

World Database of Happiness

Correlational Findings on Happiness
and SUICIDE
Subject Code: S14



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Classification of Findings

Subject Code	Description	Nr of Studies on this Subject
S14	SUICIDE	1
S14.1	Suicidal career	0
S14.1.1	Earlier suicidal behavior	1
S14.1.2	Change in suicidal behavior	0
S14.1.4	Later suicidal behavior	2
S14.2	Current suicidal behavior	0
S14.2.1	Suicidal intentions	3
S14.2.2	Suicidal attempts	0
S14.3	Attitudes to own suicidal behavior	0
S14.4	Attitudes to suicide in general	1
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Appendix 4	Further Findings in the World Database of Happiness	
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Correlational finding on Happiness and SUICIDE

Subject code: S14

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: SUICIDE, code S14

Measurement: Number of suicides per million inhabitants

Remarks: data: WHO 1987, UN 1985

Observed Relation with Happiness

Happiness Measure

Statistics

Elaboration/Remarks

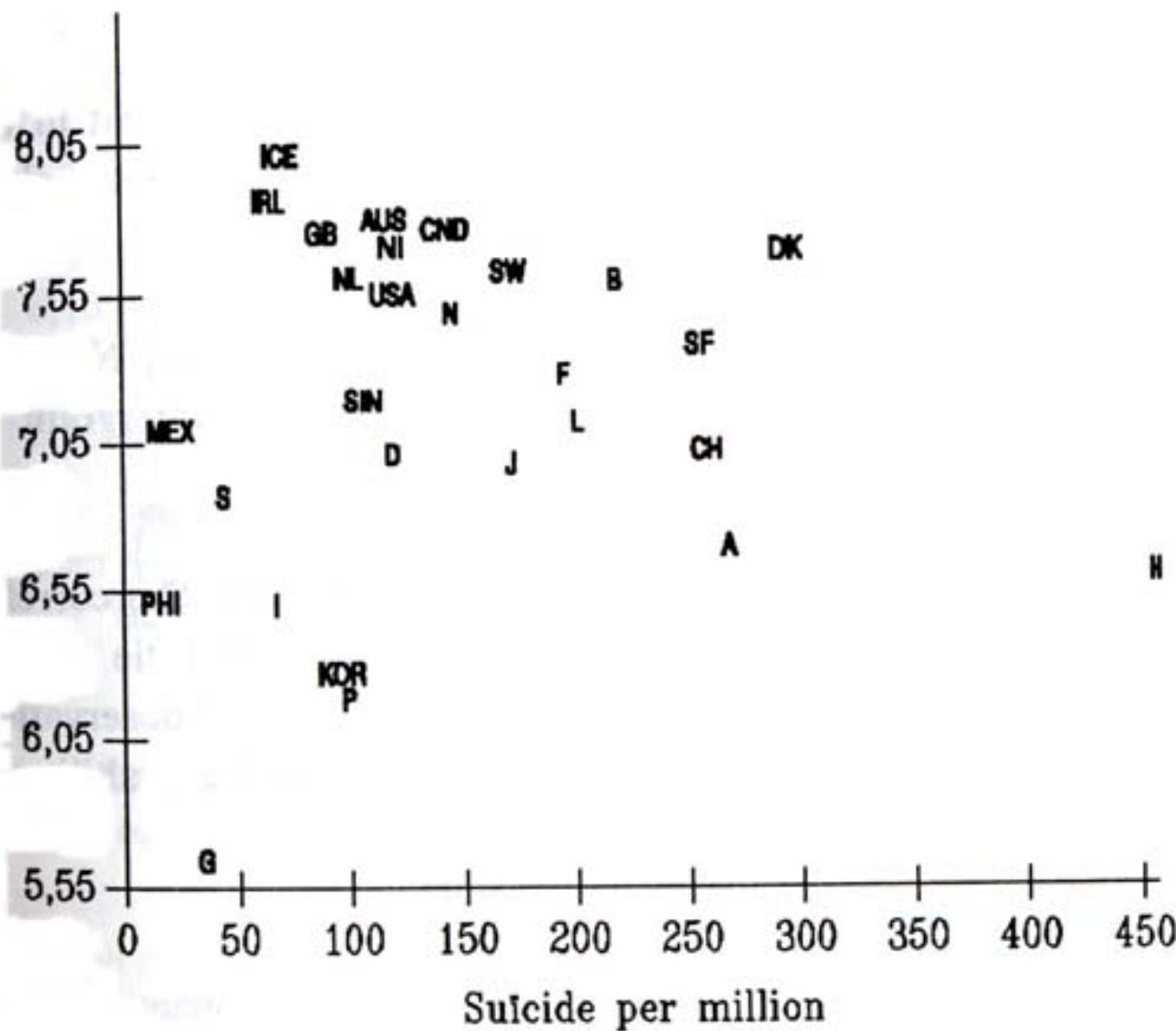
O-HL/*/sq/*/11/a

r=+.03

Set Image size:

Exhibit 5/1.1.2
Happiness and suicide
27 nations circa 1980

Happiness-in-life (0-10)



Correlational finding on Happiness and Earlier suicidal behavior
 Subject code: S14.1.1

Study

CAMER 1973/1

Reported in: Cameron, P.; Titus, D.G.; Kostin, J.; Kostin, M.
The Life Satisfaction of Non-Normal Persons.
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 1973, Vol. 41, 207 - 214
Page in Report: 209

Population: Handicapped and controls Detroit, USA, 197?

Sample:

Non-Response: -

N: 295

Correlate

Authors label: Having ever contemplated suicide (1)

Our classification: Earlier suicidal behavior, code S14.1.1

Measurement: Closed question: no vs yes

Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>O-SLu/c/sq/v/4/a</u>	<u>r = -</u>	normals : $r = -.28$ (01) handicapped : $r = -.11$ (ns)

Correlational finding on Happiness and Later suicidal behavior

Subject code: S14.1.4

Study KOIVU 2003

Reported in: Koivumaa-Honkanen H.; Honkanen R.; Koskenvuo M.; Kaprio J.
Self-Reported Happiness in Life and Suicide in Ensuing 20 Years.
Social Psychiatry Psychiatric Epidemiology, 2003, Vol. 38, 244 - 248. ISSN 0933 7954. DOI:10.1007/s00127-003-0625-4
Page in Report: 246

Population: Adults, Finland, 1976-1995

Sample: Non-probability purposive sample

Non-Response: 16%

N: 29067

Correlate

Authors label: suicides

Our classification: Later suicidal behavior, code S14.1.4

Measurement: The Finnish Cause of Death Registry was used to identify suicides between 1975 and 1990.

1 committed suicide after 1975
0 did not commit suicide after 1975

T1: 1975, T2: 1981, T3: 1990

Measured Values: 1: 0.62% (N=182, Male=149, Female=33) 0: 99.38%

Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>O-HL/c/sq/v/5/j</u>	<u>D%+=</u> <u>p<.01</u>	% happy (sum of: cannot say, faiily happy, very happy) 1= 81.9% 2= 92.2%
<u>O-HL/c/sq/v/5/j</u>		Age-adjusted hazard ratio of suicide(HRs) - 1976-1985: 35.13 [95CI 6.39-193.14] - 1986-1995: 4.72 [95CI 1.00-22.31] Risk of suicide increased linealy with decreasing happiness - very happy : 1.0 (reference group) - faiily happy : 2.73 [95CI 1.43-5.23] - cannot say : 4.64 [95CI 2.30-9.34] - faiily unhappy: 6.69 [95CI 3.24-13.78] - very unhappy : 10.84 [95CI 3.93-29.94]

Correlational finding on Happiness and Later suicidal behavior

Subject code: S14.1.4

Study **TAMAK 2000**

Reported in: Tamakoshi, A.; Ohno, Y.; Yamada, T.; Aoki, K.; et al
Depressive Mood and Suicide Among Middle-Aged workers: Findings from a Prospective Study in Nagoye, Japan.
Journal of Epidemiology, 2000, Vol. 10, 173 - 178. ISSN p 1044 3983;ISSN e 1531 5487
Page in Report: 176

Population: 40-54 aged male workers, Japan, followed 4,5 years 1989-1995

Sample: Probability stratified sample

Non-Response: 4,5% non-response at T1

N: 18450

Correlate

Authors label: Suicide

Our classification: Later suicidal behavior, code S14.1.4

Measurement: 1: Died between T1 and T2 due to suicide
0: Other

Measured Values: N= 1: 9, 0: 18441

Remarks: T1-T2 difference: 4,5 years

Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>M-TH/u/sq/v/4/a</u>		T1 happiness by T1-T2 suicide OR is relative risk of suicide, adjusted for age
<u>M-TH/u/sq/v/4/a</u>	<u>OR=4.34</u> <u>ns</u>	T1 most/all times unhappy CI 95[0.73-26.01]
<u>M-TH/u/sq/v/4/a</u>	<u>OR=1.61</u> <u>ns</u>	T1 sometimes unhappy CI 95 [0.36-7.20]
<u>M-TH/u/sq/v/4/a</u>	<u>OR=1.00</u> <u>ns</u>	T1 never unhappy (reference category)

Correlational finding on Happiness and Suicidal intentions

Subject code: S14.2.1

Study CAMER 1973/1

Reported in: Cameron, P.; Titus, D.G.; Kostin, J.; Kostin, M.
The Life Satisfaction of Non-Normal Persons.
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 1973, Vol. 41, 207 - 214
Page in Report: 209

Population: Handicapped and controls Detroit, USA, 197?

Sample:

Non-Response: -

N: 295

Correlate

Authors label: Having contemplated suicide during past month (1)

Our classification: Suicidal intentions, code S14.2.1

Measurement: Closed question: no vs yes

Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
O-SLu/c/sq/v/4/a	<u>r= - p< .05</u>	normals : r = -.34 (.01) handicapped : r = -.21 (.05)

Correlational finding on Happiness and Suicidal intentions

Subject code: S14.2.1

Study VENTE 1995

Reported in: Ventegodt, S.
Livskvalitet i Danmark. (Quality of Life in Denmark).
Forskningscentrets Forlag (The Quality of Life Research Center), København, Denmark, ISBN 8790190017 <http://www.livskvalitet.org/t1/index.asp>
Page in Report: 254

Population: 18-88 aged, general public, Denmark, 1993

Sample: Non-probability purposive sample

Non-Response: 39%

N: 1494

Correlate

Authors label: suicide (1)

Our classification: Suicidal intentions, code S14.2.1

Measurement: Single question:

"Do you sometimes contemplate suicide ?"

1: no

2: not sure

3: yes

Measured Values: N: 1: 1312, 2:60, 3:67

Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
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Correlational finding on Happiness and Suicidal intentions

Subject code: S14.2.1

Study VENTE 1996

Reported in: Ventegodt, S.
Liskvalitet hos 4500 31-33-arige. (The Quality of Life of 4500 31-33-Years-Olds).
Forskningscenter for Livskvalitet, Forskningscentrets Forlag, København 1996, ISBN 8790190068 <http://www.livskvalitet.org/t2/index.asp>
Page in Report: 264

Population: 31-33 aged, Denmark 1993, born in University Hospital in Copenhagen

Sample: Non-probability chunk sample

Non-Response: 39%

N: 4500

Correlate

Authors label: contemplating suicide

Our classification: Suicidal intentions, code S14.2.

Measurement: Single question:

"Do you sometimes contemplate suicide?

1: no

2: not sure

3: yes

Measured Values: N: All:4573; 1:4131; 2:178; 3:264

Remarks: In the original text the answer was reversed and the correlation was wrongly positive

Observed Relation with Happiness

Happiness Measure	Statistics	Elaboration/Remarks
<u>A-AOL/m/sq/v/5/a</u>	<u>r=-.35</u> <u>p<.00</u>	1: Mt=7.99 2: Mt=6.23 3: Mt=5.01
<u>O-SLu/c/sq/v/5/e</u>	<u>r=-.35</u> <u>p<.00</u>	1: Mt=7.66 2: Mt=5.91 3: Mt=4.60
<u>O-HL/c/sq/v/5/h</u>	<u>r=-.31</u> <u>p<.00</u>	1: Mt=7.23 2: Mt=5.45 3: Mt=4.85

Correlational finding on Happiness and Attitudes to suicide in general
Subject code: S14.4

Study VEENH 1996

Reported in: Veenhoven, R.
Leefbaarheid van Landen. (Livability of Nations).
Inaugurial Lecture, University Utrecht, Netherlands School for Social and Economic Policy, Research, 1996, Vol. 2, Utrecht, Netherlands <http://www2.eur.nl/fsw/research/veenhoven/Pub1990s/96h-fulln.pdf>
Page in Report: 42

Population: Adults, 48 nations, around 1990

Sample: Probability sample (unspecified)

Non-Response:

N: 75000

Correlate

Authors label: Acceptance of suicide

Our classification: Attitudes to suicide in general, code S14.4

Measurement: Average response to survey question:
Please tell me for suicide whether it can
1: never be justified
.
.
10: always be justified

Remarks: Data: World Value Survey 2 1990-92, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>Y-LH/l/yh/n/100/a</u>	<u>$r=+.43$</u>	Happy Life Years by Acceptance of suicide in 42 nations
<u>Y-LH/l/yh/n/100/a</u>	<u>$rpc=+.16$</u>	rpc controlled for buying power per capita

Appendix 1: Happiness Items used

<i>Happiness Item Code</i>	<i>Full Text</i>
A-AOL/m/sq/v/5/a	Single direct question: How are you feeling now....? 5 very good 4 good 3 neither good nor poor 2 poor 1 very poor
M-TH/u/sq/v/4/a	Self report on single question: I am not satisfied with my life 1 all the time 2 most of the time 3 sometimes 4 never
	Item in Zung's Depression Scale
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/c/sq/v/5/h	Selfreport on single question 'How happy are you now?' 5 very happy 4 happy 3 neither happy nor unhappy 2 unhappy 1 very unhappy Original text in Danish: 'Hvor lykkelig er du for tiden?' 5 meget lykkelig 4 lykkelig 3 hverken eller 2 ulykkelig 1 meget ulykkelig

O-HL/c/sq/v/5/j	Selfreport on single question Do you feel your life at present is...? 5 very happy 4 fairly happy 3 cannot say 2 fairly sad 1 very sad
O-SLu/c/sq/v/4/a	Selfreport on single question : "These days my life is". 4 just great 3 more than satisfactory 2 less than satisfactory 1 miserable
O-SLu/c/sq/v/5/e	Selfreport on single question: 'How satisfied are you with your life now?' 5 very satisfied 2 satisfied 3 neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 2 dissatisfied 1 very dissatisfied
	Original text in Danish: 'Hvor tilfreds er du med dit liv for tiden?' 5 meget tilfreds 4 tilfreds 3 hverken tilfreds eller utilfreds 2 utilfreds 1 meget utilfreds
Y-LH/l/yh/n/100/a	Happy Life Years Life-expectancy in nations multiplied by 0-1 average happiness as assessed with survey questions type O-HL

Appendix 2: Statistics used

Symbol	Explanation
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.</p> <p>Happiness level: dichotomous</p> <p>Range: [-100; +100]</p> <p>Meaning: the difference of the percentages happy people at two correlate levels.</p>
OR	<p>ODDS RATIO</p> <p>Type: descriptive statistic only.</p> <p>Measurement level: Correlate: dichotomous, Happiness level: dichotomous</p> <p>Range: nonnegative unlimited</p> <p>Meaning:</p> <p>OR = 1 « no association at all;</p> <p>OR = 0 or infinite « at least one level of the correlate allows an error-free prediction of the happiness.</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>r = 0 « no correlation ,</p> <p>r = 1 « perfect correlation, where high correlate values correspond with high happiness values, and</p> <p>r = -1 « perfect correlation, where high correlate values correspond with low happiness values.</p>
rpc	<p>PARTIAL CORRELATION COEFFICIENT</p> <p>Type: test statistic</p> <p>Measurement level: Correlate: metric, Happiness: metric</p> <p>Range: [-1; +1]</p> <p>Meaning: a partial correlation between happiness and one of the correlates is that correlation, which remains after accounting for the contribution of the other influences, or some of them, to the total variability in the happiness scores.</p> <p>Under that conditions</p> <p>rpc > 0 « a higher correlate level corresponds with a higher happiness rating,</p> <p>rpc < 0 « a higher correlate level corresponds with a lower happiness rating,</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

Main Subjects	Subject Description	Number of Studies
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>
S14	SUICIDE	N7.2.2.4 . prevalence of suicide in nation
S14	SUICIDE	N9.4.7 Suicide in region

A report of the World Database of Happiness, Correlational Findings