

Explaining Geographic Variation in Happiness in Canada

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Abstract

Using the micro-data from the 2007 and 2008 Canadian Community Health Survey, the objective of this paper is to document and explain geographical variation in subjective well-being in Canada. In particular, it investigates econometrically whether the variation across space reflects only individual differences affecting happiness (e.g. age, income, education, marital status) or whether it also reflects the societal environment (e.g. size of community, sense of belonging, trust, etc.). It also examines the social and economic characteristics of individuals and communities that lead to greater subjective well-being. The analysis is conducted at the provincial, health region, and CMA level.