

- Change histograms to use merged data frame ('df')
- ANALYZE (Data section of write up)
  - Mention the scale of graphs in the write up → 1 is the least happy, not the happiest
  - Merging the dataframes, combining for the kernel to show
  - Mention the different categories for 'null' responses, explain that for our research question, the difference was unimportant
- RESULTS
  - Paste the graphs
  - Because the kernel density plot is not including nulls, the fact that a different number of people responded in 2018 and 2022 is not a factor→ the graph shows the percentage out of the actual responses
  - Histograms → the number of responses for 1, 2, and 3 are shown in the bins

ADD: MERGED DATAFRAME HISTOGRAM

EXPLAIN: why histogram was less effective at communicating actual data than kernel density plot

Charlie: Results Section

Tori: Summary

Tu-Yen: Data

- Two to five pages providing visualizations, statistics, and a discussion of your findings. If you have a lot of plots or tables, that's OK, but try to focus on a few key pieces of evidence rather than doing every single pairwise comparison of some set of variables
- The data used in this report was derived from the General Social Survey, or GSS, which

conducts surveys almost annually on social, economic, and political values of people in the

United States. To achieve our analysis, two datasets were obtained from this survey: the data

from 2018 (before the pandemic) and the data from 2022 (after the pandemic). Each dataset was

read into its respective dataframes to be cleaned and visualized in the code: df\_2018, and

df\_2022.

After reading the data in, it needed to be cleaned. Due to the number of survey questions the GSS has, we updated these data frames to only include the variable needed for analysis:

'HAPPY'. This variable looked at people's answers to the question: "Taken all together, how

would you say things are these days--would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not

too happy?’. The data is given in numeric values of 1, 2, or 3 based on their answers, where 1 represents very happy, 2 represents pretty happy, and 3 represents not too happy. After the necessary data was extracted, the columns were renamed based on the year; ‘HAPPY’ in `df_2018` became ‘HAPPY\_2018’, and ‘HAPPY’ in `df_2022` became ‘HAPPY\_2022’. This was done for better clarification and because later on, both datasets will need to be merged and it’s important to differentiate between each column to avoid confusion. Then, the values were ensured to be numeric using the `pd.to_numeric()` function. Finally, null and outlier values were cleaned. The data had no outliers when checked (every value was either 1, 2, or 3), so nothing had to be handled in that case. Regarding null values, null counter variables were created to see the sum of null values in each data set (`null_2018`, `null_2022`); the 2018 data only had 4, and the 2022 data only had 24. One of the challenges faced was determining what to do with these null values, but this was solved after looking at the GSS documentation. According to the code book, the null values are caused by three different occurrences: don’t know, no answer, or skipped on the web survey. Other than that, there was nothing to go off of to determine the reasoning for each of the null values. So, it was decided that the null values would not provide us much information, nor would it skew the results drastically, so we left them as is.

The final step to preparing our data for analysis was merging the two data frames into one. As of now, the two data frames have remained separate (`df_2018` and `df_2022`). It was important to combine the two in order to maintain clean, consistent code, and allow for easier data manipulation. In the end, we had a data frame where the rows were each individual observation/person surveyed, and the variables (columns) were the HAPPY values mentioned before, and the year that survey was conducted (2018 or 2022). The final data frame created was “`df_merged`”.

## MG: Conclusion

This project was designed to compare results to the question ‘Taken all together, how would you say things are these days--would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?’. This question, represented with the variable ‘HAPPY’ was included in both the 2018 and 2022 General Social Survey, which allowed for a fair comparison of results across the two years. Respondents could choose between ‘1’, ‘2’, and ‘3’, correlating to ‘very happy’, ‘pretty happy’, or ‘not too happy’, in that order. We were interested in this variable for a particular reason: the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19, which began to spread on a global scale in 2020, was harmful for too many reasons to count. People all over the world got sick, lost family members, lost their jobs, and had no choice but to change their daily routines to protect themselves and their communities from the virus. For this reason, we predicted that respondents’ overall happiness would have decreased between the years 2018 and 2022.

It is important to note that the total number of responses in 2018 and 2022 were not the same, so the following data represents a comparison of the percentages of people who answered ‘1’, ‘2’, or ‘3’ for each individual year. A straightforward response count comparison would have been inaccurate, because the total number of responses were not the same. After cleaning and modeling these data, we saw that our prediction was largely supported. More respondents in 2018 selected ‘very happy’ in 2018 than in 2022. Additionally, fewer respondents selected ‘not too happy’ in 2018 than in 2022.

While it is possible that these results were not a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we would argue that many factors that would decrease a person’s general happiness were negatively impacted by the virus. For this reason, we think this comparison is worthwhile in helping understand the lasting impact of the pandemic.

This project could be expanded with the inclusion of different variables relating to the respondents. We think that 'age' would be a particularly interesting consideration, as it would allow us to compare how people of different ages and generations handled the pandemic in terms of their own happiness. Are young adults feeling less happy in 2022 than elderly people because of the 'loss' of crucial developmental time during lockdown? This question and other similar comparisons would shine light on more specific Covid-19 impacts, rather than just highlighting a nation's general mood before and after.