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## A Nationally Representative Survey Assessing Restorative Sleep in US Adults

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### Author Contributions

RR, SFQ, MDW, LKB, and CAC contributed to the conceptualization and the design the work. All authors contributed to the acquisition, analysis, and interpretation of the data. All authors conceptualized the manuscript. RR prepared the manuscript. All authors approved the submitted version.

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## Abstract

Restorative sleep is a commonly used term but a poorly defined construct. Few studies have assessed restorative sleep in nationally representative samples. We convened a panel of 7 expert physicians and researchers to evaluate and enhance available measures of restorative sleep. We then developed the revised Restorative Sleep Questionnaire (REST-Q), which comprises 9 items assessing feelings resulting from the prior sleep episode, each with 5-point Likert response scales. Finally, we assessed the prevalence of high, somewhat, and low REST-Q scores in a nationally representative sample of US adults ( $n=1,055$ ) and examined the relationship of REST-Q scores with other sleep and demographic characteristics. Pairwise correlations were performed between the REST-Q scores and other self-reported sleep measures. Weighted logistic regression analyses were conducted to compare scores on the REST-Q with demographic variables. The prevalence of higher REST-Q scores (4 or 5 on the Likert scale) was 28.1% in the nationally representative sample. REST-Q scores positively correlated with sleep quality ( $r=0.61$ ) and sleep duration ( $r=0.32$ ), and negatively correlated with both difficulty falling asleep ( $r=-0.40$ ) and falling back asleep after waking ( $r=-0.41$ ). Higher restorative sleep scores (indicating more feelings of restoration upon waking) were more common among those who were:  $\geq 60$  years of age (OR=4.20, 95% CI: 1.92–9.17); widowed (OR=2.35, 95% CI: 1.01–5.42), and retired (OR=2.02, 95% CI: 1.30–3.14). Higher restorative sleep scores were less frequent among those who were not working (OR=0.36, 95% CI: 0.10–1.00) and living in a household with two or more persons (OR=0.51, 95% CI: 0.29–0.87). Our findings suggest that the REST-Q may be useful for assessing restorative sleep.

## Keywords

Restorative sleep; sleep; sleep health; national sample

## Introduction

There has been an explosion in the availability and uptake of consumer technologies for tracking sleep duration and other quantitative sleep metrics. According to a nationally representative survey, 25% of US adults have used a smartphone or device to track their sleep duration (Robbins et al., 2018). While interest in tracking sleep among the population suggests increased interest and awareness about sleep, quantitative assessments do not capture a holistic, qualitative (i.e., self-reported) evaluation of sleep (Buysse, 2014). For instance, while few differences in quantitative measures of sleep are observed between insomnia patients and healthy controls, striking differences are seen in the qualitative evaluations of sleep (Corsi-Cabrera et al., 2016; Orff et al., 2007). Several initiatives have

been made to capture qualitative evaluations, such as perceptions of restoration or quality after waking from sleep, using questionnaires (Balanzá-Martínez et al., 2021; Buysse, 2014; Drake et al., 2014; Matsumoto et al., 2017; Nakajima et al., 2018). Despite the importance of qualitative assessments of sleep, such as feelings of restoration from sleep, little research has comprehensively evaluated qualitative evaluations of sleep in a representative sample of the US adult population.

While restorative sleep is not often measured, *non*-restorative sleep has been widely measured (Ohayon, 2005; Ohayon & Partinen, 2002; Ohayon & Sagales, 2010; Roth et al., 2010). Non-restorative sleep is defined as the subjective evaluation of sleep as being unrefreshing that is not accounted for by lack of sleep (Stone et al., 2008). Historically, non-restorative sleep has been a distinct component of several definitions of insomnia disorder, including the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-4), but not the more recent 5<sup>th</sup> edition (DSM-5) (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). In part due to the characterization of non-restorative sleep as an insomnia symptom, many questionnaires for assessing insomnia in clinic settings include single items assessing non-restorative sleep (Balanzá-Martínez et al., 2021; Garefelt et al., 2020; Grandner & Kripke, 2004; Nakajima et al., 2018). Studies relying upon such single items (e.g., “Do you ever wake up with a feeling of exhaustion and fatigue”), many of which feature simple yes/no response options (Nakajima et al., 2018; Wakasugi et al., 2014), have examined the prevalence of non-restorative sleep in diverse samples, including general adult populations, insomnia patients, and patients with a variety of other chronic illnesses, and yielded a wide range of prevalences from 8% to 42% (Matsumoto et al., 2017; Ohayon & Bader, 2010; Ohayon & Partinen, 2002; Phillips & Mannino, 2005; Zhang et al., 2012). Another limitation of these studies is that the question wording used to assess non-restorative sleep also ranged widely. For instance, several studies have asked participants to report the times they woke and “felt unrefreshed,” while other times they were asked if they felt “restored,” or if they woke and felt “unrested.” Drake and colleagues developed a validated measure for assessing non-restorative sleep that was rigorously tested among insomnia patients and healthy controls, performing well on reliability and validity tests (Drake et al., 2014). In the study conducted by Drake and colleagues, correlation analyses revealed that restorative sleep responses were weakly correlated with sleep duration ( $r=0.32$ ) and there was only a moderate correlation with sleep quality (ranging  $r=0.46$  to  $0.59$  depending on the scale assessing sleep quality). Although originally designed to measure non-restorative sleep, the questions on the Drake et al. survey solicit responses to questions that relate to positive evaluations of sleep, such as feeling “ready to start the day” and “energetic” after waking, which capture assessments of the restorative properties of sleep as rated by the sleeper (as opposed to the non-restorative properties). Nevertheless, the work from Drake and colleagues suggests that restorative sleep may be an important, independent construct to measure. In addition, the tool developed by Drake and colleagues to measure restorative sleep has not been widely used. Moreover, we lack a conceptual definition of restorative sleep. We recruited a panel of expert sleep specialists to address this gap and develop a conceptual definition of restorative sleep.

Our first aim was to reach consensus with a panel of expert sleep specialists on a definition of restorative sleep, then to review, critique, and enhance the measure of restorative sleep

offered by Drake and colleagues (Drake et al., 2014), so as to arrive at a reliable, easy-to-use tool for assessing restorative sleep (REST-Q). Finally, we assessed the prevalence of low, somewhat, and high REST-Q scores in a nationally representative sample of US adults and examined the relationship of REST-Q scores with other sleep and demographic characteristics.

## Materials & Methods

### Overview

First, we aimed to reach consensus with a panel of expert sleep specialists on a definition of restorative sleep. Second, we reviewed and critiqued available measures of restorative sleep. Finally, we explored the prevalence of low, somewhat, and high REST-Q scores in a nationally representative sample of adults in the US and examined the relationship of REST-Q scores with other sleep and demographic characteristics.

### Literature review

In order to identify available measures of restorative sleep, we conducted a series of literature searches. The literature searches were conducted using the term “restorative sleep” in Medline and Psych Info. Searches resulted in 366 articles. The articles were screened to identify studies that actually *measured* restorative or non-restorative sleep. After the screening was complete, 58 articles were eligible, including 10 that measured restorative sleep and 48 that measured non-restorative sleep. The eligible articles resulted in a pool of 32 different measures of either restorative or non-restorative sleep, which were shared with the experts prior to the expert panel discussion and presented by the first author to the experts during the panel discussion.

### Expert Panel to Define Restorative Sleep and Develop the Restorative Sleep Questionnaire (REST-Q)

In accordance with the RAND Delphi procedure (Dalkey & Helmer, 1963), we recruited expert sleep medicine physicians and scientists (n=7) to reach a definition of restorative sleep and review, critique, and enhance the available measures of restorative sleep.

Experts were selected based upon demonstrated expertise, as measured by the number of peer-reviewed publications, in the following domains: survey design and psychometrics in sleep and circadian rhythms; sleep medicine and circadian rhythms disorders; and both restorative and non-restorative sleep research. Consistent with the RAND Delphi Procedure, the experts convened for a series of linked steps. The first step included a focus group where experts were prompted to develop a definition of restorative sleep and critique available measures (Drake et al., 2014). The first step resulted in a document with a preliminary definition of restorative sleep and a list of proposed questions for assessing restorative sleep. The second step included final editorial changes to the definition and measures. In the third step, the definition and draft questions were sent to the experts who were asked to provide responses on 9-point scales of appropriateness to the definition of restorative sleep, the utility and appropriateness of each measure of restorative sleep on the proposed

questionnaire, and the proposed method for scoring. Appropriateness was rated on scales from 1 (not at all appropriate) to 9 (extremely appropriate).

The experts agreed that the questionnaire developed by Drake and colleagues (Drake et al., 2014) was the most thorough measure, but proposed minor changes to wording and scoring. Specifically, experts proposed the instructions be changed from “For each question, circle the number that best indicates how you feel” to “For each of the following items, please tell me to what degree you feel each of the below when you woke up today, compared to before you went to sleep. Last night’s sleep left me feeling” followed by a series of 9 words or phrases (e.g., “...tired?,” “...sleepy?,” “...in a good mood?,” and “...rested?”). Drake and colleagues proposed a method for scoring the responses to their questionnaire but did not propose categories to distinguish between those who were low versus high on restorative sleep. We propose these modifications in the Restorative Sleep Questionnaire (REST-Q), a 9-item questionnaire assessing aspects of restorative sleep. Finally, we propose a simple formula for scoring the REST-Q which results in three categories of restorative sleep (low, somewhat, and high), based on the average response participants make to the questionnaire.

### **Nationally Representative Panel Participants & Procedures**

Surveys were administered to *AmeriSpeak*, a probability-based panel managed by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago. Amerispeak is designed to be representative of the US household population. Randomly selected US households are sampled using area probability and address-based sampling. The sampled households are then contacted by US mail, telephone, and field interview (face to face). Participants in the AmeriSpeak panel are then invited to join subsequent panels annually by web or telephone. Participants provide written informed consent during enrollment in the panel. Participants for the present study were a stratified random sample of panelists drawn from the AmeriSpeak panel. Sample stratification was employed to assure representativeness with respect to age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education. To ensure representativeness of the sample, our team compared the resultant sample to data from the US Census Bureau ([data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)). The study sample is representative of the US adult population with respect to age, gender, education, and race/ethnicity of US adults (see the Supplement for statistics from the US Census Bureau: [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)).

Participants were able to complete surveys in English or Spanish. Eligible participants included adults (18 years of age or older) residing in a US household. The current survey was sent to 5,259 participants from the AmeriSpeak panel in September 2021. The survey took approximately 15 minutes to complete. 1,055 participants completed the survey for a 20.06% completion rate. Among the respondents, 7% of interviews were conducted by phone and 93% online (34% on a desktop, 57% on a smartphone, and 2% on a tablet).

### **Survey Measures**

On the nationally representative survey, we assessed demographic, sleep, and REST-Q variables. Demographic characteristics measured in the present study included gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, marital status, employment status, household income, living in

an urban (versus non-urban) area, home internet access, home ownership, and number of persons living in the household.

Sleep variables measured included sleep duration, sleep quality, self-reported insomnia, and sleep difficulties. Sleep duration before work or school days was measured by asking individuals “During the past month, on average, how many hours of actual sleep did you obtain before a typical work or school day?” and before free days by asking “...before a typical “free” day, that is a non-work, non-school day?,” consistent with previous research (Robbins et al., 2021). A measure of average weekly sleep duration was created by computing a weighted average of sleep durations reported for work/school and free nights, assuming the reported work/school night sleep duration was maintained for five nights in a typical week and the reported free night sleep duration was maintained for 2 nights in a typical week. Sleep quality was measured by asking participants “During the past month, how would you rate your sleep quality overall” from 1 (very poor), 2 (poor), 3 (fair), 4 (good), and 5 (very good), consistent with the PROMIS sleep questionnaire (Full et al., 2019). Participants were asked if they have ever received an insomnia diagnosis (yes or no). Finally, the frequency of sleep disturbances was measured by asking participants “During the past month how often did it take you more than 30 minutes to fall asleep at night?” and “...how often did you have trouble falling back asleep on nights after waking?” Sleep disturbance responses were collected on scales from 1 (every night), 2 (most nights), 3 (some nights), 4 (rarely), and 5 (never), then reverse coded so that higher values indicate more disturbance.

The REST-Q asked participants “For each of the following items, please tell me to what degree you feel each of the below when you woke up today, compared to before you went to sleep. Last night’s sleep left me feeling...” with 9 different words or phrases to following: Restorative Sleep Question 1 (RSQ1): “...tired;” RSQ2: “...sleepy;” RSQ3: “...in a good mood;” RSQ4: “...rested;” RSQ5: “...refreshed;” RSQ6: “...ready to start the day;” RSQ7: “...energetic;” RSQ8: “...mentally alert;” and RSQ9: “...grouchy.” Responses were captured on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 2 (a little bit), 3 (somewhat), 4 (very much), and 5 (completely). Responses to “...tired,” “...sleepy,” and “...grouchy” were reverse coded.

Responses to the 9 REST-Q questions were averaged then transformed to a 100-point scale, consistent with Drake et al (Drake et al., 2014) (see the Formula below). Then, we proposed that the transformed value be categorized into one of three overall scores based on the corresponding value from the original 5-point Likert scale. Specifically, a score of 50 corresponded to an average response of “not at all” or “a little bit” to the restorative sleep questions and would be categorized as a “low” REST-Q score. Scores ranging from 50 to 74.99 corresponded to an average response of “somewhat” to the restorative sleep questions and would be categorized as a “somewhat” REST-Q score. Finally, scores of 75 and above corresponded to an average response of “very much” or “completely” to the restorative sleep questions and would be categorized as a “high” REST-Q score.

$$\left[ \left( \frac{RSQ1 + RSQ2 + RSQ3 + RSQ4 + RSQ5 + RSQ6 + RSQ7 + RSQ8 + RSQ9}{9} \right) - 1 \right] \times 25$$

## Statistical analysis

Representativeness of the US population was achieved by using weighted proportions with the svy command in Stata statistical software (Version 16; StataCorp, College Station, TX). Internal consistency of the REST-Q items was determined using Cronbach's alpha. Demographic characteristics of the sample stratified by REST-Q score (low, somewhat, high) were compared using Pearson  $\chi^2$  statistics. Descriptive statistics were captured for each of the 9 items on the REST-Q and plotted to determine the frequency distribution of responses. Pairwise correlations were performed between the REST-Q transformed (0–100) values and sleep variables (sleep duration on weekdays, sleep duration on free days, sleep quality, difficulty falling asleep, and nighttime awakenings). Mean scores on the sleep variables (sleep duration on weekdays, sleep duration on free days, sleep quality, difficulty falling asleep, and nighttime awakenings) by REST-Q score (low, somewhat, high) were tested using ANOVA. The prevalence in this nationally representative panel of REST-Q scores (low, somewhat, and high) were tabulated. Finally, weighted logistic regression analyses were conducted to compare those with a high score on the REST-Q (compared to low or somewhat) by each demographic variable. Two-sided hypothesis tests were used with  $p < 0.05$  considered to be the threshold for statistical significance.

## Results

### Results from the expert panel

The definition of restorative sleep (Figure 1) developed through the Delphi procedure received a mean appropriateness rating of 7.6/9 (S.D.=1.6) from the 7 experts. The REST-Q and the associated scoring procedure developed through the Delphi procedure received a mean appropriateness rating of 8.3/9 (S.D.=0.82) from the experts.

In the nationally representative survey to assess responses to the REST-Q, participants (n=1,055) were 48% male and 52% female participants and average age was 49.4 years (S.D.=17.5 years). Restorative sleep scores as measured by the REST-Q varied by marital status ( $p < 0.037$ ), employment status ( $p < 0.001$ ), urban versus rural area ( $p < 0.05$ ), and number of people living in a household ( $p < 0.01$ , Table 1).

The items on the REST-Q demonstrated internal consistency with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.92 and inter-item covariance of 0.65. The responses to the individual REST-Q questions were normally distributed except for sleep, grouchy and tired which were right skewed (Figure 2).

### Results from the nationally representative panel

The weighted prevalence of high restorative sleep based on the REST-Q was 28.1% in this nationally representative panel (Figure 3).

REST-Q scores were positively correlated with the weighted average of weekly sleep duration ( $r=0.32$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) and sleep quality ( $r=0.61$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). REST-Q scores were negatively correlated with self-reported insomnia diagnoses ( $r=-0.16$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) and sleep difficulties (onset:  $r=-0.40$ ,  $p<0.001$ ; maintenance:  $r=-0.41$ ,  $p<0.001$ , Figure 4).

Sleep quality ( $F=107.8$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), sleep duration ( $F=37.4$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), difficulty initiating sleep ( $F=29.2$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), and difficulty maintaining sleep ( $F=37.3$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) all varied by REST-Q score (Figure 5).

Weighted logistic regression analyses indicated that the following demographic characteristics were associated with *greater* odds of restorative sleep as scored by the REST-Q: age 60 years or older compared to age 18–25 (OR=4.20, 95%CI: 1.92–9.17); being widowed compared to being married (OR=2.35, 95%CI: 1.01–5.42); and being retired compared to working as a paid employee (OR=2.02, 95%CI: 1.30–3.14). Conversely, the following factors were associated with *reduced* odds of higher restorative sleep as scored by the REST-Q: not working (other) compared to working as a paid employee (OR=0.36, 95%CI: 0.15–0.89); renting a residence (OR=0.65, 95%CI:0.43–0.97) or occupying a residence without payment (OR=0.034, 95%CI: 0.32–1.00) as compared to owning a residence; and residing with 3 other persons (OR=0.51, 95%CI:0.29–0.87), 4 other persons (OR=0.39, 95%CI: 0.24–0.64), or 5 other persons (OR=0.17, 95%CI:0.07–0.40) compared to living alone (see Supplemental Information).

## Discussion

Qualitative evaluation is an important feature of sleep health (Buysse, 2014), yet the vast majority of high quality nationally representative data collected among US adults has assessed quantitative aspects, such as sleep duration, which preclude a holistic understanding of sleep in the population. Moreover, the practice of tracking quantitative sleep measures, such as nightly sleep duration and even sleep staging, has become common among US adults, yet few of these technologies afford users the opportunity to provide qualitative or subjective ratings of their sleep, such as restorative sleep. Our study convened an expert panel to develop a definition of restorative sleep, propose a measure of restorative sleep, then capture nationally representative data regarding the response rates of this measure in comparison to other metrics of sleep quality among US adults.

Our study addresses conceptual ambiguity which has persisted in the sleep field with regards to restorative sleep. For instance, our literature search returned more than 350 articles from a keyword search for “restorative sleep,” but only 48 *measured* non-restorative or restorative sleep. Upon further exploration, we discovered that “restorative” was often used in studies as a synonym for sufficient sleep duration or satisfaction with sleep, such as high ratings on sleep quality. With a panel of survey design, psychometrics, sleep, and circadian rhythms experts, we found support for a definition that positions restorative sleep as an aspect of sleep that is strongly associated with daytime characteristics, such as improved mood, energy, and wellbeing. It is possible that such a definition, which makes clear the connection between sleep and daytime outcomes, may aid in increasing sleep’s importance among the general population. Furthermore, the definition of restorative sleep provided here is aligned



with the call for more attention to quantifying optimal sleep health, as opposed to poor sleep health (Buysse, 2014). The expert panel also provided strong support for the REST-Q as a tool for assessing restorative sleep, providing high ratings for the measure on scales of appropriateness.

In a nationally representative panel, we explored the prevalence of REST-Q scores and found that high restorative sleep scores were observed in 28% of US adults. Whereas previous nationally representative data has found markers of sleep health, such as sufficient sleep duration, in two thirds of US adults (Liu, 2016), our findings indicate that less than one third of US adults received high scores for restorative sleep. We also examined demographic characteristics with respect to scores on the REST-Q, finding that higher scores were more likely among those age 60 and above, those who were widowed, and those who reported being retired. These findings are consistent with previous research in a large convenience sample of Japanese adults, which found that reports of *non*-restorative sleep declined with age (Wakasugi et al., 2014), suggesting that older individuals, perhaps due to less stress associated with raising children or fewer professional obligations among those who are retired, increases the likelihood of restorative sleep. This finding is somewhat contradictory to other studies, which demonstrate increased reports of sleep difficulties among older adults as compared to younger adults (Ohayon, 2002). In addition, we found that being widowed was associated with higher odds of restorative sleep compared to being married. This finding may be explained by the fact that sleeping with a partner can be disruptive, either due to different sleep/wake times maintained by either partner or due to one (or both) individuals snoring (Blumen et al., 2012; Pevernagie et al., 2010). It was surprising that we did not detect a gender difference in our data. Previous research has shown that rates of sleep difficulties, such as sleep dissatisfaction, are higher in females than in males (Ohayon, 2002). Overall, our findings contrast those from the insomnia literature, which have shown that the disorder is more common among women than men and more common among older as compared to younger adults (Ohayon, 2002). In contradistinction, our study did not find a statistically significant difference in REST-Q scores by gender and found a statistically significant difference between ages, such that older adults were more likely to have higher REST-Q scores than younger adults. Taken together, our findings, demonstrating more restorative sleep among older adults and widowed individuals as well as higher markers of sleep health in younger adults, suggest that restorative sleep may not simply be the converse of non-restorative sleep, or other insomnia symptoms, but a distinct feature of sleep entirely. Future research is needed to examine restorative sleep as measured by the REST-Q and other biological or physiological measures to explore REST-Q responses and markers of physical and emotional health and well-being.

We also observed that higher scores on the REST-Q were positively associated with better sleep quality and longer sleep duration on work and free days and inversely associated with sleep difficulties, including difficulty falling asleep and waking up from sleep without being able to fall back asleep. While there were significant associations between the REST-Q and sleep quality, sleep duration, insomnia, sleep onset and sleep maintenance, correlation analyses were only weak to moderate. Our study is consistent with previous research which suggests that non-restorative sleep has independent associations with chronic health conditions after controlling for insomnia symptoms (Zhang et al., 2012), indicating

that non-restorative sleep is a construct that is unique from other sleep complaints. By extension, it is possible that restorative sleep is similarly distinct, and not the mere converse of insomnia symptoms. This suggests that while there is overlap, the REST-Q is capturing a conceptual aspect of sleep distinct from other evaluations of sleep, which we believe reflects restorative sleep. Nevertheless, future research may aim to further explore how the general population view the feeling of restoration upon waking and how that experience is similar to or distinct from other appraisals of sleep, such as reports of sleep quality.

We propose that our findings demonstrate that the REST-Q is a reliable tool for assessing restorative sleep, with high convergent validity and internal consistency. Also, our research is the first nationally representative study to evaluate the performance of a measure designed to assess restorative sleep among a nationally representative sample of US adults. Despite these strengths, our work has several limitations. First, our study did not have access to chronic disease diagnoses from the participants. Previous research has found that non-restorative sleep is common among certain conditions, such as depression (Müller et al., 2017) and fibromyalgia (Azad et al., 2000), but no research to our knowledge has examined *restorative sleep* and chronic conditions. It is important to note that the present study did not measure sleep disorders other than insomnia such as obstructive sleep apnea. Future research may examine comorbid conditions and/or sleep disorders and restorative sleep as measured by the REST-Q. Second, we were not able to dictate time of day of survey administration. Future research may explore the issue of timing of delivery of the REST-Q. For instance, researchers may administer the REST-Q at several post-sleep intervals (e.g., 2, then 4, then 6 hours after waking) to explore how feelings of restoration change over the day, and perhaps identify the optimal time for administration of the REST-Q tool. Third, we did not measure chronotype, which refers to the timing of the internal circadian clock relative to light-dark cycles in one's external environment (Aschoff, 1965). Research has demonstrated evening chronotypes underperform in the morning hours compared to their morning chronotype counterparts (Ritchie et al., 2017). Future research may explore how time of day and chronotype matter for REST-Q responses. Fourth, it is also a limitation that the present study did not administer the REST-Q at different points in time, which precluded determination of test-retest reliability of the assessment tool. Future researchers may evaluate the REST-Q in a prospective study to examine how restorative sleep evolves over time and relates to daytime behaviors in addition to sleep. Future research may also undertake additional psychometric analyses with the REST-Q, such as qualitative research with patients to get input on the face validity of the REST-Q. Finally, it is a limitation in the present study that the scored REST-Q responses are categorized as “low,” “somewhat,” or “high” based on the corresponding scale value (e.g., a score of 50 corresponded to an average response of “somewhat” to the questions on the REST-Q). Future research may test the REST-Q categories against additional criteria, such as actigraphy-derived sleep efficiency.

In summary, our study convened a panel of expert sleep medicine specialists and sleep scientists to develop a consensus definition and derive a new measure of restorative sleep. We administered the REST-Q to a nationally representative sample, finding fewer than one third of US adults reported restorative sleep as assessed by this new measure. We identified demographic predictors of restorative sleep as measured by the REST-Q, namely

age, marital status, employment status, household type, and household size as significant predictors of restorative sleep. Taken together, these findings suggest there is work to do to improve our population sleep health.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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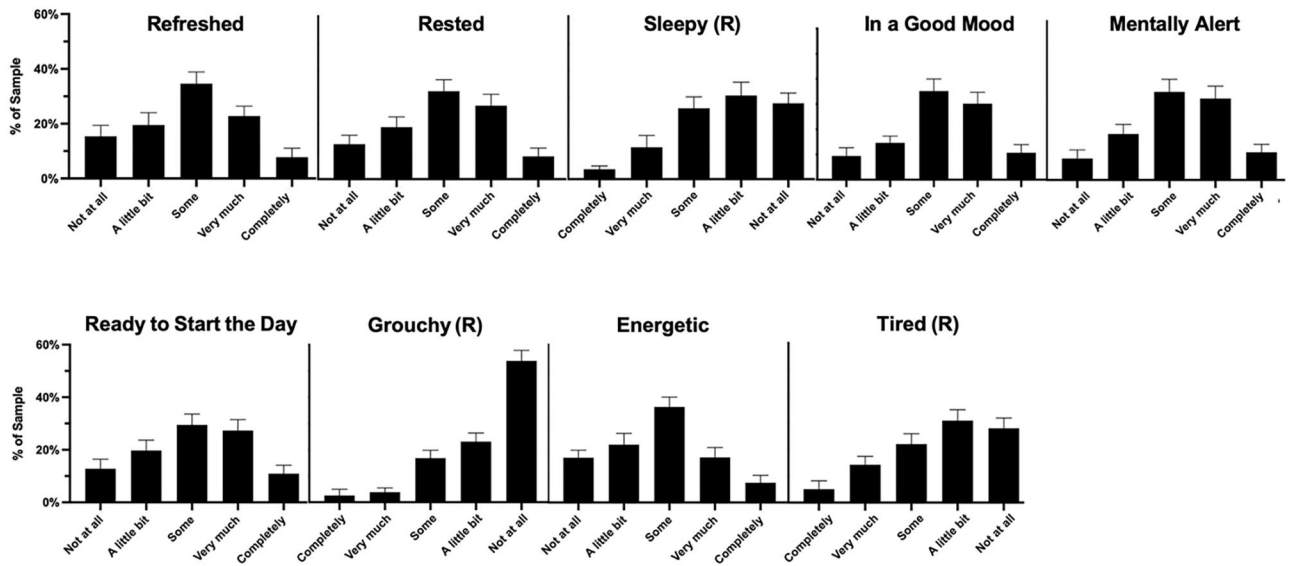
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Restorative sleep is the aspect of sleep associated with improved subjective alertness, cognitive function, mood, energy, and/or wellbeing relative to the immediate pre-sleep period. The degree to which these aspects of daytime function show more or less improvement depends on the population being studied (e.g. insomnia or fibromyalgia patients).

**Figure 1. Definition of restorative sleep from the panel of expert sleep medicine physicians and researchers.**



**Figure 2. Descriptive statistics summarizing responses to the 9 questions which comprise the Restorative Sleep Questionnaire (REST-Q).**  
 Each question featured the stem “For each of the following items, please tell me to what degree you felt each of the below when you woke up today, compared to before you went to sleep. Last night’s sleep left me feeling...”

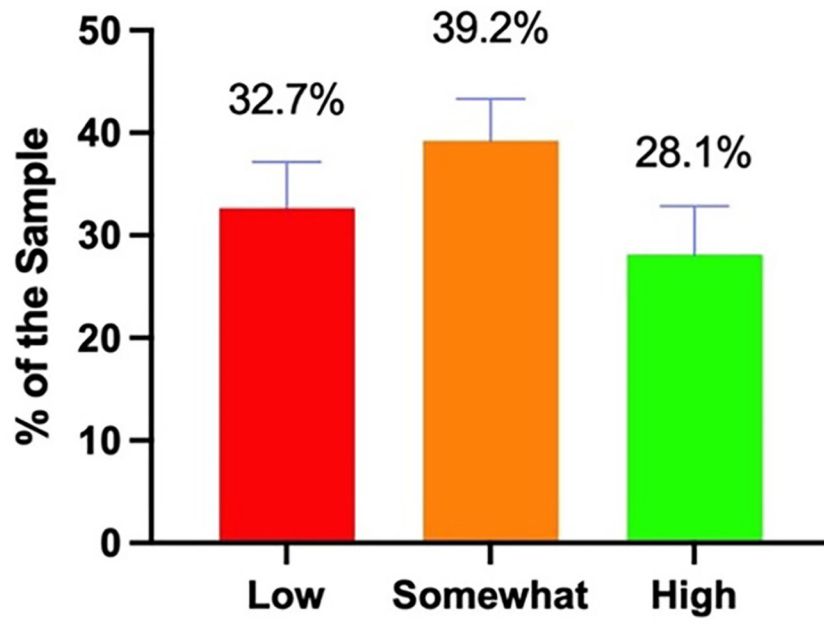


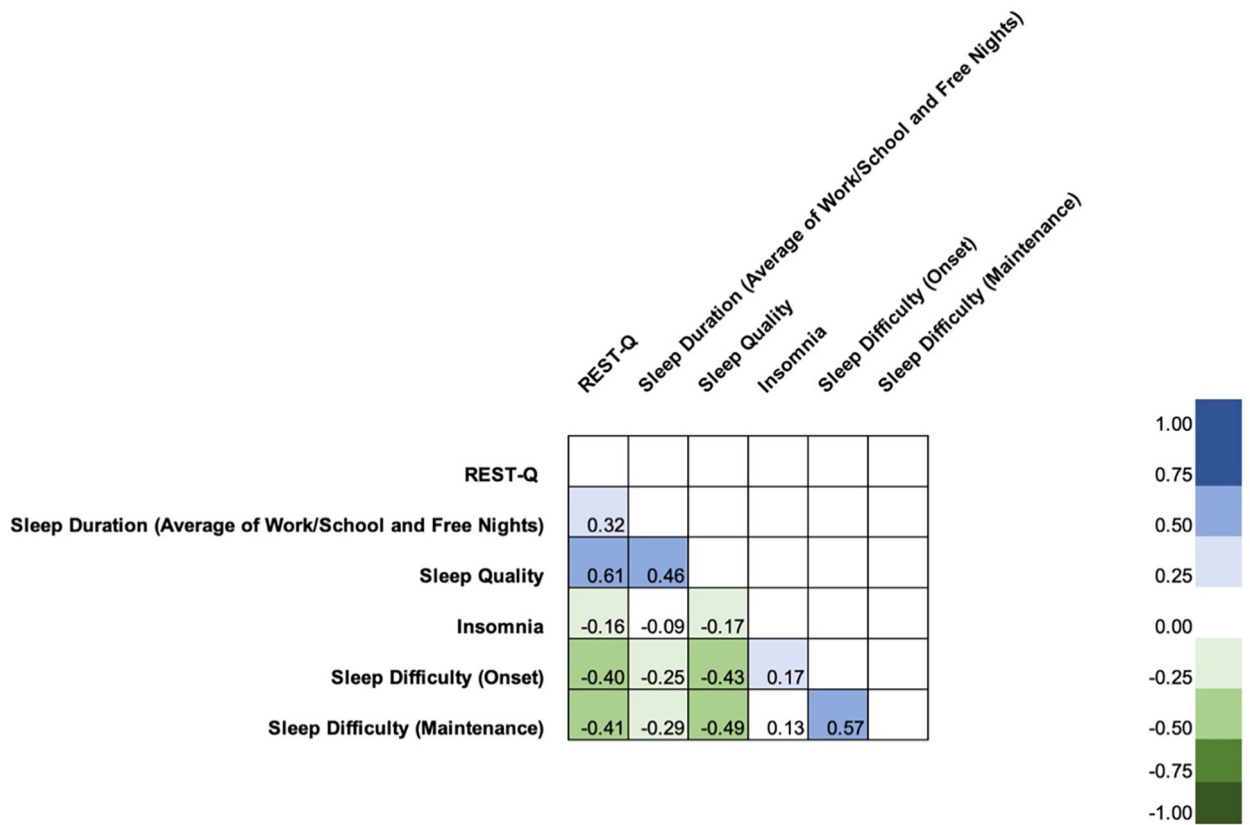
Figure 3. Prevalence of low, somewhat, and high REST-Q scores in a nationally representative sample of US adults.

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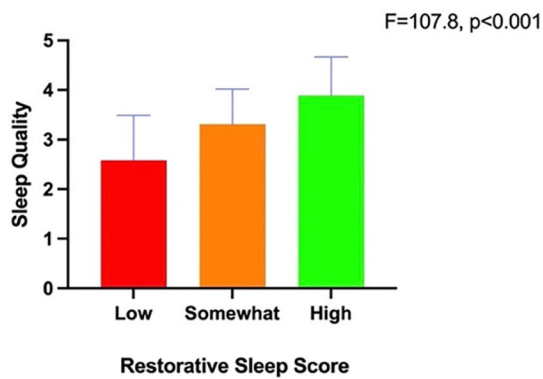
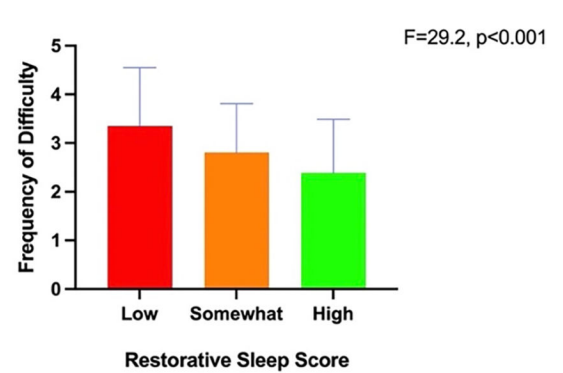
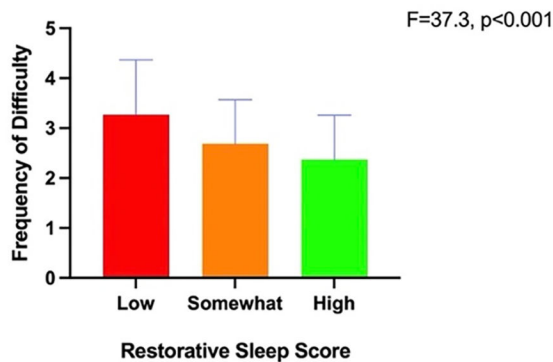
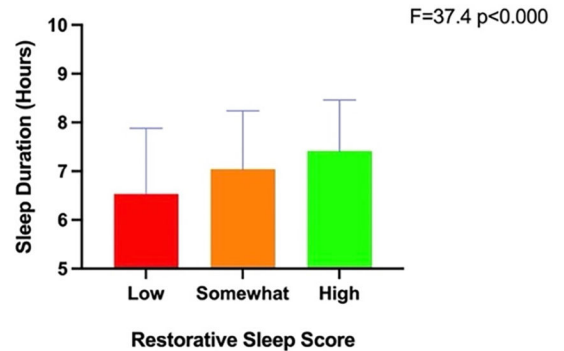
**Figure 4. Pairwise correlation matrix of REST-Q responses (on the 100-point scale) and sleep duration, sleep quality, insomnia, and sleep difficulties (onset and maintenance).**

The REST-Q scores used in the correlation analyses are the 100-point scores that have not yet been scored to the “low,” “somewhat,” and “high” categories.

Color indicates the magnitude and direction of the correlation. Bright green indicates a strong, negative correlation and light green indicates a weak, negative correlation. Bright blue indicates a strong, positive correlation and light blue indicates a weak, positive correlation.

The sleep duration variable displayed is the weighted weekly average sleep duration, with 55/7<sup>th</sup> weight assigned to the reported sleep duration on work/school nights and 2/7<sup>th</sup> weight assigned to the reported sleep duration on free nights.



**A. Mean Sleep Quality Responses by REST-Q Score****B. Mean Responses to Difficulty Initiating Sleep by REST-Q Score****C. Mean Responses to Difficulty Maintaining Sleep by REST-Q Score****D. Mean Sleep Duration (Weighted Weekly Average) by REST-Q Score**

**Figure 5. Mean responses regarding sleep quality (Panel A), difficulty initiating sleep (Panel B), difficulty maintaining sleep (Panel C), weighted average of week/school and free night sleep duration (Panel D) by REST-Q scores (low, somewhat, high).**

The sleep duration variable used in the ANOVA displayed in Panel D is the weighted weekly average sleep duration, with 5/7<sup>th</sup> weight assigned to the reported sleep duration on work/school nights and 2/7<sup>th</sup> weight assigned to the reported sleep duration on free nights.

**Table 1**

Demographic characteristics of the sample by Restorative Sleep Questionnaire (REST-Q) score.

		REST-Q Score												Chi Square	P- Value
		Low n=340			Somewhat n=435			High n=280			Total n=1,055				
		N <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>A</sup>	% <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>A</sup>	% <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>A</sup>	% <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>A</sup>	% <sup>w</sup>		
<b>Gender</b>	Male	156	159	31%	223	243	44%	131	149	26%	510	551	48%	2.8	0.070
	Female	189	181	35%	190	192	35%	166	131	30%	545	504	52%		
<b>Age</b>	18–29	94	68	45%	80	56	38%	35	21	17%	209	145	20%	<b>8.0</b>	<b>0.000</b>
	30–44	111	128	40%	120	142	43%	48	52	17%	279	322	26%		
	45–59	85	76	35%	95	85	39%	66	58	27%	246	219	23%		
	60+	54	68	17%	119	152	37%	148	149	46%	321	369	30%		
<b>Race/ Ethnicity</b>	White, non- Hispanic	223	220	34%	243	272	37%	195	198	30%	661	690	63%	0.7	0.681
	Black, non- Hispanic	37	39	29%	55	61	43%	34	34	27%	126	134	12%		
	Other, non- Hispanic	3	5	55%	1	3	13%	2	3	31%	6	11	1%		
	Hispanic	55	52	31%	81	65	46%	40	32	23%	176	149	17%		
	More than one	11	17	50%	7	14	29%	5	4	21%	23	35	2%		
	Asian, non- Hispanic	16	7	26%	28	20	43%	20	9	31%	64	36	6%		
<b>Education</b>	Less than HS	23	10	25%	38	12	40%	33	10	35%	95	32	9%	1.9	0.092
	HS graduate or equivalent	132	74	44%	102	66	34%	68	42	22%	303	182	29%		
	Some college/ associates	97	154	34%	119	189	42%	70	109	24%	286	452	27%		
	Bachelor's degree	56	59	26%	95	107	43%	68	64	31%	220	230	21%		
	Grad/ professional degree	36	43	24%	59	61	39%	58	55	38%	152	159	14%		
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married	150	150	29%	212	232	41%	151	158	29%	514	540	49%	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.037</b>
	Widowed	6	7	17%	12	15	33%	17	14	49%	35	36	3%		
	Divorced	30	33	28%	35	37	32%	43	33	40%	107	103	10%		
	Separated	16	13	31%	22	22	41%	15	15	28%	52	50	5%		
	Never married	112	108	39%	118	105	41%	58	42	20%	288	255	27%		
	Living with partner	30	29	51%	16	24	27%	13	18	22%	59	71	6%		
<b>Employment</b>	Working (paid employee)	176	196	33%	203	223	38%	151	145	29%	530	564	50%	<b>3.1</b>	<b>0.001</b>
	Working (self)	19	24	34%	23	32	42%	13	15	24%	55	71	5%		
	Not working (e.g., layoff)	10	8	69%	2	5	15%	2	3	16%	15	16	1%		
	Not working (looking)	45	27	49%	36	32	39%	11	7	12%	92	66	9%		

		REST-Q Score												Chi Square	P- Value
		Low n=340			Somewhat n=435			High n=280			Total n=1,055				
		N <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>A</sup>	% <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>A</sup>	% <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>A</sup>	% <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>w</sup>	N <sup>A</sup>	% <sup>w</sup>		
	Not working (retired)	30	29	15%	81	89	40%	90	86	45%	201	204	19%		
	Not working (disabled)	38	31	46%	25	25	30%	19	13	23%	82	69	8%		
	Not working (other)	26	25	33%	44	29	55%	10	11	13%	80	65	8%		
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$30,000	104	103	35%	123	106	42%	68	53	23%	296	262	28%	0.8	0.572
	\$30,000 to under \$60,000	90	91	33%	101	121	38%	78	79	29%	269	291	25%		
	\$60,000 to under \$100,000	90	85	34%	97	109	36%	79	85	30%	267	279	25%		
	\$100,000 or more	60	61	27%	93	99	42%	63	70.8	28%	224	223	21%		
<b>Urban v. Rural</b>	Non-Urban Area	76	63	42%	56	65	31%	47	48	26%	180	176	17%	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.024</b>
	Urban Area	269	277	31%	358	370	41%	249	232	28%	876	879	83%		
<b>Internet Access</b>	No home access	49	43	36%	53	55	39%	35	33	25%	137	131	13%	0.3	0.737
	Home internet access	296	297	32%	361	380	39%	262	247	29%	918	924	87%		
<b>Home Ownership</b>	Owned	226	188	32%	253	257	36%	218	192	31%	697	637	66%	2.3	0.065
	Rented for cash	111	142	34%	144	159	44%	75	84	23%	329	385	31%		
	Occupied without payment	8	10	28%	17	19	59%	4	4	13%	29	33	3%		
<b>Household Size</b>	I live by myself	40	52	23%	71	80	40%	67	65	37%	177	197	17%	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0.009</b>
	2 persons	103	107	29%	125	145	35%	128	131	36%	356	383	34%		
	3 persons	58	57	40%	55	65	37%	34	32	23%	147	154	14%		
	4 persons	52	54	35%	69	70	46%	28	29	19%	149	153	14%		
	5 persons	33	35	38%	47	34	53%	8	8	9%	88	77	8%		
	+6 persons	59	35	43%	48	41	35%	31	15	23%	138	91	13%		

Notes.

Bold indicates significance at the p<0.05 level.

<sup>w</sup> Represents weighted estimates.

<sup>A</sup> Represents unweighted/actual estimates.