



## **Findings on Happiness & LIFE HISTORY**

**Correlate Code: L 8**

<b>Classification of Findings</b>		<b>Number of Studies on this Subject</b>
<b>Correlate Code</b>	<b>Correlate Name</b>	
L 8	LIFE HISTORY	1
L 8.1	Earlier life (antecedents of happiness)	1
L 8.2	Change in life	0
L 8.3	Later life (consequences of happiness)	0

Appendix 1:	Happiness queries used
Appendix 2:	Statistics used
Appendix 3:	About the World Database of Happiness
Appendix 4:	Further Findings in the World Database of Happiness
Appendix 5:	Related Topics

Cite as: Veenhoven, R.: Findings on Happiness & LIFE HISTORY  
World Database of Happiness. Internet: [www.eur.nl/fsw/research/happiness](http://www.eur.nl/fsw/research/happiness)  
Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2003, Netherlands

<b>Study</b>	<b>DANNE 2001</b>	<i>Page in Report:</i>	810;809
<i>Reported in:</i>	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, No.5 p.804-813 ISSN:0022-3514 American Psychological Association		
<i>Population:</i>	Nuns who lived in cloister since early adulthood. Followed into old age, USA, 1993		
<i>Sample:</i>	Non-probability chunk sample		
<i>Non-Response:</i>	17%		
<i>N:</i>	180		

### Measured Correlate

<i>Class:</i>	LIFE HISTORY Code: L 8
<i>Measurement:</i>	1. Died before 1993 2. Still alive
<i>Measured Values:</i>	N: I:23; II:30; III:13; IV:10
<i>Error Estimates:</i>	
<i>Remarks:</i>	Mortality was of all causes.

### Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Query</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Remarks</i>												
A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/a	D%=-34	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">quartiles positive words</th> </tr> <tr> <th>I (few)</th> <th>II</th> <th>III</th> <th>IV (most)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>% died: 55</td> <td>59</td> <td>33</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	quartiles positive words				I (few)	II	III	IV (most)	% died: 55	59	33	21
quartiles positive words														
I (few)	II	III	IV (most)											
% died: 55	59	33	21											
A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/b	D%=-30 B=-1.4 p<.00	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">quartiles positive sentences</th> </tr> <tr> <th>I (few)</th> <th>II</th> <th>III</th> <th>IV (most)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>% died: 54</td> <td>58</td> <td>35</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>B controlled for age and education B denotes percent died per percent positive sentences in autobiography</p>	quartiles positive sentences				I (few)	II	III	IV (most)	% died: 54	58	35	24
quartiles positive sentences														
I (few)	II	III	IV (most)											
% died: 54	58	35	24											

Study	CHIRI 1982	Page in Report:	23
<i>Reported in:</i>	Chiriboga, D.A. Consistency in adult functioning: The influence of social stress Ageing and Society, vol.2 part 1, p.7-29		
<i>Population:</i>	People in transition followed 4 years, metropolis, USA, 1969-1980		
<i>Sample:</i>			
<i>Non-Response:</i>	Attrition after 11 years 24%		
<i>N:</i>	163 (in 1969:216)		

## Measured Correlate

*Class:* Earlier life (antecedents of happiness) Code: L 8.1

*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 doctor visits  
 10 Activity scope  
 Set 3: Earlier stress (6 years ago T3: 1974)  
 11 Negative events  
 12 Positive events  
 13 Translational 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

*Measured Values:*

*Error Estimates:*

*Remarks:*

## Observed Relation with Happiness

Happiness Query	Statistics	Remarks	Male				Female			
			R <sup>2</sup>							
O-HL/c/sq/v/3/cb	R <sup>2</sup> =									
			-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
			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

---

Happi ness assessed at T5(1980)

**Appendix 1      Queries on Happiness used in reported Studies**

Happiness Query Code    Full Text

---

A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/a	Number of positive emotion words in autobiography  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 experienced.
A-ASA/h/cr/n/100/b	Number of positive emotion sentences in autobiography  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 experienced.
O-HL/c/sq/v/3/cb	Selfreport on single question:  "In general, how happy are you these days .....?" 3 very happy 2 pretty happy 1 not too happy

On the web you will find an overview of valid queries on happiness and an explanation of the classification used. Go to: [www.eur.nl/fsw/research/happiness/hap\\_quer/hqi\\_fp.htm](http://www.eur.nl/fsw/research/happiness/hap_quer/hqi_fp.htm). This is the introductory text to the Catalog of Happiness Queries.

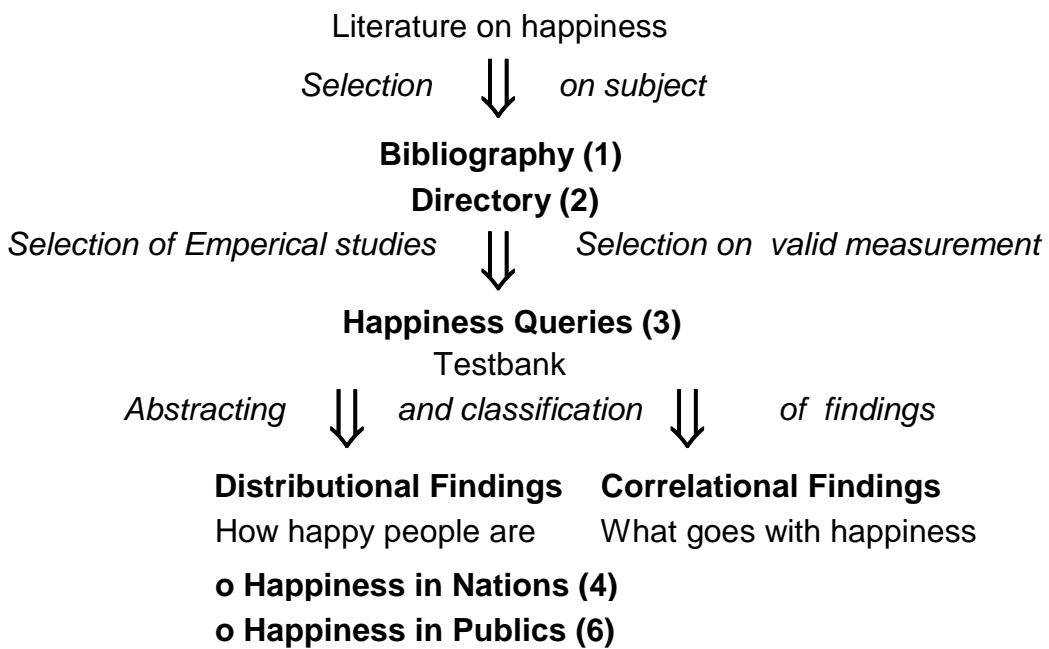
## Appendix 2 **Statistics used in reported studies**

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

On the web you will find a text explaining the statistics used in more detail. Go to:  
[www.eur.nl/fsw/research/happiness/hap\\_cor/cor\\_fp.htm](http://www.eur.nl/fsw/research/happiness/hap_cor/cor_fp.htm). This is the introductory text to the Catalog of Correlational Findings. An overview of all statistics is in chapter 4.

## Appendix 3: About the World Database of Happiness

The World Database of Happiness is an ongoing register of scientific research on subjective appreciation of life. It brings together findings that are scattered throughout many studies and provides a basis for synthetic analysis. The research literature is processed as follows:



- 1 BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HAPPINESS Presents all contemporary scientific publications. Detailed subject-classification. Current contents: 3422 titles, mainly in English.
- 2 DIRECTORY OF INVESTIGATORS Names and addresses of most authors on the subject. Enumerates years of publication. Current contents: 5818 names and 3073 addresses. Part of Bibliography.
- 3 CATALOG OF HAPPINESS QUERIES (testbank) Presents all indicators that tap happiness as defined here. Current content: 522 measures, mostly single questions. Queries are classified by focus, time reference, mode of observation, rating and wording.
- 4 CATALOG OF HAPPINESS IN NATIONS Presents distributional research findings, in particular responses to questions on happiness in national survey studies. Allows comparison across time and nations. Current content: 1889 surveys in 112 nations, 1946-2000.
- 5 CATALOG OF HAPPINESS IN PUBLICS Distributional findings on happiness in special publics within nations, such as aged people. Current contents: 705 studies. Part of Catalog of Correlational Findings.
- 6 CATALOG OF CORRELATIONAL FINDINGS Presents abstracts of correlational research findings. Detailed subject-classification. Allows comparison through time and across nations. Current contents: 7476 findings from 705 studies in 140 nations, 1911-2000.

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

Main Category's	Category Name	Number of Studies in this Category
A 1	ACTIVITY LEVEL (how much one does)	53
A 2	ACTIVITY PATTERN (what one does)	7
A 3	AFFECTIVE LIFE	31
A 4	AGE	279
A 5	AGGRESSION	11
A 6	ANOMY	30
A 7	APPEARANCE (good looks)	8
A 8	ATTITUDES	4
A 9	AUTHORITARIANISM	4
B 3	BODY	66
C 1	CHILDREN 1:	4
C 10	CREATIVENESS	6
C 11	CULTURE (Arts and Sciences)	6
C 2	CHILDREN: WANT FOR (Parental aspirations)	6
C 3	CHILDREN: HAVING (parental status)	145
C 4	CHILDREN's CHARACTERISTICS	19
C 5	CHILDREN: RELATION WITH	8
C 6	CHILDREN: REARING (parental behavior)	11
C 7	COMMUNAL LIVING	1
C 8	CONCERNs	15
C 9	COPING	27
D 1	DAILY JOYS & HASSLES	4
E 1	EDUCATION	243
E 2	EMPLOYMENT	180
E 3	ETHNICITY	63
E 4	EXPRESSIVE BEHAVIOR	10
F 1	FAMILY OF ORIGIN (earlier family for adults, current for young)	195
F 2	FAMILY OF PROCREATION	42
F 3	FAMILY OF RELATIVES	145
F 4	FARMING	30
F 5	FREEDOM	24
F 6	FRIENDSHIP	123
G 1	GENDER	252
G 2	GRIEF	1
H 10	HOPE	3
H 11	HOUSEHOLD: COMPOSITION	90
H 12	HOUSEHOLD: WORK	10
H 13	HOUSING	75
H 2	HANDICAP	13

H 3	HAPPINESS: ATTITUDES	39
H 5	HAPPINESS CAREER	144
H 6	HAPPINESS: CURRENT LEVEL	260
H 8	HEALTH-BEHAVIOR	15
H 9	HELPING	4
I 1	INCOME	415
I 2	INSTITUTIONAL LIVING	28
I 3	INTELLIGENCE	63
I 4	INTERESTS	5
I 5	INTERVIEW	49
I 6	INTIMACY	70
L 1	LANGUAGE	1
L 10	LOCAL ENVIRONMENT	270
L 11	LOTTERY	7
L 12	LOVE-LIFE	26
L 2	LEADERSHIP	8
L 3	LEISURE	128
L 4	LIFE APPRAISALS: OTHER THAN HAPPINESS4	290
L 5	LIFE-CHANGE	26
L 6	LIFE-EVENTS	63
L 7	LIFE-GOALS	52
L 8	LIFE HISTORY	1
L 9	LIFE STYLE	4
M 1	MARRIAGE: MARITAL STATUS CAREER	32
M 10	MIGRATION: MIGRANT WORK	3
M 11	MILITARY LIFE	5
M 12	MODERNITY	5
M 13	MOOD	181
M 2	MARRIAGE: CURRENT MARITAL STATUS	315
M 3	MARRIAGE: RELATIONSHIP	99
M 4	MARRIAGE: PARTNER	34
M 5	MEANING	18
M 6	MEDICAL TREATMENT	49
M 7	MENTAL HEALTH	99
M 8	MIGRATION: OTHER COUNTRY	9
M 9	MIGRATION: MOVING WITHIN COUNTRY (residential mobility)	17
N 1	NATIONALITY	5
N 2	NATION: TIME & PLACE	20
N 3	NATIONAL CHARACTER (modal personality)	2
N 4	NATION'S CONDITION	52
N 6	ATTITUDES TO THE NATION	111
N 7	LIVABILITY OF THE NATION	5
N 8	NUTRITION	18
O 1	OCCUPATION	133

O 2	ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION	11
P 1	PERSONALITY: HISTORY	44
P 10	POSSESSIONS	26
P 12	PROBLEMS	20
P 13	PSYCHO-SOMATIC COMPLAINTS	53
P 2	PERSONALITY: CHANGE	7
P 3	PERSONALITY: CURRENT ORGANIZATION	7
P 4	PERSONALITY: CURRENT TRAITS	392
P 5	PERSONALITY: LATER	23
P 6	PHYSICAL HEALTH	286
P 7	PLANNING	7
P 8	POLITICS	197
P 9	POPULARITY	22
R 1	RELIGION	198
R 2	RESOURCES	8
R 3	RETIREMENT	46
R 4	ROLES	13
S 1	SCHOOL	92
S 10	SOCIAL SUPPORT: RECEIVED	26
S 11	SOCIAL SUPPORT: Provided	3
S 12	SPORTS	32
S 13	STIMULANTS	33
S 14	SUICIDE	4
S 15	SUMMED EFFECTS ON HAPPINESS	71
S 2	SELF-IMAGE	193
S 3	SEX-LIFE	54
S 4	SLEEP	10
S 5	SOCIAL MOBILITY	16
S 6	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: PERSONAL CONTACTS	50
S 7	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS	111
S 8	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: TOTAL (personal + associations)	25
S 9	SOCIAL STATUS (Socio-Economic Status)	140
T 1	TIME	27
T 2	THERAPY	9
T 3	TOLERANCE	37
V 1	VALUE CAREER	8
V 2	VALUES: CURRENT PREFERENCES (own)	49
V 3	VALUES: CLIMATE (current values in environment)	4
V 4	VALUES: SIMILARITY (current fit with others)	5
V 5	VICTIM	11
W 1	WAR	5
W 2	WORK CAREER	1
W 3	WORK CONDITIONS	34
W 4	WORK-ATTITUDES	313

---

W 5	WORK-PERFORMANCE (current)	6
W 6	WORRIES	27
X	UNCLASSIFIED	22

## Appendix 5 *Related Topics*

<b><i>This Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Related Topics</i></b>		
<i>Classification Page 1</i>	<i>In Subject List on Appendix 4</i>		
L 8	LIFE HISTORY		
L 8.1	Earlier life (antecedents of happiness)	S 15.1.1	Summed effect of earlier conditions
L 8.2	Change in life	B 2	BIRTH HISTORY (own birth)
L 8.3	Later life (consequences of happiness)	L 5	LIFE-CHANGE
		S 15.1.4	Summed later-life conditions

## End of Report