



Measuring well-being for public policy. Problems and possible solutions

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Outline

- Role of objective measures of WB and how objective and subjective indicators of WB relate to each other

C WB-ch a j-0.046 Tc (s) TJ-0.1608 Tc () T70.03972 Tc (so) -0.0576 Tc (n) TJ-0.0264



2. Scales in SWB questions may be used differently - concern over inter-temporal and interpersonal comparability.

- Is my 8/10 same as yours?
- Something odd going on with top of the scale in life satisfaction



Using the top of the scale?

BHPS, wave 14

| | 6/7 | 7/7 |
|-------------------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Household income (net, equivalised) | £456 | £ TJ-0.0498cTJ-0.0276 |
| No qualifications | 14% | dh0.0420.42071 0.7es2 |
| Widowed | 6% | |
| Problems walking | 7% | |
| Registered disabled | 5% | |



Need: good data o



Uses for index WB

- UK trends in WB
- Identify need - Sub-group comparisons e.g. small area level
- May need to be different



Index WB for society.988 0



Society A versus B

1. Median household income: £28,000 or £15,000
2. Life expectancy: 80 years, 75 years
3. Equality of life expectancy e.g. the difference between the top and bottom deciles: 12 years, 4 years
4. Percentage with a mental health problem: 20, 8
5. Evaluative: Life satisfaction e.g. mean score to "Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?" (age 10+): 7.5/10 8.5/10
6. Eudemonic: Worthwhile e.g. mean score to "Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?" (age 16+) 6/10, 8/10
7. Hedonic experience: Did you smile or laugh a lot yesterday? (Yes/No) (age 8+) Yes = 20%, Yes = 40%



Rescale each domain (0-100)

- Relative to previous years
 - e.g. Canadian Index of WB, uses change from 1994 (set at 100) for each component of a dimension.
 - Small area – ranking for income and life expectancy



Transparency of weights

- Report methods of weight derivation
- Subject to review and discussion
- Sensitivity analysis with different weights.



End-note

- If commit to measure SWB and WB index need also to commit to enhancing our understanding of measures through continued research