

Background

Social inequality

Social inequality is not a desirable situation to have for a country. Increased social inequality tends to reduce social mobility, social capital, trust and probably economic growth, and to increase social unrest. Although evidence does not indicate a clear relationship between subjective well-being and social inequality, the impact of social inequality on LS has been little studied.

Unemployment and income have a large impact on LS and happiness. Unemployment in itself, usually leads to large decreases in well-being that are not only explained by decreased income. The effect of unemployment on cognitive well-being is a sharp negative, followed by an adaptational recovery. This is not so well seen with affective well-being.

The combined effect of the crisis and the measures used to meet it, resulted in differences in effects on public health by country. However, in general, the relationship between social inequality, unemployment, welfare generosity and LS in the population has been little studied. Because all these measures are of great significance to the productivity and well-being of populations, further knowledge about their relationships and how financial crises may affect them is strongly needed.

LS: Life satisfaction