



Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS): AN INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the Devereux Adult Resilience Survey!

Authored by Mary Mackrain, the DARS is a 23-item reflective checklist that provides adults with information about their personal strengths. The information can be used to help individuals build on these strengths, such as creativity and setting limits, so that they can better cope with adversity and the stresses of daily life.

Statistical analysis shows that the DARS is an excellent tool for providing adults with an opportunity to gain valuable insights, particularly in these four areas:

- **Relationships**
 - The mutual, long-lasting, back-and-forth bond we have with another person in our lives.
- **Internal Beliefs**
 - The feelings and thoughts we have about ourselves and our lives, and how effective we think we are at taking action in life.
- **Initiative**
 - The ability to make positive choices and decisions, and act upon them.
- **Self-Control**
 - The ability to experience a range of feelings, and express them using the words and actions society considers appropriate.

The purpose of the DARS is not to compare individuals' scores to the population, but to give adults, more specifically those caring for young children, the opportunity to become aware of personal strengths and areas of need. Upon completion of the Devereux Adult Resilience Survey, individuals are encouraged to use the *Building Your Bounce: Simple Strategies for a Resilient You* adult resilience journal. This journal provides suggested strategies for strengthening adults' protective factors shown to support resilience.

It takes a fair amount of reflection and practice to change any negative thoughts we might have and to integrate new behaviors that are good for us. You are worth it! Even if you are already a strong, happy person, you will want to continue building yourself up to maintain or increase your level of well-being.

Best wishes on your personal journey!

Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS)

By Mary Mackrain, M.Ed.

This survey was created to support adults as they reflect on how to promote the capacity for resilience in themselves. Take time to reflect on and complete each item on the survey below. There are no right answers! Once you have finished, reflect on your strengths and then start small and plan for one or two things that you feel are important to improve. For fun and practical ideas on how to strengthen your protective factors, use the chapters of *Building Your Bounce: Simple Strategies for a Resilient You*.

Items	Almost Always	Sometimes	Not Yet
Relationships			
1. I have good friends who support me.			
2. I have a mentor or someone who shows me the way.			
3. I provide support to others.			
4. I am empathetic to others.			
5. I trust my close friends.			
Internal Beliefs			
1. My role as a caregiver is important.			
2. I have personal strengths.			
3. I am creative.			
4. I have strong beliefs.			
5. I am hopeful about the future.			
6. I am lovable.			
Initiative			
1. I communicate effectively with those around me.			
2. I try many different ways to solve a problem.			
3. I have a hobby that I engage in.			
4. I seek out new knowledge.			
5. I am open to new ideas.			
6. I laugh often.			
7. I am able to say no.			
8. I can ask for help.			
Self-Control			
1. I express my emotions.			
2. I set limits for myself.			
3. I am flexible.			
4. I can calm myself down.			

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Examples and Reflection

Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS)

Please use the extra space provided to further reflect on examples for each DARS item.

Relationships	EXAMPLES
1. I have good friends who support me.	
2. I have a mentor or someone who shows me the way.	
3. I provide support to others.	
4. I am empathetic to others.	
5. I trust my close friends.	
Internal Beliefs	EXAMPLES
1. My role as a caregiver is important.	
2. I have personal strengths.	
3. I am creative.	
4. I have strong beliefs.	
5. I am hopeful about the future.	
6. I am lovable.	
Initiative	EXAMPLES
1. I communicate effectively with those around me.	
2. I try many different ways to solve a problem.	
3. I have a hobby that I engage in.	
4. I seek out new knowledge.	
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Self-Control	EXAMPLES
1. I express my emotions.	
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Action Plan

Once you have completed the survey, reflect on your strengths and identify some goals. Make a simple plan, with specific action steps, for one or two items that you feel are important to improve. Regularly check in on your progress and then revisit the DARS.

Strengths

Highlight some of your almost always responses here. Recognize and celebrate the ways that you are already being resilient.

Goals

Review your DARS responses and decide on the one or two goals you would like to set. Your goals can be items under the category of "Sometimes" or "Not Yet" that you would like to strengthen.

Strategies

Decide on strategies that can help you meet your goals. Feel free to identify strategies from various sources.

Life Change Index Scale (The Stress Test)

Event	Impact Score	My Score
Death of spouse	100	
Divorce	73	
Marital Separation	65	
Jail Term	63	
Death of close family member	63	
Personal injury or illness	53	
Marriage	50	
Fired at work	47	
Marital reconciliation	45	
Retirement	45	
Change in health of family member	44	
Pregnancy	40	
Sex difficulties	39	
Gain of a new family member	39	
Business readjustment	39	
Change in financial state	38	
Death of a close friend	37	
Change to a different line of work	36	
Change in number of arguments with spouse	35	
Mortgage over \$20,000	31	
Foreclosure of mortgage or loan	30	
Change in responsibilities at work	29	
Son or daughter leaving home	29	
Trouble with in laws	29	
Outstanding personal achievement	28	
Spouse begins or stop work	26	
Begin or end school	26	
Change in living conditions	25	
Revisions of personal habits	24	
Trouble with boss	23	
Change in work hours or conditions	20	
Change in residence	20	
Change in schools	20	
Change in recreations	19	
Change in church activities	19	
Change in social activities	19	
Mortgage or loan less than \$20,000	17	
Change in sleeping habits	16	
Change in number of family get-togethers	15	
Change in eating habits	15	
Vacation	13	
Christmas approaching	12	
Minor violation of the law	11	
Total		

Directions If an event mentioned above has occurred in the past year, or is expected in the near future, copy the number in the score column. If the event has occurred or is expected to occur more than once, multiply this number by the frequency of the event.

Scoring The Life Change Index

The body is a finely timed instrument that does not like surprises. Any sudden change stimuli which affects the body, or the reordering of important routines that the body become used to, can cause needless stress, throwing your whole physical being into turmoil.

The following chart will give you some idea of how to informally score yourself on Social Readjustment Scale. Since being healthy is the optimum state you want to achieve, being sick is the state of being you most want to avoid.

Life Change Units

300+

150-299

less than 150

Likelihood Of Illness In Near Future

about 80 percent

about 50 percent

about 30 percent

The higher your life change score, the harder you have to work to get yourself back into a state of good health.

T.H.Holmes and T.H. Rahe. "The Social Readjustment Rating Scale," Journal of Psychosomatic Research. 11:213, 1967.



To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Kristin Neff grants permission to use the Self-Compassion Scale (Neff, 2003) for any purpose whatsoever, including research, clinical work, teaching, etc. Please cite:

Neff, K. D. (2003). Development and validation of a scale to measure self-compassion. *Self and Identity*, 2, 223-250.

Permission is also given to translate the Self-Compassion Scale using the analytic approach to validate the factor structure that was established in:

Neff, K. D., Tóth-Király, I., Yarnell, L., Arimitsu, K., Castilho, P., Ghorbani, N.,... Mantios, M. (2019). Examining the Factor Structure of the Self-Compassion Scale using exploratory SEM bifactor analysis in 20 diverse samples: Support for use of a total score and six subscale scores. *Psychological Assessment*, 31 (1), 27-45.

Best wishes,

Kristin Neff, PhD

Self-Compassion Scale (SCS)

HOW I TYPICALLY ACT TOWARDS MYSELF IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Please read each statement carefully before answering. For each item, indicate how often you behave in the stated manner, using the following 1-5 scale. Please answer according to what really reflects your experience rather than what you think your experience should be.

**Almost
never**

1

2

3

4

**Almost
always**

5

1. I'm disapproving and judgmental about my own flaws and inadequacies.
2. When I'm feeling down I tend to obsess and fixate on everything that's wrong.
3. When things are going badly for me, I see the difficulties as part of life that everyone goes through.
4. When I think about my inadequacies, it tends to make me feel more separate and cut off from the rest of the world.
5. I try to be loving towards myself when I'm feeling emotional pain.
6. When I fail at something important to me I become consumed by feelings of inadequacy.
7. When I'm down, I remind myself that there are lots of other people in the world feeling like I am.
8. When times are really difficult, I tend to be tough on myself.
9. When something upsets me I try to keep my emotions in balance.
10. When I feel inadequate in some way, I try to remind myself that feelings of inadequacy are shared by most people.
11. I'm intolerant and impatient towards those aspects of my personality I don't like.
12. When I'm going through a very hard time, I give myself the caring and tenderness I need.
13. When I'm feeling down, I tend to feel like most other people are probably happier than I am.
14. When something painful happens I try to take a balanced view of the situation.
15. I try to see my failings as part of the human condition
16. When I see aspects of myself that I don't like, I get down on myself.
17. When I fail at something important to me I try to keep things in perspective.
18. When I'm really struggling, I tend to feel like other people must be having an easier time of it.
19. I'm kind to myself when I'm experiencing suffering.
20. When something upsets me I get carried away with my feelings.
21. I can be a bit cold-hearted towards myself when I'm experiencing suffering.
22. When I'm feeling down I try to approach my feelings with curiosity and openness.
23. I'm tolerant of my own flaws and inadequacies.
24. When something painful happens I tend to blow the incident out of proportion.
25. When I fail at something that's important to me, I tend to feel alone in my failure.
26. I try to be understanding and patient towards those aspects of my personality I don't like.

Reference

[Neff, K. D. \(2003\). Development and validation of a scale to measure self-compassion. *Self and Identity*, 2, 223-250.](#)

SCORING KEY

Self-Kindness Items: 5, 12, 19, 23, 26

Self-Judgment Items (reverse scored): 1, 8, 11, 16, 21

Common Humanity Items: 3, 7, 10, 15

Isolation Items (reverse scored): 4, 13, 18, 25

Mindfulness Items: 9, 14, 17, 22

Over-identification Items (reverse scored): 2, 6, 20, 24

To reverse score items (1=5, 2=4, 3=3, 4=2, 5=1).

To compute a total self-compassion score, first reverse score the negative subscale items - self-judgment, isolation, and over-identification. Then take the mean of each subscale, and compute a total mean (the average of the six subscale means).

When examining subscale scores, higher scores on the self-judgment, isolation and over-identification scale indicate *less* self-compassion before reverse-coding, and *more* self-compassion after reverse coding. You can choose to report subscale scores with or without reverse-coding, but these three negative subscales must be reverse coded before calculating a total self-compassion score.

Note that the scoring procedures are slightly different than that used in the original scale article (Neff, 2003), in which items were totaled rather than averaged. However, it is easier to interpret the scores of the total mean is used and most researchers currently report total SCS scores on a five-point scale.

NORMS AND SCORE SIGNIFICANCE

There are no clinical norms or scores which indicate that an individual is high or low in self-compassion. Rather, SCS scores are mainly used in a comparative manner to examine outcomes for people scoring higher or lower in self-compassion.

As an ad hoc rubric, however, you can consider scores 1.0-2.49 to be low, between 2.5-3.5 to be moderate, and 3.51-5.0 to be high. When trying to determine whether self-compassion levels are high or low relevant to a particular sample, some researchers use a median split.

SCALE DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDITY

The SCS was developed in a sample of college undergraduates (Neff, 2003a). After identifying 71 items that were easily understood by students using a small pilot sample ($n=68$), exploratory factor analyses (EFA) were used with a larger sample ($n=391$) to identify 26 items that loaded best on separate subscales representing the six components of self-compassion. Confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) were used to provide support that scale items fit as intended with the proposed a priori theoretical model. An initial CFA found a marginal fit to a higher-order model representing a global factor of self-compassion and six subscale factors. Cross validation using CFA in a second sample ($N=232$) found adequate fit for a higher-order model. Total SCS scores evidenced good internal reliability (Cronbach's $\alpha = .92$), as did the six subscales (Cronbach's α ranging from .75 to .81). Test-retest reliability over a three-week interval was also good for the total score (Cronbach's $\alpha = .93$) and six subscale scores (with Cronbach's α ranging from .80 to .88).

More recently, bifactor Exploratory Structural Equation Modeling (ESEM) has been used to verify the factor structure of the SCS rather than a higher order model, as it is more theoretically appropriate. [Neff et al. \(2019\)](#) used bifactor ESEM to examine the factor structure of the SCS in 20 diverse samples ($N = 11,685$), and excellent fit was found for a model of one general factor of self-compassion and six specific subscale factors. Moreover, 95% of the reliable variance could be attributed to a general factor. Although there has been debate over whether or not the SCS should be used as a total score or as separate positive and negative scores, empirical evidence tends to support the use of a total score rather than two separate scores ([Neff, 2018](#); [Neff, 2020](#)). The factor structure of the SCS has also been found to be culturally invariant across 18 international samples ([Tóth-Király & Neff, 2020](#)).

For an in-depth discussion of the psychometric properties of the SCS, see [Neff and Tóth-Király \(in press\)](#).

ANALYTIC APPROACH FOR VALIDATION AND TRANSLATION

In order to validate the factor structure of the scale (including for translations) we strongly recommend the use of bifactor ESEM, as this is the most appropriate method to assess the operation of self-compassion components as a system. Information on this analytic method can be found in ([Neff et al., 2019](#)). Moreover, appropriate syntax for how to conduct these analyses for the SCS using Mplus can be found in the online supplement to that article and also [here](#).

Many translations of the SCS already exist can be found [here](#). You are free to create a new translation of the SCS, but we ask that you use bifactor ESEM to validate the scale structure since it is most appropriate.