World Happiness Report



Open Data 2015-2019

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**Summary**

The world happiness report was done to try and determine how populations of different countries felt about their lives and their satisfaction with them. This comparison will look at how the countries of South America compare on the global happiness scale. Because I am a resident of Ecuador, I am curious how this country compares to others on the South American Continent, and other countries of similar size (population) around the rest of the Southern Hemisphere

I wanted to explore this data, as a therapist, I wonder what drives people perception of happiness, and having lived in places of wealth and places lacking wealth, I wonder what the driving factor truly is. I am curious to compare my two home countries, The US and Ecuador, and how they rate in this report, knowing that there is a huge GDP gap, but also knowing that I know many happy people without money, and many unhappy people with plenty of money. I also want to compare Ecuador to other countries in South America, as Ecuador, which uses the US dollar, has had a more stable economy than most of the other countries, and does this stability carry over into feelings of happiness.

1. **World Happiness Report**

**Summarize the data source.**

* Data sourced by the United Nations and in conjunction with leaders across top disciplines from health and public policy to psychology and economics. It uses data sourced from the World Gallup Poll.
* <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/unsdsn/world-happiness>

**Summarize the data collection method.**

* Data was collected by asking individuals to imagine their perfect life as a 10, and worst life as a 0 and uses a ladder structure (Cantril Ladder) to rank their current feelings of happiness about their life based off of criteria between these two opposites. They were asked to rank feelings of happiness as a number based on these six criteria: economic production, social support, life expectancy, freedom, absence of corruption, and generosity.

**2. Overview of the data contents. What variables are included?**

* The variables include Country/Region, Happiness rank and score, Economy of the Country (GDP), Family, Health (Life Expectancy), Freedom, and Trust of Government (Perception of corruption) between 2015 and 2019.

**Dystopia:** A base line worst case scenario country used as the lowest possible score for these variables. Since life would be very unpleasant in a country with the world's lowest incomes, lowest life expectancy, lowest generosity, most corruption, least freedom, and least social support, opposite of Utopia, the highest score.

**GDP per capita**

It is a standard measure of, total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services in a country during a certain period of time, divided by its total population

**Social support**

It is the perception and actuality that one is cared for, has assistance available from other people, and feels connected to a supportive social network. These supportive resources can be emotional, informational, appraisal, instrumental or companionship.

**Healthy Life Expectancy**

It is the average number of years that a person can expect to live without hampered by disabling illnesses or injuries. Freedom to make life choices.

## Generosity

involved in formal volunteer work for a group or an organization.

## Perceptions of corruption

An index which ranks countries by their **perceived levels of public sector corruption,** determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys. generally, define corruption a**s an abuse of entrusted power for personal gain.**

**3. Limitations**

* **The happiness factors:** economic production, social support, life expectancy, freedom, absence of corruption, and generosity are based on a Westernized idea of happiness and therefore may not reflect other cultures ideas of what it means. Culturally, happiness also means something different. In Japan there is a cultural bias against boasting of one’s good fortune (Smith, K., 2017) Personal evaluation also varies, just like a pain scale, so a 4 for one person may be an 8 to another. It relies on subjective evaluation given as an ordinal number, trying to quantify a qualitative variable.

**4. Use the project objective and your hypothesis to determine the relevancy of the data set to your project**.

How do the countries of South America Compare to each other on the global happiness scale.

How do these countries compare to other counties of similar size in the southern hemisphere.

Do countries in the southern hemisphere have lower or higher global happiness rankings than countries in the northern hemisphere.

Hypothesis:

Countries that rank high in family satisfaction will be higher on the ranking scale as community and family are very important in South American culture regardless of GDP.

**5. Data Cleaning and consistency checks**

1. Renamed all columns to match 2015 data set as “Base” column names.

2. Made year as first column

3. Created data dictionary of countries

4. Merged data sets with concatenation

5. Dropped unnecessary columns

6.Checked data types/changed data types

7. Checked for missing values NaN

8. Filled in missing values/deleted missing value rows

**6. Data Profile**

10 columns 782 rows

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Column** | **Column Description** | **Data type** | **Time Variant** |
| Year | Year data collected | Int64 | Yes |
| Country | Location | Category | No |
| Happiness Rank | Ranked country 1-155 | Int64 | No |
| Happiness Score | Score between 1-10 of happiness | Float64 | No |
| GDP per Capita | Economic state of country | Float64 | No |
| Family | Sense of well-being related to family | Float64 | No |
| Health/Life Expectancy | Sense of wellbeing related to health | Float64 | No |
| Freedom | Sense of well-being related to personal freedoms | Float64 | No |
| Generosity | Sense of well-being related to how population gives to others | Float64 | No |
| Government Corruption | Sense of well-being related to government trust | Float64 | No |

**7. Questions to Explore**

How does Ecuador compare to other countries in South America in terms of happiness?

How does it compare to other countries in the Southern Hemisphere with similar populations?

Because South American countries have a culture that encourages community and family, countries in South America will have higher rates of happiness despite lower GDP**.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

* Smith, K. (2017, March 22). *That world happiness survey is complete crap*. New York Post. Retrieved November 8, 2022, from https://nypost.com/2017/03/22/that-world-happiness-survey-is-complete-crap/