## 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:

Fagerlin, A., Zikmund-Fisher, B.J., Ubel, P.A., Jankovic, A., Derry, H.A., & Smith, D.M. Measuring numeracy without a math test: Development of the Subjective Numeracy Scale (SNS). *Medical Decision Making*, 2007: 27: 672-680.

### In any discussions about the validation of the scale, please use the following reference:

Zikmund-Fisher, B.J., Smith, D.M., Ubel, P.A., Fagerlin, A. Validation of the subjective numeracy scale (SNS): Effects of low numeracy on comprehension of risk communications and utility elicitations. *Medical Decision Making*, 2007: 27: 663-671.

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?

   □₁          □₂          □₃          □₄          □₅          □₆

   **Not at all                                    Extremely
   good                                              good**

2. How good are you at working with percentages?

   □₁          □₂          □₃          □₄          □₅          □₆

   **Not at all                                    Extremely
   good                                              good**

3. How good are you at calculating a 15% tip?

   □₁          □₂          □₃          □₄          □₅          □₆

   **Not at all                                    Extremely
   good                                              good**

4. How good are you at figuring out how much a shirt will cost if it is 25% off?

   □₁          □₂          □₃          □₄          □₅          □₆

   **Not at all                                    Extremely
   good                                              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?

   □₁          □₂          □₃          □₄          □₅          □₆

   **Not at all                                    Extremely
   helpful                                          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")?

   □₁          □₂          □₃          □₄          □₅          □₆

   **Always Prefer                                Always Prefer
   Words                                            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")?

   □₁          □₂          □₃          □₄          □₅          □₆

   **Always Prefer                                Always Prefer
   Percentages                                      Words**

8. How **often** do you find numerical information to be useful?

   □₁          □₂          □₃          □₄          □₅          □₆

   **Never                                          Very Often**