



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FOOD SECURITY QUESTIONNAIRE (FSEC)

I. General Instructions

These two items are designed to ask about frequency of food security at the household level, which represents economic and social aspects of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. The question text should be read verbatim. It includes one sentence to orient the participant to the topic, followed by one sentence providing the participant with instructions about how to respond to the question, followed by the two items. If the participant asks about food expiring, please ask them to think about whether or not there were times at which there was not enough food to eat.

An affirmative response to either of the two questions (i.e., “often true” or “sometimes true”) qualifies a person as being food insecure. For participants who identify as food insecure, region-specific resources will be provided.

II. Detailed Instructions for Each Item

1. Some people have made the following statements about their food situation. Please answer whether the statements were **OFTEN**, **SOMETIMES**, or **NEVER** true for you and your household in the last 12 months.
 - a. Within the past 12 months, you worried that your food would run out before you got money to buy more.
 - i. Select “often true” if the participant indicates this happens often, a majority or most of the time or very frequently.
 - ii. Select “sometimes true” if the participant indicates this happens sometimes, occasionally, or infrequently.
 - iii. Select “never true” if the participant indicates this has never happened.
 - iv. If participant refuses to answer or says they don’t know, mark the field status as “missing.” Do not leave the item blank without selecting a field status.
 - b. Within the past 12 months, the food you bought just didn’t last and you didn’t have money to get more.
 - i. Select “often true” if the participant indicates this happens often, a majority or most of the time or very frequently.
 - ii. Select “sometimes true” if the participant indicates this happens sometimes, occasionally, or infrequently.
 - iii. Select “never true” if the participant indicates this has never happened.

- iv. If participant refuses to answer or says they don't know, mark the field status as "missing." Do not leave the item blank without selecting a field status.