

Material Hardship

This survey accompanies a measure in the SPARQTools.org [Measuring Mobility toolkit](#), which provides practitioners curated instruments for assessing mobility from poverty and tools for selecting the most appropriate measures for their programs.

Age: Adult

Duration: < 3 minutes

Reading Level: 6th to 8th grade

Number of items: 6

Answer Format: These questions are administered verbally by an interviewer. The questions have different answer formats and can be used individually.

Scoring:

Responses of “often” or “sometimes” on questions Q1 and Q2, and “yes” on Q3, Q4, and Q5 are coded as affirmative (yes). Responses of “almost every month” and “some months but not every month” on Q6 are coded as affirmative (yes). The sum of affirmative responses to the six questions in the module is the household’s raw score on the scale. Food security status is assigned as follows:

- Raw score 0-1—High or marginal food security (raw score 1 may be considered marginal food security, but a large proportion of households that would be measured as having marginal food security using the household or adult scale will have raw score zero on the six-item scale)
- Raw score 2-4—Low food security
- Raw score 5-6—Very low food security

Source:

Items adapted from the Short Form of the Food Security Survey Module: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2012). *U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module: Six-Item Short Form*, Economic Research Service-USDA, 2012. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/media/8282/short2012.pdf>.

Instructions: 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,

1. "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

Don't know or
refused

2. "[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

Don't know or
refused

3. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No

Don't know

4. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No

Don't know

5. 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

Don't know

If respondent answered yes, ask:

6. 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

Don't know