

**U.S. HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY SURVEY MODULE—SPANISH:  
THREE-STAGE DESIGN, WITH SCREENERS  
Economic Research Service, USDA  
November 21, 2013**

**Revision Notes:**

July 23, 2012: Revised and adapted from earlier Spanish translations, including Harrison et al. (“Development of a Spanish-Language Version of the U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module,” by Gail G. Harrison, Ame Stormer, Dena R. Herman, and Donna M. Winham, *Journal of Nutrition* 133(4): 1192-1197, April 2003), National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (National Center for Health Statistics), and National Health Interview Survey (National Center for Health Statistics). Adaptation by Mark Nord, Economic Research Service, USDA, and Adriana Zorrilla, Chris Kocsis, and Maria Riegger, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA. Thanks to Winna T. Rivera Soto, University of Puerto Rico, and Census Bureau interviewers for reviews and helpful suggestions.

November 21, 2013: Revised after further consultation with Census Bureau interviewers. Minor changes were made to improve flow, and “casa” was changed to “hogar” throughout. (NOTE: depending on the character of the survey, “hogar,” “casa,” or “familia” may be appropriate.)

**Transition into Module (administered to all households):**

Las siguientes preguntas tratan sobre los alimentos consumidos en su hogar durante los últimos 12 meses, desde (mes corriente) del año pasado, y su capacidad para comprar la comida que se necesitaba.

**Optional USDA Food Sufficiency Question/Screeners: Question HH1** (This question is optional. It is not used to calculate any of the food security scales. It may be used in conjunction with income as a preliminary screener to reduce respondent burden for high income households).

HH1. [IF ONE PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD, USE FIRST FILL IN PARENTHETICALS, OTHERWISE, USE SECOND FILL.]

¿Cuál de las siguientes declaraciones describe mejor (su situación alimentaria / la situación alimentaria en su hogar) en los últimos 12 meses?

- [1] Siempre (como / comemos) lo suficiente y los tipos de alimentos que (deseo / deseamos)
- [2] (Como / comemos) lo suficiente pero no siempre lo que (deseo / deseamos)
- [3] A veces no (como / comemos) lo suficiente o
- [4] Frecuentemente no (como / comemos) lo suficiente
- [ ] DK or Refused

**Household Stage 1: Questions HH2-HH4 (asked of all households; begin scale items).**

[SELECT APPROPRIATE FILL IN PARENTHETICALS DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS AND NUMBER OF ADULTS IN THE HOUSEHOLD.]

HH2. Ahora le voy a leer algunas declaraciones que las personas han hecho sobre situaciones alimentarias. Para cada uno, favor de indicar si ha ocurrido frecuentemente, a veces, o nunca (a Ud. / en su hogar) en los últimos 12 meses, dese (mes corriente) del año pasado.

The La primera situación es “(Me preocupó / Nos preocupamos) que la comida se podía acabar antes de tener dinero para comprar más.” (Para Ud. / En su hogar), ¿ésto ocurrió frecuentemente, a veces, o nunca en los últimos 12 meses?

- Frecuentemente
- A veces
- Nunca
- DK or Refused

HH3. La comida que (compré / compramos) no rindió lo suficiente, y (no tenía / no teníamos) dinero para comprar más.” (Para Ud. / En su hogar), ¿ésto ocurrió frecuentemente, a veces, o nunca en los últimos 12 meses?

- Frecuentemente
- A veces
- Nunca
- DK or Refused

HH4. “(No tenía / No teníamos) recursos suficientes para comer comida variada y nutritiva.” (Para Ud. / En su hogar), ¿ésto ocurrió frecuentemente, a veces, o nunca en los últimos 12 meses?

- Frecuentemente
- A veces
- Nunca
- DK or Refused

**Screener for Stage 2 Adult-Referenced Questions:** If affirmative response (i.e., “frecuentemente” or “a veces”) to one or more of Questions HH2-HH4, OR, response [3] or [4] to question HH1 (if administered), then continue to ***Adult Stage 2***; otherwise, if children under age 18 are present in the household, skip to ***Child Stage 1***, otherwise skip to ***End of Food Security Module***.

**NOTE:** In a sample similar to that of the general U.S. population, about 20 percent of households (45 percent of households with incomes less than 185 percent of poverty line) will pass this screen and continue to Adult Stage 2.

**Adult Stage 2: Questions AD1-AD4 (asked of households passing the screener for Stage 2 adult-referenced questions).**

AD1. En los últimos 12 meses, ¿(Ud. / Ud. u otro adulto del hogar) redujo alguna vez la cantidad de sus comidas o dejó de desayunar, almorzar o cenar porque le faltaba dinero para alimentos?

- Sí
- No (Skip AD1a)
- DK (Skip AD1a)

AD1a. [IF SÍ ABOVE, ASK] ¿Con qué frecuencia sucedió esto? Casi todos los meses, algunos meses pero no todos, o solamente en 1 ó 2 meses?

- Casi todos los meses
- Algunos meses pero no todos
- Solamente en 1 ó 2 meses
- DK

AD2. En los últimos 12 meses, ¿comió Ud. alguna vez menos de lo que pensaba que debía comer porque le faltaba dinero para alimentos?

- Sí
- No
- DK

AD3. En los últimos 12 meses, ¿Tuvo Ud. hambre alguna vez pero no comió porque le faltaba dinero para alimentos?

- Sí
- No
- DK

AD4. En los últimos 12 meses, ¿Perdió Ud. peso porque no comió los alimentos suficientes por falta de dinero para comida?

- Sí
- No
- DK

**Screener for Stage 3 Adult-Referenced Questions:** If affirmative response to one or more of questions AD1 through AD4, then continue to *Adult Stage 3*; otherwise, if children under age 18 are present in the household, skip to *Child Stage 1*, otherwise skip to *End of Food Security Module*.

**NOTE:** In a sample similar to that of the general U.S. population, about 8 percent of households (20 percent of households with incomes less than 185 percent of poverty line) will pass this screen and continue to Adult Stage 3.

**Adult Stage 3: Questions AD5-AD5a** (asked of households passing screener for Stage 3 adult-referenced questions).

AD5. En los últimos 12 meses, ¿alguna vez no comió (Ud. / Ud. u otro adulto del hogar) en todo el día porque le faltaba dinero para comida?

- Sí
- No (Skip AD5a)
- DK (Skip AD5a)

AD5a. [IF SÍ ABOVE, ASK] ¿Con qué frecuencia sucedió esto? Casi todos los meses, algunos meses pero no todos, o solamente en 1 ó 2 meses?

- Casi todos los meses
- Algunos meses pero no todos
- Solamente en 1 ó 2 meses
- DK

**Child Stage 1: Questions CH1-CH3 (Transitions and questions CH1 and CH2 are administered to all households with children under age 18)** Households with no child under age 18, skip to *End of Food Security Module*.

SELECT APPROPRIATE FILLS DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF ADULTS AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

**Transition into Child-Referenced Questions:**

Ahora le voy a leer algunas declaraciones que las personas han hecho sobre la situación alimentaria de sus niños. Para cada uno, favor de indicar si ocurrió frecuentemente, algunas veces, o nunca en los últimos 12 meses a niños o jóvenes menores de 18 años que viven en su hogar.

CH1. “(Tuve / Tuvimos) que alimentar a los niños o jóvenes del hogar con alimentos de poca variedad y bajo costo porque se nos acababa dinero para alimentos.” En su hogar, ¿ésto ocurrió frecuentemente, a veces, o nunca en los últimos 12 meses?

- Frecuentemente
- A veces
- Nunca
- DK or Refused

CH2. “No (pude / pudimos) alimentar a los niños o jóvenes del hogar con comida variada y nutritiva porque nos faltaba dinero para alimentos.” En su hogar, ¿ésto ocurrió frecuentemente, a veces, o nunca en los últimos 12 meses?

- Frecuentemente
- A veces
- Nunca
- DK or Refused

CH3. “Los niños or jóvenes del hogar no comían lo suficiente porque nos faltaba dinero para comprar alimentos.” En su hogar, ¿ésto ocurrió frecuentemente, a veces, o nunca en los últimos 12 meses?

- Frecuentemente
- A veces
- Nunca
- DK or Refused

**Screener for Stage 2 Child Referenced Questions:** If affirmative response (i.e., “frecuentement” or “a veces”) to one or more of questions CH1-CH3, then continue to *Child Stage 2*; otherwise skip to *End of Food Security Module*.

**NOTE:** In a sample similar to that of the general U.S. population, about 16 percent of households with children (35 percent of households with children with incomes less than 185 percent of poverty line) will pass this screen and continue to Child Stage 2.

**Child Stage 2: Questions CH4-CH7** (asked of households passing the screener for stage 2 child-referenced questions).

**NOTE:** In Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements, question CH6 precedes question CH5.

CH4. En los últimos 12 meses, ¿(Redujo / Reducieron) alguna vez la cantidad de la comida de un niño o joven del hogar por falta de dinero para comprar alimentos?

- Sí
- No
- DK

CH5. En los últimos 12 meses, ¿alguna vez algun niño o joven del hogar dejó de desayunar, almorzar o cenar por falta de dinero para alimentos?

- Sí
- No (Skip CH5a)
- DK (Skip CH5a)

CH5a. [IF SÍ ABOVE, ASK] ¿Con qué frecuencia sucedió esto? Casi todos los meses, algunos meses pero no todos, o solamente en 1 ó 2 meses?

- Casi todos los meses
- Algunos meses pero no todos
- Solamente en 1 ó 2 meses
- DK

CH6. En los últimos 12 meses, ¿alguna vez, un niño o joven del hogar tuvo hambre pero faltaba dinero para comprar más alimentos?

- Sí
- No
- DK

CH7. En los últimos 12 meses, ¿alguna vez un niño o joven del hogar no comió en todo el día porque faltaba dinero para alimentos?

- Sí
- No
- DK

## END OF FOOD SECURITY MODULE

### USER NOTES

#### **(1) Coding Responses and Assessing Household Food Security Status:**

Following is a brief overview of how to code responses and assess household food security status based on various standard scales. For detailed information on these procedures, refer to the *Guide to Measuring Household Food Security, Revised 2000*, and *Measuring Children's Food Security in U.S. Households, 1995-1999*. Both publications are available from the ERS Food Security in the United States web pages.

Responses of “sí,” “frecuentemente,” “a veces,” “casi todos los meses,” and “algunos meses pero no todos” are coded as affirmative. The sum of affirmative responses to a specified set of items is referred to as the household's raw score on the scale comprising those items.

- Questions HH2 through CH7 comprise the U.S. Household Food Security Scale (questions HH2 through AD5a for households with no child present). Specification of food security status depends on raw score and whether there are children in the household (i.e., whether responses to child-referenced questions are included in the raw score).
  - For households with one or more children:
    - Raw score zero—High food security
    - Raw score 1-2—Marginal food security
    - Raw score 3-7—Low food security
    - Raw score 8-18—Very low food security
  - For households with no child present:
    - Raw score zero—High food security
    - Raw score 1-2—Marginal food security
    - Raw score 3-5—Low food security
    - Raw score 6-10—Very low food security

Households with high or marginal food security are classified as food secure. Those with low or very low food security are classified as food insecure.

- Questions HH2 through AD5a comprise the U.S. Adult Food Security Scale.
  - Raw score zero—High food security among adults
  - Raw score 1-2—Marginal food security among adults
  - Raw score 3-5—Low food security among adults
  - Raw score 6-10—Very low food security among adults
  
- Questions HH3 through AD3 comprise the six-item Short Module from which the Six-Item Food Security Scale can be calculated.
  - 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
  
- Questions CH1 through CH7 comprise the U.S. Children’s Food Security Scale.
  - Raw score 0-1—High or marginal food security among children (raw score 1 may be considered marginal food security, but it is not certain that all households with raw score zero have high food security among children because the scale does not include an assessment of the anxiety component of food insecurity)
  - Raw score 2-4—Low food security among children
  - Raw score 5-8—Very low food security among children

**(2) Response Options:** For interviewer-administered surveys, DK (“don’t know”) and “Refused” are blind responses—that is, they are not presented as response options, but marked if volunteered. For self-administered surveys, “don’t know” is presented as a response option.

**(3) Screening:** The two levels of screening for adult-referenced questions and one level for child-referenced questions are provided for surveys in which it is considered important to reduce respondent burden. In pilot surveys intended to validate the module in a new cultural, linguistic, or survey context, screening should be avoided if possible and all questions should be administered to all respondents.

To further reduce burden for higher income respondents, a preliminary screener may be constructed using question HH1 along with a household income measure. Households with income above twice the poverty threshold, AND who respond <1> to question HH1 may be skipped to the end of the module and classified as food secure. Use of this preliminary screener reduces total burden in a survey with many higher-income households, and the cost, in terms of accuracy in identifying food-insecure households, is not great. However, research has shown that a small proportion of the higher income households screened out by this procedure will register food insecurity if administered the full module. If question HH1 is not needed for research purposes, a preferred strategy is to omit HH1 and administer Adult Stage 1 of the module to all households and Child Stage 1 of the module to all households with children.



**(4) 30-Day Reference Period:** The questionnaire items may be modified to a 30-day reference period by changing the “los últimos 12 meses” references to “los últimos 30 días.” In this case, items AD1a, AD5a, and CH5a must be changed to read as follows:

AD1a/AD5a/CH5a [IF YES ABOVE, ASK] Durante los últimos 30 días, ¿cuántos días piensa Usted que le ocurrió esto?

\_\_\_\_\_ días

DK

Responses of 3 days or more are coded as affirmative responses.