



## World Database of Happiness

### Correlational Findings

© on data collected: Ruut Veenhoven, Erasmus University Rotterdam

# Findings on Happiness & LIVABILITY OF THE NATION

Correlate Code: N 7

---

<b>Classification of Findings</b>		<b>Number of Studies</b>
<b>Correlate Code</b>	<b>Correlate Name</b>	<b>on this Subject</b>
N 7	LIVABILITY OF THE NATION	0
N 7.1	Presumed livability	0
N 7.2	Apparent average livability	0
N 7.2.1	Average health of citizens	1
N 7.2.1.1	. prevalence of physical illness	0
N 7.2.1.2	. prevalence of mental illness	0
N 7.2.1.3	. life-expectancy in the nation	1
N 7.2.2	Average satisfaction of citizens	0
N 7.2.2.1	. appraisal of specific aspects of life	1
N 7.2.2.3	. prevalence of suicide in nation	2
N 7.3	Inequality in apparent livability	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 & LIVABILITY OF THE NATION  
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>Ouwen 1994</b>	<i>Page in Report:</i>
<i>Reported in:</i>	Ouweneel, P. & Veenhoven, R. Nation characteristics and average happiness Working Paper, Rotterdam, 1994	Dpt. of Sociology, Erasmus University,
<i>Population:</i>	Adult, general public, 27 nations, ±1980	
<i>Sample:</i>		
<i>Non-Response:</i>	n.a.	
<i>N:</i>	27	

---

**Measured Correlate**

*Class:* Average health of citizens Code: N 7.2.1

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

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

*Measured Values:*

*Error Estimates:*

*Remarks:*

**Observed Relation with Happiness**

<i>Happiness Query</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
O-H*/*/sq/vt/11/a	r=+.55 p<.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
			Si ngapore	7.24	17
			S. Afri ca	7.03	7
			S. Korea	6.21	16
			Spai n	6.84	18
			Sweden	7.62	19
			Swi tzerl and	6.99	19
			Uni ted States	7.55	18
O-SL**/sq/nt/11/a	r=+.63	p<.001		Mt' Li fe	Heal th
				Sati sfacti on	score
			Austral ia	7.67	18
			Austri a	7.10	18
			Bel gi um	7.07	18
			Brazi l	7.03	11
			Canada	7.60	18
			Denmark	7.92	19
			Fi nl and	7.68	18
			France	6.29	18
			Germany	6.94	18
			Greece	5.70	18
			Great Bri tai n	7.41	18
			I taly	6.24	18
			I ndi a	3.35	3
			I rel and	7.58	18
			Japan	6.20	19
			Mexi co	4.32	14
			Netherl ands	7.46	19
			Norway	7.67	19
			Phi l i ppi nes	6.60	12
			Portugal	6.74	15
			Si ngapore	7.12	17
			S. Afri ca	6.43	7
			S. Korea	5.50	16
			Spai n	6.22	18
			Sweden	7.80	19
			Swi tzerl and	8.60	19
			Uni ted States	6.94	18

---

<b>Study</b>	<b>VEENH 1984/2</b>	<i>Page in Report:</i>	152
<i>Reported in:</i>	Veenhoven, R. Conditions of happiness. (Chapter 6: Happiness and living conditions; 6.1.1 and 6.1.2) D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1984, Dordrecht, The Netherlands.		
<i>Population:</i>	15+ aged, general public, world population, 14 nations and regions, 1974-76		
<i>Sample:</i>			
<i>Non-Response:</i>			
<i>N:</i>	6563		

---

### Measured Correlate

*Class:* . life-expectancy in the nation Code: N 7.2.1.3

*Measurement:* Average life expectancy per country.

*Measured Values:*

*Error Estimates:*

*Remarks:*

---

### Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Query</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
O-BW/c/sq/m/11/a	r=+.88 p<.001	Mt happiness      Average life expectancy
		Australia      7.0      70.90
		USA      6.7      72.60
		Canada      7.0      72.85
		Great Britain      6.8      70.80
		France      5.8      72.50
		W-Germany      6.6      71.25
		Italy      5.6      71.95
		Benelux      6.0      72.80
		Scandinavia      7.6      73.75
		Brazil      6.2      59.35
		Mexico      6.2      64.70
		Africa (South of the Sahara)      4.6      41.60
		India      3.4      41.25
		Japan      5.8      73.75

<b>Study</b>	<b>ANGST 1978/2</b>	<i>Page in Report:</i>	26
<i>Reported in:</i>	La Baloise, Groupe des assurances. The entire world interviewed (Le monde entier interviewé). La Baloise, Assurance Company, 1978, Bâle, Switzerland.		
<i>Population:</i>	15+ aged, general public, 14 countries, 1974-76		
<i>Sample:</i>			
<i>Non-Response:</i>			
<i>N:</i>	2659		

### Measured Correlate

<i>Class:</i>	. appraisal of specific aspects of life Code: N 7.2.2.1
<i>Measurement:</i>	Percentage of people per country who think life is interesting. (As assessed by single direct survey question)
<i>Measured Values:</i>	
<i>Error Estimates:</i>	
<i>Remarks:</i>	

### Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Query</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
O-HL/g/sq/v/3/b	r=+.94 p<.001	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

<b>Study</b>	<b>VEENH 1984/2</b>	<i>Page in Report:</i>	144
<i>Reported in:</i>	Veenhoven, R. Conditions of happiness. (Chapter 6: Happiness and living conditions; 6.1.1 and 6.1.2) D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1984, Dordrecht, The Netherlands.		
<i>Population:</i>	15+ aged, general public, world population, 14 nations and regions, 1974-76		
<i>Sample:</i>			
<i>Non-Response:</i>			
<i>N:</i>	6563		

### Measured Correlate

*Class:* . prevalence of suicide in nation Code: N 7.2.2.3

*Measurement:* Suicide ratio per country.

*Measured Values:*

*Error Estimates:*

*Remarks:*

### Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Query</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
O-BW/c/sq/m/11/a	r=+.24 ns	
		Mt happiness      Sui ci de rati o
		Austral ia      7. 0      11. 7
		USA      6. 7      12. 7
		Canada      7. 0      12. 7
		Great Bri tai n      6. 8      7. 9
		France      5. 8      15. 4
		W-Germany      6. 6      21. 0
		I tal y      5. 6      5. 8
		Benel ux      6. 0      11. 5
		Scandi navi a      7. 6      20. 1
		Brasi l      6. 2      no data
		Mexi co      6. 2      2. 1
		Afri ca (South of the Sahara)      4. 6      no data
		I ndi a      3. 4      no data
		Japan      5. 8      18. 1

The more happi ness, the higher the rate of sui ci de;  
there exi sts hardl y any corresponde nce between  
average happi ness and sui ci des.

---

<b>Study</b>	<b>VEENH 1984/3</b>	<i>Page in Report:</i>	144
<i>Reported in:</i>	Veenhoven, R. Conditions of happiness. (Chapter 6: Happiness and living conditions; 6.1.1 and 6.1.2) D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1984, Dordrecht, The Netherlands.		
<i>Population:</i>	15+ aged, general public, general public, 9 EC nations, Western Europe, 1975		
<i>Sample:</i>			
<i>Non-Response:</i>			
<i>N:</i>	12996		

---

### Measured Correlate

*Class:* . prevalence of suicide in nation Code: N 7.2.2.3

*Measurement:* Suicide ratio per country.

*Measured Values:*

*Error Estimates:*

*Remarks:*

---

### Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Query</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Remarks</i>		
O-H*/*/sq/vt/3/a	r=+.12 ns		M happi ness	Sui ci de rati o
		Great Bri tai n	1. 95	7. 9
		France	1. 89	15. 4
		W-Germany	1. 89	21. 0
		I tal y	1. 61	5. 8
		Bel gi um	2. 27	14. 9
		The Netherl ands	2. 22	9. 2
		Luxembourg	2. 03	10. 6
		Denmark	2. 54	23. 8
		I rel and	1. 88	3. 5

---

**Appendix 1**      **Queries on Happiness used in reported Studies**
*Happiness Query Code*    *Full Text*


---

O-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 bottomstep 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-H\*/\*/sq/vt/11/a

Selfreport on single question:

Equivalent questions on overall happiness. (Slightly different items itmes used in rhe 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-H\*/\*/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...?"

1 very happy



- 2 fairly happy
- 3 not too happy

B "Taken all things together, how would you say things are these days; would you say you are ...?"

- 1 very happy
- 2 fairly happy
- 3 not too happy

C "Taken all together, would you say you are.....?"

- 1 very happy
- 1 quite happy
- 2 not very happy
- 3 not at all happy

D "Taken all together how would you say things are these days; would you say you are ...?"

- 1 very happy
- 2 pretty happy
- 3 not too happy

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

- 1 very happy
- 2 fairly happy
- 3 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"

- 1 very happy
- 1 fairly happy
- 2 neither happy nor unhappy
- 3 fairly unhappy
- 3 very unhappy

O-HL/q/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-SL\*/\*/sq/nt/11/a

Self report on single question:

Equivalent questions on lifesatisfaction rated on numerical 3 to 5 step scales.(slightly different items in the various nations)

Scores transformed to common range 0 - 10 by means of Thurstone procedure.

1	fully satisfied	9.7
2	very satisfied	9.3
3	satisfied	8.5
4	not fully but ot an extend satisfied	6.9
5	rather satisfied	6.8

---

6	fairly satisfied	6.5
7	as yet unsatisfied	4.0
8	still dissatisfied*	4.0
9	not very satisfied	3.7
10	very unsatisfied	1.7
11	not at all satisfied	1.3
12	extremely dissatisfied*	1.2
13	unbearably dissatisfied	1.2

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**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
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>

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.

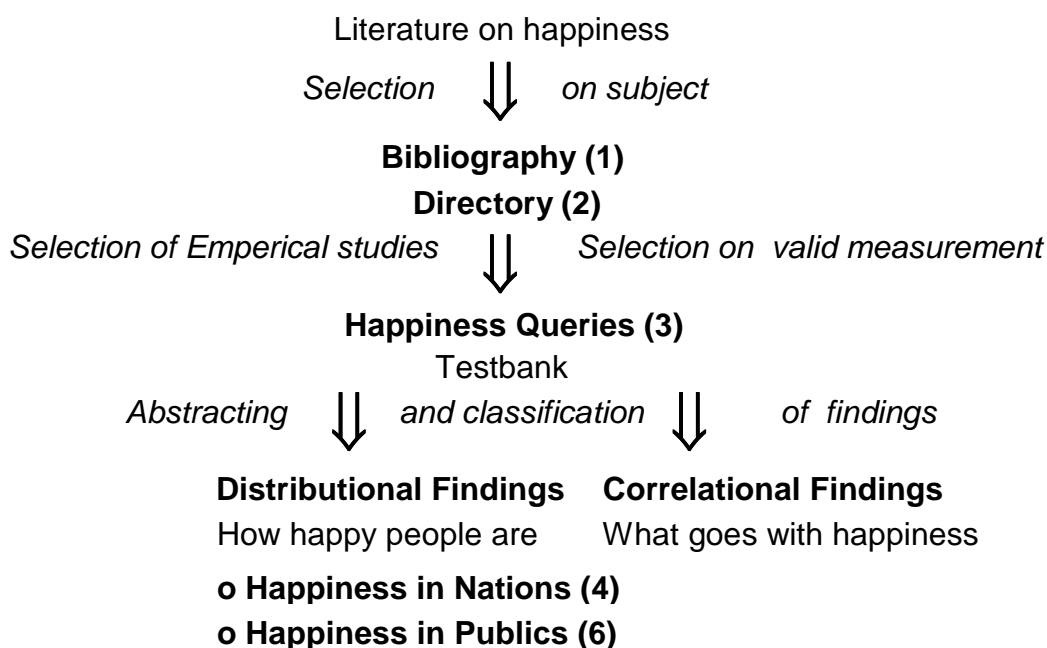
---

## **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**

<i>Main Category's</i>	<i>Category Name</i>	<i>Number of Studies in this Category</i>
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**

***This Topic****Classification Page 1****Related Topics****In Subject List on Appendix 4*


---

N 7	LIVABILITY OF THE NATION		
N 7.1	Presumed livability		
N 7.2	Apparent average livability		
N 7.2.1	Average health of citizens		
N 7.2.1.1	. prevalence of physical illness	P 6	PHYSICAL HEALTH
N 7.2.1.2	. prevalence of mental illness	N 3	NATIONAL CHARACTER (modal personality)
		M 7	MENTAL HEALTH
N 7.2.1.3	. life-expectancy in the nation	P 6.1.4.1	. longevity (assessed in follow up)
N 7.2.2	Average satisfaction of citizens		
N 7.2.2.1	. appraisal of specific aspects of life	L 4	LIFE APPRAISALS: OTHER THAN HAPPINESS4
N 7.2.2.3	. prevalence of suicide in nation	S 14	SUICIDE
N 7.3	Inequality in apparent livability	N 4.8	Social equality in the nation

---

**End of Report**