

Social Support Questionnaire

Name: _____ Date: _____

Social support is defined as having a network of people that support your endeavors, contribute positively to your decision-making processes, and are there for you when you need help. Scientists have suggested that people with this kind of network around them can transcend even the worst environments and accomplish great things. Unfortunately, people who don't have this type of network have a harder time accomplishing even modest goals. Remember this: who you are today and who you become in the future has a lot to do with whom you choose to spend your time.

The following questions are designed to assess your level of social support, which strongly influences how well you follow any nutrition or exercise program. Simply answer the questions below by selecting the response most appropriate to your situation. Once you've completed all the questions, your score will be calculated. And remember, be honest. You're doing this exercise to find the areas of your life that might present challenges to your progress.

A word of caution: once you recognize your challenges it's easy to blame them for your outcomes. Don't do this. Outside factors can affect you – if you let them. But you're in control. You have the power to place yourself in the right environment, so use it!

SOCIAL SUPPORT QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONS:

RESPONSES AND SCORING

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| 1. Do the people with whom you spend each day (at work or at home) follow healthy lifestyle habits such as exercising regularly, watching what they eat, and taking nutritional supplements? | a) Yes, most of them do. (+3)
b) About half do and half don't. (0)
c) No, most of them don't. (-3) |
| 2. Does your spouse or partner follow healthy lifestyle habits such as exercising regularly, watching what s/he eats, and taking nutritional supplements? | a) Yes, my spouse/partner does. (+5)
b) No, my spouse/partner doesn't. (-5)
c) I don't have a spouse or partner. (0) |
| 3. When you want to perform some physical activity such as going for a workout or taking a hike, is it easy for you to find a partner to go with you? | a) Yes, it's easy to find a partner. (+2)
b) Yes, but very infrequently. (0)
c) No, they never do. (-4) |
| 4. At your workplace, do your coworkers regularly bring in treats like cookies, donuts, and other snacks? | a) Yes, they often do. (-4)
b) Yes, but I typically don't indulge (0)
c) No, they don't (+5) |
| 5. If you go out to eat more than once per week, do the people you dine with order healthy selections? | a) Yes, they always do. (+2)
b) Only about half of the time. (0)
c) No, they never do. (-2) |
| 6. Do you belong to any clubs, groups, or teams that meet at least twice per week and do some physical exercise (this does not include a health club membership)? | a) Yes, I've been a member for years. (+5)
b) Yes, I've just started. (+2)
c) No, I don't. (0) |
| 7. Do you belong to a health club and attend, on average, at least three times per week? | a) Yes, I've been doing this for at least 1 year. (+2)
b) Yes, I've just joined. (+1)
c) No, I don't. (0) |

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| 8. When discussing your nutrition and exercise goals with friends, do they seem interested in getting on board, or do they think you're crazy? | a) They're very interested. (+2)
b) They're not interested. (0)
c) They think I'm crazy. (-2) |
| 9. Do the people you live with bring home foods that aren't considered healthy or good for you? | a) Always (-5)
b) Sometimes (-3)
c) Never (0) |
| 10. Do the people you live with bring home foods that are considered healthy or good for you? | a) Always (+5)
b) Sometimes (0)
c) Never (-5) |
| 11. Do the people you live with or work with schedule activities for you that interfere with your pre-established exercise time? | a) Always; they don't respect my time. (-3)
b) Sometimes; they don't think about it. (-1)
c) Never; they respect this time. (+3) |
| 12. Do those around you bring nutrition, exercise, or supplement information to your attention so that you can stay informed about these topics? | a) Always (+5)
b) Sometimes (+2)
c) Never (0) |

YOUR SCORE AND WHAT IT MEANS

28 to 38 total points:

Congratulations, it looks like you've got a great social support network around you, a group of people that'll help support your desire to change some of your daily practices. Of course, that's not all you'll need to be successful. But it's a great start.

5 to 27 total points:

It looks like you've got some social support around you but there may be a few areas that will present challenges. Being aware of your social temptations, as indicated above, is a great place to begin. Together we can work on strategies for being successful in the face of those challenges

4 to -14 total points:

Your social support is lacking and may need a makeover. However, you're not alone here. Many people struggle with social support. And that's why our coaching together will provide some strategies for enhancing your support network.

-15 to -31 total points:

This score is quite low and may signal some definite challenges in your work and at-home environments, as well as in your relationships. These can often lead to old habits surfacing as many food related problems are really relationship and environment problems. However, this questionnaire will help us isolate the main challenges. And together we'll work on overcoming them.