

## ASHARP Instructions

The Adult Scale of Hostility and Aggression: Reactive/Proactive (A-SHARP) is an instrument for assessing aggressive and hostile behavior in adults. There are five subscales: (1) Verbal Aggression, (2) Physical Aggression, (3) Hostile Affect, (4) Covert Aggression, and (5) Bullying. Two dimensions are measured: (1) the severity and/or frequency of the behaviors in question, and (2) the degree to which the behavior is thought to be instrumental/proactive or reactive.

For each item, a four-point "Problem Scale" is provided, ranging from zero ("Never happens") to three ("Severe and/or very frequent problem"). Where appropriate, a five-point Provocation Scale (intended as an index of the proactive/reactive dimension) is also provided, ranging from -2 ("*Only* when provoked, not planned, and/or when s/he 'just loses it;'"") to +2 ("*Always* the first to act [i.e., always the instigator; the one who 'starts it']"), with a midpoint of zero to indicate "Equally likely to happen with or without provocation." For the purposes of this instrument, "instigator" is defined as "the one who deliberately initiates the conflict; the first or only one to act in an incident of aggression," and "provocation" as "Any action leading to the aggression, no matter how mild (e.g., verbal teasing or being crowded) or severe (e.g., hitting or kicking), which seems to anger or upset the subject and trigger the behavior." More negative provocation scores are interpreted as indicating reactive behavior, and more positive scores are interpreted as suggesting proactive behavior.

Instructions to raters are as follows: "The questions should be answered based on your knowledge (either from personal observation, reliable records, or the accounts of

others familiar with the person being rated [the subject]) of the subject's behavior in the past six months. Please first circle ONE 'Problem Scale' answer for each of the 56 items. If this answer is a '1,' '2,' or '3' (i.e., if it is a problem at all), circle ONE 'Who Starts It?' answer for the item if applicable."