

Mapping of Gallup World Poll Items into a Flourishing Score using Flourishing Domains

The following description is a proposed mapping of various items in the Gallup World Poll into the six flourishing domains (happiness, health, meaning/purpose, character, relationships, financial) from the paper:

VanderWeele, T.J. (2017). [On the promotion of human flourishing](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 31:8148-8156.

so as to produce a crude overall flourishing score. The 6-item mapping is simpler; the 18-item mapping makes use of richer information. However, given the limited availability of items across some of these domains, especially related to meaning/purpose, both mappings, but especially the 18-item mapping only approximately cover the conceptual space of the flourishing domains. The proposed third question for meaning/purpose domain in the 18-item mapping is in fact only a composite of different potential sources of meaning, rather than a subjectively assessed item related to meaning itself.

6-Item Mapping

Happiness:

On which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time? [WP16]

Health:

Do you have any health problems that prevent you from doing any of the things people your age normally can do? [WP23, reverse coded]

Purpose:

In (this country), are you satisfied or dissatisfied with... Your freedom to choose what you do with your life? [WP134]

Character:

Have you done any of the following in the past month?... Volunteered your time to an organization [WP109]

Social:

If you were in trouble, do you have relatives or friends you can count on to help you whenever you need them, or not? [WP27]

Financial:

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money [WP40/WP43; put this as "Y" if the response to either is yes, reverse coded]

Scoring

The "flourishing score" composite of the 6 items above could be calculated as follows. For the Happiness Domain/Cantril's Ladder [WP16], divide the response by 10 so that the range is (0.0, 0.1, 0.2,...,1.0) instead of (0, 1, 2,..., 10). For each of the other domains score 1 for a positive response and 0 for a negative response (note that the health and financial items would be reverse coded). Then take an average of the 6 domains. Finally rescale by multiplying this average by 10, so that we again get 0-10 for the "flourishing" composite.

18-Item Mapping

Happiness:

On which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time? [WP16]

Just your best guess, on which step do you think you will stand in the future, say about five years from now? [WP18]

Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday? How about sadness [WP70, reverse coded]

Health:

Do you have any health problems that prevent you from doing any of the things people your age normally can do? [WP23, reverse coded]

Now, please think about yesterday, from the morning until the end of the day. Think about where you were, what you were doing, who you were with, and how you felt... Physical pain [WP65, reverse coded]

In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with... The availability of quality health care [WP97]

Purpose:

In (this country), are you satisfied or dissatisfied with... Your freedom to choose what you do with your life? [WP134]

Did you learn or do something interesting yesterday? [WP65]

[As a third question: a composite of children (greater than 0) (WP1230), employment (EMP_2010), and religious importance (WP119); if any of these three is "Y" then gives a response of "Y"]

Character:

Have you done any of the following in the past month?... Donated money to a charity [WP108]

Have you done any of the following in the past month?... Volunteered your time to an organization [WP109]

Have you done any of the following in the past month?... Helped a stranger or someone you didn't know who needed help [WP110]

Social:

If you were in trouble, do you have relatives or friends you can count on to help you whenever you need them, or not? [WP27]

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the city or area where you live? [WP83]

In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with... The opportunities to meet people and make friends [WP10248]

Financial:

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money... To buy food that you or your family needed [WP40, reverse coded]

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money... To provide adequate shelter or housing for you and your family [WP43, reverse coded]

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your standard of living, all the things you can buy and do? [WP30]

Scoring

The "flourishing score" composite of the 18 items above could be calculated as follows. For the Cantril's Ladder question [WP16], divide the response by 10 so that the range is (0.0, 0.1, 0.2,...,1.0) instead of (0, 1, 2,..., 10). For each of the other items, score 1/3 for a positive response and 0 for a negative response (note that some of the happiness, health, and financial items are reverse coded). Then take an average of the 6 domain scores. Finally rescale by multiplying this average by 10, so that we again get 0-10 for the "flourishing" composite.