

U.S. national happiness post-covid*

Julie Nguyen, Missy Zhang, Linrong Li

11 March 2023

Abstract

add abstract

1 Introduction

2 Data

2.1 Source

Variables

2.2 Methodology

2.3 Ethical Concerns & Limitations

3 Discussion

In order to understand the context and trends, we observed the overall trend of happiness of the U.S. population in 2021. We also looked into the distribution of happiness among different age groups, sex groups, and racial groups.

3.1 National Happiness

In overall, the level of happiness in the United States in 2021 is “pretty happy”. Among 4041 respondents, more than half (57.5%) reported that they feel happy, while 923 people were not happy and 783 people were extremely happy. [Figure 1](#)

*Code and data are available at:

Table 1: U.S. happiness in 2021

| Variable | N | Mean | Std. Dev. | Min | Pctl. 25 | Pctl. 75 | Max |
|------------|------|--------|-----------|-----|----------|----------|-----|
| age | 3699 | 52.165 | 17.233 | 18 | 37 | 66 | 89 |
| sex | 3940 | | | | | | |
| ... male | 1736 | 44.1% | | | | | |
| ... female | 2204 | 55.9% | | | | | |

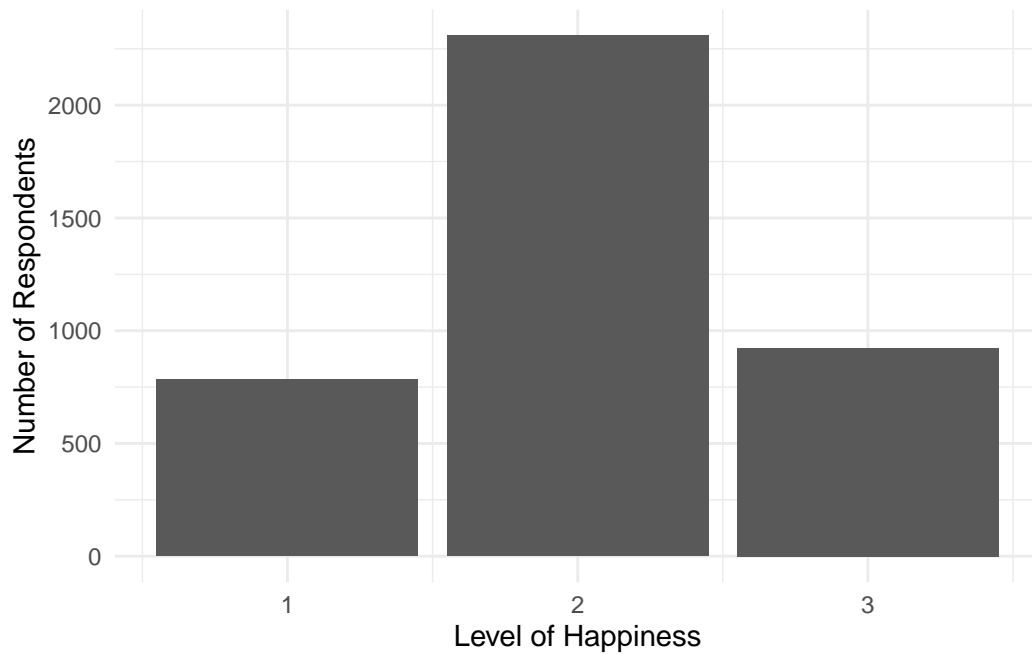


Figure 1: National Happiness

3.2 Happiness among age groups

Comparing happiness among different age groups, it is apparent that the level of happiness remained stable throughout the groups. While in 18 to 64 or non-identifiable age groups, there are more people feeling unhappy than extremely happy, from 65 and above age group witnesses the same proportion of people feeling not too happy and extremely happy.



3.3 Happiness among male, female, and others

Figure 2 shows that male tend to be more happy than female. In the year 2021, the U.S. population reported to relatively happy among different sex groups. There is a great disparity between female respondents feeling unhappy and very

happy - more female experienced unhappiness than extremely happy, while that of male respondents is quite similar. In addition, there are 92 people who responded their level of happiness without identifying their sex. In this group, there are 62 respondents feel happy, 18 respondents feel extremely happy, and 12 respondents feel unhappy.

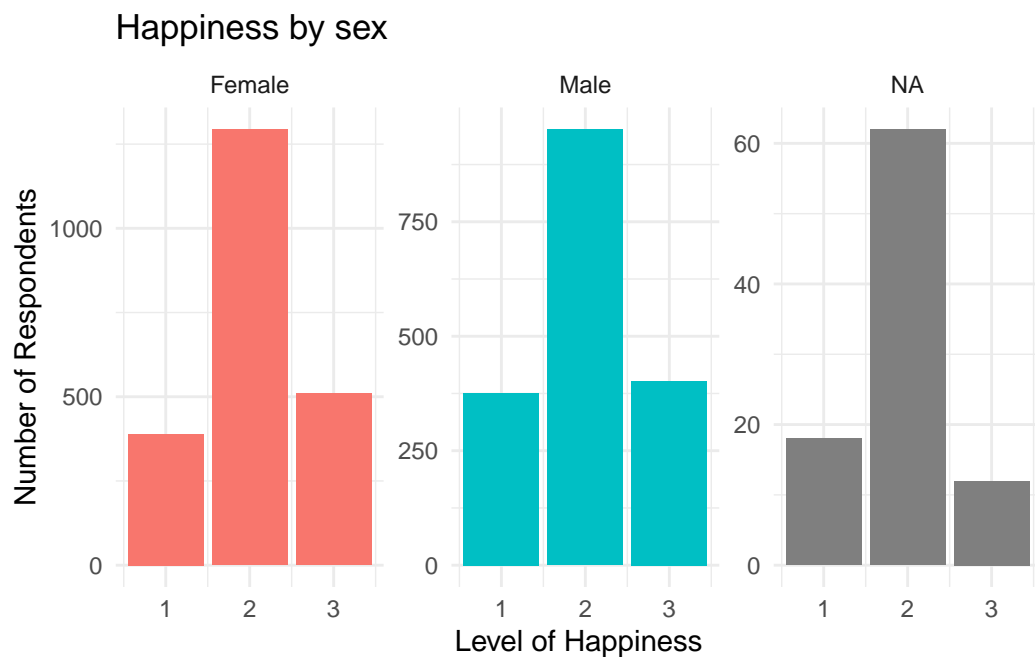


Figure 2: Happiness by sex in 2021

3.4 Happiness among different races

As a multicultural country, happiness in different races is also worth observing as it shows the level of happiness in different racial communities. From Figure 3 We notice that there is a similar pattern between the black and white racial groups, and between other races and non-identifiable group.

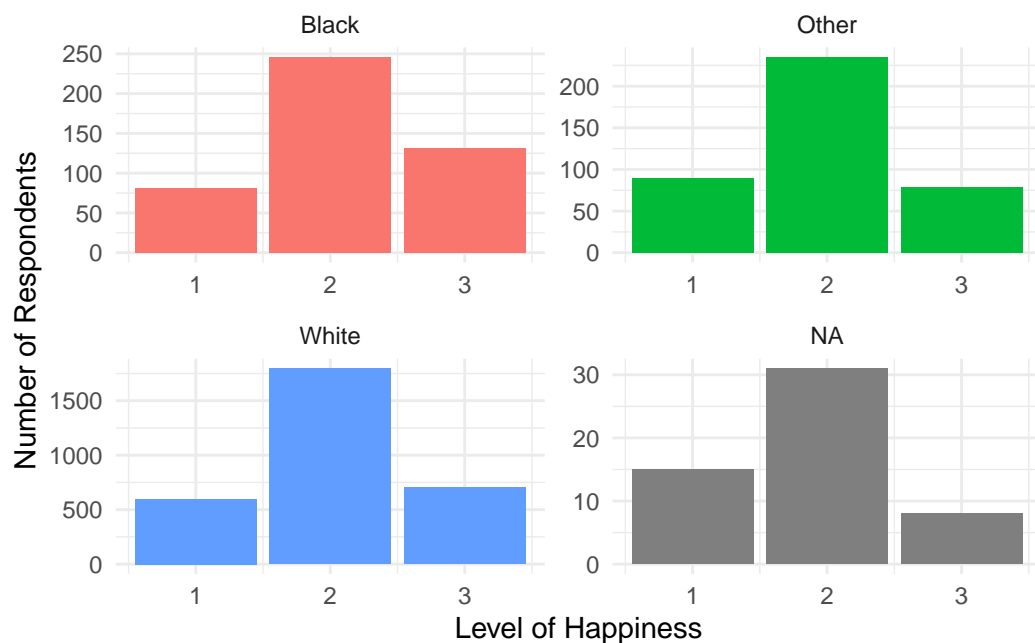


Figure 3: Happiness by race

Table 2: The means of hours worked last week in different levels of happiness

| happy | Mean | Sd | Total_observed |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Not too happy | 40.68378 | 13.04215 | 370 |
| Pretty happy | 40.16744 | 11.95678 | 1075 |
| Very happy | 39.87363 | 13.63153 | 364 |

3.5 Happiness and job conditions

Besides we looked into how job conditions may affect the level of happiness.

Firstly, we looked at the hours the respondent worked in the last week from they responded to the survey.

Then, we looked at how people in different income group rated their levels of happiness.

To better visualize the results and find the tendency, we plotted a graph.



Figure 4: Relationship of income level and happiness

4 Conclusion

5 Reference

6 Appendix

Table 3: The level of happiness in different income groups

| income | happy | n |
|-------------------|---------------|-----|
| LOWER THEN \$1000 | Not too happy | 3 |
| | Pretty happy | 2 |
| | Very happy | 4 |
| \$1000 TO 2999 | Not too happy | 7 |
| | Pretty happy | 8 |
| | Very happy | 3 |
| \$3000 TO 3999 | Not too happy | 4 |
| | Pretty happy | 8 |
| | Very happy | 1 |
| \$4000 TO 4999 | Pretty happy | 4 |
| \$5000 TO 5999 | Not too happy | 1 |
| | Pretty happy | 10 |
| | Very happy | 3 |
| \$6000 TO 6999 | Not too happy | 2 |
| | Pretty happy | 5 |
| | Very happy | 8 |
| \$7000 TO 7999 | Not too happy | 3 |
| | Pretty happy | 8 |
| | Very happy | 3 |
| \$8000 TO 9999 | Not too happy | 7 |
| | Pretty happy | 13 |
| | Very happy | 3 |
| \$10000 TO 14999 | Not too happy | 19 |
| | Pretty happy | 44 |
| | Very happy | 13 |
| \$15000 TO 19999 | Not too happy | 19 |
| | Pretty happy | 41 |
| | Very happy | 6 |
| \$20000 TO 24999 | Not too happy | 27 |
| | Pretty happy | 59 |
| | Very happy | 10 |
| \$25000 OR MORE | Not too happy | 278 |
| | Pretty happy | 873 |
| | Very happy | 310 |