### About the Measure

**Domain:** Suicide  
**Measure:** Aggression/Hostility  
**Definition:** A questionnaire that measures the personality trait of aggression.  
**Purpose:** Aggression is a multifaceted construct reflecting a range of verbal, emotional, and physical behaviors that can result in physical or psychological harm, typically consisting of expressions of anger or hostility, assertions of dominance, and/or intimidation. Aggression is related to suicidal behavior and may be useful for distinguishing attempters from non-attempters. Aggression is also a risk factor for crime, violence, and substance abuse.

### About the Protocol

**Description of Protocol:** The Buss Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ) consists of 29 self-administered items rated on a 5-point Likert scale. The BPAQ includes four subscales: Physical Aggression (items 1-9), Verbal Aggression (items 10-14), Anger (items 15-21), and Hostility (items 22-29.) The score for each scale is the sum of the ratings for its items. The two items (7 & 18) worded in the direction opposite to aggression are reverse-scored. The total score for aggression is the sum of these scale scores. Higher scores indicate higher aggressive behavior.

**Selection Rationale:** The Buss Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ) is a widely-used, low-burden questionnaire that is considered as the gold standard measurement of aggression. The BPAQ has internal and test-retest reliability, strong convergent validity, and is appropriate for both adolescents and adults. The BPAQ is a revision of the Buss Durkee Hostility Inventory (BDHI), which was a widely used, well-validated aggression questionnaire.

**Specific Instructions:** The authors (Buss & Perry, 1992) recommend that investigators “scramble the items so that items from any one factor do not pile up.”

**Protocol Text:**

**Buss-Perry Scale**

Please rate each of the following items in terms of how characteristic they are of you.

1. Once in a while I can't control the urge to strike another person.  
   - [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic  
   - [ ] 2 Somewhat uncharacteristic  
   - [ ] 3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic  
   - [ ] 4 Somewhat characteristic  
   - [ ] 5 Extremely characteristic

2. Given enough provocation, I may hit another person.  
   - [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic
### Aggression/Hostility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. If somebody hits me, I hit back.</th>
<th>1 Extremely uncharacteristic</th>
<th>2 Somewhat uncharacteristic</th>
<th>3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic</th>
<th>4 Somewhat characteristic</th>
<th>5 Extremely characteristic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. I get into fights a little more than the average person.</td>
<td>1 Extremely uncharacteristic</td>
<td>2 Somewhat uncharacteristic</td>
<td>3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic</td>
<td>4 Somewhat characteristic</td>
<td>5 Extremely characteristic</td>
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<td>5. If I have to resort to violence to protect my rights, I will.</td>
<td>1 Extremely uncharacteristic</td>
<td>2 Somewhat uncharacteristic</td>
<td>3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic</td>
<td>4 Somewhat characteristic</td>
<td>5 Extremely characteristic</td>
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<td>6. There are people who pushed me so far that we came to blows.</td>
<td>1 Extremely uncharacteristic</td>
<td>2 Somewhat uncharacteristic</td>
<td>3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic</td>
<td>4 Somewhat characteristic</td>
<td>5 Extremely characteristic</td>
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<td>7. I can think of no good reason for ever hitting a person (R).</td>
<td>1 Extremely uncharacteristic</td>
<td>2 Somewhat uncharacteristic</td>
<td>3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic</td>
<td>4 Somewhat characteristic</td>
<td>5 Extremely characteristic</td>
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<td>8. I have threatened people I know.</td>
<td>1 Extremely uncharacteristic</td>
<td>2 Somewhat uncharacteristic</td>
<td>3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic</td>
<td>4 Somewhat characteristic</td>
<td>5 Extremely characteristic</td>
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<td>9. I have become so mad that I have broken things.</td>
<td>1 Extremely uncharacteristic</td>
<td>2 Somewhat uncharacteristic</td>
<td>3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic</td>
<td>4 Somewhat characteristic</td>
<td>5 Extremely characteristic</td>
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### Aggression/Hostility

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<td>10. I tell my friends openly when I disagree with them.</td>
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<td>11. I often find myself disagreeing with people.</td>
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<td>12. When people annoy me, I may tell them what I think of them.</td>
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<td>13. I can't help getting into arguments when people disagree with me.</td>
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<td>14. My friends say that I'm somewhat argumentative.</td>
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<td>15. I flare up quickly but get over it quickly.</td>
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<td>16. When frustrated, I let my irritation show.</td>
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17. I sometimes feel like a powder keg ready to explode.
   [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic
   [ ] 2 Somewhat uncharacteristic
   [ ] 3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic
   [ ] 4 Somewhat characteristic
   [ ] 5 Extremely characteristic

18. I am an even-tempered person (R).
   [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic
   [ ] 2 Somewhat uncharacteristic
   [ ] 3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic
   [ ] 4 Somewhat characteristic
   [ ] 5 Extremely characteristic

19. Some of my friends think I'm a hothead.
   [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic
   [ ] 2 Somewhat uncharacteristic
   [ ] 3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic
   [ ] 4 Somewhat characteristic
   [ ] 5 Extremely characteristic

20. Sometimes I fly off the handle for no good reason.
    [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic
    [ ] 2 Somewhat uncharacteristic
    [ ] 3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic
    [ ] 4 Somewhat characteristic
    [ ] 5 Extremely characteristic

21. I have trouble controlling my temper.
    [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic
    [ ] 2 Somewhat uncharacteristic
    [ ] 3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic
    [ ] 4 Somewhat characteristic
    [ ] 5 Extremely characteristic

22. I am sometimes eaten up with jealousy.
    [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic
    [ ] 2 Somewhat uncharacteristic
    [ ] 3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic
    [ ] 4 Somewhat characteristic
    [ ] 5 Extremely characteristic

23. At times I feel I have gotten a raw deal out of life.
    [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic
    [ ] 2 Somewhat uncharacteristic
    [ ] 3 Neither uncharacteristic nor characteristic
    [ ] 4 Somewhat characteristic
    [ ] 5 Extremely characteristic

24. Other people always seem to get the breaks.
    [ ] 1 Extremely uncharacteristic
    [ ] 2 Somewhat uncharacteristic
25. I wonder why sometimes I feel so bitter about things.

26. I know that "friends" talk about me behind my back.

27. I am suspicious of overly friendly strangers.

28. I sometimes feel that people are laughing at me behind me back.

29. When people are especially nice, I wonder what they want.

**Scoring:**
Physical Aggression subscale: items 1-9.
Verbal Aggression subscale: items 10-14.
Hostility subscale: items 22-29.

The score for each scale is the sum or the ratings for its items. The two items (7&18) worded in the direction opposite to aggression are reverse-scored. The total score for aggression is the sum of these scale scores. Higher scores indicate higher aggressive behavior.
## Aggression/Hostility

### Participant:
Adolescents and adults, ages 12 and older

### Source:

### Language of Source:
English

### Personnel and Training Required:
None

### Equipment Needs:
None

### Protocol Type:
Self-administered questionnaire

### Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements Category</th>
<th>Required (Yes/No)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Major equipment</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialized training</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialized requirements for biospecimen collection</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average time of greater than 15 minutes in an unaffected individual</td>
<td>No</td>
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### Common Data Elements:
TBD by PhenX Staff

### General References:


### Additional Information About the Measure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essential Data:</th>
<th>Current Age, Gender</th>
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<tr>
<td>Related PhenX Measures:</td>
<td>Emotional State, Temperament, Externalizing Problems, Behavioral Health Screener</td>
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### Aggression/Hostility

**Date of SC final approval:**

**Date of MHRP final approval:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Derived Variables</th>
<th>None</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords/Related Concepts:</strong></td>
<td>Suicide, suicide ideation, suicide attempts, suicide behavior, suicide gestures, suicide plans, nonsuicidal self-injury, self-injurious thoughts, self-injurious behaviors, SITB, Self-injurious thoughts and behaviors interview, SITBI</td>
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