

Chapter 5: Data sources

Objectives

1. Identify and describe the major international data sources that can be useful for identifying well-being indicators
2. Discuss the potential for identifying additional data sources at national level (e.g. use of administrative data), including some case study examples
3. Identify the gaps that exist and consider what potential new data sources may be needed

International databases

Table 5.1: Some common international databases that contain indicators of well-being

Database	Website	Custodian agency
Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP)	https://washdata.org/	World Health Organization and UNICEF
Global environment monitoring system for water	https://gemstat.org/	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
World Social Protection Database (WSPDB) (SDG 1.3.1.)	https://qps.ilo.org/	ILO
ASPIRE: The Atlas of Social Protection - Indicators of Resilience and Equity, The World Bank	www.worldbank.org/aspire/	
World Bank Open Data	https://data.worldbank.org/	World Bank
The Global Health Observatory (GHO)	https://www.who.int/data/gho	World Health Organization
UNICEF Data Warehouse	https://data.unicef.org/dv_index/	UNICEF
Eurostat Database	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/data/database	Eurostat
UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)	http://data.uis.unesco.org/	UNESCO
SDG Global Database	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal	UN DESA
OECD Data	https://data.oecd.org/	OECD

International survey data sources

Table 5.2: Some common international surveys that contain indicators of well-being

Survey	Scope and topics covered	Website
World Values Survey	Changing values and their impact on social and political life	https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp
European Survey on Income and Living Conditions	Aims to collect timely and comparable cross-sectional and longitudinal data on income, poverty, social exclusion, and living conditions.	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/europe-an-union-statistics-on-income-and-living-conditions/
European Social Survey	Attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of diverse populations	https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/
Gallup World Poll	Measures key global development and social responsibility issues across time	https://www.gallup.com/analytics/318875/global-research.aspx
Programme for International Student Assessment	Measures 15-year-olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges.	https://www.oecd.org/en/about/programmes/pisa.html

Description of surveys

Example of description of data source (for appendix)

Name	EU SILC Income and living conditions
Underlying data source(s)	Survey
Type of data (longitudinal, repeat cross-sectional)	Cross - sectional, partly longitudinal
Main topics covered	Income, health, economic activity, housing, living conditions
Countries included (within UNECE group)	EU countries; plus some other European countries that collect harmonized data: see here
Frequency	Annual
Population coverage (including age range covered and any excluded populations) and representativeness	<p>The reference population of EU-SILC is the private households and all persons composing these households having their usual residence in the national territory. A private household means a person living alone or a group of persons who live together, providing oneself or themselves with the essentials of living. All household members are counted, but only those aged 16 and older are interviewed. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population. Most countries follow the standard definitions for <i>reference population</i> (except for Estonia, and Sweden) and for <i>household membership</i> (except for Belgium, Netherlands, Austria and Poland). The slightly deviation on the reference population definition for Denmark and Finland comes from the use of registers on sample selection.</p>
Potential for disaggregation (sub-groups, regional, etc.)	Sex, age, type of households, income groups, education,
Other notes on strengths and limitations	

Purposes and sources

The choice of data source may be guided by the relative importance of different ways of utilizing indicators of well-being.

Three common purposes of well-being measurement are:

1. international benchmarking and comparisons;
2. analysis of within-country differences according to region or population sub-group;
3. tracking of trends over time.

Criteria to consider in selecting sources

1. Historical data
2. Frequency of coverage
3. Speed of availability
4. Population coverage
5. Disaggregation potential – regions and sub-groups
6. International harmonization
7. Data quality

Additional guidance

Building an indicator set using national survey and administrative data sources

- Case study from Netherlands

Developing a longer term strategy to fill gaps including

1. Topic gaps
2. Excluded sub-groups

- Case study from [Country]