INFORMATION SHEET FOR NON-MEDICAL RESEARCH

Improving Psychological Measurement

We are researchers in the Department of Psychology at the University of Southern California conducting a survey to compare different ways of asking people about their personality, feelings, and life events. This research study is conducted independently by Drs. Margaret Gatz, Andrew Petkus, Christopher Beam, along with undergraduate research assistants Sagarika Arogyaswamy, Nicole Greenberg, Cody Kaneshiro, Jenny Kjellgren, and Katherine Marcus, and funded by the National Institutes of Health. Participation is voluntary; you must be aged 30 or older to participate.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete one or two surveys that will take approximately 15 minutes each. Each survey consists of about 80-100 yes/no and multiple choice questions about how you have felt recently, what events have happened in your life in the past year, and how self-reliant you are; 6 brief vocabulary items; and several pieces of demographic information, such as your age, level of education, and marital status. The information you provide will be anonymous. All data will be summarized and no individual could be identified from these summarized results. We will not collect any information that could potentially enable us to identify you.

If you take the surveys online, you will receive feedback on how your scores compare with others. If you take the surveys on paper and provide an address, we can mail feedback; however, the research team member scoring the survey will then have access to whatever address information that you provide.

The members of the research team, the funding agency and the University of Southern California’s Human Subjects Protection Program (HSPP) may access the data. The HSPP reviews and monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research subjects.

INVESTIGATOR CONTACT INFORMATION
Andrew Petkus, Ph.D., petkus@usc.edu or Margaret Gatz, Ph.D., gatz@usc.edu or (213) 740-2212.

IRB CONTACT INFORMATION
If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about your rights as a research participant or the research in general and are unable to contact the research team, or if you want to talk to someone independent of the research team, please contact the University Park Institutional Review Board (UPIRB), 3720 South Flower Street #301, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0702, (213) 821-5272 or upirb@usc.edu

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