



Do Children Influence Parental Life Satisfaction?

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ABSTRACT

Previous research into life satisfaction shows just how complex a topic this can be. Parental life satisfaction literature shows no definitive answer to questions such as does number of children or age of children impact on an individual's life satisfaction and what is the biggest single predictor of life satisfaction. This study aimed to provide an explanation to the questions raised.

Participants were recruited through an online snowball sampling method via social media outlets (N=222). They then completed a survey with demographic questions alongside three scales: the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS), the Subjective Happiness Scale (SHS) and the Riverside Life Satisfaction Scale (RLSS). Results showed that a higher number of children were significantly correlated with higher life satisfaction ($p < .001$). It was also shown that parents of young children aged 0-4 did not differ on life satisfaction scores to those who did not have a child of this age, but it was seen that parents with kids aged 5 up until 16 ($p = .014$) and 17+ ($p = .002$) differed in terms of life satisfaction with these groups scoring significantly higher. None of these groups differed significantly on subjective happiness. When investigating if satisfaction with socio-economic status was related to life satisfaction it was found that they were positively correlated and that this would be the best predictor of life satisfaction ($\beta = .47, p < .001$) in the model, with two other variables significantly predicting life satisfaction: marital status and number of children. The whole model accounts for 32% variance. These findings show somewhat contradictory results to the previous literature showing that the more kids an individual has is associated with better life satisfaction and that the older the children are will again raise life satisfaction scores. It also shows again just how important an individual's socio-economic status is for the course of life satisfaction. Practical implications of these

findings demonstrate the power money and wealth have over the vast majority people's mental health and attitudes towards how they view satisfaction in their own life.

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Introduction

Before looking at areas of importance for life satisfaction such as theories and prior research I firstly want to make a distinction between happiness and life satisfaction as many may consider them virtually the same. They are similar but are not the same construct referred to as to different things. Happiness is a much shorter in the moment construct as people can experience happiness in that moment but not have adequate life satisfaction overall. It has been shown that different kinds of happiness are required for life satisfaction, but life satisfaction is a much broader construct with more variables at play and types of happiness falling into those variables (Peterson, Ruch, Beermann, Park & Seligman, 2007).

Theories of Life Satisfaction

Now, life satisfaction can be defined by how individuals show their feelings in terms of how their life has gone or is going in terms of factors such as relationships, career, goals and overall image of who and what they are (Anand, 2016). There are two main theories of life satisfaction them being the bottom up and top-down theories of life satisfaction. The bottom-up theory of life satisfaction states that life satisfaction is the sum of all its parts. This meaning that life satisfaction is determined by the average of one's satisfaction within all the distinct domains in their life (Headey, 2014). Top down suggests the view that the satisfaction within these domains in that individuals life is a consequence of overall life satisfaction and this view can depend on personality traits and fixed genetic effects as opposed to bottom up which states that the sum of life's parts together brings life satisfaction compared to overall life satisfaction being a contributor to satisfaction in certain domains of life, top down can be summed up in the view that satisfaction in these domains is a consequence of overall life satisfaction (Lucas, 2004). Seeing how these two theories try to explain how people experience life satisfaction it only

accounts for certain people who either are very personality based and then those who are mainly situational. There have been studies showing that people use these in combination to feel overall life satisfaction instead of being in line with one or the other (Heller, Watson & Ilies, 2004).

Factors Impacting Life Satisfaction

Life satisfaction can have a lot of different variables at play feeding into it for example as previously mentioned personality types, age can be another factor, a person's career, financial situation if the person is comfortable or unhappy with what they earn, goals they have set and may or may not have accomplished as of yet and family, this being the way they grew up or starting their own family and have a certain number of children or choosing to not start a family. A lot of research has been done about income differences being a significant predictor of life satisfaction and it can be, but it was shown that only if the person perceives they have more restrictions and are less mobile in life they have lower life satisfaction scores (Schalembier, 2019). Again, this could fall in with the personality type in viewing life satisfaction. There has also been extensive research into the goal's domain of life satisfaction with research showing that in older adults particularly they have higher life satisfaction when they have accomplished goals and are still creating and continually beating goals (Rapkin, & Fischer, 1992). With all these areas being well researched family life seems to have a small gap with the majority of studies being on adolescent or child life satisfaction with parents being a strongly looked at variable. For example, parents can be used situationally to measure life satisfaction of kids. This being how many parents in the home and how well the child communicates with the parents, if they have a strong relationship or not (Levin & Currie, 2010), or parents are evaluated from a standpoint of any recent changes in family status that being a break up or divorce or a new family member all these being contributing factors to adolescent life satisfaction (Antaramian,

Huebner & Valois, 2008). The strength and current state of the relationship status can also show to predict life satisfaction later on in life with a divorce from a bad relationship causing some increase in life satisfaction and the opposite from individuals who viewed the relationship positively (Bourassa, Sbarra & Whisman, 2015; Gustavson, Røysamb, von Soest, Helland & Mathiesen, 2012)

Age

Life satisfaction can have a lot of different variables at play feeding into it for example age, longitudinal studies on life satisfaction and age have mixed findings with Hamarat et al, (2002) finding no difference in life satisfaction scores between age groups of people 45-89. Studies do however show that life satisfaction when put on a linear graph can be amongst the highest in childhood then gradually drop until reaching its lowest scores in middle adulthood before returning to higher levels in late adulthood this leaves the graphs looking like a U shape often (De Ree & Alessie, 2011). Other studies like Blanchflower and Oswald (2008) showed that life satisfaction decreased from young adulthood to around age 47 and then rose again which are consistent with the previous apart from not measuring the satisfaction in childhood. Even though it has been shown in studies above that life satisfaction can reach a high in older age it is important that the parent is still a provider of help in situations and that the adult child does not solely provide all the help and lets the relationship be reciprocal both with physical needs and emotional needs in a study of over 1700 participants (Lowenstein, Katz & Gur-Yaish, 2007). If this is not the case and the relationship is just the adult child helping or taking care of the parent, then it is strongly related to lower life satisfaction levels being reported. However, there can be conflict to this idea that life satisfaction is at a new high in adolescence. Life satisfaction as adults age beyond 60 can majorly depend on a social circle or activities they are involved in with

adverse effects being seen if these are not present (Ayele, Mulligan, Gheorghiu & Reyes-Ortiz, 1999; Brown & Frankel, 1993; Ragheb & Griffith, 1982). It was shown that certain areas like sexuality and friendship satisfaction rise significantly during this time, but overall life satisfaction can drop with a bigger drop appearing in females as during adolescence there is a high chance the individuals will come in contact with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression (Goldbeck, Schmitz, Besier, Herschbach & Henrich, 2007)

Career/Financial Status

A person's career and financial status also plays apart with Hagmaier, Abele and Goebel (2018) showing that an individual's career and life satisfaction are both positively associated with each other across time. Financial status comes up quite frequently as a variable under life satisfaction whether be it career related as above or taken from a family context where there is financial strain. Along with someone being happy and satisfied with their own career it is shown that they need to feel as if they have adaptability in their career path along with liking what they do (Hirschi, 2009). This adaptability in turn brings with it a sense of power in people and life satisfaction rises significantly when adaptability is felt and then sense of power grows. Financial freedom may come as a direct effect of a person's career but if they choose to have children or a number of children this may introduce strain. A study by Wei and Chen (2013) shows that financial stress caused by children leads to more mental health problems in parents and in turn poorer life satisfaction and child rearing effort. The stress that tight finances can cause leads to the importance of wealth/money in an individual's career this has been demonstrated many times (Frijters, Haisken-DeNew & Shields, 2004; Johnson & Krueger, 2006). When it comes to the specific case of parental life satisfaction it is important to look at because as stated above poorer mental health in parents can directly lead to poorer child rearing effort. Children themselves do

have an effect on parents' life satisfaction. There are gaps however to be looked at here as many of the studies done use parents as a variable for children and adolescent life satisfaction. For example, Clair (2012) found that the wellbeing of parents influences child life satisfaction. So, we know that they both play a part in each other's life satisfaction but is there conclusive evidence then on the number of children and life satisfaction or even the age of children and life satisfaction?

Parents of Disabled Children

These more niche examples to the general public come in the form of parents having decreased life satisfaction and developing mental illnesses from being full time carer or having to care for children with autism or other disabilities that they find particularly challenging and just different than what they have previously experienced (Öz, Yüksel & Nasiroğlu, 2020). Similar studies show the children do have a significant effect on life satisfaction but again a vast majority of these is due to different disabilities. Research shows that parents do become less satisfied with life when dealing with their children's disabilities but there is a connection that this maybe syndrome specific and not completely generalizable to all disabilities or syndromes (Ashworth, Palikara & Van Herwegen, 2019). With Some of these parents never getting a break or being carers for the majority of there lives they may not hit the later life rise in life satisfaction that would be expected and may be stuck with lower life satisfaction as previous research shows how the stress impacts not just life satisfaction but mental and physical health (Darling, Senatore & Strachan, 2012;Küçük & Alemdar, 2018).

Number of Children

When looking from the other perspective as to what children do to parents' life satisfaction there is research on parent's life satisfaction but not a lot that focuses on parents and non-parents or parents taking into account if these parents have multiple children and how that may affect their life satisfaction. For the number of children, the answer is inconclusive. Nauck (2007) found that one child may give as much satisfaction as two or 3 but other studies like Stutzer and Frey (2006) found that life satisfaction declines with number of children. When the age of children is looked at in the literature there is no clear-cut answer on what age or even a close age of between 1–3-year period where parents life satisfaction is best. Nomaguchi (2012) states they found parents life satisfaction is highest when the oldest child is under the age of 5 or has not entered school yet. This does not however give any account if the parents have multiple other children and what that would do if it would have a greater positive effect or detrimental effect. This may leave room for research to carry on and test to see if there is an effect in life satisfaction particularly on parents when income or disabilities are not the main focus of the study but looking at parents versus nonparents and seeing if children or a number of children is a significant predictor of life satisfaction levels. Even though there is not a vast pile of research of this area there are some studies that investigate whether there is an effect on life satisfaction, but the literature has mixed results. For example, a study was recently completed to see if just first childbirth influenced life satisfaction for parents and from the data recorded it was shown that in the months immediately after the birth both parents life satisfaction was high. After a period of five years, it was shown that they had both then returned to baseline with the mothers reporting lower than baseline satisfaction in specific domains of their now altered lives (Krämer & Rodgers, 2019). So, this shows that yes children do increase life satisfaction to an extent. This is

backed by previous research looking at areas of life satisfaction it noticed that in the case of career and goal chasing parenthood leads to higher life satisfaction as more goals are being fulfilled (Peronne, 2000). But with these type of findings as mentioned there are mixed results as more research shows that parenthood can bring some temporary life satisfaction, but it is easily offset with one of the variables mentioned needing more research, number of children (Pollmann-Schult, 2014).

The current study

The rationale for one of the hypotheses in this project is based on studies that show inconclusive results for determining whether children of a certain age impact life satisfaction as it has been shown that coming up to childbirth and until the baby reaches around 2 years old life satisfaction is higher than prebirth (Frijters, Johnston & Shields, 2014). This is later countered by a study that shows small and often negative effects in life satisfaction post birth as opposed to positive effects (Baetschmann, Staub & Studer, 2016). There is no real evidence looking into what age range gives higher life satisfaction other than studies around children or as referenced above with babies. There is also mixed results when looking at the number of children and the effects it may have on life satisfaction, for example some say life satisfaction declines with the number of children an individual had (Stutzer & Frey, 2006) and others say children don't even bring life satisfaction (Nomaguchi, Milkie & Bianchi, 2005). The rationale for investigating the socio-economic aspect of life satisfaction is, it is always a common theme amongst studies with life satisfaction as a way of trying to explain less life satisfaction due to financial strain (Fingerman et al., 2012) in this study it will be looked at how strong a predictor it is and how other variables fair as predictors when compared to this.

Lastly life satisfaction in parents can be country specific (Pollmann-Schult, 2017) depending on things like child support etc. So, in an Irish context it would also be appropriate to find out.

With the previous areas of study involving life satisfaction above it can be concluded that life satisfaction is a more complex topic than happiness with more variables at play. The previous literature well covers areas such as parents' role in children's life satisfaction which as seen can have a major impact, income of the parents which can be often strained due to the expenses of bringing children into the world and parents vs non-parents but leaves gap when looking at parental life satisfaction particularly in the areas of age of child/children on life satisfaction, number of children on life satisfaction and how the parents view their own socio economic status on life satisfaction and which of these is the biggest predictor. With that taken into account this study is To investigate whether parenthood and its associated consequences (marital status, number of children and age of the children) impact on life satisfaction and which has the biggest affect?

Hypothesis 1: does the age of children have an effect on parental life satisfaction.

Hypothesis 2: the number of children a person has impacts their level of life satisfaction.

Hypothesis 3: does perceived socio-economic status of parent's impact life satisfaction.

Hypothesis 4: what is the biggest predictor for life satisfaction.

Method

Participants

The current sample of participants for this study consisted of 222 (Males: n = 63; Females: n = 159) adults 18 years of age and above. For ethical reason it was decided to that to inform participants that only people 18 years or older could take part and to allow for older

participants who have had children for longer or experienced more life as to have better grasp at life satisfaction as a whole. Over 60% of the participants in this study had children with 17 participants (7.7%) having one child, 55 participants (24.8%) having two children, 35 participants (15.8%) having three children, 19 participants (8.6%) having 4 and 9 participants (4.1%) having 5 or more. The remaining 87 participants (39.2%) did not have any children. The initial sample contained 226 participants but 4 of those participants had data excluded due to a significantly large number of questions were left unanswered. Participants were recruited to the study using a snowball sampling technique. The study was posted to various social media sites including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and on Whatsapp with a brief summary of what the study was aiming to look at and what the participants may encounter if they choose to interact with the study. Upon completion of the study participants were also invited to share the link/post to the study on their own social media accounts or amongst any others they deemed eligible to take part. To estimate the sample size required for this study it was recommended that G*Power Statistical Power Analyses (Faul, Erdfelder, Buchner, & Lang, 2009). This was due to the pre-determined inclusion of a hierarchical regression in the statistical analyses. The G*Power calculator showed there would be 95% chance that the R-squared value would significantly differ from 0 if the sample size contained 125 or more. The participants in this study were recruited voluntarily and without the use of any incentives.

Measures

Demographics.

Participants were asked to indicate which gender they belonged too (male, female, other), how many children they had, the age of the children, how satisfied they were with their socio-

economic status and to provide their marital status (married, single, co-habiting, widowed, divorced and in a relationship).

Satisfaction with Life Scale.

The satisfaction with life scale (Diener, Emmons, Larsen & Griffin, 1985) was used to assess overall life satisfaction amongst participants as it does not focus on one domain of life and the satisfaction felt towards that but helps to focus on life satisfaction as whole (Pavot & Diener, 2009). This scale is a short 5-item instrument designed to measure global cognitive judgements of satisfaction with one's life. For example, if completing this questionnaire, you would come across questions such as, "In most ways my life is close to ideal" and "I am satisfied with my life" these are to be answered by selection a of numbers on a Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree). Higher scores indicate higher levels of overall life satisfaction. This scale also works well in conjunction with other scales of subjective wellbeing as stated in the review above. The satisfaction with life scale is shown to have strong internal consistency reliability with the Cronbach alpha coefficient showing at 0.82 in a study of over 1700 healthy participants (Arrindell, Heesink & Feij, 1999) and again showing a cronbachs alpha coefficient of 0.87 in a study done years later in relation to emotional intelligence and life satisfaction (Palmer, Donaldson & Stough, (2002). The Cronbachs alpha from this scale for this study was .86.

Subjective Happiness Scale.

The subjective happiness scale (Lyubomirsky & Lepper, 1999) is a 4-item scale used to measure global subjective happiness. Two items ask respondents to characterize themselves using absolute ratings and relative to peers, whereas the other two items offer brief descriptions

of happy and unhappy individuals and asks respondents the extent to which each characterization describes them. If encountering the study, you would come across statements such as “In general I consider myself” in which they can answer on a Likert scale 1 (not a very happy person) to 7 (a very happy person), with question 4 (Some people are generally not very happy. Although they are not depressed, they never seem as happy as they might be. To what extent does this characterization describe you?) Being reverse scored. This test has also been shown to have good internal reliability consistency with Cronbach alpha coefficients ranging from 0.73 to 0.89 (Demir, Ozdemir, & Marum, 2011; Segrin & Taylor, 2007; Vela et al., 2015). The Cronbachs alpha from this scale for this study was .78.

Riverside Life Satisfaction Scale.

A modified version of the the Riverside life satisfaction scale (Margolis, Schwitzgebel, Ozer & Lyubomirsky, 2019) was used. Instead of a 6-item scale it was decided to use a 5-item scale as the satisfaction with life scale used in the lead up to this had the exact same question (“if I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing) which was question 6 on the RLSS and question 5 on the SWLS, so instead of having it reappear later in the questionnaire it was removed to avoid any confusion and as it was unnecessary to have the question twice. Otherwise, it is a 5-item scale with statements for example “I am content with my life” ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree). In the study conducted by Margolis and colleagues mentioned above it was stated to work best in conjunction with other life satisfactions scales such as SWLS and other subjective well-being scales. The scale itself has previously been identified to have good internal validity consistency with Margolis finding a 0.92 Cronbachs alpha coefficient and a 0.79 coefficient in a recent study in Holland regarding social media and mental health (Sensoy, 2020). The Cronbachs alpha from this scale for this study was .84.

Design

The present study used a quantitative approach with a correlational design that attempts to look at the relationship between the independent variables such as age of children, number of children and socio-economic status. It will also look at the relationship these variables have with the dependent variable which is parental life satisfaction. The independent variables will be number of children, age of child and socio-economic satisfaction and the dependent variable for this study will be life satisfaction. Other extraneous variables that we may have to try control for could be the difference in single parents opposed to co-habiting parents.

Procedure

Data for this study was collected through an online Google Forms survey. In the beginning this survey was piloted on two separate occasions to 2 individuals to determine if there were any issues with questions or structure or the time it took to complete the survey. The time taken to complete the survey ranged from 5-8 minutes and no structural or grammatical errors were encountered. Participants would have come across the study through various social media sites. The study was distributed to Facebook both on a personal page and in final year university forums, through various Instagram stories with a link attached, through many snapchat stories again with the link attached and in whatsapp group chats passed on by those who have completed the survey. Along with the link there was a brief description of the study stating what it was about and who was conducting the study and invited anyone eligible to complete the study and share it on to those who they deemed eligible to complete also. When entering the study, you are faced with a participant information sheet which details the purpose of the study, the author, organization and

supervisor to which they can pose any queries prior to the starting the survey, also the requirements for which you are eligible to take part (Appendix A). Participants were shown that to take part in this study it was voluntary and they could withdraw consent at any moment up until they had submitted the survey, as after they had submitted, they would be indistinguishable from the rest of the anonymous data.

The Following page of the survey contained the consent form which outlines again the nature of the study (Appendix B). To continue into the survey participants were asked to make sure they were eligible and have read through the nature of the study and then when satisfied they may consent to the study by clicking proceed to next page. The following page asked for demographic information regarding gender, marital status, number of children and child age (see Appendix C). The next page was contained the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) (see Appendix D) then followed by the Subjective Happiness Scale (see Appendix E) then lastly followed by the Riverside Life Satisfaction (see Appendix F). The last page of this survey shows a debriefing sheet (see Appendix G), this again informs the participant the nature of the study and thanks them for participating before encouraging them to pass this study on to whoever them deem eligible to take part. There are also various helpline numbers if the participant becomes distressed and the email of the appropriate people involved with the study if any questions arise.

Results

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics for demographic variables show that out of the 222 participants that completed the survey 17 participants (7.7%) have one child, 55 participants (24.8%) have two children, 35 participants (15.8%) have three children, 19 participants (8.6%) have 4 children and

9 participants (4.1%) have 5 or more. The remaining 87 participants (39.2%) did not have any children. The marital status of the participants was taken and was shown that 62 (27.9%) people are single, 42 (18.9%) were in a relationship, 87 (39.2%) were married, 13 (5.9%) were co-habiting, 12 (5.4%) were divorced and 6 (2.7%) were widowed. The gender split of the sample was 159 females (71.6%) compared to 63 males (28.4%). These can be seen below in Table 1 (N = 222).

Table 1: *Frequencies for the current studies demographic variables including gender, marital status and number of children per family (N = 222)*

Variable	N	Valid %
Gender		
Male	63	28.4
Female	159	71.6
Marital Status		
Single	62	27.9
In a Relationship	42	18.9
Married	87	39.2
Co-habiting	13	5.9
Divorced	12	5.4
Widowed	6	2.7
No. of Children per Family		
None	87	39.2
One	17	7.7
Two	55	24.8
Three	35	15.8
Four	19	8.6
Five	9	4.1

Means (M) and standard deviations (SD) for all continuous variables are presented in Table 2. Participants had a mean satisfaction with their socio-economic status of 3.52 (SD=0.91) ranging from 1-5 and a subjective happiness average of 19.46 (SD=4.45). There was however a significant result ($p < .05$) of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic for all continuous variables meaning that the data is non-normally distributed. Further inspections of the histograms show that the data are positively skewed. Eight outliers were found when interpreting the data and after inspecting the data it was shown that the responses were within the possible boundaries of scores for the scales used, the homogeneity of the sample may have caused these scores to show as outliers. When conducting the analysis of the data without the outliers it did not show any significant variation to the results, so they were included in the final analyses.

Table 2: *Descriptive statistics for all continuous variables (N=222)*

Variable	N	M[95%CI]	SD	Range
Satisfaction with socio-economic status.	222	3.52[3.40–3.64]	0.91	4
Subjective happiness.	222	19.46[18.87-20.05]	4.45	24
Satisfaction with life.	222	23.62[22.84-24.39]	5.87	30
Riverside satisfaction with life.	222	22.9[22.46-23.35]	3.35	23

Inferential Statistics

Hypothesis 1.

As stated above, tests for normality and homogeneity of variance were seen to be non-normally distributed amongst the variables indicating that instead of an Independent Samples T-Test a Mann Whitney U Test was to be conducted to compare life satisfaction and subjective happiness amongst participants. Mann Whitney U Tests were conducted to compare levels of life satisfaction and happiness in participants who either had children aged 0-4 or did not. There was no significant difference in the life satisfaction between parents of children aged 0-4 (Md = 25, n = 24) and participants with no child aged 0-4 (Md = 24, n = 198), $U = 2683.5$, $z = 1.04$, $p = .3$. There was also no significant difference in the subjective happiness between parents of children aged 0-4 (Md = 20) and participants with no child aged 0-4 (Md = 20), $U = 2390$, $z = .05$, $p = .96$.

Mann Whitney U Tests were conducted to compare levels of life satisfaction and happiness in participants who either had children aged 5-16 or did not. There was a significant difference in life satisfaction with parents of children aged 5-16 scoring higher (Md = 25, n = 71) than participants with no child aged 5-16 (Md = 23, n = 151), $U = 6455$, $z = 2.46$, $p = .014$. According to Cohen (2013) this significant result is shown to be a small effect size (.17). There was no significant difference in the subjective happiness between parents of children aged 5-16 (Md = 20) and participants with no child aged 5-16 (Md = 20), $U = 5767$, $z = .91$, $p = .36$.

Mann Whitney U Tests were conducted to compare levels of life satisfaction and happiness in participants who either had children aged 17+ or did not. There was a significant difference in life satisfaction with parents of children aged 17+ scoring higher (Md = 26, n = 89) than participants with no child aged 5-16 (Md = 23, n = 133), $U = 7405$, $z = 3.18$, $p = .002$.

According to Cohen (2013) this significant result is shown to be a small effect size (.21). There was no significant difference in the subjective happiness between parents of children aged 17+ (Md = 20) and participants with no child aged 17+ (Md = 20) even though they share the same median score, $U = 6835$, $z = .1.96$, $p = .05$.

Hypothesis 2.

A Spearman's Rank Order correlation coefficient was computed to assess the relationship between number of children and life satisfaction (SWLS) in order to adjust for the preliminary test violations of the assumptions of normality, linearity and homoscedasticity. There was a significant small, positive correlation between the two variables ($r_s = .29$, $n = 222$, $p < .001$). Results indicate that higher numbers of children are associated with higher levels of life satisfaction.

A Spearman's Rank Order correlation coefficient was computed to assess the relationship between number of children and life satisfaction (RLSS) in order to adjust for the preliminary test violations of the assumptions of normality, linearity and homoscedasticity. There was a significant, positive correlation between the two variables ($r_s = .18$, $n = 222$, $p = .006$). Results indicate that higher numbers of children are associated with higher levels of life satisfaction when using RLSS scores.

A Spearman's Rank Order correlation coefficient was computed to assess the relationship between number of children and subjective happiness in order to adjust for the preliminary test violations of the assumptions of normality, linearity and homoscedasticity. There was a significant small, positive correlation between the two variables ($r_s = .18$, $n = 222$, $p = .009$).

Results indicate that higher numbers of children are associated with higher levels of subjective happiness (see table 3).

Table 3: Spearman' Rank Order correlation coefficient between continuous variables

Variable	1	2	3	4
1. Number of children	-			
2. Life satisfaction (SWLS)	.29*	-		
3. Life satisfaction (RLSS)	.18*	.76*	-	
4. Subjective happiness	.18*	.56*	.67*	-

N = 222; Statistical significance: *p < .01

Hypothesis 3.

A Spearman's Rank Order correlation coefficient was computed to assess the relationship between satisfaction with socio-economic status and life satisfaction (SWLS) in order to adjust for the preliminary test violations of the assumptions of normality, linearity and homoscedasticity. There was a significant moderate, positive correlation between the two variables ($r_s = .47$, $n = 222$, $p < .001$). Results indicate that higher satisfaction with socio-economic status is associated with higher levels of life satisfaction.

A Spearman's Rank Order correlation coefficient was computed to assess the relationship between satisfaction with socio-economic status and life satisfaction (RLSS) in order to adjust

for the preliminary test violations of the assumptions of normality, linearity and homoscedasticity. There was a significant small, positive correlation between the two variables ($r_s = .43$, $n = 222$, $p < .001$). Results indicate that higher satisfaction with socio-economic status is associated with higher levels of life satisfaction.

A Spearman's Rank Order correlation coefficient was computed to assess the relationship between satisfaction with socio-economic status and subjective happiness in order to adjust for the preliminary test violations of the assumptions of normality, linearity and homoscedasticity. There was a significant moderate, positive correlation between the two variables ($r_s = .2$, $n = 222$, $p = .003$). Results indicate that higher satisfaction with socio-economic status is associated with higher levels of subjective happiness (see table 4).

Table 4: *Spearman' Rank Order correlation coefficient between continuous variables*

Variable	1	2	3	4
1. Satisfaction with socio-economic status	-			
2. Life satisfaction (SWLS)	.47*	-		
3. Life satisfaction (RLSS)	.43*	.76*	-	
4. Subjective happiness	.2*	.56*	.67*	-

N = 222; Statistical significance: * $p < .01$

Hypothesis 4.

Multiple regression analysis was performed to determine how well life satisfaction levels could be explained by four variables including gender (male, female), marital status, number of children and satisfaction with socio-economic status.

Preliminary analyses were conducted to ensure no violation of the assumptions of normality, linearity, and homoscedasticity. The correlations between the predictor variables and the criterion variable included in the study were examined (see Table 5 for full details). Three of the four predictor variables were significantly correlated with the criterion variable. Tests for multicollinearity also indicated that all Tolerance and VIF values were in an acceptable range. These results indicate that there was no violation of the assumption of multicollinearity and that the data was suitable for examination through multiple linear regression analysis.

Table 5: Spearman' Rank Order correlation coefficient between predictor variables

Variable	1	2	3	4	
1. Life satisfaction	-				
2. Gender	.03	-			
3. Marital status	.27***	.03	-		
4. Satisfaction with socio-economic status	.51***	.01	.13*	-	
5. Number of children	.28***	.02	.50***	.14	-

Note: * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$

Since no a priori hypotheses had been made to determine the order of entry of the predictor variables, a direct method was used for the analysis. The four predictor variables explained 32% of variance in life satisfaction levels ($F(4, 215) = 25.02, p < .001$). Three of the four variables were found to uniquely predict life satisfaction levels to a statistically significantly level: marital status ($\beta = .14, p = .03$), satisfaction with socio economic status ($\beta = .47, p < .001$), and number of children ($\beta = .14, p = .034$) (see Table 6 for full details).

Table 6: Multiple regression table for predictors of life satisfaction

Variable	R ²	B	SE	β	t	p
Model	.32***					
Gender		0.2	0.71	0.02	0.28	.78
Marital status		0.57	0.26	0.14	2.18	.03
Satisfaction with socio-economic status		3	0.37	0.47	8.28	< .001
Number of children		0.52	0.24	0.14	2.13	.03

Note: β = standardized beta value; B = unstandardized beta value; SE = Standard errors of B; CI 95% (B) = 95% confidence intervals for B; N = 120; Statistical significance: * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$

DISCUSSION

In the current study, factors that impact life satisfaction were investigated to provide a better understanding of how life satisfaction and in particular parental life satisfaction can be impacted by variables such as number of children, age of children, how they viewed their own socio-economic status and marital status. Some of these being common variables that impact life satisfaction and some not as thoroughly researched as the others.

The first hypothesis investigated whether or not the age of children impacted on life satisfaction and it found that there was no significant difference between parents of children aged 0-4 and those who had no child aged 0-4. It was also shown that there was no significant difference in subjective happiness scores between these groups. When comparing whether parents of children aged 5-16 differed from those who had no child aged 5-16 it was found that there was significant differences between these groups with the parents of children aged 5-16 having higher life satisfaction, however when comparing these two groups on subjective

happiness there was no significant difference present. Lastly when comparing participants who had children aged 17+ and participants who did not there was significant difference in life satisfaction scores with parents of children 17+ scoring higher those who did not. This group was the highest scoring group for life satisfaction scores. and it was also found that there was no significant difference in subjective happiness scores again with parents of children aged 17+ scoring equal median values than those who did not have children 17 or above however, this was directly on the significance level of .05 so that may need to be taken into account later on.

The second study intended to see if the number of children a person has impacts on their life satisfaction. When using scores on both the SWLS and the RLSS it was found that higher life satisfaction scores were correlated with individuals having higher numbers of children. It was also found that higher scores on the subjective happiness scale correlated with higher numbers on children. This can be seen as somewhat contradictory to the previous literature as higher numbers of children can often indicate greater financial strain and thus lead to lower happiness and life satisfaction in parents.

The third study aimed to investigate whether higher perceived satisfaction with socio-economic status impacted on life satisfaction. It was found that for both life satisfaction and subjective happiness that the higher perceived socio-economic status an individual has is correlated to higher life satisfaction, inferring that the lower perceived economic status an individual has correlates with lower overall life satisfaction and subjective happiness which would fit in with the previous literature which puts so much of an emphasis on financial stability and socio-economic status as a predictor of life satisfaction.

The fourth and final study aimed to see what was the best predictor of life satisfaction amongst the variables in this study which included gender, marital status, perceived socio-

economic status and number of children. The model accounted for 32% of the variance in life satisfaction levels with gender being the only variable that was not a significant predictor of life satisfaction. Marital status and number of children were equally as strong at predicting life satisfaction levels but the best predictor of life satisfaction was perceived socio-economic status. This again is consistent with the literature and shows why there is such an emphasis on socio-economic status and financial strain as variables when looking at the life satisfaction of individuals.

When looking at life satisfaction and happiness it was shown that there were no significant differences between participants who had extremely young children (0-4) and those who did not. The older the children get however, the greater life satisfaction participants have increases compared to those who do not have older children. The parents of the children from the ages of 5 all the way up until adulthood had significantly different life satisfaction. This may be attributed to the sleepless nights and new lifestyle that a parent has to take on when having a child and this could be the reason for no difference in life satisfaction as they may look at how their life was previously and compared to what it is like now. This finding goes against previous research such as Nomaguchi (2012) as it found life satisfaction to be significantly higher when the child is under 5. This finding does however fit in with other previous research such as Krämer and Rodgers (2019) as similar to what they found children under the age of 5 give no boost to life satisfaction apart from in the months following birth. This can quickly return to baseline and pre-baseline from what it shows in that and this study, they show the change to life pre and post child can lower or fail to raise life satisfaction. When comparing the other groups of children 5-16 and 17+ they both showed significantly higher scores for parents compared to those who did not have kids of this age. This looks to be attributed to the fact that young to

teenage children are now engaging with friends and school/sports so there is less of a demand on the parent's life socially so they may be able to regain some "freedom" through this as when the care of a child becomes too demanding as in the case of parents with disabled children life satisfaction is significantly lower, although these are not identical situations a similar explanation would seemingly suit. When looking at the highest scores it is parents of adult children, this comes as no shock as much of the literature points to middle aged to elderly people having on average higher life satisfaction. By this time, they are now free of any demand on their life to feed, wash and house their child and maybe the biggest component they are now free from the monetary strain which life satisfaction can greatly depend on. There were no significant differences in subjective happiness which came as a surprise even though happiness is a small overall part of life satisfaction it seemed strange that no groups showed significant differences. This demonstrates that theories of life satisfaction have truth in them that either life satisfaction is the sum of all domains or that overall life satisfaction may feed into each domain. It may be worth noting that the 17+ group of parents sat on the significance line of .05 but again nothing can be drawn from this. Along with age of children showing an impact on life satisfaction number of children was investigated and this showed again somewhat contradictory findings to what would be expected due to prior research. In the current study it was found that higher numbers of children significantly correlated with higher life satisfaction on two separate scales and also with subjective happiness. As mentioned at the beginning of this study past research has shown that life satisfaction either may not appear to increase at all when having children or may increase after one child but for subsequent children there will be no increase in life satisfaction. When looking at this it would make perfect sense to assume the previous literature would be correct, so a reasoning for this finding could include the individuals already satisfied life. It was

concluded in previous research that parents of 2 or more children scored higher on life satisfaction than those who had less but there was no causation found so it was concluded that individuals with higher life satisfaction can be more willing to have multiple children (Obradović, 2001). Many parents whether it be stay at home parents or not could view their children as a separate career and seeing them grow up and accomplish little things whether it be from a young age or as they grow older find jobs, find partners and have children of their own as an accomplishment because they have got them to that point. Multiple children may act as a greater social circle which can greatly improve life satisfaction in older adults and rids them of loneliness they may be experiencing in old age (Yunong, 2012).

Hypothesis three and four can be looked at in a similar context as the main point of interest from these results is the significance of satisfaction with socio-economic status. It was no surprise to see higher satisfaction with socio economic status being positively correlated with higher life satisfaction and subjective happiness as this is what the vast majority of literature would point too how individuals view their own wealth or financial status affects the satisfaction they feel in different domains in their lives. However, it was interesting to finally see what was the biggest predictor when looking at some of the common variables from the previous research. There was no difference across genders for predicting life satisfaction but marital status and number of children both showed to be significant predictors but not to the level of satisfaction with socio economic status. Socio-economic status has shown to be a major component to life satisfaction for reasons such as financial freedom, career flexibility and overall feeling of self-efficacy. It is interesting to note that life satisfaction can be more strongly associated with socio-economic status in more developed countries (Oishi, Diener, Lucas & Suh, 2009). This may be the reason as to why it's such a big contributor to predicting the model in this study and within

the previous research as it holds more significance to in more developed countries. It is also worth noting this affect may not be as strong in lesser developed countries. Lastly it strikes me as almost saddening to see the effect to which wealth and socio-economic status can have on an individual's satisfaction in their life. When seeing that on average up until the age of between 30-39 individuals will be earning in and around minimum wage in Ireland it is not until late adulthood where the majority of people earn over 600 euro a week (CSO, 2018).

Practical Implications

The practical implications of this study show that individuals with older children have a greater chance at having higher life satisfaction and it can also be implied that depending on how much value an individual places on money and socio-economic status instead of being satisfied and enjoying life and becoming satisfied with what you have that they may have lower life satisfaction when compared to someone who is already satisfied with their socio-economic status. Another practical implication that is present is that there seems to be a relationship between bigger family sizes leading to more satisfied parents as they may have a larger social circle in old age which can be evidently improve morale and life satisfaction. What can also be implied from this study is that parents of younger children may feel the strain on resources a child has but this can be seen to lighten over the lifetime of the children as they evidently become less dependent socially and financially allowing the parent to have more time to themselves. This may then be used to express themselves to a better extent then would have been possible with a young child.

Limitations and Future Research

A strength of this study could be it was one of few studies of this nature conducted on a purely Irish sample. Although other studies may measure certain aspects of what was measured in this study none quite match what this study has done and in particular being conducted in an Irish context.

When looking at what could be done for future research it would be interesting to see more predictor variable added to the analysis to gather a better overall picture and also to see if any other variables reach the impact as socio economic status or maybe enter the variables into a hierarchical multiple regression to control variables first and see just how significant predictors can be when. It would also be interesting to see how very young parents react to becoming parents either by their own accord or unexpectedly. This may move the rise in life satisfaction from 50 onwards to an earlier point with the children being adults when the parents are in their thirties or forties or it may show that there is other variables at play to explain this effect.

One limitation of the study was that the number of males and females was quite disproportionate with there being almost 3 females to every one male. Although this is not a major limitation it would have been more acceptable to have an even number of each.

Another limitation is that the scales used for measuring life satisfaction were quite similar, because they measure the same variable you imagine them to be quite similar but there may not have been a need to use the two of them and another scale to measure a different outcome could have been used in place.

A third limitation of this study could be that there was data taken regarding to child age that should have been used in hypothesis 4 as well as the first hypothesis although due to the

manner in which the data was collected it made this task very tricky and in the end, it was unable to be completed. Lastly a limitation of the sampling itself in that questions such age of participant in particular was left as at the time it felt unnecessary. These later could have been used to gain a better understanding of the findings.

CONCLUSION

The present study found there was a significant effect of child age on life satisfaction. These being from 5-16 and 17+, with young children under 4 having no significant effect on life satisfaction in either direction. There were however no effects of child age on subjective happiness. It was also discovered contrary to what previous studies have found that higher numbers of children are positively associated with higher life satisfaction scores. This came as somewhat of a surprise and it would be interesting if future research could try to understand the reasoning behind such a finding or even if this result is replicable. Lastly the current study found that not just a person's actual socio-economic status impacts life satisfaction but also how they feel about it as to whether or not they are satisfied and building on what previous literature had suggested we looked at which variable best predicted life satisfaction and what variables could significantly predict. Gender failed to significantly predict but marital status, number of children and satisfaction with socio-economic status all predicted life satisfaction significantly with satisfaction with socio-economic status as the best predictor which came as no surprise. This study aimed to build on what previous research had suggested or glanced over and also conduct this particular type of research in an Irish context which has not been explored enough. All in all, this study shows that regardless of gender other factors will influence how satisfied you are in life a major one being satisfaction with SES. Other than this it demonstrates how the older your

children get the better your life then becomes and surprisingly the more children you have may influence your life for the better.

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Appendices

(A)

Participant Information Leaflet

Does having children impact life satisfaction?

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before deciding whether to take part, please take time to read this document which explains why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. If you have any questions about the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details at the end of this sheet.

What is this study about?

I am a final year student in the BA in Psychology programme at National College of Ireland. As part of our degree we must carry out an independent research project.

I am aiming to look the effect having children has on life satisfaction.

What will taking part involve?

If you decide to take part in this research, you will be asked to complete questions about age brackets, number of children if any and then asked to complete the satisfaction with life scale. This can range from anywhere between 5 minutes to just over 10 minutes no longer should be needed. This study can be taken part in from home or on the go once someone has access of a smart phone or laptop/computer. There will be no breaks as this will be completed in the one sitting.

Who can take part?

This questionnaire is open to both parents and non-parents. You are eligible to complete this study if you are above the age of 18 are not seeking clinical help regarding your mental health and have a child or number of children.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in this research is voluntary; you do not have to take part, and a decision not to take part will have no consequences for you. If you do decide to take part, you can withdraw from participation at any time by simply closing or exiting the questionnaire before completing and submitting. Once you have submitted your questionnaire, it will not be possible to withdraw your data from the study, because the questionnaire is anonymous and individual responses cannot be identified.

What are the possible risks and benefits of taking part?

There is a small risk that some of the questions contained within this survey may cause minor distress for some participants. If you experience this, you are free to discontinue participation and exit the questionnaire. Contact information for relevant support services are also provided at the end of the questionnaire.

Will Taking Part Be Confidential and What Will Happen to my Data?

Only the researcher and academic supervisor will have access to the data collected. However, in the unlikely event that the researcher or academic supervisor believes that there is a significant

risk of harm or danger to the participant or another individual, or a law has been broken, they would then be required to share this information with the relevant authorities. In this very unlikely event, the researcher would discuss this with you first, but they may be required to breach confidentiality with or without your permission. Responses to the questionnaire will be stored securely in a password protected/encrypted file on the researcher's computer. Only the researcher and their supervisor will have access to the data. Data will be retained for 5 years in accordance with the NCI data retention policy.

What Will Happen With The Results?

The results of this study will be presented in my final dissertation, which will be submitted to National College of Ireland and the results of the project may be presented at conferences and/or submitted to an academic journal for publication.

Further Information

In the event of distress or any further questions feel free to contact me directly

John Rush, Undergraduate Psychology Student at National College of Ireland,

X18316411@student.ncirl.ie

Thank you.

(B)

Consent Form

By proceeding into the questionnaire you are agreeing to participate in this research and understand the following:

This research is being conducted by John Rush, an undergraduate student at the School of Business, National College of Ireland.

The method proposed for this research project has been approved in principle by the Departmental Ethics Committee, which means that the Committee does not have concerns about the procedure itself as detailed by the student. It is, however, the above-named student's responsibility to adhere to ethical guidelines in their dealings with participants and the collection and handling of data.

If I have any concerns about participation, I understand that I may refuse to participate or withdraw at any stage.

I have been informed as to the general nature of the study and agree voluntarily to participate.

There are no known expected discomforts or risks associated with participation.

All data from the study will be treated confidentially. The data from all participants will be compiled, analysed, and submitted in a report to the Psychology Department in the School of Business. No participant's data will be identified by name at any stage of the data analysis or in the final report.

At the conclusion of my participation, any questions or concerns I have will be fully addressed.

I may withdraw from this study at any time, and any unfinished data I have left will no longer be valid to this study.

Once the questionnaire is completed it will no longer be an option to remove a participants individual data set as they are anonymous and indistinguishable from one another.

By clicking next and completing the questionnaire you are agreeing to have your data used in a final year psychology research proposal.

(C)

Below are some generic questions related to your children and you and how you feel about your socio-economic status.

How many children do you have?

None.

One.

Two.

Three.

Four.

Five.

More than five.

Between what ages are your children? (If you have multiple please select as many ranges needed)

0 – 4

5 – 8

9 – 12

13 – 16

17 – 20

21+

On a scale of 1 - 5 how satisfied are you with your socio-economic status?

Unsatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 satisfied

What is your current marital status?

Single

Co-habiting

In a relationship

Married

Divorced

Widowed

What gender do you identify as?

() Male

() Female

() Other

(D)

The satisfaction with life scale (Diener, Emmons, Larsen & Griffin, 1985).

Below are five statements that you may agree or disagree with. Using the 1 - 7 scale below, indicate your agreement with each item by placing the appropriate number on the line preceding that item. Please be open and honest in your responding.

In most ways my life is close to my ideal.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

The conditions of my life are excellent.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

I am satisfied with my life

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

(E)

SUBJECTIVE HAPPINESS SCALE (Lyubomirsky & Lepper, 1999).

Below are some statements that you may agree or disagree with. Using the 1 - 7 scale below, indicate your agreement with each item by placing the appropriate number on the line preceding that item. Please be open and honest in your responding.

1. In general, I consider myself:

Not a very happy person 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A very happy person

2. Compared to most of my peers, I consider myself:

Less happy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 More happy

3. Some people are generally very happy. They enjoy life regardless of what is going on, getting the most out of everything. To what extent does this characterization describe you?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A great deal

4. Some people are generally not very happy. Although they are not depressed, they never seem as happy as they might be. To what extent does this characterization describe you?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 A great deal

(F)

A New Measure of Life Satisfaction: The Riverside Life Satisfaction Scale (Margolis, Schwitzgebel, Ozer & Lyubomirsky, 2018)

Below are some statements that you may agree or disagree with. Using the 1 - 7 scale below, indicate your agreement with each item by placing the appropriate number on the line preceding that item. Please be open and honest in your responding.

1. I like how my life is going.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

2. If I could live my life over, I would change many things.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

3. I am content with my life.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

4. Those around me seem to be living better lives than my own.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

5. I am satisfied with where I am in life right now.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

(G)

Debriefing sheet

Thank you for participating as a research participant in the present study concerning life satisfaction of parents. The present study looked at whether the number of children has any effect on life satisfaction.

Again, we thank you for your participation in this study. If you know any others who would be willing and eligible to complete this study, I ask that you pass on the study to them so and not discuss any questions to be asked until they have completed the study. Prior knowledge of questions asked during the study may have an effect on how people answer them. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

In the event of distress or any further questions feel free to contact me directly. John Rush,
Undergraduate Psychology Student at National College of Ireland,

X18316411@student.ncirl.ie

In the event that you feel psychologically distressed by participation in this study, we ask you to make contact with me directly at the above email address or one of these mental help services listed below the first of which being specific for students.

Niteline.ie

Aware.ie

HSE.ie

Aware.ie

Mentalhealthireland.ie

Thank you again for your cooperation!

(H)Evidence of data

THESES VARIABLES.sav [DataSet1] - IBM SPSS Statistics Data Editor

Name	Type	Width	Decimals	Label	Values	Missing	Columns	Align	Measure	Role	
1	No_Of_Chil...	Numeric	15	0	How many chil...	{0, None}...	None	15	Right	Nominal	Input
2	Zero_to_Four	String	8	0		None	None	8	Left	Nominal	Input
3	Five_to_six...	String	8	0		None	None	8	Left	Nominal	Input
4	Seventeen_...	String	8	0		None	None	8	Left	Nominal	Input
5	Age_Of_Chi...	String	38	0	Between what ...	None	None	38	Left	Nominal	Input
6	Satis_of_so...	Numeric	2	0	On a scale of 1...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
7	Marital_Stat...	Numeric	17	0	What is your c...	{1, Single}...	None	17	Right	Nominal	Input
8	Gender	Numeric	6	0	What gender d...	{1, Male}...	None	6	Right	Nominal	Input
9	SWLS_Q1	Numeric	2	0	In most ways ...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
10	SWLS_Q2	Numeric	2	0	The conditions	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
11	SWLS_Q3	Numeric	2	0	I am satisfied w...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
12	SWLS_Q4	Numeric	2	0	So far I have go...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
13	SWLS_Q5	Numeric	2	0	# I could live m...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
14	SHS_Q1	Numeric	2	0	1. In general, I ...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
15	SHS_Q2	Numeric	2	0	2. Compared to...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
16	SHS_Q3	Numeric	2	0	3. Some people...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
17	SHS_Q4	Numeric	2	0	4. Some people...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
18	RLSS_Q1	Numeric	2	0	1. I like how my...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
19	RLSS_Q2	Numeric	2	0	2. If I could live...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
20	RLSS_Q3	Numeric	2	0	3. I am content ...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
21	RLSS_Q4	Numeric	2	0	4. Those aroun...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
22	RLSS_Q5	Numeric	2	0	5. I am satisfie...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
23	SWLS_Total	Numeric	8	2		None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
24	RLSS_Total	Numeric	8	2		None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
25	SHS_Total	Numeric	8	2		None	None	11	Right	Scale	Input
26	LifeSatisfacti...	Numeric	8	2		None	None	24	Right	Scale	Input
27	RLSS_1Total	Numeric	8	2		None	None	13	Right	Scale	Input

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Nonparametric Tests

Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig. ^{a,b}	Decision
1	The distribution of SWLS_Total is the same across categories of Zero_to_Four.	Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test	.300	Retain the null hypothesis.

a. The significance level is .050.
b. Asymptotic significance is displayed.

Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test

SWLS_Total across Zero_to_Four

Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test Summary

Total N	222
Mann-Whitney U	2683.500
Wilcoxon W	2983.500
Test Statistic	2683.500
Standard Error	296.684
Standardized Test Statistic	1.036
Asymptotic Sig. (2-sided test)	.300

Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test

Zero_to_Four

	No	Yes
50.00	N = 198	N = 24

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Model Summary^a

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.564 ^a	.318	.305	4.76352

a. Predictors: (Constant), How many children do you have?, What gender do you identify as?, On a scale of 1 - 5 how satisfied are you with your socio-economic status?, What is your current marital status?
 b. Dependent Variable: SWLS_Total

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2271.156	4	567.789	25.023	.000 ^b
	Residual	4878.590	215	22.691		
	Total	7149.745	219			

a. Dependent Variable: SWLS_Total
 b. Predictors: (Constant), How many children do you have?, What gender do you identify as?, On a scale of 1 - 5 how satisfied are you with your socio-economic status?, What is your current marital status?

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B		Correlations			Collinearity Statistics		
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Zero-order	Partial	Part	Tolerance	VIF	
1	(Constant)	10.134	1.851		5.474	.000	6.485	13.783						
	What gender do you identify as?	.200	.711	.016	.281	.779	-1.201	1.601	.027	.019	.016	.999	1.001	
	What is your current marital status?	.569	.261	.142	2.179	.030	.054	1.084	.272	.147	.123	.744	1.345	
	On a scale of 1 - 5 how satisfied are you with your socio-economic status?	3.018	.365	.472	8.278	.000	2.300	3.737	.509	.492	.466	.977	1.024	
	How many children do	.518	.244	.139	2.128	.034	.038	.999	.275	.144	.120	.742	1.348	

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