

Is Life Getting Better?

A beginner's guide to measuring the progress of societies

Produced by

The Global Social Change Research Project
<http://gsociology.icaap.org/>

Is Life Getting Better?

This is the first in a set of pamphlets about measuring well-being and progress of societies

This set of pamphlets is about:

- Promoting the **development of indicators** of economic, social and environmental well-being of societies.
- Using the indicators to **measure the progress of the well-being** of societies.
- Encouraging the use of the indicators for more **evidence-based decision-making**.

Additional Information:

<http://gsociology.icaap.org/progress.html>
and

http://www.wikiprogress.org/index.php/Main_Page

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Key to the development and use of indicators are answers to the following questions:

1. Are societies making progress?
2. What is “progress”?
3. How do we measure progress?
4. Why should we measure progress?
5. What do we do with the measures of progress?

This set of pamphlets describes one approach to answering or addressing the questions above, in a simple and clear format, as a basic introduction to measuring progress and well-being.

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This pamphlet is only for education purposes. It does not represent any guidelines, recommendations or requirements. The only purpose is to provide information about basic ideas of measuring the progress of societies to the general public, to researchers, or to anyone with interest in this subject.

Gene Shackman's, Ya-Lin Liu's and Xun Wang's contributions to this project were on their own time, at home, and were not supported by any organization. They do not represent or speak for any organization except The Global Social Change Research Project.

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<http://gsociology.icaap.org/progress.html>
and is also available at:
http://www.wikiprogress.org/index.php/Global_Social_Change_Research_Project
The pamphlets will also be placed on the appropriate Wikiprogress pages.