

The World Happiness Report

Since its foundation in 1945, the UN has been collecting data on member countries' levels of health, income, education, crime, life expectancy, etc. These statistics are important in measuring how we live.

However, nobody ever thought to ask people how they feel about their lives until 2012 when UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon asked a network of universities and other organizations to collect data on worldwide happiness. This became the first World Happiness Report, and has since been followed by more reports.

The reports rank 157 countries on the following factors: income, life expectancy, support to people in need, freedom to make life choices, generosity of the population, corruption, and time worrying versus laughing or feeling enjoyment on the day before taking the survey. Some of the questions asked are:

- If you were in trouble, do you have relatives or friends you can count on to help you whenever you need them, or not?
- Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your freedom to choose what you do with your life?
- Have you donated money to a charity in the past month?
- Is corruption widespread throughout the government or not?
- Is corruption widespread within businesses or not?

The figures are approximate, but nonetheless we see clear patterns.

foundation	grundande
level	nivå
life expectancy	förväntad livslängd
measure	uppskatta, mäta
UN Secretary-General	FN:s generalsekreterare
rank	placera, ranka
support	stöd
in need	behövande
generosity	givmildhet
versus	gentemot, kontra
enjoyment	glädje
charity	välgörenhet
widespread	vanligt förekommande
approximate	ungefärlig
nonetheless	trots det
pattern	mönster