

Appendix A

U.S. Household Food Security Survey

Module: 3-Stage Design

(2 Internal Screeners)

Questionnaire transition into module—administer to all households: These next questions are about the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months, since (current month) of last year, and whether you were able to afford the food you need.

General food sufficiency question/screener: Questions 1, 1a, 1b (OPTIONAL: These questions are NOT used in calculating the food security scale.) Question 1 may be used as a screener: (a) in conjunction with income as a *preliminary* screen to reduce respondent burden for *higher income households only*; and/or (b) in conjunction with the 1st stage internal screen to make that screen more “open”—i.e., provide another route through it.

1. [IF ONE PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD, USE “I” IN PARENTHESES, OTHERWISE, USE “WE.”]

Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months: –enough of the kinds of food (I/we) want to eat; –enough, but not always the kinds of food (I/we) want; –sometimes not enough to eat; or, –often not enough to eat?

[1] Enough of the kinds of food we want to eat [SKIP 1a and 1b]

[2] Enough but not always the kinds of food we want [SKIP 1a; ask 1b]

[3] Sometimes not enough to eat [Ask 1a; SKIP 1b]

[4] Often not enough [Ask 1a; SKIP 1b]

[] DK or Refused (SKIP 1a and 1b)

- 1a. [IF OPTION 3 OR 4 SELECTED, ASK] Here are some reasons why people don’t always have enough to eat. For each one, please tell me if that is a reason why YOU don’t always have enough to eat. [READ LIST. MARK ALL THAT APPLY.]

YES NO DK

Not enough money for food

Not enough time for shopping or cooking

Too hard to get to the store

On a diet

No working stove available

Not able to cook or eat because of health problems

- 1b. [IF OPTION 2 SELECTED, ASK] Here are some reasons why people don’t always have the quality or variety of food they want. For each one, please tell me if that is a reason why YOU don’t always have the kinds of food you want to eat. [READ LIST. MARK ALL THAT APPLY.]

YES NO DK

Not enough money for food

Kinds of food (I/we) want not available

Not enough time for shopping or cooking

Too hard to get to the store

On a special diet

BEGIN FOOD SECURITY/HUNGER CORE MODULE (i.e., SCALE ITEMS)

NOTE: The children's food security scale is based on the child-referenced items: 5-7 and 13-16.

Stage 1: Questions 2-6—ask all households:

[IF SINGLE ADULT IN HOUSEHOLD, USE “I,” “MY,” AND “YOU” IN PARENTHESES; OTHERWISE, USE “WE,” “OUR,” AND “YOUR HOUSEHOLD;” IF UNKNOWN OR AMBIGUOUS, USE PLURAL FORMS.]

2. Now I'm going to read you several statements that people have made about their food situation. For these statements, please tell me whether the statement was often true, sometimes true, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months, that is, since last (name of current month).

The first statement is “(I/We) worried whether (my/our) food would run out before (I/we) got money to buy more.” Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?

- Often true
 Sometimes true
 Never true
 DK or Refused

3. “The food that (I/we) bought just didn't last, and (I/we) didn't have money to get more.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?

- Often true
 Sometimes true
 Never true
 DK or Refused

4. “(I/we) couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?

- Often true
 Sometimes true
 Never true
 DK or Refused

[IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK Q5-6; OTHERWISE SKIP TO 1st Level Screen.]

5. “(I/we) relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed (my/our) child/the children) because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?

- Often true
 Sometimes true
 Never true
 DK or Refused

6. “(I/We) couldn't feed (my/our) child/the children) a balanced meal, because (I/we) couldn't afford that.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?

- Often true
 Sometimes true
 Never true
 DK or Refused

1st level Screen (screener for Stage 2): If AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE to ANY ONE of Questions 2-6 (i.e., “often true” or “sometimes true”) OR response [3] or [4] to Question 1 (if administered), then continue to Stage 2; otherwise, skip to end.

Stage 2: Questions 7-11—ask households passing the 1st level Screen: (estimated 40% of households < 185% Poverty; 5.5% of households > 185% Poverty; 19% of all households).

[IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK Q7; OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q8]

7. “(My/Our child was/The children were) not eating enough because (I/we) just couldn’t afford enough food.” Was that often, sometimes, or never true for (you/your household) in the last 12 months?

- Often true
- Sometimes true
- Never true
- DK or Refused

8. In the last 12 months, since last (name of current month), did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn’t enough money for food?

- Yes
- No (SKIP 8a)
- DK or R (SKIP 8a)

8a. [IF YES ABOVE, ASK] How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

- Almost every month
- Some months but not every month
- Only 1 or 2 months
- DK or R

9. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn’t enough money to buy food?

- Yes
- No
- DK or R

10. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn’t eat because you couldn’t afford enough food?

- Yes

- No
- DK or R

11. In the last 12 months, did you lose weight because you didn’t have enough money for food?

- Yes
- No
- DK or R

2nd level Screen (screener for Stage 3): If AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE to ANY ONE of Questions 7 through 11, then continue to Stage 3; otherwise, skip to end.

Stage 3: Questions 12-16—ask households passing the 2nd level Screen: (estimated 7-8% of households < 185% Poverty; 1-1.5% of households > 185% Poverty; 3-4% of all households).

12. In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food?

- Yes
- No (SKIP 12a)
- DK or R (SKIP 12a)

12a. [IF YES ABOVE, ASK] How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

- Almost every month
- Some months but not every month
- Only 1 or 2 months
- DK or R

[IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK 13-16; OTHERWISE SKIP TO END.]

13. The next questions are about children living in the household who are under 18 years old. In the last 12 months, since (current month) of last

year, did you ever cut the size of (your child's/any of the children's) meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No

DK or R

14. In the last 12 months, did (your child/any of the children) ever skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No (SKIP 14a)

DK or R (SKIP 14a)

14a. [IF YES ABOVE ASK] How often did this happen—almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

Almost every month

Some months but not every month

Only 1 or 2 months

DK or R

15. In the last 12 months, (was your child/were the children) ever hungry but you just couldn't afford more food?

Yes

No

DK or R

16. In the last 12 months, did (your child/any of the children) ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No

DK or R

**END OF FOOD SECURITY/HUNGER CORE
MODULE**