

# Perceived Stress Scale

The questions in this scale ask you about your feelings and thoughts **during the last month**. In each case, you will be asked to indicate by circling *how often* you felt or thought a certain way.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (Circle): **M** **F** Other \_\_\_\_\_

**0 = Never    1 = Almost Never    2 = Sometimes    3 = Fairly Often    4 = Very Often**

- |  |          |          |          |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. In the last month, how often have you been upset because of something that happened unexpectedly?.....                  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| 2. In the last month, how often have you felt that you were unable to control the important things in your life? .....     | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| 3. In the last month, how often have you felt nervous and "stressed"? .....  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| 4. In the last month, how often have you felt confident about your ability to handle your personal problems? .....         | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| 5. In the last month, how often have you felt that things were going your way?.....  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| 6. In the last month, how often have you found that you could not cope with all the things that you had to do? .....       | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| 7. In the last month, how often have you been able to control irritations in your life?.....                               | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| 8. In the last month, how often have you felt that you were on top of things?  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| 9. In the last month, how often have you been angered because of things that were outside of your control?.....            | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |
| 10. In the last month, how often have you felt difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them? ..... | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> |

Please feel free to use the *Perceived Stress Scale* for your research.

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## References

The PSS Scale is reprinted with permission of the American Sociological Association, from Cohen, S., Kamarck, T., and Mermelstein, R. (1983). A global measure of perceived stress. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 24, 386-396.  
 Cohen, S. and Williamson, G. Perceived Stress in a Probability Sample of the United States. Spacapan, S. and Oskamp, S. (Eds.) *The Social Psychology of Health*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1988.