Subjective Numeracy Scale (SNS)

The Subjective Numeracy Scale (SNS) is a self-report measure of perceived ability to perform various mathematical tasks and preference for the use of numerical versus prose information. The 8-item scale contains no mathematics questions and has no correct or incorrect answers. Instead, it consists of 4 questions asking respondents to assess their numerical ability in different contexts and 4 questions asking them to state their preferences for the presentation of numerical and probabilistic information. The SNS is both reliable and highly correlated with the Lipkus, Samsa & Rimer (2001) numeracy measure, and it has been validated in both risk communication and utility elicitation domains.

Scoring Instructions:
All questions scored as marked (1-6) except Question 7 which is reverse coded (6-1).

SNS: Average rating across all 8 questions (w/ Q7 reverse coded)
SNS ability subscale: Average rating on Questions 1-4
SNS preference subscale: Average rating on Questions 5-8 (w/ Q7 reverse coded)

To cite the scale, please use the following reference:

In any discussions about the validation of the scale, please use the following reference:
For each of the following questions, please check the box that best reflects how good you are at doing the following things:

1. How good are you at working with fractions?
   
   Not at all good

   Extremely good

2. How good are you at working with percentages?
   
   Not at all good

   Extremely good

3. How good are you at calculating a 15% tip?
   
   Not at all good

   Extremely good

4. How good are you at figuring out how much a shirt will cost if it is 25% off?
   
   Not at all good

   Extremely good

For each of the following questions, please check the box that best reflects your answer:

5. When reading the newspaper, how helpful do you find tables and graphs that are parts of a story?
   
   Not at all helpful

   Extremely helpful

6. When people tell you the chance of something happening, do you prefer that they use words ("it rarely happens") or numbers ("there's a 1% chance")?
   
   Always Prefer Words

   Always Prefer Numbers

7. When you hear a weather forecast, do you prefer predictions using percentages (e.g., “there will be a 20% chance of rain today”) or predictions using only words (e.g., “there is a small chance of rain today”)?
   
   Always Prefer Percentages

   Always Prefer Words

8. How often do you find numerical information to be useful?
   
   Never

   Very Often