COMPONENTS OF LIFE SATISFACTION OF OLDER TEXANS:
A MULTIDIMENSIONAL MODEL

DISSERTATION

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North Texas State University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

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By

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The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between majority and ethnic status and life satisfaction. Several studies have examined the relationship between race and life satisfaction. The comparisons have been between Anglos and Blacks, and no previous research has included Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans in studying the effect of majority and ethnic status on life satisfaction.

The research utilized secondary data which were originally collected to determine the needs of elderly Texans in certain areas. For the research, Anglos constituted the majority group, and Blacks and Mexican-Americans, the minority groups. The total number of respondents was 8,061. Life satisfaction was defined as the respondents' satisfaction with their present situations in the areas of housing, health, and social relations. These three components have been analyzed in previous studies to measure life satisfaction and well-being of the elderly. The three indices were combined to constitute a life satisfaction index, the dependent variable for the study. Score values for the index
ranged from seven to twenty-one. A high score indicated a high degree of satisfaction, and a low score indicated a low degree.

The major proposition, majority status is positively related to life satisfaction, was supported. Anglos reported higher life satisfaction scores than Blacks and Mexican-Americans. Majority status was also positively related to two components: perceived housing satisfaction and perceived health satisfaction.

The relationship between majority status and life satisfaction was statistically significant controlling for marital status, residence and sex. However, controlling for education, income and transportation eliminated the significant relationship between majority status and life satisfaction. Education, income and transportation, therefore, were highly effective in accounting for the life satisfaction of Anglos.

The proposition, if ethnicity is related to life satisfaction, it is expected that Blacks will report higher life satisfaction scores than Mexican-Americans, was not supported. The correlation between ethnicity and life satisfaction was -.02 and was not significant. Ethnicity was slightly related to housing satisfaction, but not to the perceived health satisfaction and satisfaction with social relationships components. The relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction was not significant controlling for income, education, marital status, residence, sex and transportation.
Stepwise multiple regression was utilized as an exploratory measure to determine which of the independent variables, age, sex, majority status, education, monthly income, residence and transportation was the best predictor or predictors of life satisfaction and each component of life satisfaction for the total sample. The predictors were also examined for Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans separately. For the regression analysis, the squared partial correlation coefficient indicated the amount of variance explained by a particular independent variable.

Transportation explained more of the variance in the life satisfaction index and each component of life satisfaction for the total sample and for Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans. Monthly income explained the second highest amount of variance in the total index and two components: perceived housing satisfaction and perceived health satisfaction for the total sample and for Anglos and Blacks. Although the amount was not great, residence accounted for the second highest amount of variance in the perceived satisfaction with social relationships for the Anglo sample.

The findings suggest that multidimensional models are feasible to measure life satisfaction of elderly individuals of different racial or ethnic groups. Furthermore, on the basis of this study future research should include the variable, transportation, in any multivariate analysis of life satisfaction.
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CHAPTER I
THE STUDY OF LIFE SATISFACTION

Introduction

In recent years numerous studies have attempted to define and measure life satisfaction or morale of Older Americans. The increasing concern in measuring and defining dimensions of life satisfaction has developed along with an attempt to describe successful aging or those characteristics which constitute a satisfactory "quality of life."

There is, however, one major problem in the measurement of life satisfaction. It is whether to rely on the overt behavior of individuals, utilizing social participation as the criterion of success in aging, or the individual's internal frame of reference to which his level of social participation is considered secondary. For example, Kutner, Fanshel, Togo and Langner\(^1\) contend that variables used to measure life satisfaction should be based upon an individual's subjective evaluation of his life satisfaction, while Cavan\(^2\) and Havighurst and Albrecht\(^3\) have suggested that the


\(^3\) Robert Havighurst and Ruth Albrecht, *Older People* (New York, 1953), p. 31-47.
measurement of life satisfaction can be based upon external criteria. It assumes that life satisfaction is a correlate of successful role performance in later life.

The measurement of life satisfaction as a subjective phenomenon involves inner feelings of happiness and satisfaction with one's present and past life, whereas measurement as an objective phenomenon involves outer, behavioral performance and utilizes social participation as the criterion of success or competence. There is, however, an increasing belief that multidimensional models are required in order to evaluate life satisfaction. Multidimensional models attempt to identify sets of variables which account for the variance in life satisfaction as the relative influence of each variable is eliminated. Knapp, for example, has suggested that future researchers use a multidimensional model because life satisfaction is constituted by several dimensions, rather than by a single distinct dimension.

The present research accepts the feasibility of a multidimensional model to predict life satisfaction, and

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investigates components of life satisfaction utilizing secondary data. It departs from past studies of life satisfaction in three major respects. First, the research provides an analysis of the effect of majority status on life satisfaction. The majority group is made up of Anglos, and the minority groups include Blacks and Mexican-Americans. Second, it examines the effect of ethnicity on life satisfaction. Alston and others and Clemente and Sauer have analyzed the effect of race (black and white) on life satisfaction, but no previous study has included Blacks and Mexican-Americans to analyze the effect of ethnicity. Third, the research contributes methodologically by the development of a life satisfaction scale derived from the data. The present study utilizes an index consisting of three dimensions: perceived housing satisfaction, perceived health satisfaction, and perceived satisfaction with social relationships.

In subsequent paragraphs a review of the literature will be presented. The review includes studies in the following areas: objective and subjective measures of life satisfaction, demographic and psychological correlates of life satisfaction, and multidimensional models of life satisfaction.

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8 Jon P. Alston, George D. Lowe and Alice Wrigley, "Socioeconomic Correlates for Four Dimensions of Self-Perceived Satisfaction," Human Organization, XXXIII (Spring, 1974), 99-100.

Review of Literature

As previously indicated, gerontological literature has focused upon two general points of view in the measurement of life satisfaction, the objective and the subjective. The objective viewpoint stresses the overt behavior of the individual and utilizes social participation as the criterion of success or competence. Such studies use the level and range of activities and the extent of social participation as indicators of life satisfaction. The assumption is made, either implicitly or explicitly, that "the greater the extent of social participation, and the less the individual varies from the pattern of activity that characterized him in middle age, the greater his well being." This viewpoint is drawn from the activity theory of aging as originally posited by Havighurst and his associates. At least implicitly, the activity theory contends that the norms for old age are the same as those for middle age and, therefore, older persons should be judged in terms of a middle-aged system for measuring successful adjustment. The theory also assumes that all aging individuals ascribe to the model of behavior set in middle age and that there is a positive relationship between activity and life satisfaction.


Measurement of Life Satisfaction

Two early examples of the objective approach to social adjustment and life satisfaction are Havighurst and Albrecht's scale to measure the social acceptability of older people's behavior and the activity schedule developed by Cavan et al. Each yields an aggregate score of a person's participation in a variety of activities. Havighurst and Albrecht's scale consists of statements in several activity areas: civic activity, clubs and neighborhood participation, recreation, church, family, work, and money. A person is requested to express approval or disapproval with one of the three opinions: "this is all right, I approve of it," "neither good or bad," or "this is a bad or foolish thing to do." Havighurst and Albrecht found a positive relationship between activity and life satisfaction. Their study concluded that "American society desires and expects a good deal of activity and independence from its older people, tolerates a wide variety of roles on their part, and wishes them to slow down gradually as they get older."

A second scale used by Havighurst and Albrecht in the Prairie City Study combined inner and outer aspects of

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12 Havighurst and Albrecht, Older People, pp. 31-47.
13 Cavan and others, Personal Adjustment in Old Age, pp. 143-173.
14 Havighurst and Albrecht, Older People, pp. 31-32.
15 Ibid., pp. 31-32.  16 Ibid., p. 37.
successful aging.\textsuperscript{17} A person is asked about his satisfaction with his economic situation, work, family, friends, home, health, associations or clubs and his happiness and feelings of usefulness.\textsuperscript{18} The total score combines a person's activities in several areas and his inner feelings of happiness independent of his outer behavior.\textsuperscript{19}

When the scale developed by Cavan and her associates is used, the subject is given a summed score based on his participation in the following activities: health, family, friendships, leisure and recreation, clubs and organizations.\textsuperscript{20}

The second approach to measuring life satisfaction focuses upon the individual's internal frame of reference. This viewpoint assumes that the individual himself is the only accurate judge of his present or past life and his satisfaction or happiness, which minimizes the value judgments of investigators concerning role performances. The Kutner Morale Scale and the Kansas City Life Satisfaction Index are examples of the use of subjective criteria in determining life satisfaction.

\textsuperscript{17} Havighurst, \textit{Successful Aging}, p. 301.
\textsuperscript{18} Ibid., p. 301. \textsuperscript{19} Ibid., p. 301.
\textsuperscript{20} Cavan and others, \textit{Personal Adjustment in Old Age}, pp. 143-173.
Kutner's morale scale consists of responses to seven items which taken as a group have a coefficient of reproducibility of ninety percent. The seven items include the following.

1. How often do you feel there's just no point in living?
2. Things just keep getting worse and worse for me as I get older.
3. How much do you regret the chances you missed during your life to do a better job of living?
4. All in all, how much unhappiness would you say you find in life today?
5. On the whole, how satisfied would you say you are with your life today?
6. How much do you plan ahead the things you will be doing next week, or the week after--would you say you make many plans, a few plans, or almost none?
7. As you get older, would you say things seem to be better or worse than you thought they would be.

Neugarten, Havighurst, and Tobin have criticized Kutner's scale as an unsatisfactory measure of an individual's life evaluation because it was based upon the assumption that psychological well-being or life satisfaction is an unidimensional phenomenon and, therefore, the scale was constructed as a type of Guttman scale. Scaling difficulties exist when items are used with a population other than the one originally studied. These criticisms are not limited to Kutner's scale, but can apply to any given scale, which may

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22 Ibid., p. 302.
be undimensional for one group of individuals but not for another, and undimensional at one time, but not at a later time.24

The Life Satisfaction Rating Scale emerged from the Kansas City Study of Adult Life which also produced the disengagement theory of aging. This theory emerged as an alternative to the activity theory in gerontology. It holds that

Aging is an inevitable mutual withdrawal or disengagement, resulting in decreased interaction between the aging person and others in the social systems he belongs to. The process may be initiated by the individual or by others in the situation. The aging person may withdraw more markedly from some classes of people while remaining relatively close to others. His withdrawal may be accompanied from the outset by an increased preoccupation with himself; certain institutions in society may make this withdrawal easy for him. When the process is complete, the equilibrium which existed in middle life between the individual and his society has given way to a new equilibrium characterized by a greater distance and an altered type of relationship.25

Disengagement is viewed as being functional for a society. According to the functionalists, society must constantly seek equilibrium, and to maintain such an equilibrium a set of absolute needs for survival must be met. In order to meet the functional requirements, society must have people in key positions who will implement their jobs without


interruption. This process leads to the institutionalization of disengagement since those individuals who are incapable of occupying key positions due to disability or old age are shifted out of these positions into less important ones. Since disengagement theory assumes a withdrawal from the roles of middle age, it implies that life satisfaction in old age cannot be measured through continued participation in those roles. Consequently, greater emphasis must be placed upon subjective components.

Five dimensions are included in the Life Satisfaction Rating Index: zest versus apathy, resolution and fortitude, congruence between desired and achieved goals, positive self-concept, and mood tone. Each component contains five items on which the respondent is rated from one to five. The index yields a total score ranging from five to twenty-five. The ratings are not based entirely upon the respondent's self report of satisfaction. They may also include inferences drawn by the raters from the information available on the respondent, including his interpersonal relationships and the reactions of others toward him.

The Life Satisfaction Rating Index has one disadvantage. It can require a lengthy interview and is very cumbersome.
to use. Two indices, Life Satisfaction A and Life Satisfaction B were designed by Neugarten and her associates to correct this problem. The Life Satisfaction A is an attitude scale containing twenty items representing each of the five dimensions of the Life Satisfaction Rating Index. The Life Satisfaction Index B combines six open ended questions and six check list items which are scored on a three point scale.

Other measures of life satisfaction appear in the literature. For example, the Life Satisfaction Index A as modified by Adams consists of four components: mood tone, zest for life, congruence between desired and achieved goals and resolution and fortitude. Adams found these four dimensions had items highly correlated with them after factor rotation, whereas the positive self-concept dimension did not.

30 Ibid., pp. 140-141.
31 Ibid., pp. 140-141.
32 Ibid., pp. 140-141.
Another modification of the Life Satisfaction Rating Index is the Wood, Wylie and Sheafor Life Satisfaction Index-Z. The index contains thirteen items and yields a score on each item from zero to two.\textsuperscript{34}

A final measure is the Cantril’s self-anchoring scale. “A person is asked to define on the basis of his own assumptions, perceptions, goals, and values, the two extremes or anchoring points of the spectrum on which some scale measurement is desired.”\textsuperscript{35} For example, the top of scale may be defined as good, and the bottom bad.

**Correlates of Life Satisfaction**

Several recent studies have examined correlations between life satisfaction and certain demographic and social psychological variables. Alston and others\textsuperscript{36} and Clemente and Sauer\textsuperscript{37} found race to be associated with life satisfaction. Their findings indicated that whites reporter higher


\textsuperscript{35}Hadley Cantril, *The Pattern of Human Concern* (New Jersey, 1965), p. 22.


life satisfaction scores than blacks. On the other hand, Spreitzer and Snyder\textsuperscript{38} found no association between race and life satisfaction. A study by Bortner and Hultsch\textsuperscript{39} concluded that economic level and chronological age are slightly correlated with life satisfaction. Studies by Bortner and Hultsch\textsuperscript{40}, Havighurst\textsuperscript{41} and Palmore and Luikart\textsuperscript{42} indicate that income is positively associated with life satisfaction. Additionally, Palmore and Luikart's\textsuperscript{43} study found a low but negative correlation between life satisfaction and the demographic variables of age and sex and a positive correlation between life satisfaction and education. Bild and Havighurst's\textsuperscript{44} and Tosseland and Sykes\textsuperscript{45} findings

\textsuperscript{38}Elmer Spreitzer and Eldon Snyder, "Correlates of Life Satisfaction Among the Aged," \textit{Journal of Gerontology}, XXIX (July, 1974), 454-458.

\textsuperscript{39}Rayman Bortner and David Hultsch, "A Multivariate Analysis of Correlates of Life Satisfaction in Adulthood," pp. 43-47.

\textsuperscript{40}Ibid., pp. 43-47.

\textsuperscript{41}Havighurst, "Successful Aging," pp. 299-320.


\textsuperscript{43}Ibid., pp. 68-80.

\textsuperscript{44}Bernice Bild and Robert Havighurst, "Life Satisfaction," \textit{The Gerontologist}, XVI, II (February, 1976), 70-75.

support Palmore and Luikart's\textsuperscript{46} conclusions that education is slightly but positively correlated with life satisfaction. With respect to marital status, being married is also positively related to life satisfaction.\textsuperscript{47} However, Edwards and Klemmack\textsuperscript{48} found that the significant relationships between life satisfaction and marital status is eliminated when socioeconomic status is controlled.

Spreitzer and Snyder\textsuperscript{49} controlling for age, found that women up to age sixty-five reported higher rates of life satisfaction than men of the same age, but after age sixty-five men were more likely than women to report a high degree of satisfaction. There appear to be two explanations for men reporting higher degrees of life satisfaction than women: men over the age of sixty-five are more likely to be married than women and less likely to experience the loss of the spouse.\textsuperscript{50} Also, men of all ages are more likely than

\textsuperscript{46}Palmore and Luikart, "Health and Social Factors Related to Life Satisfaction," pp. 68-80.

\textsuperscript{47}David Adams, "Correlates of Satisfaction Among the Elderly," The Gerontologist, XI, II (Winter, 1971), 64-68.


\textsuperscript{49}Spreitzer and Snyder, "Correlates of Life Satisfaction Among the Aged," pp. 451-458.

\textsuperscript{50}Helena Lopata, "Widows as Minority Groups," The Gerontologist, XI, II (Spring, 1971), 67-77.
women to remain in the labor force which tends to give men a greater sense of satisfaction.\textsuperscript{51}

The variable of residence has not been used extensively in life satisfaction studies, but Hynson found that rural residents reported greater life satisfaction than urban residents.\textsuperscript{52}

Studies by Lemon, Bengston and Peterson,\textsuperscript{53} Palmore and Luikart,\textsuperscript{54} Lawton and Cohen,\textsuperscript{55} Rosow\textsuperscript{56} and Cutler\textsuperscript{57} have correlated measures of life satisfaction with social


\textsuperscript{52}Lawrence M. Hynson, "Rural-Urban Differences in Satisfaction Among the Elderly," Rural Sociology, XXXX (Spring, 1975), 64-66.


\textsuperscript{54}Palmore and Luikart, "Health and Social Factors Related to Life Satisfaction," pp. 68-80.


psychological variables. Lemon, Bengston and Peterson, examining the relationship between life satisfaction and activity, concluded that participation in an informal friendship group is the most important correlate of life satisfaction. They believe that friendships are likely to involve specific role supports. In addition, friendships are more voluntary than informal activities with relatives and neighbors, more intimate in nature, and may also provide a sense of continuity and depth for one's role identities.

Palmore and Luikart, using multiple regression analysis, found self-reported health to be the strongest predictor of life satisfaction for a sample of 502 white respondents. They suggested that a person's self-evaluation of his health seemed to have an influence upon his life satisfaction. According to their findings, a person with poor objective health may have high life satisfaction if he believes his health to be relatively good.


60 Ibid., pp. 68-80.
Lawton and Cohen's\textsuperscript{61} and Rosow's\textsuperscript{62} studies concluded that there is a positive relationship between housing satisfaction and morale. That is, those individuals who are satisfied with their housing report higher morale scores.

Cutler's study of the availability of personal transportation, residential location and life satisfaction concluded that those aged persons (sixty-five and over), with transportation available to them reported higher life satisfaction scores than those without transportation.\textsuperscript{63} Cutler's research supports the idea "that mobility restrictions as they constrict life space and narrow the social world of the aged, are associated with low levels of life satisfaction."\textsuperscript{64}

Other studies of life satisfaction of the elderly have also utilized multidimensional models. Proponents of this approach contend that life satisfaction is not measurable by a single dimension, but is made up of several variables.


\textsuperscript{62}Rosow, \textit{Social Integration of the Aged}, p. 66.

\textsuperscript{63}Cutler, "The Availability of Personal Transportation, Residential Location and Life Satisfaction Among the Aged," p. 385.

\textsuperscript{64}Ibid., p. 387.
Jackson, Bacon and Peterson\textsuperscript{65} used a multidimensional model to determine predictors of life satisfaction for a sample of one hundred and two non-institutionalized retired black men and women residing in a large urban area. For the study, life satisfaction was measured by the Life Satisfaction Index-Z revised by Wood, Wylie and Sheafor,\textsuperscript{66} and present adjustment by Cantril's\textsuperscript{67} self-anchoring scale. Education, income, reported health, attitude toward employment of older persons, political affiliation, political participation, self-esteem, and individual-system blame were significantly correlated with the Life Satisfaction-Z index. Present adjustment was significantly correlated with one variable, self-esteem.\textsuperscript{68} Jackson, Bacon and Peterson concluded that the findings when viewed in the context of the societal barriers which perpetually confront blacks across the life span, suggest that adjustment to aging, particularly psychologically, might be a different process in comparison to the adjustment of white majority individuals.\textsuperscript{69}


\textsuperscript{67}Cantril, The Pattern of Human Concern, p. 22.

\textsuperscript{68}Jackson, Bacon and Peterson, "Correlates of Adjustment in Urban Black Aged," pp. 169-179.

\textsuperscript{69}Ibid., pp. 169-179.
Knapp has also studied life satisfaction with the use of a multidimensional model.\textsuperscript{70} Sex, emotional contact with friends and relatives, and age were found to be significant predictors of mood tone, zest for life, congruence between desired and achieved goals and resolution.\textsuperscript{71}

Toseland and Sykes utilized stepwise multiple regression to ascertain if a difference existed between life satisfaction of participants and non-participants in a senior center.\textsuperscript{72} The study revealed four predictors of life satisfaction: activity level, financial condition, existence of chronic health problems, and perceived health status.\textsuperscript{73} Toseland and Sykes' findings are consistent with previous research findings of life satisfaction, but the "study did not confirm the hypothesis that the senior center serves a highly satisfied, well elderly population."\textsuperscript{74}

\textsuperscript{70}Knapp, "Predicting the Dimensions of Life Satisfaction," p. 603.
\textsuperscript{71}Ibid., p. 603.
\textsuperscript{72}Toseland and Sykes, "Senior Citizens Center Participation and Other Correlates of Life Satisfaction," pp. 235-241.
\textsuperscript{73}Ibid., pp. 235-241.
\textsuperscript{74}Ibid., p. 240.
A special use of the multidimensional model is the Philadelphia Geriatric Center Morale Scale for studying the life satisfaction of institutionalized older persons. The scale consists of six components: acceptance of status quo, agitation, a positive attitude toward aging, lonely dissatisfaction, easygoing optimism, and surgency. Sauer utilized the Philadelphia Geriatric Center Morale Scale to determine predictors of morale for a low income urban black and white sample. He found health and solitary activities to be major predictors for both blacks and whites, however, "their order of importance varied for each group." Furthermore, sex (being male) and frequency of family interaction were significant predictors for the white sample.

Table I provides a summary of the studies utilizing various measures of life satisfaction, demographic and social psychological variables and multidimensional models with their relationships to life satisfaction.


77 Ibid., p. 606.
78 Ibid., p. 606.
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<td>organizations.</td>
<td>related to life satisfaction.</td>
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<td>Clemente and Sauer, &quot;Life Satisfaclion</td>
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<td>city. Socioeconomic status and</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards and Klemmack,</td>
<td>Life satisfaction Index as modified by Adams.</td>
<td>Twenty-two independent variables were grouped into six major categories:</td>
<td>Socioeconomic status was the most significant predictor of life satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Correlates of Life</td>
<td></td>
<td>socioeconomic status, personal and social background characteristics, formal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction,&quot; 1973</td>
<td></td>
<td>social participation, informal interaction with kin, informal non-familiar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>participation, and health status.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Havighurst and Albrecht,</td>
<td>Objective scale to measure the social acceptability of</td>
<td>Age, socioeconomic status, health activity, occupation, and social approval.</td>
<td>Found a positive relationship between activity and life satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Prairie City Study,&quot; 1953</td>
<td>older people's behavior.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Type of Measurement</td>
<td>Variables</td>
<td>Relationship to Life Satisfaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hynson, &quot;Rural-Urban Differences In Satisfaction Among the Elderly,&quot; 1975.</td>
<td>Two questions taken from the 1973 National Probability sample by the National Opinion Research Center: &quot;How much satisfaction do you get from your family life?&quot; &quot;How much satisfaction do you get from your city or the place you live?&quot;</td>
<td>Rural and urban residence.</td>
<td>Rural residents reported greater life satisfaction than urban residents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson, Bacon and Peterson, &quot;Correlates of Adjustment in Urban Black Aged,&quot; 1977-78.</td>
<td>Multidimensional model. Life satisfaction Index-2 and Cantril's self-anchoring scale.</td>
<td>Variables grouped into six categories: background characteristics, health status, attitudes, political associations, personality measures, and life perceptions.</td>
<td>Found self-reported health to be the primary determinant of life satisfaction for an urban black sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Kansas City Study of Adult Life,&quot; 1961.</td>
<td>Life Satisfaction Rating Index.</td>
<td>Sex, social class, Role activity decreased age, interaction with age, index, and present role activity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Type of Measurement</td>
<td>Variables</td>
<td>Relationship to Life Satisfaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Knapp, &quot;Predicting Dimensions of Life Satisfaction,&quot; 1976.</td>
<td>The Life satisfaction Index A.</td>
<td>Marital status, socioeconomic status, sex, age, mobility, retirement, length of retirement, job since retirement, hours per week in employment, hours per week in associations and organizations, hours per week in social activity, hours per week spent shopping, hours per week in productive &quot;loner&quot; pursuits, hours per week in contact with kith and kin.</td>
<td>Sex, emotional contact with friends and relatives and age were significant predictors of mood tone, zest for life, congruence between desired and achieved goals and resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kutner, Five Hundred Over Sixty, 1956.</td>
<td>Subjective measure of life satisfaction which consists of responses to seven items.</td>
<td>Age, sex, socioeconomic status, health, marital status, employment, self-image, activity and isolation.</td>
<td>Found a positive relationship between socioeconomic status and morale. The higher the socioeconomic status, the higher the morale or satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Type of Measurement</td>
<td>Variables</td>
<td>Relationship to Life Satisfaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemon, Bengston and Peterson, &quot;Activity Types and Life Satisfaction,&quot; 1972.</td>
<td>Life Satisfaction Index E.</td>
<td>Sex, married females, widowed females, retired males, employed males, informal activities with relatives and friends; informal activities with neighbors, formal activity and solitary activity.</td>
<td>Participation in an informal friendship group is the most important correlate of life satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmore and Luikart, &quot;Health and Social Factors Related to Life Satisfaction,&quot; 1972.</td>
<td>Cantril's self-anchoring scale.</td>
<td>Variables were grouped into four categories: health, activity, social-psychological, and socio-economic.</td>
<td>Found a low correlation between age, education, and sex. However, found self-reported health to be the strongest predictor of life satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Type of Measurement</td>
<td>Variables</td>
<td>Relationship to Life Satisfaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Sauer, &quot;Morale of the Urban Aged: A Regression Analysis by Race,&quot; 1977.</td>
<td>Philadelphia Geriatric Center Morale Scale.</td>
<td>Race, sex, age, marital status, income, education, occupation, health, voluntary associations, family, friends, solitary activities.</td>
<td>Health and solitary activities were significant predictors of morale for blacks and whites, however their order of importance varied for each group. Also, sex (maleness) and family interaction were significant predictors for whites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreitzer and Snyder, &quot;Correlates of Life Satisfaction,&quot; 1974.</td>
<td>One question taken from the National Opinion Research Center in 1974. The question was, &quot;Taking things all together, how would you say things are these days--would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not happy?&quot;</td>
<td>Age, sex, race, marital status, church attendance, education, occupation, family income, socioeconomic index, financial satisfaction, subjective class, self-assessed health.</td>
<td>Women up to age sixty-five reported higher life satisfaction scores than men of the same age. However, after the age sixty-five, men were more likely than women to report higher satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**TABLE I--Continued**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Type of Measurement</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Relationship to Life Satisfaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toseland and Sykes, &quot;Senior Citizens Center Participation and Other Correlates of Life Satisfaction,&quot; 1977.</td>
<td>Life Satisfaction Index-Z.</td>
<td>Age, sex, education, married, widowed, single-separated, divorced, financial status, attendance at senior center, activity level, living alone, number of friends, private transportation, health rating, perceived health status, distance from senior center.</td>
<td>Four predictors contributed significantly to life satisfaction: activity level, financial condition, existence of chronic health problems, and perceived health status.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In summary, several measures of life satisfaction currently exist. Early studies of life satisfaction used objective or subjective measures, and correlated these measures with demographic or social psychological variables to determine which variables were closely related to life satisfaction. Recent studies, however, have tended to utilize a multidimensional approach, since it is widely believed that life satisfaction cannot be adequately measured through the use of a single dimension.

Specific Research Objectives

Much of the past research on life satisfaction has correlated certain demographic or psychological variables with life satisfaction to determine the degree of association. Increasingly, researchers have recognized that life satisfaction may be tested by multivariate analysis. Studies such as those by Knapp and Toseland and Sykes have utilized stepwise multiple regression, and found it feasible to predict life satisfaction.

Several studies have examined the relationship between life satisfaction and race. Alston and others⁷⁹ and Clemente and Sauer⁸₀ found that whites reported higher life satisfaction.


satisfaction scores than blacks. However, no study was found which included Anglos, Blacks and Mexican-Americans to analyze the effect of majority status on life satisfaction. Additionally, no previous study has examined the relationship between ethnicity (Blacks and Mexican-Americans) and life satisfaction.

The present research is concerned with examining the effect of majority status on life satisfaction for an elderly sample utilizing a multidimensional model.

Specifically, the research goals are as follow: (1) to provide an analysis of the effect of majority status on life satisfaction utilizing a multidimensional model; (2) to provide an analysis of the effect of ethnicity on life satisfaction utilizing a multidimensional approach; (3) to examine the effects of previously tested variables: sex, residence, marital status, education, monthly income, and transportation on life satisfaction; (4) to utilize stepwise multiple regression as an exploratory measure to determine which of the independent variables: majority status, age, sex, residence, marital status, education, monthly income, and transportation is the best predictor or predictors of life satisfaction; and (5) to contribute methodologically to the development of a life satisfaction scale derived from the data.
CHAPTER II

METHODOLOGY

The review in the preceding chapter indicated that researchers have correlated life satisfaction with a number of demographic and social psychological variables but that increasingly they are viewing life satisfaction as a multidimensional concept constituted by several distinct dimensions rather than a single dimension. The present research proceeds from this point of view. This chapter discusses (1) propositions examined in the study; (2) sources of data; (3) operational definitions; (4) statistical measures; and (5) limitations of the study.

Propositions Examined

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between majority and ethnic status and life satisfaction. Several studies have examined the relationship between race and life satisfaction. The comparisons have been between Anglos and Blacks, and no previous study has included Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans in the effect of majority and ethnic status on life satisfaction. Seven propositions were examined.
(1) Majority status is positively related to life satisfaction. It is expected that Anglos will report higher life satisfaction scores than Blacks and Mexican-Americans. Alston et al.\(^1\) and Clemente and Sauer's\(^2\) findings indicate that older blacks are less satisfied with life than whites.

Three secondary propositions were examined to ascertain the relationship between majority status and each component of life satisfaction as defined in this study.

(a) Majority status is positively related to perceived housing satisfaction.

(b) Majority status is positively related to perceived health satisfaction.

(c) Majority status is positively related to perceived satisfaction with social relationships.

(2) Majority status is positively related to income and income is positively related to life satisfaction. Therefore, controlling for income will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction.

(3) Majority status is positively related to education and education is positively related to life satisfaction. Therefore, controlling for education will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction.

---


(4) Majority status is positively related to marital status (being married) and marital status is positively related to life satisfaction. Therefore, controlling for marital status will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction.

(5) Majority status is positively related to urban residence and urban residence is positively related to life satisfaction. Therefore, controlling for residence will reduce the relationship between majority status and residence.

(6) Majority status is positively related to sex (being male) and sex is positively related to life satisfaction. Therefore, controlling for sex will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction.

(7) Majority status is positively related to transportation and transportation is positively related to life satisfaction. Therefore, controlling for transportation will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction.

Although Blacks and Mexican-Americans are both minority groups, their cultures are not the same. Therefore, each of the above propositions were examined to analyze the effect of ethnicity (Blacks and Mexican-Americans) on life satisfaction.
Sources of Data

The present research utilizes secondary data, which were originally collected to determine the needs of elderly Texans in the areas of housing, health and professional services, income, nutrition, transportation, employment, and social relations in the population served by Area Agencies and Regional Offices on Aging in the State of Texas.\(^3\)

Data for the initial study were collected by interviews with a quota sample of older persons based on age, sex and race.\(^4\) The quotas were computed for each region according to the focal unit of analysis desired. For those regions requesting county rather than regional results, separate quotas were constructed from census data published for each county. Three areas requested that their planning regions be used as a focal unit, and the quota sample was based on the aggregate of county data. One agency desired to utilize groups of counties, and quotas based on this aggregation were calculated. Calculations for the quotas were similar in all cases. First the proportion of males and females for each county, planning region, or group of counties was calculated. Second the proportion of males and females comprising each ethnic group was obtained, and finally, the proportion of


\(^4\)Ibid., p. 17.
males and females for each ethnic group in the age groups of 60-69 and 70 and over was calculated to obtain the quotas for the unit of analysis desired. The total number of cases was 8,061.

The use of data collected in the manner just described is justifiable for the present research. According to Freeman, if probability sampling is absent, the investigator has no idea of the population which the sample may represent.\textsuperscript{5} However, the assumption can be made that the 8,061 cases constitute a sample that is representative of a universe of similar elderly populations, and the results may be generalized to a "hypothetical universe." According to Hagood, the hypothetical universe is "the universe of all possible samples (which may be limited universes) which could have been produced under similar conditions of time, place, and other relevant factors."\textsuperscript{6} The present sample is subjected to statistical analysis and the results generalized to the hypothetical universe.

Operational Definitions

For the present research several terms must be defined. "Life satisfaction" is defined as the respondent's satisfaction with their present situations in areas of perceived


housing satisfaction, perceived health satisfaction, and perceived satisfaction with social relationships. In previous studies these three components have been shown to be strongly related to measures of life satisfaction and well-being of the elderly. However, previous studies correlated the three components as independent variables with life satisfaction, whereas the present research includes them as components of life satisfaction.

Lawton's study revealed housing satisfaction to be a "very common thread of both a positive evaluation of the residential setting and the possession of the basic amenities necessary to a well-equipped household."\(^7\) Rosow's finding is consistent with Lawton's, and indicates that "people who are dissatisfied with their housing are almost twice as likely to have low morale as those who are satisfied."\(^8\)

The second component, perceived health satisfaction, has also been found to have a direct relationship to life satisfaction.


satisfaction. Palmore and Luikart's and Clemente and Sauer's findings support the relationship between the perceived quality of health and life satisfaction.

Perceived satisfaction with social relationships is the third component of life satisfaction for the present research. Previous research by Knapp, Sauer and Clemente and Sauer utilized the terms emotional contact with friends and relatives, frequency of interaction with family and friends, and social participation respectively.

Knapp's study concluded that emotional contact with friends and relatives was a significant predictor of life satisfaction, whereas Sauer found that frequency of family interaction was an important factor in predicting the morale for a white sample.

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Clemente and Sauer\textsuperscript{16} used two indicators to measure social participation: political participation and religious participation. The available data which they analyzed did not permit them to include questions involving participation as members in voluntary associations and interaction with friends and kin. However, they found that "individuals who voted and who attended church more frequently score higher on the satisfaction index than their counterparts."\textsuperscript{17} In effect, on the basis of past studies this research assumes that satisfaction with these three basic elements in the life of older persons constitute an acceptable measure of life satisfaction.

The three components were combined into an operational definition of life satisfaction which consisted of three constructed indices containing seven questions from the original Needs Assessment Questionnaire for Older Texans. The perceived housing satisfaction index consisted of the following questions: (1) Taking everything into account, would you say that you are very satisfied with your housing situation, fairly satisfied, or not satisfied? (2) Are you satisfied that this house (apartment) allows you to have enough quiet and privacy: very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not satisfied? For statements indicating satisfaction


\textsuperscript{17}Ibid., p. 629.
with housing situation the scoring was "very satisfied"-3, 
"fairly satisfied"-2, and "not satisfied"-1.

The perceived health satisfaction index consisted of the 
following questions: (1) Taking everything into account, 
would you say that your health at this moment is better, 
about the same, or worse than that of other people your age? 
(2) In general, do you consider yourself to be in good health, 
fair health, or poor health? For the statement indicating 
attitude toward present health, the scoring was "better"-3, 
"about the same"-2, and "worse"-1. The scoring for the 
status of one's health was "good health"-3, "fair health"-2, 
and "poor health"-1.

The perceived satisfaction with social relationships 
index included the following questions: (1) Are you satis-
\"fied with how often you see members of your family (does not \include spouse): very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not satis-
\"fied? (2) Are you satisfied with how often you see your 
friends and neighbors: very satisfied, fairly satisfied, and 
not satisfied? (3) Are you satisfied with how often you go 
to club or church meetings and other informal group meetings: very satisfied, fairly satisfied, and not satisfied. For 
each set of responses the scoring was "very satisfied"-3, 
"fairly satisfied"-2, and "not satisfied"-1.

As indicated, the three indices combined constitute the 
life satisfaction index, the dependent variable for this study.
Score values for the index ranged from seven to twenty-one. A high score indicated a high degree of satisfaction, and a low score indicated a low degree.

Age was defined as the response to the question: How old were you on your last birthday? The categories included:

1. 60-64
2. 65-69
3. 70-74
4. 75-79
5. 80-84
6. 85 or over
7. 90 or over
8. 95 or over
9. no response

The definition of income was the response to the question, How much income do you (and your spouse) receive each month? The categories included:

1. less than $100
2. $100 to $199
3. $200 to $299
4. $300 to $399
5. $400 to $499
6. $500 to $699
7. $700 to $999
8. $1,000 or more
9. no response

Education was defined by the response to the question, How many years of school have you completed? The categories included:

1. 0-6
2. 7-11
3. (high school graduate)
4. business or technical school
5. 1-3 years of college
6. 4 or more years of college (college graduate or more)
7. 5-7 years of college
8. 8 or more years of college (Ph.D. or more)
9. no response
The definition of marital status was the response to the question, Are you: married, widowed, divorced, separated, or single? The categories were recoded using dummy variables, "1" married, "0" not married (widowed, divorced, separated, or single).

Sex was defined by the interviewer entering the sex of the person on the interview schedule. The categories were recoded utilizing dummy variables, "1" for males, "0" for females.

Majority status was defined by the interviewer entering the race or ethnic group of the person on the interview schedule. Anglos constituted the majority status group and Blacks and Mexican-Americans, the minority status group. The categories were recoded using dummy variables, "1" for majority status, and "0" for minority status.

Ethnicity was defined by the interviewer entering the ethnic group of the person on the interview schedule. The two ethnic groups were Blacks and Mexican-Americans. The categories were recoded using dummy variables, "1" for Blacks and "0" for Mexican-Americans.

Residence was defined by the interviewer entering the place of residence of the person on the schedule. If the household was in a community of 2,500 or more or immediately next to the city limits, the residence was entered as urban; if not, it was entered as rural. The categories were recoded using dummy variables, "1" urban residents, and "0" rural residents.
The definition of transportation was the response to three questions on difficulty securing transportation. They included (1) In general, is it difficult for you to obtain transportation to places that you need or would like to go: very difficult, somewhat difficult, or not difficult? (2) How difficult is it for you to go places that you must go such as the doctor, bank, or necessary shopping: very difficult, somewhat difficult, or not difficult? (3) How difficult is it for you to go places you would like to go such as visiting friends or going to club or church meetings: very difficult, somewhat difficult, or not difficult. The scoring was "very difficult"-1, "somewhat difficult"-2, and "not difficult"-3. Scores were summed to obtain a composite index of transportation, and the range of scores was from a low score of three to a high score of nine.

Although residence (rural and urban) and transportation have not been used frequently in studies on life satisfaction, both variables have emerged as having a direct relationship with life satisfaction. Since the two variables were available for the present research, they were utilized to test the findings of Hynson\textsuperscript{18} and Cutler\textsuperscript{19}

\textsuperscript{18}Lawrence M. Hynson, "Rural-Urban Differences in Satisfaction Among the Elderly," \textit{Rural Sociology}, XXXX (Spring, 1975), 64-66.

Statistical Measures

Three types of statistical measures were used in this study: zero-order correlation coefficient, partial correlation coefficient, and stepwise multiple regression.

The zero-order correlation coefficient was utilized to test the propositions. That is, it was used to measure the degree or strength of the independent variables: sex, majority status, residence, marital status, educational level, transportation, and amount of monthly income with the dependent variable, life satisfaction. The significance test for zero-order correlation coefficient \((df=N-2)\)^20 was used to determine whether a correlation was significant at the .05 level.

The partial correlation coefficient is the degree of "association between two variables after the influence of another variable or variables has been controlled."^21 The partial correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction while controlling in turn for sex, residence, marital status, educational level, transportation, and amount of monthly income.

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^20\(df=N-2\) is the degree of freedom minus two. Values for \(\alpha, .05\) from Appendix 9, *The Practical Statistician: Simplified Handbook* (Belmont, California, 1975), p. 375.

income. The analysis of variance test was utilized to test the significance of the partial correlation coefficient.\textsuperscript{22}

The stepwise multiple regression procedure examines a large number of potential predictors, starting with a single independent variable which is the best predictor of the dependent variable. Then a further variable is added, and this added variable is one which explains as much of the remaining variation in the dependent variable as possible. The "next best" variable is added, and so forth, each time adding a term to the multiple regression equation.\textsuperscript{23}

Stepwise multiple regression is used as an exploratory measure to determine which of the independent variables (age, sex, majority status, education, income, transportation, and residence) is the best predictor or predictors of life satisfaction. For the regression analysis, the zero-order correlations coefficient test for significance and the standardized partial regression coefficients (beta weights) were used to test the significance of each correlation coefficient. A criterion value of ±.15 was utilized to retain the beta value. Sewell, Haller and Ohlendorf\textsuperscript{24} and Sauer\textsuperscript{25} used a

\begin{equation}
F_{1N-3}=r^{212.2} \frac{(N-3)}{1-r^{213.2}}
\end{equation}

\textsuperscript{22}Hubert Blalock, \textit{Social Statistics} (New York, 1972), p. 466. The formula for testing the significance of the partial correlation coefficient is,

\textsuperscript{23}Herman J. Loether and Donald G. McTavish, \textit{Descriptive Statistics for Sociologists} (Boston, 1974), p. 395.


criterion of $\pm .15$ to retain beta values due to their large sample size. The present sample included a large number of cases (8061) and used the criterion level employed by Sewell, Haller and Ohlendorf and Sauer.

An assumption sometimes made for multiple regression analysis is that variables should represent at least interval level measurement. Several variables, sex, marital status, majority status, and residence used in this research are at the nominal level. Cohen and Cohen note that regardless of the level of measurement, multiple regression correlation is "a versatile, all-purpose system for analyzing the data of the behavioral, social, and biological sciences and technologies."\(^{26}\)

Dummy variables can be used when the information is presented on a nominal level of measurement.

The dummy variable is a simple and useful method of introducing into regression analysis information contained in variables that are not conventionally measured on a numerical scale, e.g., race, sex, religion, occupation, etc.

There is nothing artificial about such variables; indeed in a fundamental sense they are more properly scaled than conventionally measured variables. If we conceive the task of regression analysis be that of providing an estimate of a dependent variable, given certain information, the use of linear regression yields biased estimates in the event of curvature. By partitioning the scale of a conventionally measured variable into intervals and defining a set of dummy variables on them,

we obtain unbiased estimates since the regression coefficients of the dummy variables conform to any curvature that is present.27

The Osiris statistical package was employed in computing the data. The programs included: Pearsonian Correlation, Square Matrix (MDC), Partial Correlation (Partials), and Linear Regression (Regressn).28

Limitations of the Research

Three important limitations of the present research should be noted. First, the research utilizes secondary data, and one of the problems associated with secondary data is that they were collected for one purpose and are being used later by researchers to test other ideas. Therefore, certain restrictions are automatically placed upon the testing of various hypotheses. While the original study was designed to determine the needs of elderly Texans in certain areas, the present research examines components of life satisfaction based on ex post facto hypotheses.

However, Babbie has suggested that while most researchers believe that they must make all of their hypotheses before


collecting their data, this is not necessarily so. He has indicated:

No hypothesis ... should be considered sound on the basis of one test—whether the hypothesis was generated before or after the observation of the empirical data. With this in mind, the researcher should not deny himself some of the most fruitful avenues available to him in data analysis. He should always try to reach an honest understanding of his data, develop meaningful theories for more general understanding, and not worry about the manner of reaching that understanding.29

The second limitation is related to this statement. As observed above, life satisfaction is inferred from the respondents' responses concerning three aspects of their lives. Gerontological studies do not reveal a consensus on how life satisfaction should be measured. Because previous research has demonstrated the relationship between attitudes towards housing, health, and social relationships, and life satisfaction, the index constructed from the original data is feasible, methodologically, to test predictors of life satisfaction for elderly samples. It is possible, however, that a different type of life satisfaction measure would have yielded somewhat different results.

The third limitation is the use of data drawn from a sample in Texas. Caution must be exercised in generalizing to other samples. The present data are from quotas based on

age, sex and race. Consequently, any generalizations must take into consideration these quota characteristics. Additionally, the data do not include all geographic areas in Texas.
CHAPTER III

Data Analysis

The analysis of data is presented through a discussion of each of the research propositions. Prior to the discussion, the total sample and the sample for Anglos, Blacks and Mexican-Americans are described. Table II presents the number and percentage of the total sample, Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans by characteristics.

TABLE II

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL SAMPLE AND FOR ANGLOS, BLACKS AND MEXICAN-AMERICANS BY CHARACTERISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Anglos</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>Mexican-Americans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>3491</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>2729</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>4557</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>3608</td>
<td>56.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8061</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>6341</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglos</td>
<td>6341</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican-Americans</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other**</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8061</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>3120</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>2537</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>4507</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>3450</td>
<td>54.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8061</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>6341</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE II—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Anglos</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>Mexican-Americans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>1511</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>1181</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>2562</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>1719</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
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<td>75-79</td>
<td>1171</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>952</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 and over</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8061</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>6341</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>3809</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>3075</td>
<td>48.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>3401</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>2609</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single (never married)</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-6 (years completed)</td>
<td>2106</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>1211</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-11 (years completed)</td>
<td>3281</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>2723</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 (high school)</td>
<td>1110</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>1008</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business or technical school</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3 years of college</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or more years of college (college graduate or more)</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8061</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>6341</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE II—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Anglos</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>Mexican-Americans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Monthly Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $100</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100-$199</td>
<td>2491</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>1731</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200-$299</td>
<td>1794</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>1387</td>
<td>21.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300-$399</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$400-$499</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500-$699</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$700-$999</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1000 or more</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8061</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>6341</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates not applicable/no response. It is presented for the descriptive statistics and is not used in correlation and multiple regression analysis inasmuch as it consists of less than five percent of the cases for most responses.

**Other refers to any ethnic or racial group not indicated in the interview schedule. It is also presented for descriptive statistics and not used in statistical analysis.
Table II indicates that the number and percentage of female respondents exceeded male respondents in the total sample and each group. Females constituted 56.5 per cent of the total sample, 56.9 per cent of the Anglo, 55.4 per cent of the Black, and 53.9 per cent of the Mexican-American respondents. The sex composition of the sample is similar to that of the aged population of Texas. In 1970, females made up 54.5 per cent of the aged population, 56.4 per cent of the aged Anglo population, 54.5 per cent of the aged Black population, and 52.3 per cent of the aged Spanish speaking and Spanish surname population.\(^1\)

Blacks and Mexican-Americans constituted 20.9 per cent of the total sample, and Anglos made up 78.7 per cent. In 1970, the aged Anglos constituted 88.3 per cent, aged Blacks 11.2 per cent, and aged Spanish speaking, 9 per cent, in the state of Texas.\(^2\)

For residence, over half of the respondents for the sample and for each group lived in a household in a community of 2,500 or more. More Blacks (60.4 per cent) and Mexican-Americans (68.2 per cent) lived in urban areas than Anglos (54.4 per cent). Slightly under two-fifth of the sample (38.7 per cent) lived in an area with a population of less

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\(^2\)Ibid., pp. 433-434.
than 2,500. For the state of Texas, the number of aged living in urban and rural areas was 72.2 per cent and 27.7 per cent respectively in 1970. More members of the Spanish speaking population (82.4 per cent) lived in urban areas than Anglos (71.9 per cent) and Blacks (74.8 per cent).

In terms of age, the total sample and the samples of Anglos and Blacks were divided almost exactly between persons under 70 and persons 70 and over. The Mexican-American sample was slightly younger with 55.6 per cent under 70.

For marital status, almost half of the total sample was married (47.3 per cent) and forty-two per cent was widowed. Over fifty per cent of the Anglos (48.5) and Mexican-Americans (47.2) were married, but for Blacks almost half were widowed (47.5 per cent). For the state of Texas, 58.4 per cent of the total aged population was married, and 30.7 per cent was widowed. Over fifty per cent of the Anglos (59.6 per cent) and Spanish speaking population (57.3 per cent) were married, whereas almost half (48.7 per cent) of the aged Black population was married.

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6Ibid., pp. 1386-1389.
Approximately one-fourth (26.0 per cent) of the sample had completed no more than six years of school, but there were large differences between the majority group and the minority groups. Only 19.1 per cent of the Anglos had completed less than six years of school as compared to 46.9 per cent of the Blacks and 69.8 per cent of the Mexican-Americans. At the other extreme 16.2 per cent of the Anglos had attended or graduated from college as compared to 7.0 per cent of the Blacks and only 2.8 per cent of the Mexican-Americans. Almost half (44.1 per cent) of the Texas aged population had completed at least eleven years of school. More Anglos (45.3 per cent) than Blacks (34.8 per cent) and Spanish speaking individuals (14.8 per cent) had completed at least eleven years of school. Over half of the aged Black population (54.5 per cent) and Spanish speaking population (75.9 per cent) had completed only six years of school. Furthermore, more Anglos (8.6 per cent) than Blacks (2.7 per cent) and Spanish speaking individuals (2.2 per cent) had attended college.

Similar maldistributions occurred for income. A large percentage of Blacks (49.5 per cent) and Mexican-Americans (54.6 per cent) had monthly income under $200 as compared

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8Ibid., pp. 1363-1364.
9Ibid., pp. 1363-1364.
10Ibid., pp. 1363-1364.
to 30.3 per cent of the Anglo sample. Approximately 15 per
cent of the total sample reported incomes of $500 per month
or more. By majority group and minority groups the per-
centages were 17.7 for Anglos, 4.2 for Blacks, and 4.5 for
Mexican-Americans. Slightly less than ten per cent of the
sample did not respond to the income question, which is not
unique in survey research. The median yearly income for the
aged population of Texas was $2,336 in 1970.11 It was
$2,492, $1,571, and $1,526 for Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-
Americans respectively.12

In summary, the sample characteristics were similar to
the total aged population of Texas. There were more female
respondents than male respondents, over half of the sample
lived in urban areas, and more of the sample were married
than not married. Furthermore, more Anglos had completed at
least eleven years of school, whereas more Blacks and
Mexican-Americans had completed only six years of school.
Anglos also reported higher monthly income than Blacks and
Mexican-Americans.

Majority Status and Life Satisfaction

Table III presents the zero-order correlations of the
seven independent variables with life satisfaction.

11 United States Bureau of the Census, Detailed Character-
istics. Final Report PC(1)-D45, Texas Section 1, 1970,
pp. 2087-2088.

12 Ibid., pp. 2087-2088.
TABLE III

ZERO-ORDER CORRELATIONS OF SEVEN INDEPENDENT VARIABLES WITH LIFE SATISFACTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Correlation with Life Satisfaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>.31*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>.23*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority Status</td>
<td>.11*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>-.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>.07*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td>.08*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>.46*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Product moment correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.

Table III reveals that majority status, marital status, and residence had low but positive correlations with life satisfaction, which were significant at the .05 level. Anglos reported higher satisfaction scores than the two minority groups, Blacks and Mexican-Americans. Married individuals and those individuals residing in urban areas had higher life satisfaction than the unmarried and those living in rural areas. Three variables, education, income, and transportation showed even stronger positive correlations with life satisfaction and were also significant at the .05 level. The higher the educational and income levels and availability of transportation, the higher the life satisfaction.

Table IV provides the zero-order correlations of six independent variables and life satisfaction with majority status.
Table IV indicates that the correlation between majority status and life satisfaction is .11, and it is significant at the .05 level. As previously stated, Anglos reported higher life satisfaction scores than Blacks and Mexican-Americans treated as one group. As expected, income, education, and transportation were significantly and positively correlated with majority status.

Table V presents the zero-order correlation of the components of life satisfaction with majority status.
TABLE V

ZERO-ORDER CORRELATION OF THE COMPONENTS OF LIFE SATISFACTION WITH MAJORITY STATUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Correlation with Majority Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perceived Housing Satisfaction</td>
<td>.18*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived Health Satisfaction</td>
<td>.10*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived Satisfaction with Social Relationships</td>
<td>-.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Product moment correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.

The data support two minor propositions, majority status (Anglos) is positively related to perceived housing satisfaction and majority status is positively related to perceived health satisfaction. The proposition, majority status is positively related to perceived satisfaction with social relationships is not supported. In terms of the responses to housing and health satisfaction, seventy-five per cent of the Anglo sample reported that their homes needed "no" and "few" repairs compared to 63.6 per cent for Blacks and 65.3 per cent for Mexican-Americans. (See Table XX in Appendices) On the measure of health, 76.7 per cent of Anglos as compared to 66.1 per cent of Blacks and 70.7 per cent of Mexican-Americans reported that their health "never" or "occasionally" kept them from doing things they would like to do.
Partial Correlations

Since other studies have suggested that each of the independent variables are related to life satisfaction, partial correlation coefficients were computed with each controlled to test the effect on the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction.

Table VI provides the zero-order correlation coefficient between majority status and life satisfaction and the partial correlation coefficients for six independent variables.

For the proposition, majority status is positively related to income and income is positively related to life satisfaction. Therefore, controlling for income will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction, is supported. Table VI indicates that the correlation between majority status and life satisfaction is .11. Controlling for income, the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction is reduced to .04.

The third proposition, majority status is positively related to education and education is positively related to life satisfaction. Therefore, controlling for education will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction, is supported by the data. The correlation between majority status and education is .24 and is significant at the .05 level. Controlling for education reduced the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction to .05.
### Table VI

Zero-order correlation coefficient between majority status and life satisfaction and partial correlation coefficients for six independent variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Majority Status and life satisfaction</th>
<th>Partial Correlation Coefficients Controlling for</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>{.11}</td>
<td></td>
<td>{.04}</td>
<td>{.05}</td>
<td>{.10*}</td>
<td>{.11*}</td>
<td>{.11*}</td>
<td>{.01}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Partial correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.*
The data also support the proposition, majority status is positively related to marital status and marital status is positively related to life satisfaction, therefore, controlling for marital status will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction. Table VI reveals that the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction is reduced slightly (.10) when marital status is controlled. Anglos were more likely to be married than Blacks and Mexican-Americans, and the married had higher life satisfaction scores than the unmarried. However, controlling for marital status reduced the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction and it was significant at the .05 level.

The proposition, majority status is positively related to residence and residence is positively related to life satisfaction, therefore, controlling for residence will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction, was not supported. The correlation between majority status and residence was low and negative (-.05) and the correlation between residence and life satisfaction was .07. Anglos in this sample were more likely to live in rural areas, but individuals living in urban areas reported higher life satisfaction scores than those living in rural areas. Controlling for residence did not reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction, and the partial correlation was significant at the .05 level.
The data do not support the proposition, majority status is positively related to sex and sex is positively related to life satisfaction, therefore, controlling for sex will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction. A negative relationship exists between majority status and sex, and there is no correlation between sex and life satisfaction. Table VI indicates that the partial correlation coefficient between majority status and life satisfaction is significant (.11) and is the same as the zero-order correlation.

The seventh proposition, majority status is positively related to transportation and transportation is positively related to life satisfaction, therefore, controlling for transportation will reduce the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction, is supported. There is a positive correlation between majority status and transportation (.20) and between transportation and life satisfaction (.46). Controlling for transportation, the relationship between majority status and life satisfaction is reduced to .01. Thus, transportation had much more influence on the life satisfaction scores for Anglos than any of the other independent variables.
Ethnicity and Life Satisfaction

Initially the variable, majority status, was recoded utilizing dummy variables. Anglos were coded "1," and Blacks and Mexican-Americans, "0." Although Blacks and Mexican-Americans are both minority groups, their cultures are not the same. Therefore, it is feasible to examine the seven propositions to compare Black and Mexican-Americans. In this section of the data analysis, the variable, ethnicity, refers only to Blacks and Mexican-Americans. Blacks were coded "1," and Mexican-Americans, "0."

Table VII presents the zero-order correlations of six independent variables and life satisfaction with ethnicity as just defined.

TABLE VII

ZERO-ORDER CORRELATIONS OF SIX INDEPENDENT VARIABLES AND LIFE SATISFACTION WITH ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Correlation with Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>.15*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>-.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>-.08*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td>-.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Satisfaction</td>
<td>-.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Product moment correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.
Table VII indicates that education had a low but positive correlation with ethnicity and was significant at the .05 level. Blacks reported higher educational levels than Mexican-Americans. Although the variables of income and transportation showed low positive correlations with ethnicity, they were not significant. Blacks had slightly higher income levels and slightly more transportation available to them. Residence had a low negative correlation with ethnicity which was significant at the .05 level. Mexican-Americans were more likely to live in urban areas than Blacks. Sex and marital status were not significantly related to ethnicity.

The proposition that if ethnicity is related to life satisfaction, it is expected that Blacks will report higher life satisfaction scores than Mexican-Americans, was not supported. Table VII shows that the correlation between ethnicity and life satisfaction is negative -.02. Blacks tended to report lower life satisfaction scores than Mexican-Americans, but the relationship is not significant.

Table VIII provides the zero-order correlations of the components of life satisfaction with ethnicity.
TABLE VIII

ZERO-ORDER CORRELATIONS OF THE COMPONENTS OF
LIFE SATISFACTION WITH ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Correlation with Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perceived Housing Satisfaction</td>
<td>. . . .  .03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived Health Satisfaction</td>
<td>. . . . - .07*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived Satisfaction with Social Relationships</td>
<td>. . . . - .01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Product moment correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.

The analysis of data support only one of the minor propositions: ethnicity is related to perceived housing satisfaction. The remaining minor propositions were not supported. Table VIII indicates a low, positive correlation of .03 between ethnicity and perceived housing satisfaction. Blacks were slightly more satisfied with their housing situation than Mexican-Americans, but not significantly so. The correlation between ethnicity and perceived health was negative (-.07) but it was significant at the .05 level. Perceived satisfaction with social relationships showed almost no relationship to ethnicity.

Table IX presents the zero-order correlation between ethnicity and life satisfaction and the partial coefficients for six independent variables.
TABLE IX

ZERO-ORDER CORRELATION COEFFICIENT BETWEEN ETHNICITY AND
LIFE SATISFACTION AND PARTIAL CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS
FOR SIX INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zero-order correlation coefficient</th>
<th>Partial Correlation Coefficients Controlling for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity and Life Satisfaction</td>
<td>Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-.02</td>
<td>-.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the proposition that if ethnicity is related to income and income is positively related to life satisfaction, controlling for income will reduce the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction is supported. Ethnicity is positively, but not significantly related to income (.04). Blacks reported higher incomes than Mexican-Americans, and the higher the income, the higher the life satisfaction scores. However, Mexican-Americans had slightly higher life satisfaction scores than Blacks, and controlling for income changed the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction. Table IX indicates that the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction was changed to -.04 when income was controlled.

The data support the proposition that if ethnicity is related to education and education is positively related to life satisfaction, controlling for education will reduce the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction. Blacks reported higher educational levels than Mexican-Americans, and educational level is positively related to life satisfaction. The correlation between ethnicity and life satisfaction was altered to negative -.06 when education was controlled. Blacks reported far less satisfaction with their lives than Mexican-Americans when educational level was controlled.

The proposition that if ethnicity is related to marital status and marital status is positively related to life
satisfaction, controlling for marital status will reduce the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction was not substantiated. Ethnicity was negatively related to marital status. (See Table VII) Blacks were less likely to be married than Mexican-Americans. Controlling for marital status did not significantly alter the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction.

The data do not support the proposition that if ethnicity is related to residence and residence is positively related to life satisfaction, controlling for residence will reduce the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction. The correlation between ethnicity and residence reveals that Blacks in the sample were less likely to live in urban areas than Mexican-Americans. The relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction (−.02) was not changed when residence was controlled.

The proposition that if ethnicity is related to sex and sex is positively related to life satisfaction, controlling for sex will reduce the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction was not supported. Table IX shows that the negative correlation of −.02 between ethnicity and life satisfaction was not changed by controlling for sex.

The data supported the proposition that if ethnicity is related to transportation and transportation is positively related to life satisfaction, controlling for transportation will reduce the relationship between ethnicity and life
satisfaction. Ethnicity was slightly but not significantly correlated with transportation. (See Table VII) Controlling for transportation altered the relationship to -.04 between ethnicity and life satisfaction. Blacks had slightly less difficulty with transportation than Mexican-Americans and controlling for transportation changed their life satisfaction scores.

Multiple Regression Analysis of Independent Variables

As a final phase of the analysis, stepwise multiple regression was utilized to determine which of the independent variables, age, sex, majority status, marital status, education, monthly income and transportation was the best predictor or predictors of life satisfaction and each component of life satisfaction for the total sample. The stepwise regression procedure was also utilized for Anglos, Blacks and Mexican-Americans separately.

Table X presents the zero-order correlation coefficients, standardized partial regression coefficients (beta weights) and multiple regression correlation coefficients of life satisfaction and each component of life satisfaction for the total sample. The zero-order correlation coefficient measures the degree or strength of the independent variables with the dependent variable. The standardized partial regression coefficients (beta weights) "indicates how much change in the dependent variable is produced by a standardized change in
one of the independent variables when others are controlled."13

The multiple correlation coefficient measures the total variation explained in the dependent variable by combining the predictive power of several independent variables.14

The criterion value of ±.15 used by Sewell, Haller and Ohlendorf15 and Sauer16 for large samples was used to retain the beta weights. Age was not utilized to test previous propositions but was used in the regression analysis. The sample consisted of persons sixty and over and could not be compared to those under sixty years of age. Previous studies utilizing age as a variable have compared those under age sixty to those over age sixty.


14 Ibid., pp. 454-456.


**TABLE X**

ZERO-ORDER CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS, STANDARDIZED PARTIAL REGRESSION COEFFICIENTS AND MULTIPLE REGRESSION CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS OF LIFE SATISFACTION AND EACH COMPONENT OF LIFE SATISFACTION FOR THE TOTAL SAMPLE (N=6310)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Life Satisfaction</th>
<th>Perceived Housing Satisfaction</th>
<th>Perceived Health Satisfaction</th>
<th>Satisfaction With Social Relationships</th>
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<td>.25***</td>
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<td>R=.42</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

*The sample consisted of 8,061 cases. However, for stepwise multiple regression, cases with missing data were not included in the statistical analysis.

**Zero-order correlation coefficients (r) significant at the .05 level.

***Beta values are greater than the ±.15 criterion level.
For the total sample (See Table X) the zero-order correlation coefficients were significant for majority status, residence, marital status, education, monthly income and transportation for the life satisfaction index. Three variables: transportation, sex, and monthly income in that order had values higher than the \( 1.15 \) criterion level for the total index. The zero-order correlation coefficients were significant for majority status, marital status, education, monthly income, and transportation for the perceived housing satisfaction component. Marital status, transportation, and sex were significant at the \( 1.15 \) criterion level. For the perceived health satisfaction component, the zero-order correlation coefficients of majority status, residence, education, monthly income, and transportation were significant. Transportation and monthly income were significant predictors for the perceived health satisfaction component. Four variables: marital status, education, monthly income, and transportation had significant zero-order correlation coefficients, and only one variable, transportation met the \( 1.15 \) criterion level for the perceived satisfaction with social relationships component. The multiple regression coefficient for the total index was \( .51 \). It accounted for 26 per cent of the variance in life satisfaction. The perceived housing satisfaction component explained the highest amount of variance (18 per cent) among the components.
Table XI provides the zero-order correlation coefficients standardized partial regression coefficients and multiple regression correlation coefficients of life satisfaction and each component of life satisfaction for the Anglo sample.

The zero-order correlation coefficients were significant for residence, marital status, education, monthly income, and transportation for the life satisfaction index for the Anglo sample. (See Table XI) Transportation and monthly income in that order were significant predictors for the total index. For the perceived housing satisfaction component, marital status, education, monthly income, and transportation had significant zero-order correlation coefficients. Two variables: transportation and sex (females) were significant at the .15 criterion level. The perceived health satisfaction component had four significant zero-order correlation coefficients: residence, education, monthly income, and transportation. Transportation, monthly income, and sex (females) were significant predictors for this component. For the perceived satisfaction with social relationships component, the zero-order coefficients of marital status, education, monthly income and transportation were significant. Two variables: transportation and sex had significant beta values. The amount of variance explained by the independent variables for the total index was
TABLE XI

ZERO-ORDER CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS, STANDARDIZED PARTIAL REGRESSION COEFFICIENTS AND MULTIPLE REGRESSION CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS OF LIFE SATISFACTION AND EACH COMPONENT OF LIFE SATISFACTION FOR THE ANGLO SAMPLE (N=5001)*

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<td>Transportation</td>
<td>.47**</td>
<td>.43***</td>
<td>.29**</td>
<td>.25***</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R=.52</td>
<td>R=.35</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The sample consisted of 6341 cases. However, for stepwise multiple regression cases with missing data were not included in the statistical analysis.

**Zero-Order correlation coefficient (r) significant at the .05 level.

***Beta values are greater than the ±.15 criterion level.
27 per cent. Among the components, perceived health satisfaction had the highest amount of variance (19 per cent) explained by the independent variables.

Table XII indicates the zero-order correlation coefficients, standardized partial regression coefficients and multiple regression correlation coefficients for life satisfaction and each component of life satisfaction for the Black sample.

For the life satisfaction index, the zero-order correlation coefficients for residence, education, monthly income and transportation were significant for the Black sample. (See Table XII) Four betas met the .15 criterion level: Sex (females), transportation, marital status (unmarried individuals) and monthly income. The zero-order coefficients of education, monthly income and transportation were significant for the perceived housing satisfaction component. Marital status (unmarried individuals), sex (females) and transportation in that order had significant betas for this component. For the perceived health satisfaction component, residence, education, monthly income and transportation had significant zero-order correlation coefficients. Sex (females), transportation and monthly income met the .15 criterion level. Three zero-order correlations: education, monthly income and transportation, were significant for the social relationships component. Transportation
TABLE XII
ZERO-ORDER CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS, STANDARDIZED PARTIAL REGRESSION
COEFFICIENTS AND MULTIPLE REGRESSION CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS OF
LIFE SATISFACTION AND EACH COMPONENT OF LIFE SATISFACTION FOR
THE BLACK SAMPLE (N=972)*

<table>
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<th>Satisfaction With Social Relationships</th>
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<td>R=.37</td>
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*The sample consisted of 1263 cases. However, for stepwise multiple regression, cases with missing data were not included in the statistical analysis.

**Zero-order correlation coefficient (r) significant at the .05 level.

***Beta values are greater than the ±.15 criterion level.
was the only significant predictor for this component. The multiple regression correlation coefficient for the total index was .45. It accounted for 21 per cent of the variance in life satisfaction. Two components: perceived housing satisfaction and satisfaction with social relationships had the highest amount of variance (14 per cent each) explained by the independent variables.

Table XIII presents the zero-order correlation coefficients, standardized partial regression coefficients and multiple regression correlation coefficients of life satisfaction and each component of life satisfaction for the Mexican-American sample.

The zero-order correlation coefficients for education, monthly income and transportation were significant for the life satisfaction index for the Mexican-American sample. (See Table XIII) Three variables sex (males), marital status (unmarried individuals) and transportation in that order met the .15 criterion level. The perceived housing satisfaction component had had two significant zero-order correlation coefficients: education and transportation. The beta values, for sex (males), marital status (unmarried individuals) and transportation were significant. For the perceived health satisfaction component, the zero-order correlation coefficient for transportation was significant. Three variables: marital status (married individuals), sex (females) and transportation had significant beta weights. Transportation, again was the
<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Life Satisfaction</th>
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<th>Perceived Health Satisfaction</th>
<th>Satisfaction With Social Relationships</th>
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*The sample consisted of 421 cases. However, for stepwise multiple regression, cases with missing data were not included in the statistical analysis.

**Zero-order correlation coefficient (r) significant at the .05 level.

***Beta values are greater than the ±.15 criterion level.
only significant zero-order correlation coefficient for component of social relationships. Sex (males), marital status (unmarried individuals) and transportation met the ±.15 criterion level for this component. The amount of variance explained by the independent variables for the total index was 18 per cent. The perceived housing satisfaction and perceived health satisfaction components each had 14 per cent of their variance explained by the independent variables.

Summary of the Findings

The analysis of data supported several of the propositions.

The proposition, majority status is positively related to life satisfaction, was supported. Anglos reported higher life satisfaction scores than Blacks and Mexican-Americans. (See Table IV) Majority status was also positively related to two components: perceived housing satisfaction and perceived health satisfaction.

The relationship between majority status and life satisfaction was statistically significant controlling for marital status, residence and sex. However, controlling for education, income and transportation eliminated the significant relationship between majority status and life satisfaction. Education, income and transportation, therefore, were highly effective in accounting for the life satisfaction of Anglos.
Inasmuch as Blacks and Mexican-Americans, the minority group, constituted ethnic groups, it was feasible to examine the seven propositions utilizing Blacks and Mexican-Americans. The major proposition, if ethnicity is related to life satisfaction, it is expected that Blacks will report higher life satisfaction scores than Mexican-Americans, was not supported. The correlation between ethnicity and life satisfaction was -.02 and was not significant. (See Table VII) Ethnicity was slightly related to housing satisfaction, but not to the perceived health satisfaction and satisfaction with social relationships components. The relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction was not significant controlling for income, education, marital status, residence, sex and transportation.

Stepwise multiple regression was utilized to determine which of the independent variables, age, sex, majority status, education, monthly income, residence and transportation was the best predictor or predictors of life satisfaction and each component of life satisfaction for the total sample. The predictors were also examined for Anglos, Blacks and Mexican-Americans separately. For the total sample, transportation was the most important predictor for the life satisfaction index and for each component with the exception of the perceived housing satisfaction component. Marital status (unmarried individuals) was the most significant predictor for this component. Transportation emerged as the
most significant predictor for the total index and each component of life satisfaction for the Anglo sample. For the Black sample, transportation was the most important predictor for the satisfaction with social relationship component. Sex (females) was a significant predictor for the total index and the component of perceived health satisfaction. Marital status (unmarried individuals) emerged as the most significant predictor for the perceived housing satisfaction component for the Black sample. Sex (males) was the most important predictor for the total index and two components: perceived housing satisfaction and perceived satisfaction with social relationships for the Mexican-American sample. Marital status (married individuals) was the most significant predictor for the perceived health satisfaction component for the Mexican-American sample.
CHAPTER IV

INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

The objectives of this research were to examine the effect of majority status and ethnicity on life satisfaction utilizing a multidimensional model, to examine the effects of previously tested variables (sex, residence, marital status, educational level, income and transportation) on life satisfaction, to utilize stepwise multiple regression as an exploratory measure to determine the best predictor of life satisfaction for the total sample and for each group, and to contribute methodologically to the development of a life satisfaction scale derived from the data.

The findings supported earlier studies in revealing a positive relationship between majority status and life satisfaction. However, previous studies utilized only two groups, Anglos and Blacks, whereas the present study included samples of these two groups and Mexican-Americans.

Relationship Between Independent Variables and Life Satisfaction

The study utilized six independent variables to ascertain the strength of their relationship with life satisfaction for the total sample, and for Anglos, Blacks and Mexican-Americans.
Total Sample and Life Satisfaction

Income, education, residence (urban), marital status (married individuals), and transportation were all positively and significantly related to life satisfaction for the total sample. The study thus supports the findings of Clemente and Sauer,¹ Sauer² and Spreitzer and Snyder³ which also revealed a significant correlation between the variables of income, education, marital status, and life satisfaction.

Income was expected to have a significant correlation with life satisfaction inasmuch as it is a basic concern for elderly individuals, particularly those who live on fixed income and those with chronic health problems. Educational attainment has a strong influence on income and income provides the basic necessities related to life satisfaction such as food, housing, health care, and household expenses.

A basic explanation for the married reporting higher life satisfaction scores than unmarried individuals is contained in Durkheim's classic study of Suicide.⁴ Durkheim


⁴Emile Durkheim, Suicide, translated by John A. Spaulding and George Simpson (Illinois, 1951), pp. 171-197.
concluded that unmarried individuals above age sixteen had higher suicide rates than married individuals above age sixteen. He suggested that married individuals are more socially integrated, and are less likely to commit suicide.5 A similar logic can be applied to the present study.

Two other variables: residence (urban) and availability of transportation were significantly correlated with life satisfaction. Hynson⁶ found that rural residents reported greater life satisfaction than urban residents, which was not consistent with the present finding. For the present study, over half of the sample (55.9 per cent) lived in urban areas. It appears that urban residents are able to utilize more services and facilities than their rural counterparts. Additionally, urban residents are more autonomous because of the availability of these services, and are more likely to have a rich supply of peers from which to select friends and acquaintances.

The findings supported Cutler's conclusions that

...mobility restrictions (the absence of personal transportation in the present case), as they constrict life space and narrow the social world of the aged, are associated with low levels of life satisfaction.⁷

⁵Emile Durkheim, Suicide, pp. 171-197.

⁶Lawrence M. Hynson, "Rural-Urban Differences in Satisfaction Among the Elderly," Rural Sociology, XXXX (Spring, 1975), 64-66.

There have been inconsistent findings with respect to the relationship between sex and life satisfaction. Kutner and others\textsuperscript{8} and Sauer\textsuperscript{9} concluded that women reported higher life satisfaction scores than men, whereas Edwards and Klemmack\textsuperscript{10} and Palmore and Luikart\textsuperscript{11} found no difference in satisfaction by sex. For the total sample, sex did not show a zero-order correlation with life satisfaction and supported the findings of Edwards and Klemmack\textsuperscript{12} and Palmore and Luikart.\textsuperscript{13}

**Anglos and Life Satisfaction**

The variables of residence (urban), marital status, education, monthly income, and transportation were also positively and significantly correlated with life satisfaction for Anglos. Sex was not correlated with life satisfaction. The proposition that majority status (being Anglo) is positively related to life satisfaction, was supported and

\textsuperscript{8}Bernard Kutner and others, *Five Hundred Over Sixty* (New York, 1956), pp. 50-51.


\textsuperscript{13}Palmore and Luikart, "Health and Social Factors Related to Life Satisfaction," pp. 68-80.
was consistent with the findings of Alston and others\textsuperscript{14} and Clemente and Sauer.\textsuperscript{15} Majority status was also significantly related to two indices: perceived housing satisfaction and perceived health satisfaction. However, there was no correlation between majority status and perceived satisfaction with social relationships.

With respect to their housing situations, seventy-five per cent of the Anglo sample reported that their homes needed no and few repairs compared to 63.6 per cent for Blacks and 65.3 per cent for Mexican-Americans. (See Table XX in Appendices) A higher percentage of Anglos than Blacks or Mexican-Americans also reported that their health was better than most people their age and that they were in good health. Furthermore, Anglos were less likely to report that their health kept them from doing things they liked.

The perceived satisfaction with social relationships index was not related to majority status. The reason is suggested by the fact that a higher percentage of Blacks and Mexican-Americans reported seeing family members everyday. (See Table XX in Appendices) However, the responses for the remaining categories for the variable, "How often do you see members of your family?" were similar for the three groups.


In all three groups interaction with members of their family occurred frequently. Gerontological literature suggests that if elderly individuals live apart from family members, they maintain contact by telephone and letter writing. This point of view is supported by the present study.

**Blacks and Life Satisfaction**

For the Black sample, residence, education, monthly income, and transportation were positively and significantly related to life satisfaction. There was no difference between married and unmarried individuals with respect to their life satisfaction scores. However, the present study supported the findings of Sauer which indicated that Black males reported higher life satisfaction scores than Black females.

Blacks and Mexican-Americans were compared to examine the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction. The relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction was -.02. (See Table VII) Mexican-Americans reported slightly higher life satisfaction scores than Blacks. An examination of the components of the life satisfaction index showed that Blacks were more satisfied with their housing situation than Mexican-Americans. On the other hand, Mexican-Americans reported that their health was "better" and that they were

---

in "good health" as compared to Blacks. The health component was also significant. A larger percentage of Mexican-Americans (70.7) than Blacks (66.1) reported that their health "never" and "occasionally" kept them from doing things they would like to do. Furthermore, Mexican-Americans reported fewer doctor's visits in the six months prior to the survey. (See Table XX in the Appendices) Mexican-Americans also had higher satisfaction with their social relationships (seeing members of their family, friends, neighbors, and attending church and club meetings) than Blacks.

**Mexican-Americans and Life Satisfaction**

Education, monthly income, and transportation were positively and significantly related to life satisfaction for Mexican-Americans. There was a positive relationship between residence and life satisfaction, however the relationship was not significant. Females reported slightly higher satisfaction scores for the Mexican-American sample. Previous studies (see page 82) have found females to report higher life satisfaction scores than males, however, the studies did not include Mexican-Americans as a subsample. Unmarried individuals were slightly more satisfied with their lives than unmarried individuals. Jackson, Bacon and Peterson.

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also found that unmarried individuals reported higher life satisfaction scores than married individuals. However, their sample consisted of 102 non-institutionalized black men and women residing in a large urban area.

Partial Correlation of Independent Variables

The relationship between two variables may be due to the influence of a third variable. Six variables were expected to have an influence on majority status and life satisfaction and ethnicity and life satisfaction and were controlled. They included: income, education, marital status, sex, residence and transportation.

Partial Correlation for Majority Status and Life Satisfaction

The relationship between majority status and life satisfaction was not eliminated and remained significant controlling for marital status, residence and sex. Although marital status (those who are married), residence (urban) and sex (females) have shown to be significantly related to life satisfaction, they have not emerged as significant predictors of life satisfaction. On the other hand, the significant relationship between majority status and life satisfaction was completely eliminated controlling for education, income, and transportation. As previously indicated educational attainment has a strong influence on income and income provides the basic necessities: food, housing and
health care, related to life satisfaction. Transportation permits the individual to visit friends, relatives, family members, visit the doctor, go shopping or attend clubs and church meetings.

Partial Correlation for Ethnicity and Life Satisfaction

Controlling for income, education, and transportation changed the relationship between ethnicity and life satisfaction. However, the relationship was not significant. The relationship between life satisfaction and ethnicity remained the same (-.02) controlling for marital status, residence and sex. This can be explained in terms of the similarity of the life conditions of Blacks and Mexican-Americans with respect to the place of residence, marital status, educational level and amount of monthly income. At least sixty per cent of Blacks (60.4) and Mexican-Americans (68.2) lived in urban areas. Almost half of the Black sample (41.2 per cent) and Mexican-American (47.2 per cent) were married. In terms of educational level, 46.9 per cent of the Black sample and 69.8 per cent of the Mexican-American sample had completed less than six years of school. For income, almost fifty per cent (49.5) of the Black sample and 54.6 per cent of the Mexican-Americans reported monthly incomes under $200.
Interpretation of Regression Analysis

Stepwise multiple regression was utilized to determine which of the independent variables, age, sex, majority status, marital status, education, monthly income, residence and transportation was the best predictor or predictors of life satisfaction for the total sample. Predictors were also examined for Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans separately.

One aspect of this research is that the study utilized an index consisting of three components: perceived housing satisfaction, perceived health satisfaction, and perceived satisfaction with social relationships to determine the best predictor or predictors of life satisfaction. On the other hand, previous studies have used the life satisfaction indices developed by Neugarten, Havighurst and Tobin and other scales and have correlated these three components with life satisfaction as independent variables.

For the regression analysis, Chapter Three discussed the significant zero-order correlation coefficients and the beta weights which met the ± .15 criterion level. The beta weights do not tell how much variance is explained by a particular independent variable, rather the squared partial correlation coefficients do. The squared partial correlation coefficients answer the question, "how much of the y variance which is not estimated by other IV(s) in the equation is estimated by this variable?"18

Table XIV presents the squared partial correlation coefficients ($Pr^2$) for life satisfaction and each component of life satisfaction for the total sample and for Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans.

As indicated in Table XIV, for the total sample and for Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans, transportation explained more of the variance in the life satisfaction index and each component of life satisfaction than any other variable. Transportation, therefore, was the most important variable in explaining the life satisfaction for this sample of Older Texans. Cutler\textsuperscript{19} has emphasized the importance of personal transportation which he found to be associated with higher degree of life satisfaction. The squared partial correlation coefficients confirm his view.

Monthly income explained the second highest amount of variance in the total index and two components: perceived housing satisfaction and perceived health satisfaction for the total sample and for Anglos and Blacks. (See Table XIV) This finding supports Edwards and Klemmack\textsuperscript{20} who have suggested that "... no study of (life satisfaction) should fail to consider the effects of socioeconomic status."


TABLE XIV

SQUARED PARTIAL CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS ($Pr^2$) FOR LIFE SATISFACTION AND EACH COMPONENT OF LIFE SATISFACTION FOR THE TOTAL SAMPLE AND FOR ANGLOS, BLACKS, AND MEXICAN-AMERICANS

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*a*Life satisfaction index.

*b*Perceived housing satisfaction component.

*c*Perceived health satisfaction component.

*d*Perceived satisfaction with social relationships component.
TABLE XIV--Continued

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<td>.138</td>
<td>.039</td>
<td>.054</td>
<td>.111</td>
<td>.131</td>
<td>.097</td>
<td>.085</td>
<td>.052</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the total sample, Anglos, and Blacks, income made it possible for them to maintain the necessary repairs for their homes and to obtain the health care they needed. Income did not account for any of the variance in the total index and the three components for the Mexican-American sample. A possible explanation offered by Grebler, Moore and Guzman\textsuperscript{21} is that Spanish speaking people have an extended family system which emphasizes familistic attitudes more so than in other groups.

This emphasis means that there are strong emotional relationships, kinship ties, financial assistance, and exchange of work and advice which is probably greater than in most white and nonwhite families.\textsuperscript{22}

Although the amount was not great, residence accounted for the second highest amount of variance in the perceived satisfaction with social relationships for the Anglo sample. As stated previously, urban areas have more facilities and services available to their residents. Additionally, 54.4 per cent of the Anglo sample lived in urban areas and urban areas have rich supply of peers for them to select friends and acquaintances.

The variables: age, sex, marital status, and education accounted for less than one percent of the variance in the life satisfaction index and the three components for the total sample and for Anglos, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans.


\textsuperscript{22}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 351.
Explained Variance

Although transportation explained the highest amount of variance in the total index and each component of life satisfaction for the total sample and for the Anglo, Black and Mexican-American samples, the amount of variance explained was relatively small. The variance explained by other variables was even less. Cohen and Cohen note that even though the amount of variance explained is very small, it is not meaningless.²³

... one of the most attractive features of MRC is its automatic provision of proportion of variance and correlation measures of various kinds. These are measures of "effect size," of the magnitude of the phenomena being studied.

To report, for example, that law students show a 9.2-point higher mean than medical students on a scale measuring attitude toward the United Nations is to convey very little about whether this constitutes a large or trivial difference. However, to report that the law student-medical student distinction accounts for 4% of the attitude score variance conveys much more.²⁴

Implications for Future Research

The interpretation of findings suggest that multidimensional models are feasible to measure life satisfaction of elderly individuals of different racial and or ethnic groups. Previous research has utilized a multidimensional

²⁴Ibid., p. 6.
model to examine life satisfaction for Anglos and Blacks together and separately, but has not included other ethnic groups.

On the basis of this study future research should include the variable, transportation, in any multivariate analysis of life satisfaction. In the past transportation has seldom been used in life satisfaction studies, but for this study it accounted for the largest amount of variance explained in the life satisfaction index and each component of life satisfaction for the total sample, in the Anglo, Black and Mexican-American samples. If further research supports the finding that transportation is a significant factor in the life satisfaction of older individuals, it should influence policy makers to plan transportation services or improve such services where there is a large concentration of elderly individuals.
### APPENDICES

#### APPENDIX A

#### Tables

**TABLE XV**

RANGES, MEANS, STANDARD DEVIATIONS AND ZERO-ORDER CORRELATIONS OF INDEPENDENT VARIABLES WITH LIFE SATISFACTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Ranges</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Standard Deviations</th>
<th>Correlation with Life Satisfaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>-.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>.31*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>.23*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority Status (0=Blacks and Mexican-Americans; 1=Anglos)</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>.79</td>
<td>.40</td>
<td>.11*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (0=females; 1=males)</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>.43</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>-.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence (0=rural; 1=urban)</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>.07*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status (0=not married; 1=married)</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>.47</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>.08*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>3-9</td>
<td>7.53</td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td>.48*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Product moment correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Ranges</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Standard Deviations</th>
<th>Correlation with Majority Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>.22*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>.24*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (0=females; 1=males)</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>.43</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>-.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residence (0=rural; 1=urban)</td>
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<td>.59</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>-.05</td>
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<td>.47</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>3-9</td>
<td>7.53</td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td>.20*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Satisfaction</td>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>10.73</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>.11*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority Status (0=Blacks and Mexican-Americans; 1=Anglos)</td>
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*Product moment correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.
### TABLE XVII

**Ranges, Means, Standard Deviations and Zero-Order Correlations of the Components of Life Satisfaction with Majority Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Ranges</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Standard Deviations</th>
<th>Correlation with Majority Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perceived housing satisfaction</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>4.04</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>.18*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived health satisfaction</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>.10*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived satisfaction with social relationships</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>5.38</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>-.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Product moment correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.*
TABLE XVIII
RANGES, MEANS, STANDARD DEVIATIONS AND ZERO-ORDER CORRELATIONS OF SIX INDEPENDENT VARIABLES AND LIFE SATISFACTION WITH ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Ranges</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Standard Deviations</th>
<th>Correlation with Ethnicity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<td>3.48</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>.15*</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sex (0=females; 1=males)</td>
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<td>.43</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>-.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence (0=rural; 1=urban)</td>
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<td>.49</td>
<td>-.08*</td>
</tr>
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<td>Marital status (0=not married; 1=married)</td>
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<td>7.53</td>
<td>2.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life satisfaction</td>
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<td>10.73</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>-.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity (0=Mexican-Americans; 1=Blacks)</td>
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<td>.75</td>
<td>.43</td>
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</table>

*Product moment correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.
TABLE XIX
RANGES, MEANS, STANDARD DEVIATIONS AND ZERO-ORDER CORRELATIONS OF THE COMPONENTS OF LIFE SATISFACTION WITH ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Variables</th>
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<th>Standard Deviations</th>
<th>Correlation with Ethnicity</th>
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<td>4.04</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived health satisfaction</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>-.07*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived satisfaction with social relationships</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>5.38</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>-.01</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Product moment correlation coefficient significant at the .05 level.
TABLE XX

LIST OF QUESTIONS ON HOUSING, HEALTH
AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Anglos</th>
<th></th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th></th>
<th>Mexican-Americans</th>
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<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>252</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>83</td>
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<td>44.0</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>45.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>A few major repairs</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>20.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Many major repairs</td>
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<td>190</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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<td>6341</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Keep From Doing Things Would Like to Do</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>1642</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>22.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occasionally</td>
<td>3206</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>47.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Most of the time</td>
<td>1017</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>All of the time</td>
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<td>6.7</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100.0</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>421</td>
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<td>Times Been to Doctor in Past Six (6) Months</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<td>13.9</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
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<td>121</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>23.6</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6341</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>99.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Members of Family</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyday</td>
<td>1861</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>44.1</td>
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<td>251</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>102</td>
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<td>Two or three times a month</td>
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<td>142</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>10.2</td>
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<td>77</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Once every few months</td>
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<td>8.1</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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<td>Once or twice a year</td>
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<td>5.7</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Almost never (or never)</td>
<td>118</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>1.2</td>
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<td>3.7</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
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<td>106</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6341</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Mexican-Americans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk with Family Members on Telephone</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
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<td>17.5</td>
<td>151</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>12.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least monthly</td>
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<td>17.3</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>12.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than monthly</td>
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<td>78</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almost never (or never)</td>
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<td>59</td>
<td>14.0</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td>110</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive Mail From Members of Your Family</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>26.8</td>
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<td>61</td>
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<td>Monthly</td>
<td>1859</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few times a year</td>
<td>1186</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a year</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almost never (or never)</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No family</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6341</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B

LIST OF QUESTIONS FROM THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE UTILIZED IN THE RESEARCH

1. Interviewer: enter sex of person.
   (1) male
   (2) female
   (9) NA

2. Interviewer: Enter race or ethnic group of person. If you are uncertain, ask the person what race ethnic group he/she considers him/herself to be.
   (1) black
   (2) Mexican-American
   (3) white
   (4) other
   (5) NA

3. Interviewer: Enter rural or urban residence. If the household is in a community of 2,500 or more or immediately next to the city limits, enter urban residence. If it is not, enter rural.
   (1) urban residence
   (2) rural residence
   (9) NA

4. How old were you on your last birthday?
   (1) 60-64
   (2) 65-69
   (3) 70-74
   (4) 75-79
   (5) 80-84
   (6) 85 or over
   (9) NA

5. Are you: married, widowed, divorced, separated, or single?
   (1) married
   (2) widowed
   (3) divorced
   (4) separated
   (5) single (never married)
   (9) NA
6. How many years of school have you completed?
   (1) 0-6
   (2) 7-11
   (3) 12 (high school graduate)
   (4) business or technical school
   (5) 1-3 years of college
   (6) 4 or more years of college (college graduate or more)
   (9) NA

7. Taking everything into account, would you say that you are very satisfied with your housing situation, fairly satisfied, or not satisfied?
   (1) very satisfied
   (2) fairly satisfied
   (3) not satisfied
   (9) NA

9. Are you satisfied that this house (apartment) allows you to have enough quiet and privacy: very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not satisfied?
   (1) very satisfied
   (2) fairly satisfied
   (3) not satisfied
   (9) NA

11. Does your house need: no repairs, a few minor repairs, a few major repairs, or many major repairs?
    (1) no repairs
    (2) a few minor repairs
    (3) a few major repairs
    (4) many major repairs
    (9) NA

16. Taking everything into account, would you say that your health is better, about the same, or worse than that of other people your age?
    (1) better
    (2) about the same
    (3) worse
    (9) NA

17. How often does poor health keep you from doing things that you would like to do: never, occasionally, most of the time, or all of the time?
    (1) never
    (2) occasionally
    (3) most of the time
    (4) all of the time
    (9) NA
18. In general, do you consider yourself to be in good health, fair health, or poor health?
   (1) good health
   (2) fair health
   (3) poor health
   (9) NA

26. How many times have you been to a doctor in the past six months?
   (1) none
   (2) 1
   (3) 2
   (4) 3
   (5) 4 or more
   (9) NA

36. Interviewer: Tell the person you are going to hand them a slip of paper and a pencil. Ask the person to circle the number corresponding to their monthly income, if they are not highly offended. Tell them you will take back the slip of paper at the end of the interview. At the end of the interview, pick up the slip of paper and enter the appropriate response for the following question (36). If they have not circled a number, circle (9) NA.

   How much income do you (and your spouse) receive each month?
   (1) less than $100
   (2) $100 to $199
   (3) $200 to $299
   (4) $300 to $399
   (5) $400 to $499
   (6) $500 to $699
   (7) $700 to $999
   (8) $1,000 or more
   (9) NA

38. In general, is it difficult for you to obtain transportation to places that you need or would like to go: very difficult, somewhat difficult, or not difficult?
   (1) very difficult
   (2) somewhat difficult
   (3) not difficult
   (9) NA

39. How difficult is it for you to go to places that you must go such as the doctor, bank, or necessary shopping?
   (1) very difficult
   (2) somewhat difficult
   (3) not difficult
   (9) NA
40. How difficult is it for you to go to places you would like to go such as visiting friends or going to church meetings?
   (1) very difficult
   (2) somewhat difficult
   (3) not difficult
   (9) NA

68. Are you satisfied with how often you see members of your family (does not include spouse): very satisfied, fairly satisfied, or not satisfied?
   (1) very satisfied
   (2) fairly satisfied
   (3) not satisfied
   (4) no family
   (9) NA

69. Are you satisfied with how often you see your friends and neighbors?
   (1) very satisfied
   (2) fairly satisfied
   (3) not satisfied
   (9) NA

70. Are you satisfied with how often you go to club or church meetings and other informal group meetings?
   (1) very satisfied
   (2) fairly satisfied
   (3) not satisfied
   (9) NA

72. How often do you see a member of your family?
   (1) everyday
   (2) at least once a week
   (3) two or three times a month
   (4) once a month
   (5) once every few months
   (6) once or twice a year
   (7) almost never (or never)
   (8) no family
   (9) NA

73. How often do you talk with members of your family on the telephone?
   (1) daily
   (2) several times a week
   (3) weekly
   (4) at least monthly
   (5) less than monthly
   (6) almost never (or never)
   (7) no family
   (9) NA
74. How often do you receive mail from members of your family?
(1) several times a week
(2) weekly
(3) monthly
(4) a few times a year
(5) once a year
(6) almost never (never)
(7) no family
(9) NA
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