

Perceived Discrimination Scale

This survey accompanies a measure in the SPARQTools.org [Measuring Mobility toolkit](#), which provides practitioners curated instruments for assessing mobility from poverty and tools for selecting the most appropriate measures for their programs.

Age: Adult

Duration: 3-5 minutes

Reading Level: 6th to 8th grade

Number of items: 20

Answer Format: This survey uses multiple answer formats. Please see the scoring instructions below for more information.

Scoring:

The Lifetime Discrimination subscale items are Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8, Q9, Q10, and Q11. The answer format for these items is fill in the blank. The Daily Discrimination subscale items are Q12, Q13, Q14, Q15, Q16, Q17, Q18, Q19, and Q20. The answer format for these items is: 1 = often, 2 = sometimes, 3 = rarely, 4 = never.

Lifetime Discrimination: To calculate the score for this subscale, sum the number of items to which the respondent answered that it occurred one or more times.

Daily Discrimination:

Q12, Q13, Q14, Q15, Q16, Q17, Q18, Q19, and Q20 should be reverse-scored. Reverse-scored items are worded in the opposite direction of what the scale is measuring. The formula for reverse-scoring an item is:

$$((\text{Number of scale points}) + 1) - (\text{Respondent's answer})$$

For example, Q12 is a 4-point scale. If a respondent answered 2 on Q12, you would re-code their answer as: $(4 + 1) - 2 = 3$.

In other words, you would enter a 3 for this respondents' answer to Q12.

To calculate the score for this subscale, sum all responses for a score ranging from 0 to 36.

Sources:

Williams, D. R., YU, Y., Jackson, J. S., & Anderson, N. B. (1997). Racial differences in physical and mental health: Socioeconomic status, stress and discrimination. *Journal of Health Psychology, 2*, 335-351.

Instructions: How many times in your life have you been discriminated against in each of the following ways because of such things as your race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or other characteristics? Write the number of times each event occurred next to each statement for questions 1-11 and circle your response for questions 12-20.

1. You were discouraged by a teacher or advisor from seeking higher education. _____
2. You were denied a scholarship. _____
3. You were not hired for a job. _____
4. You were not given a promotion. _____
5. You were fired. _____
6. You were prevented from renting or buying a home in the neighborhood you wanted. _____
7. You were prevented from remaining in a neighborhood because neighbors made life so uncomfortable. _____
8. You were hassled by the police. _____
9. You were denied a bank loan. _____
10. You were denied or provided inferior medical care. _____
11. You were denied or provided inferior service by a plumber, car mechanic, or other service provider. _____
12. You are treated with less courtesy than other people.

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

13. You are treated with less respect than other people.

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

14. You receive poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores.

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

15. People act as if they think you are not smart.

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

16. People act as if they are afraid of you.

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

17. People act as if they think you are dishonest.

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

18. People act as if they think you are not as good as they are.

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

19. You are called names or insulted.

Often Sometimes Rarely Never

20. You are threatened or harassed.

Often Sometimes Rarely Never