in the nation

Subject code: N7.2.1.3

## Study VEENH 1993/3

*Reported in:* Veenhoven, R.  
Happiness in Nations.  
Studies in Socio-Cultural Transformation, nr. 2, RISBO, 1993, Erasmus University Rotterdam,  
Netherlands, 42 - 79. ISBN 90 72597 451  
Page in Report: 47

*Population:* Adults in 31 nations circa 1980

*Sample:* Probability sample (unspecified)

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 45000

---

## Correlate

*Authors label:* Life expectancy

*Our classification:* . life-expectancy in the nation, code N7.2.1.3

*Measurement:* Life-expectancy at birth (in years)

*Remarks:* data: UN 1982, UN 1985

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## Observed Relation with Happiness

*Happiness  
Measure*

*Statistics*

*Elaboration/Remarks*

[O-HL\\*/sq\\*/11/a](#)

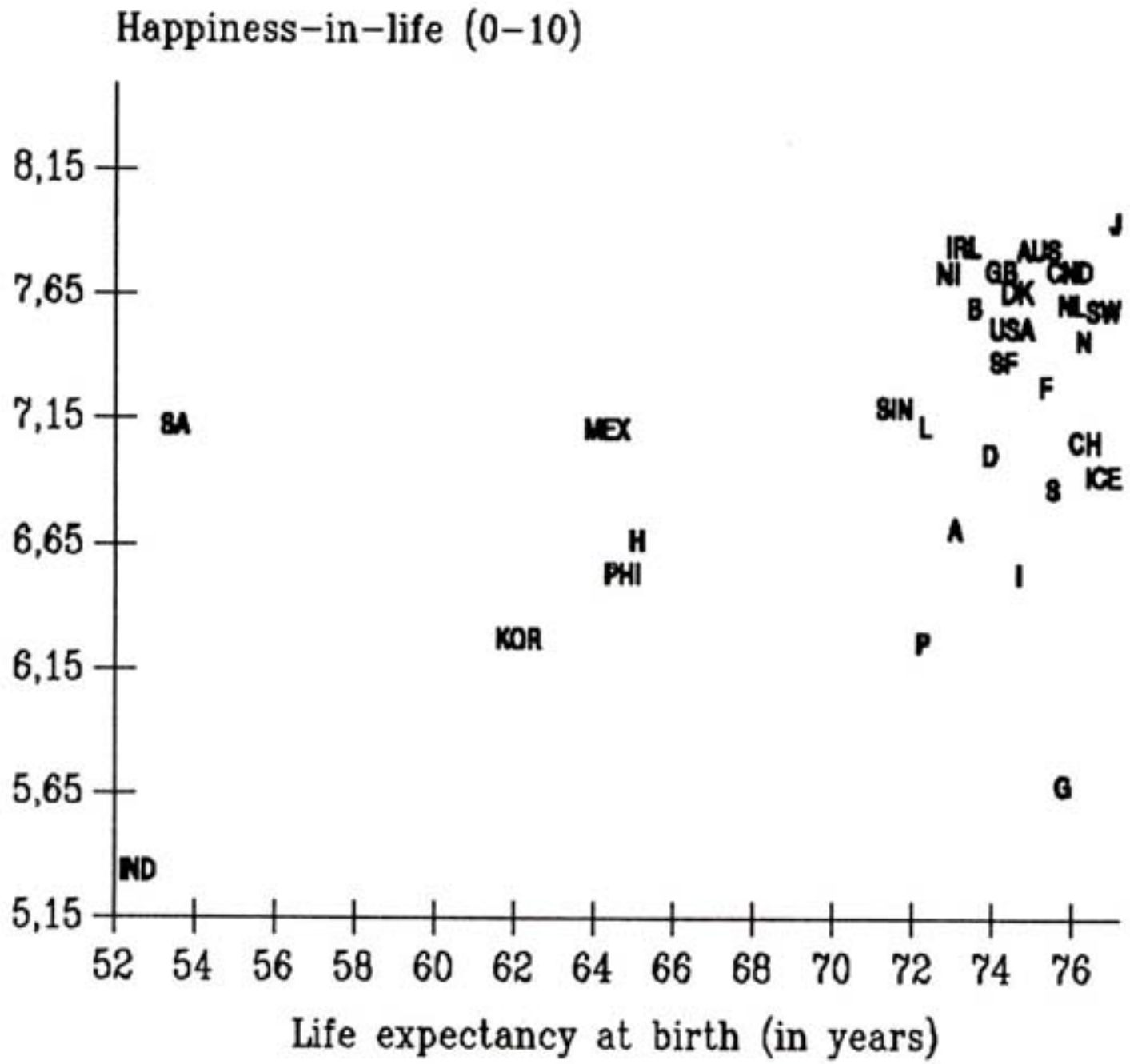
[r=+.53 p<.05](#)

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### Exhibit 5/1.13

### Happiness and life-expectancy at birth

31 nations circa 1980



Correlational finding on Happiness and . life-expectancy in the nation  
 Subject code: N7.2.1.3

**Study****VEENH 2001B**

*Reported in:* Veenhoven, R.  
 Are the Russians as Unhappy as They Say They Are? Comparability of Self-Reports Across Nations.  
 Journal of Happiness Studies, 2001, Vol. 2, 111 - 136 ISSN p 1389 4979;ISSN e 1573 7780 DOI:10.1023/  
 A:1011587828593  
 Page in Report: 123

*Population:* Adults, in 41 nations, 1990

*Sample:* Probability sample (unspecified)

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 50000

---

**Correlate**

*Authors label:* Life-expectation

*Our classification:* . life-expectancy in the nation, code N7.2.1.3

*Measurement:* Life expectancy at birth

*Remarks:* Source: Human Delopment Report

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**Observed Relation with Happiness**

*Happiness  
 Measure*

*Statistics Elaboration/Remarks*

[O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/a](#)

Average life-satisfaction by life-expectation  
 in  
 1990 in 39 nations

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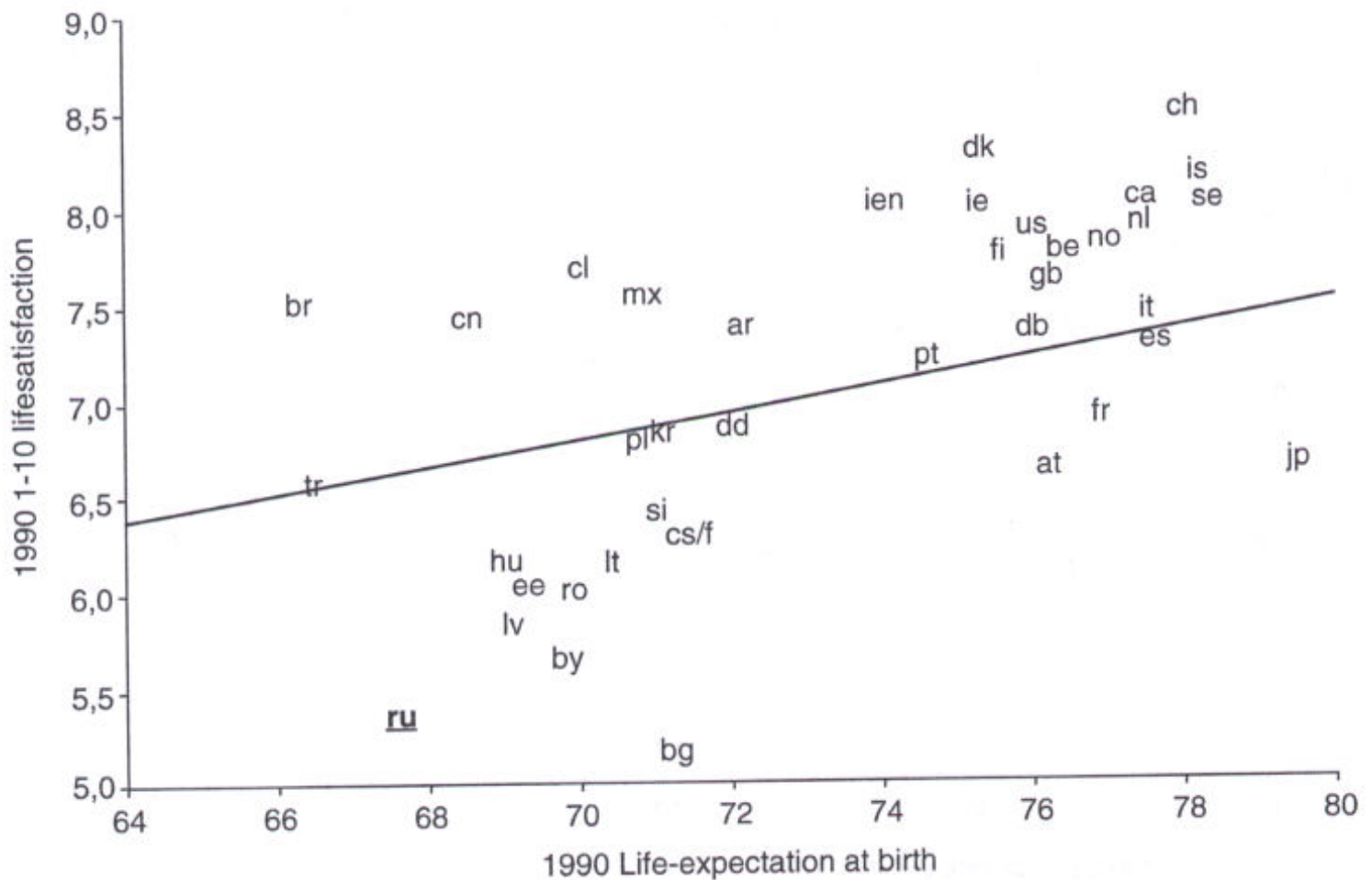


Figure 5. Life-satisfaction by life-expectation in 1990 in 39 nations.

Correlational finding on Happiness and . appraisal of specific aspects of life  
Subject code: N7.2.2.1

Study **ANGST 1978/2**

*Reported in:* Angst, P.R.; Leepin, P.  
Le Monde Entier Interviewé. (The Entire World Interviewed).  
La Baloise, Assurance Company, 1978, Bâle, Switzerland.  
Page in Report: 26

*Population:* 15+ aged, general public, 14 countries, 1974-76

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 2659

## Correlate

*Authors label:* Belief that life is interesting. (1)

*Our classification:* . appraisal of specific aspects of life, code N7.2.2.1

*Measurement:* Percentage of people per country who think life is interesting. (As assessed by single direct survey question)

## Observed Relation with Happiness

Happiness Measure	Statistics	Elaboration/Remarks
<u>O-HL/g/sq/v/3/b</u>	<u>r=+.94</u> <u>p&lt;.001</u>	Average score per country.
		% life interesting
		% happy
		Switzerland 89 91
		Germany 76 75
		France 74 88
		Italy 67 68
		Benelux countries 85 92
		Great Britain 82 92
		Scandinavia 91 95
		Japan 73 65
		India 35 37

Correlational finding on Happiness and . overall evaluation of life-as-a-whole (happiness)  
Subject code: N7.2.2.3

## Study BALTA 2005A

*Reported in:* Baltatescu, S.M.  
Subjective Well-Being of Immigrants in Europe and Their Evaluation of Societal Conditions. An Exploratory Study.  
Pop, L.; Matiuta, C.; Eds.: "European Identity and Free Movement of Persons in Europe", 2005, University of Oradea Publishing House, Oradea, Romania, 128 - 143  
Page in Report: 11

*Population:* 15+ aged, 13 nations in Europe, 2002

*Sample:* Probability multi-stage cluster sample

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 28320

## Correlate

*Authors label:* Life as a whole

*Our classification:* . overall evaluation of life-as-a-whole (happiness), code N7.2.2.3

*Measurement:* Average response to question:"  
 "All things considered, how satisfied are you with your  
 life as a whole nowadays?  
 0 extremely satisfied  
 .  
 .  
 10 extremely satisfied

---

## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<a href="#">O-HL/u/sq/n/11/a</a>	<u><math>r=+.92</math></u>	Average happiness by average life satisfaction in nations

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## Correlational finding on Happiness and . prevalence of suicide in nation

Subject code: N7.2.2.4

### Study VEENH 1984/2

*Reported in:* Veenhoven, R.  
 Conditions of Happiness. (Chapter 6: Happiness and Living Conditions; 6.1.1 and 6.1.2).  
 D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1984, Dordrecht, Netherlands. ISBN 90 277 1792 3  
 Page in Report: 144

*Population:* 15+ aged, general public, world population, 14 nations and regions, 1974-76

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 6563

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## Correlate

*Authors label:* Suicide rates (1)

*Our classification:* . prevalence of suicide in nation, code N7.2.2.4

*Measurement:* Suicide ratio per country.

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## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
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C-BW/c/sq/m/11/ar=+.24 ns

	Mt happiness	Suicide
Australia	7.0	11.7
USA	6.7	12.7
Canada	7.0	12.7
Great Britain	6.8	7.9
France	5.8	15.4
W-Germany	6.6	21.0
Italy	5.6	5.8
Benelux	6.0	11.5
Scandinavia	7.6	20.1
Brasil	6.2	no data
Mexico	6.2	2.1
Africa (South of the Sahara)	4.6	no data
India	3.4	no data
Japan	5.8	18.1

The more happiness, the higher the rate of suicide; there exists hardly any correspondence between average happiness and suicides.

## Correlational finding on Happiness and . prevalence of suicide in nation

Subject code: N7.2.2.4

### Study

**VEENH 1984/3**

*Reported in:* Veenhoven, R.  
Conditions of Happiness. (Chapter 6: Happiness and Living Conditions; 6.1.1 and 6.1.2).  
D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1984, Dordrecht, Netherlands. ISBN 90 277 1792 3  
Page in Report: 144

*Population:* 15+ aged, general public, general public, 9 EC nations, Western Europe, 1975

*Sample:* Probability area sample

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 12996

### Correlate

*Authors label:* Suicide rates (1)

*Our classification:* . prevalence of suicide in nation, code N7.2.2.4

*Measurement:* Suicide ratio per country.

### Observed Relation with Happiness

Happiness Measure	Statistics	Elaboration/Remarks
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O-HV\*/sq/vt/3/ar=+.12 ns

	M happiness	Suicide ratio
Great Britain	1.95	7.9
France	1.89	15.4
W-Germany	1.89	21.0
Italy	1.61	5.8
Belgium	2.27	14.9
The Netherlands	2.22	9.2
Luxembourg	2.03	10.6
Denmark	2.54	23.8
Ireland	1.88	3.5

## Correlational finding on Happiness and . prevalence of suicide in nation

Subject code: N7.2.2.4

### Study

**VEENH 1993/2**

*Reported in:* Veenhoven, R.  
Happiness in Nations.  
Studies in Socio-Cultural Transformation, nr. 2, RISBO, 1993, Erasmus University Rotterdam,  
Netherlands, 42 - 79 ISBN 90 72597 451  
Page in Report: 45

*Population:* Adults in 27 nations circa 1980

*Sample:* Probability sample (unspecified)

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 35000

### Correlate

*Authors label:* Suicide

*Our classification:* . prevalence of suicide in nation, code N7.2.2.4

*Measurement:* Number of suicides per million inhabitants

*Remarks:* data: WHO 1987, UN 1985

### Observed Relation with Happiness

*Happiness Measure*

*Statistics*

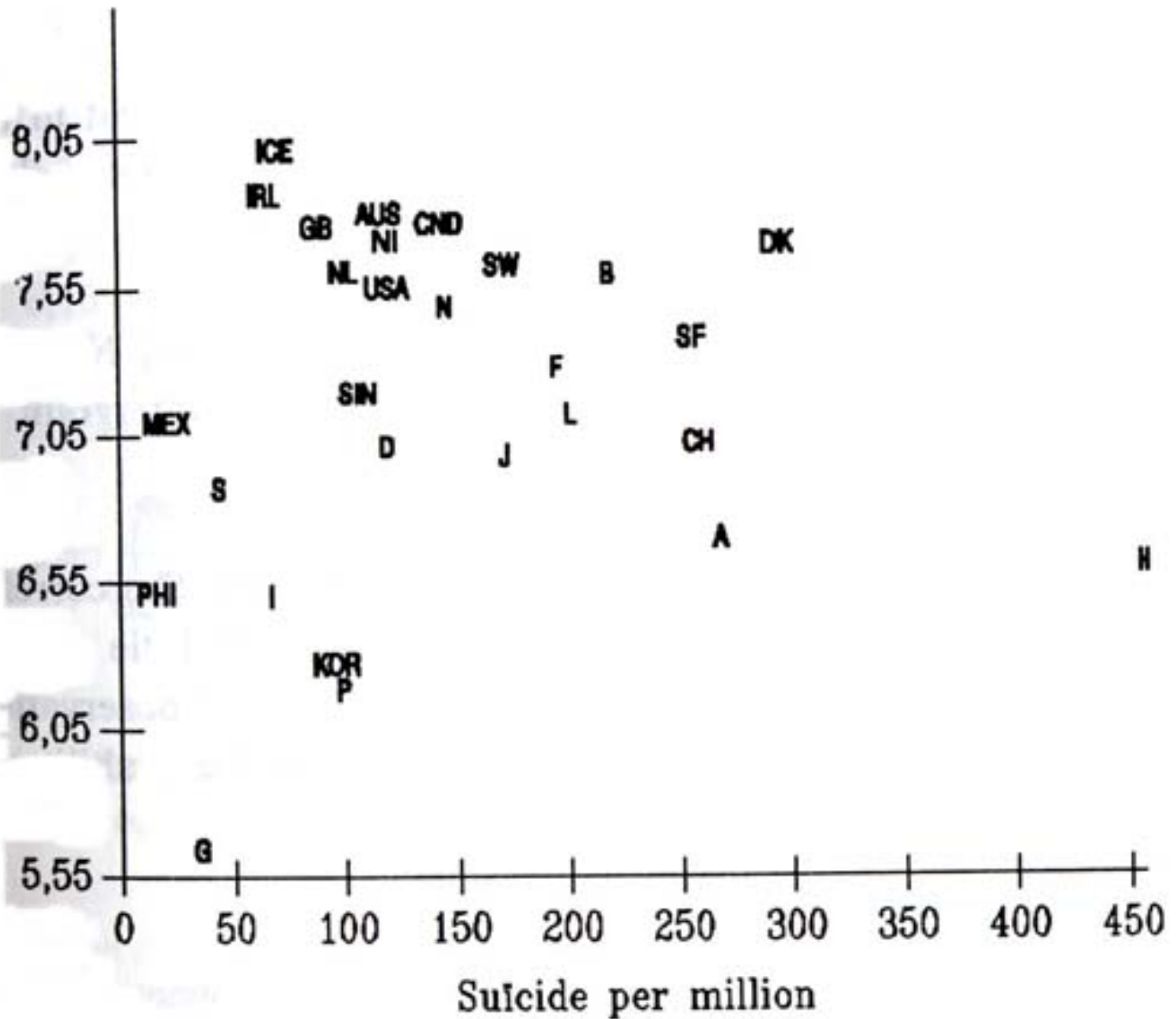
*Elaboration/Remarks*

O-HL\*/sq\*/11/ar=+.03

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**Exhibit 5/1.1.2**  
**Happiness and suicide**  
**27 nations circa 1980**

Happiness-in-life (0-10)



Correlational finding on Happiness and . prevalence of suicide in nation  
 Subject code: N7.2.2.4

**Study****VEENH 2001B**

*Reported in:* Veenhoven, R.  
 Are the Russians as Unhappy as They Say They Are? Comparability of Self-Reports Across Nations.  
 Journal of Happiness Studies, 2001, Vol. 2, 111 - 136 ISSN p 1389 4979;ISSN e 1573 7780 DOI:10.1023/  
 A:1011587828593  
 Page in Report: 124

*Population:* Adults, in 41 nations, 1990

*Sample:* Probability sample (unspecified)

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 50000

**Correlate**

*Authors label:* Suicide rate

*Our classification:* . prevalence of suicide in nation, code N7.2.2.4

*Measurement:* Suicide rate per 100.000

**Observed Relation with Happiness**

*Happiness  
 Measure*

*Statistics Elaboration/Remarks*

[O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/a](#)

Average life-satisfaction by suicide rate in  
 1990  
 in 33 nations

Set Image size:

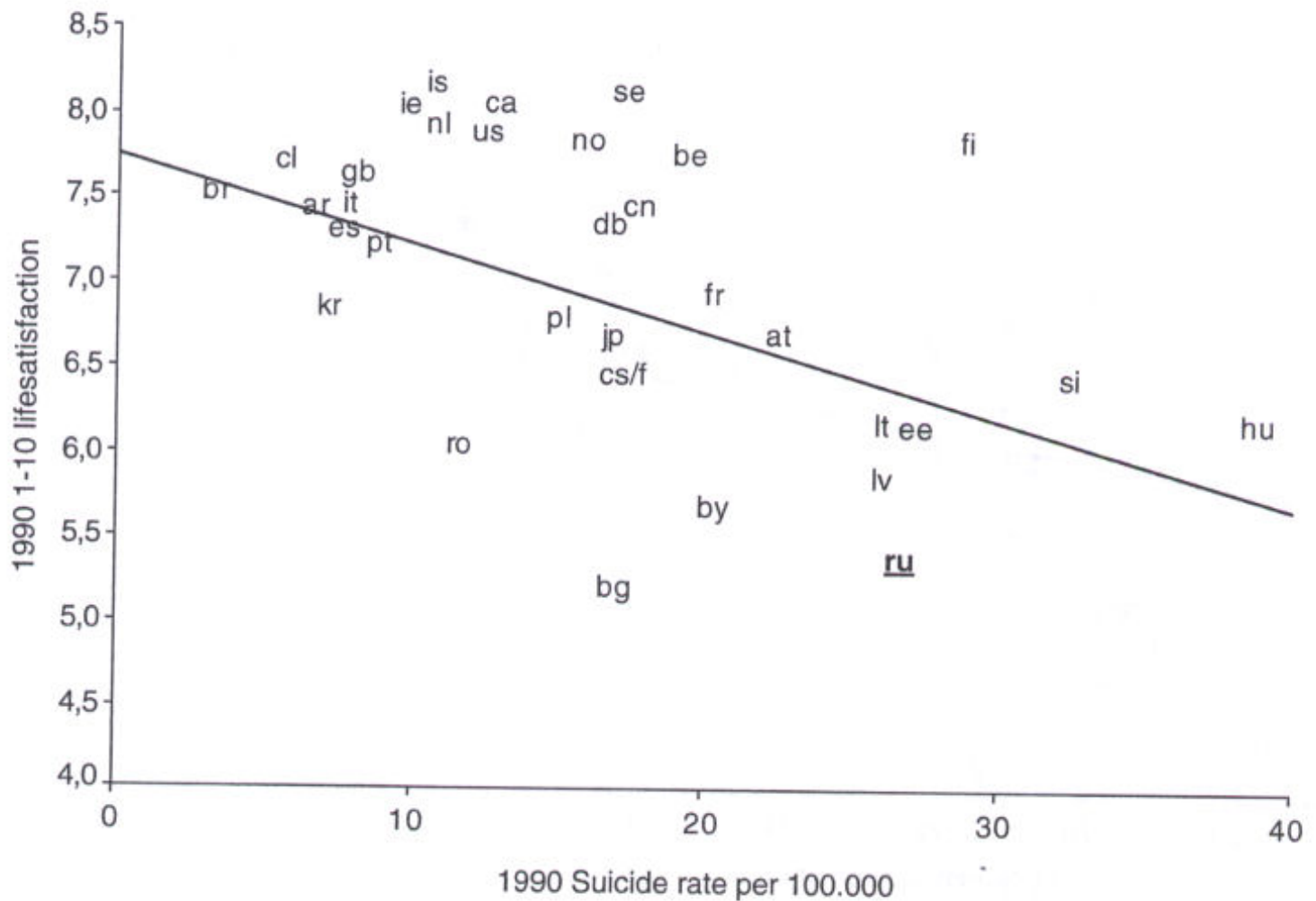


Figure 6. Life-satisfaction by suicide rate in 1990 in 33 nations.

Correlational finding on Happiness and Inequality in apparent livability

Subject code: N7.3

Study VEENH 2005D/1

Reported in: Veenhoven, R.; Kalmijn, W.  
 Inequality-Adjusted Happiness in Nations. Egalitarianism and Utilitarianism Married in a New Index of Social Performance.  
 Journal of Happiness Studies, 2005, Vol. 6, 421 - 455  
 Page in Report: 432+436

Population: Adults, 90 nations, 1990s

Sample: Mixed samples

Non-Response:

N: 90000

## Correlate

*Authors label:* Purchasing power per head

*Our classification:* Inequality in apparent livability, code N7.3

*Measurement:* Real GNP per capita in 1995

*Remarks:* Source: Human Development Report 1999, Table 1 (United Nations Development Program)

## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<a href="#">O-SLW*/sq/t/11/a</a>	<u><math>r=+.66</math></u>	LEVEL OF HAPPINESS by purchasing power per head in 78 nations Level of happiness measured with the average score
<a href="#">O-SLW*/sq/t/11/a</a>	<u><math>r=-.64</math></u>	INEQUALITY OF HAPPINESS by purchasing power in 78 nations Inequality of happiness measured by the standard deviation
<a href="#">O-SLW*/sq/t/11/a</a>	<u><math>r=+.68</math></u>	INEQUALITY-ADJUSTED HAPPINESS by purchasing power per head in 78 nations Inequality-adjusted happiness measured using an index of average and standard deviation, as proposed by Kalmijn & Veenhoven (2005)

## Correlational finding on Happiness and Inequality in apparent livability Subject code: N7.3

### Study

#### VEENH 2005E

*Reported in:* Veenhoven, R.  
Return of Inequality in Modern Society? Test by Dispersion of Life-Satisfaction across Time and Nations.  
Journal of Happiness Studies, 2005, Vol. 6, 457 - 487  
Page in Report: 479

*Population:* 15+ aged, EU nations, 1973 - 2001

*Sample:* Mixed samples

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 374000

## Correlate

*Authors label:* 1997 purchasing power p/c

*Our classification:* Inequality in apparent livability, code N7.3

*Measurement:* Real GNP per capita in 1997

*Remarks:* Source: Human Development Report 1998. (United Nations Development Program)

## Observed Relation with Happiness

*Happiness Measure*

*Statistics*

*Elaboration/Remarks*

[O-SLL/u/sq/v/4/b](#)

$r=-.68$

INEQUALITY in happiness by purchasing power p/c in 61 nations

Inequality in happiness in nations measured using the standard deviation (average over the 1990s)

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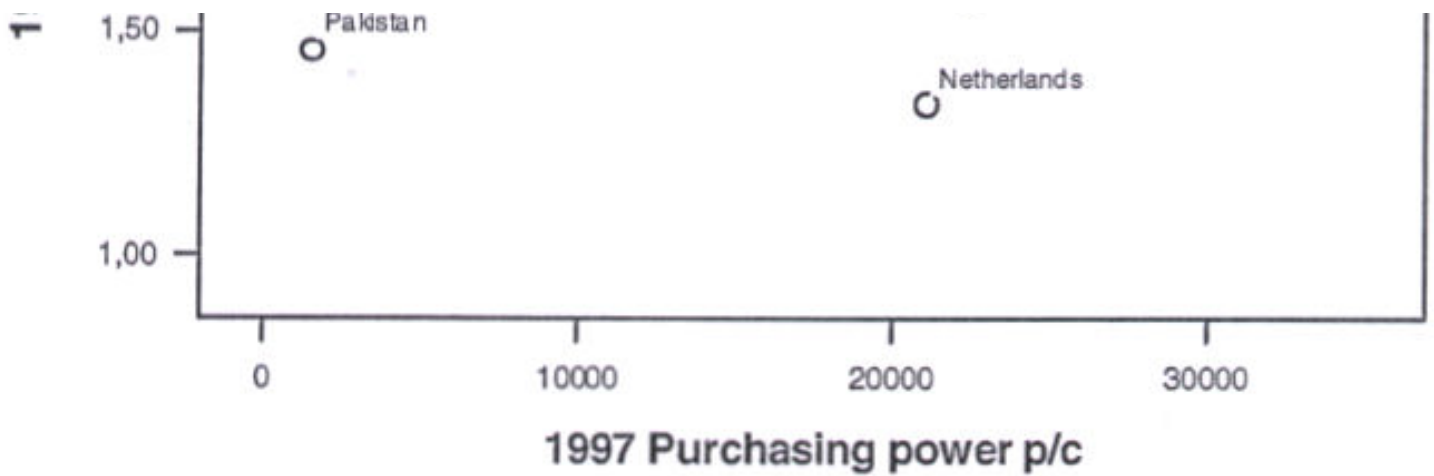


Figure 8. Scattergram of SD life-satisfaction by economic development.

## Appendix 1: Happiness Items used

*Happiness Item Code*      *Full Text*

C-BW/c/sq/l/11/c

Selfreport on single question:

Here is ladder representing the 'ladder of life'. Let's suppose the top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you; and the bottom, the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder do you feel you personally stand at the present time?

10 best possible

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

0 worst possible life

This question was followed (not preceded) by items on life 5 years ago and 5 years from now.

C-BW/c/sq/m/11/a

Selfreport on single question:

"To indicate how you feel about your life at this time, would you use this card? Suppose the top of the mountain represents the best life you can imagine, and the bottom step of the mountain represents the worst possible life you can imagine. On which step of the mountain would you say you personally feel you stand at this time? - assuming that the higher the step the better you feel about your life, and the lower the step the worse you feel about it. Just point to the step that comes closest to how you feel"

10 best possible life

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2



1  
0 worst possible life

(Mountain scale not reproduced here)

O-HL/\*/sq\*/11/a

Self report on single question

Various items using the term happiness

Responses transformed to common 0 to 10 scale

- scores on verbal response scales transformed using Thurstone's technique of expert weighing
- scores on numerical scales shorter than 11 step transformed by linear stretching

O-HL/g/sq/v/3/b

Selfreport on single question:

In general, how happy would you say you are.....?

3 very happy

2 pretty happy

1 not very happy

O-HL/u/sq/n/11/a

Selfreport on single question:

Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are?

0 extremely unhappy

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 extremely happy

- don't know

- no answer

O-HL/u/sq/v/4/a

Selfreport on single question:

Taking all things together, would you say you are.....?

4 very happy

3 quite happy

2 not very happy

1 not at all happy.

O-HV/\*/sq/vt/11/a

Selfreport on single question:

Equivalent questions on overall happiness. (Slightly different items used in the various nations)

Scores transformed to common range 0 - 10 by means of Thurstone procedure (response options weighted by experts)

Weights for responses:

9.3 - very happy

6.7 - pretty happy

6.5 - fairly happy

4.1 - not too happy

3.7 - not very happy

2.7 - not happy

1.0 - not at all happy

0.6 - very unhappy

O-HV\*/sq/vt/3/a

Selfreport on single questions

Six equivalent questions on overall happiness. (Slightly different items used in the various nations)  
Scores transformed to common range 1 - 3, by recoding;

A "Generally speaking, how happy would you say you are;  
would you say you are...?  
3 very happy  
2 fairly happy  
1 not too happy

B Taken all things together, how would you say things are these days; would you say you are ...?  
3 very happy  
2 fairly happy  
1 not too happy

C Taken all together, would you say you are.....?  
3 very happy  
2 quite happy  
1 not very happy  
1 not at all happy

D Taken all together how would you say things are these days; would you say you are ...?  
3 very happy  
2 pretty happy  
1 not too happy

E In general, how happy would you say you are...?  
3 very happy  
2 fairly happy  
1 not very happy

F How happy do you feel as you live now? Please choose one item from this card that is closest to your feeling  
3 very happy  
3 fairly happy  
2 neither happy nor unhappy  
1 fairly unhappy  
1 very unhappy

O-SLL/u/sq/v/4/b

Selfreport on single question:

On the whole how satisfied are you with the life you lead?  
4 very satisfied  
3 fairly satisfied  
2 not very satisfied  
1 not at all satisfied  
- Don't know

O-SLV\*/sq/nt/11/a

Self report on single question:

Equivalent questions on life-satisfaction rated on various scales. The items differ slightly in wording and number of the response options.

Scores are transformed to a common range 0 - 10 by means of expert weighting of response options (Thurstone's method).

O-SLW\*/sq/t/11/a

Self report on single question:

Various questions on overall satisfaction with life as a whole.  
Scores transformed to scale 0-10

O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/a

Selfreport on single question:

All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as-a-whole these days?

1 dissatisfied

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 satisfied

O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/aa

Selfreport on single question:

All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as-a-whole now.....?

1 dissatisfied

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 satisfied

O-Sum\*/sq/nt/11/a

Self report on single question:

Equivalent questions on happiness and life-satisfaction rated on various scales. The items differ slightly in wording and number of the response options.

Scores are transformed to a common range 0 - 10 by means of expert weighting of response options (Thurstone's method).

## 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>
Beta	<p>(<math>\beta</math>) STANDARDIZED REGRESSION COEFFICIENT by LEAST SQUARES (OLS)</p> <p>Type: test statistic.</p> <p>Measurement level: Correlates: all metric, Happiness!: metric.</p> <p>Range: [-1 ; +1]</p> <p>Meaning:</p> <p><math>\beta &gt; 0</math> « a higher correlate level corresponds with, on an average, higher happiness rating.</p> <p><math>\beta &lt; 0</math> « a higher correlate level corresponds with, on an average, lower happiness rating.</p> <p><math>\beta = 0</math> « no correlation.</p> <p><math>\beta = + 1</math> or <math>-1</math> « perfect correlation.</p> <p>Remark:</p> <p>Mean of observations is subtracted from all observations if standardized.</p>
r	<p>PRODUCT-MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENT (Also "Pearson's correlation coefficient" or simply 'correlation coefficient')</p> <p>Type: test statistic.</p> <p>Measurement level: Correlate: metric, Happiness: metric</p> <p>Range: [-1; +1]</p> <p>Meaning:</p> <p><math>r = 0</math> « no correlation ,</p> <p><math>r = 1</math> « perfect correlation, where high correlate values correspond with high happiness values, and</p> <p><math>r = -1</math> « perfect correlation, where high correlate values correspond with low happiness values.</p>

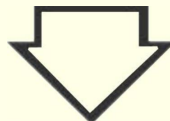
## Appendix 3: About the World Database of Happiness

### Structure of the collections

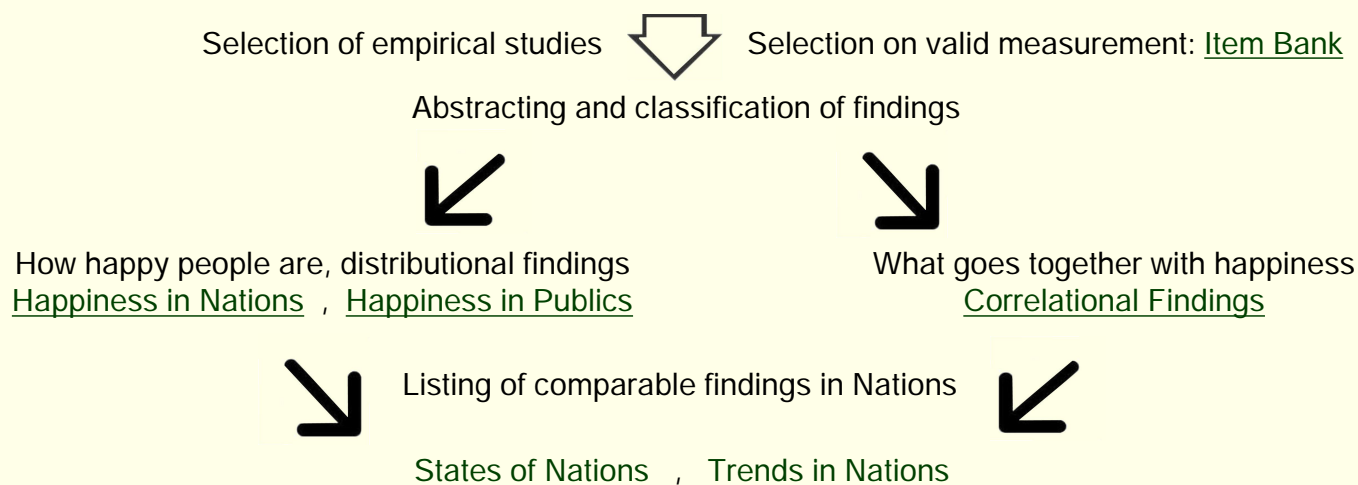
The World Database of Happiness is an ongoing register of scientific research on the subjective enjoyment of life. It brings together findings that are scattered throughout many studies and provides a basis for synthetic work.

World literature on Happiness

Selection on subject



[Bibliography](#) and [Directory](#)



## 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

## Appendix 5: Related Subjects

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Related Subject(s)</i>
N7.2.1.1 . prevalence of physical illness	P6 PHYSICAL HEALTH
N7.2.1.2 . prevalence of mental illness	M7 MENTAL HEALTH
N7.2.1.2 . prevalence of mental illness	N3 NATION: NATIONAL CHARACTER (modal personality)
N7.2.1.3 . life-expectancy in the nation	P6.1.4.1 . longevity (assessed in follow up)
N7.2.2.1 . appraisal of specific aspects of life	L4 LIFE APPRAISALS: OTHER THAN HAPPINESS
N7.2.2.2 - average mood	M13 MOOD
N7.2.2.2 - average mood	N3 NATION: NATIONAL CHARACTER (modal personality)
N7.2.2.3 . overall evaluation of life-as-a-whole (happiness)	H6 HAPPINESS: CORRESPONDENCE OF DIFFERENT MEASURES
N7.2.2.3 . overall evaluation of life-as-a-whole (happiness)	N1.2 Current nation of residence
N7.2.2.4 . prevalence of suicide in nation	S14 SUICIDE
N7.3 Inequality in apparent livability	N4.8 Social equality in the nation
N7.3 Inequality in apparent livability	H4.2 Inequality of happiness in nations
N7.3 Inequality in apparent livability	N2.2 Inequality of happiness in era



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