

Derived Variables– Satisfaction With Life (SLS)

(Tracking and Comprehensive Assessments)

Satisfaction with life is measured in the CLSA using the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) (1), a short, five-item instrument with seven levels of agreement/disagreement to choose from for each item. The CLSA adapted the administration of the SWLS, by initially only providing participants with three possible responses (agree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree) for each item, and then based on their response, asking participants to further elaborate on the extent of their agreement/disagreement (strongly disagree, disagree, slightly disagree, slightly agree, agree, strongly agree). The resulting set of two-part responses is equivalent to the original SWLS.

There are seven derived variables (DVs) in the SLS module: a DV using the original seven levels of responses for each of the five items, one DV for the overall SWLS score, and one DV that classifies the participant's global life satisfaction based on the score(2). For the purposes of the CLSA, if any item on the SWLS is missing, then the overall SWLS score and the classification are set to missing.

These DVs are created for participants in both the Tracking and Comprehensive assessments. For simplicity, we describe them here for the Tracking assessment, however, the process of creating the DVs for the Comprehensive assessment is identical. Distinguishing the two are the variable name endings; all variable names in the Tracking assessment end in 'TRM' and in the Comprehensive assessment in 'COM'. For example, the DV named SLS_DSCR_TRM in the Tracking assessment is named SLS_DSCR_COM in the Comprehensive assessment.

- (1) Diener E, Emmons RA, Larsen RJ, Griffin S. (1985).The satisfaction with life scale. *J Pers Assess*, 49(1), 71-75.
- (2) Diener E. (2006). Understanding Scores on the Satisfaction with Life Scale. Retrieved on 26/10/2017 from <https://internal.psychology.illinois.edu/~ediener/Documents/Understanding%20SWLS%20Scores.pdf>

Conditions of Use: Users of the SWLS data must give credit to the authors of the scale by citing Diener et al. (1985).

1) SWLS: Life is close to my ideal

Derived Variable Name: SLS_DLIFE_TRM

Description: This variable merges the two-part response to the question about life being close to ideal in order to recreate the original SLWS item response set, which ranges from 1- strongly disagree to 7 – strongly agree. If any part of the two-part response is missing, this variable will also be missing.

Based on: SLS_LIFE_TRM, SLS_LIFENEG_TRM, SLS_LIFEPOS_TRM

Derived Variable Specifications:

Value	Condition(s)	Description	Notes
99	SLS_LIFE_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_LIFENEG_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_LIFEPOS_TRM = (8, 9, -8)	At least one of the required questions was not answered (don't know, refusal, missing)	These CLSA participants have already been classified and are excluded from further classification.
1	SLS_LIFE_TRM = 1 and SLS_LIFENEG_TRM = 3	Life is ideal – strongly disagree	
2	SLS_LIFE_TRM = 1 and SLS_LIFENEG_TRM = 2	Life is ideal – disagree	
3	SLS_LIFE_TRM = 1 and SLS_LIFENEG_TRM = 1	Life is ideal – slightly disagree	
4	SLS_LIFE_TRM = 4	Life is ideal – neither agree nor disagree	
5	SLS_LIFE_TRM = 6 and SLS_LIFEPOS_TRM = 1	Life is ideal – slightly agree	
6	SLS_LIFE_TRM = 6 and SLS_LIFEPOS_TRM = 2	Life is ideal – agree	
7	SLS_LIFE_TRM = 6 and SLS_LIFEPOS_TRM = 3	Life is ideal – strongly agree	

2) SWLS: The conditions of my life are excellent

Derived Variable Name: SLS_DCOND_TRM

Description: This variable merges the two-part response to the question about the conditions of life being excellent in order to recreate the original SLWS item response set, which ranges from 1- strongly disagree to 7 – strongly agree. If any part of the two-part response is missing, this variable will also be missing.

Based on: SLS_COND_TRM, SLS_CONDNeg_TRM, SLS_CONDPOS_TRM

Derived Variable Specifications:

Value	Condition(s)	Description	Notes
99	SLS_COND_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_CONDNeg_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_CONDPOS_TRM = (8, 9, -8)	At least one of the required questions was not answered (don't know, refusal, missing)	These CLSA participants have already been classified and are excluded from further classification.
1	SLS_COND_TRM = 1 and SLS_CONDNeg_TRM = 3	Excellent life conditions – strongly disagree	
2	SLS_COND_TRM = 1 and SLS_CONDNeg_TRM = 2	Excellent life conditions – disagree	
3	SLS_COND_TRM = 1 and SLS_CONDNeg_TRM = 1	Excellent life conditions – slightly disagree	
4	SLS_COND_TRM = 4	Excellent life conditions – neither agree nor disagree	
5	SLS_COND_TRM = 6 and SLS_CONDPOS_TRM = 1	Excellent life conditions – slightly agree	
6	SLS_COND_TRM = 6 and SLS_CONDPOS_TRM = 2	Excellent life conditions – agree	
7	SLS_COND_TRM = 6 and SLS_CONDPOS_TRM = 3	Excellent life conditions – strongly agree	

3) SWLS: I am satisfied with my life

Derived Variable Name: SLS_DSATS_TRM

Description: This variable merges the two-part response to the question about being satisfied with life in order to recreate the original SLWS item response set, which ranges from 1- strongly disagree to 7 – strongly agree. If any part of the two-part response is missing, this variable will also be missing.

Based on: SLS_SATS_TRM, SLS_SATSNEG_TRM, SLS_SATSPOS_TRM

Derived Variable Specifications:

Value	Condition(s)	Description	Notes
99	SLS_SATS_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_SATSNEG_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_SATSPOS_TRM = (8, 9, -8)	At least one of the required questions was not answered (don't know, refusal, missing)	These CLSA participants have already been classified and are excluded from further classification.
1	SLS_SATS_TRM = 1 and SLS_SATSNEG_TRM = 3	Satisfied with life – strongly disagree	
2	SLS_SATS_TRM = 1 and SLS_SATSNEG_TRM = 2	Satisfied with life – disagree	
3	SLS_SATS_TRM = 1 and SLS_SATSNEG_TRM = 1	Satisfied with life – slightly disagree	
4	SLS_SATS_TRM = 4	Satisfied with life – neither agree nor disagree	
5	SLS_SATS_TRM = 6 and SLS_SATSPOS_TRM = 1	Satisfied with life – slightly agree	
6	SLS_SATS_TRM = 6 and SLS_SATSPOS_TRM = 2	Satisfied with life – agree	
7	SLS_SATS_TRM = 6 and SLS_SATSPOS_TRM = 3	Satisfied with life – strongly agree	

4) SWLS: I have gotten the important things I want in life

Derived Variable Name: SLS_DIMP_TRM

Description: This variable merges the two-part response to the question about having gotten the important things wanted in life in order to recreate the original SLWS item response set, which ranges from 1- strongly disagree to 7 – strongly agree. If any part of the two-part response is missing, this variable will also be missing.

Based on: SLS_IMP_TRM, SLS_IMPNEG_TRM, SLS_IMPPOS_TRM

Derived Variable Specifications:

Value	Condition(s)	Description	Notes
99	SLS_IMP_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_IMPNEG_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_IMPPOS_TRM = (8, 9, -8)	At least one of the required questions was not answered (don't know, refusal, missing)	These CLSA participants have already been classified and are excluded from further classification.
1	SLS_IMP_TRM = 1 and SLS_IMPNEG_TRM = 3	Gotten important things – strongly disagree	
2	SLS_IMP_TRM = 1 and SLS_IMPNEG_TRM = 2	Gotten important things – disagree	
3	SLS_IMP_TRM = 1 and SLS_IMPNEG_TRM = 1	Gotten important things – slightly disagree	
4	SLS_IMP_TRM = 4	Gotten important things – neither agree nor disagree	
5	SLS_IMP_TRM = 6 and SLS_IMPPOS_TRM = 1	Gotten important things – slightly agree	
6	SLS_IMP_TRM = 6 and SLS_IMPPOS_TRM = 2	Gotten important things – agree	
7	SLS_IMP_TRM = 6 and SLS_IMPPOS_TRM = 3	Gotten important things – strongly agree	

5) SWLS: If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing

Derived Variable Name: SLS_DOVER_TRM

Description: This variable merges the two-part response to the question about changing almost nothing if could live life over in order to recreate the original SLWS item response set, which ranges from 1- strongly disagree to 7 – strongly agree. If any part of the two-part response is missing, this variable will also be missing.

Based on: SLS_OVER_TRM, SLS_OVERNEG_TRM, SLS_OVERPOS_TRM

Derived Variable Specifications:

Value	Condition(s)	Description	Notes
99	SLS_OVER_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_OVERNEG_TRM = (8, 9, -8) or SLS_OVERPOS_TRM = (8, 9, -8)	At least one of the required questions was not answered (don't know, refusal, missing)	These CLSA participants have already been classified and are excluded from further classification.
1	SLS_OVER_TRM = 1 and SLS_OVERNEG_TRM = 3	Change nothing – strongly disagree	
2	SLS_OVER_TRM = 1 and SLS_OVERNEG_TRM = 2	Change nothing – disagree	
3	SLS_OVER_TRM = 1 and SLS_OVERNEG_TRM = 1	Change nothing – slightly disagree	
4	SLS_OVER_TRM = 4	Change nothing – neither agree nor disagree	
5	SLS_OVER_TRM = 6 and SLS_OVERPOS_TRM = 1	Change nothing – slightly agree	
6	SLS_OVER_TRM = 6 and SLS_OVERPOS_TRM = 2	Change nothing – agree	
7	SLS_OVER_TRM = 6 and SLS_OVERPOS_TRM = 3	Change nothing – strongly agree	

6) Satisfaction with Life Scale – Score

Derived Variable Name: SLS_DSCR_TRM

Description: This variable describes participants' satisfaction with life and is an aggregate score of the responses to the five items of the SWLS. Individual responses to each item in the SWLS range from 1 – strongly disagree to 7 – strongly agree, and this score is a sum of those responses. Higher scores indicate a greater satisfaction with life. For the purposes of the CLSA, if any of the 5 items are missing, this score will be set to missing.

This DV is similar to the variable "SLSDSCR" in Statistics Canada's Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) – Healthy Aging.

Based on: SLS_DLIFE_TRM, SLS_DCOND_TRM, SLS_DSATS_TRM, SLS_DIMP_TRM, SLS_DOVER_TRM

Derived Variable Specifications:

Value	Condition(s)	Description	Notes
99	SLS_DLIFE_TRM = 99 or SLS_DCOND_TRM = 99 or SLS_DSATS_TRM = 99 or SLS_DIMP_TRM = 99 or SLS_DOVER_TRM = 99	At least one required question was not answered	
SLS_DLIFE_TRM + SLS_DCOND_TRM + SLS_DSATS_TRM + SLS_DIMP_TRM + SLS_DOVER_TRM	1 ≤ SLS_DLIFE_TRM ≤ 7 and 1 ≤ SLS_DCOND_TRM ≤ 7 and 1 ≤ SLS_DSATS_TRM ≤ 7 and 1 ≤ SLS_DIMP_TRM ≤ 7 and 1 ≤ SLS_DOVER_TRM ≤ 7	Score obtained on the Satisfaction with Life scale. Higher values indicate higher satisfaction with life.	(min: 5; max: 35)

7) Satisfaction with Life Scale – Classification

Derived Variable Name: SLS_DCLS_TRM

Description: This variable classifies participants’ satisfaction with life, as presented in Diener (2). If the SWLS score is missing, this classification variable will be set to missing.

This DV is similar to the variable “SLSDCLS” in Statistics Canada’s Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) – Healthy Aging.

Based on: SLS_DSCR_TRM

Derived Variable Specifications:

Value	Condition(s)	Description
99	SLS_DSCR_TRM = 99	At least one required question was not answered
1	5 ≤ SLS_DSCR_TRM ≤ 9	Extremely Dissatisfied
2	10 ≤ SLS_DSCR_TRM ≤ 14	Dissatisfied
3	15 ≤ SLS_DSCR_TRM ≤ 19	Slightly Dissatisfied
4	SLS_DSCR_TRM = 20	Neutral
5	21 ≤ SLS_DSCR_TRM ≤ 25	Slightly Satisfied
6	26 ≤ SLS_DSCR_TRM ≤ 30	Satisfied
7	31 ≤ SLS_DSCR_TRM ≤ 35	Extremely Satisfied



Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging
Étude longitudinale canadienne sur le vieillissement