

**Evaluation of Pretest Results for the  
Food Security Supplement to April 1995 CPS**

Prepared by  
Eleanor Singer and Jennifer Hess  
Center for Survey Methods Research  
U.S. Bureau of the Census  
October 28, 1994

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introduction . . . . .	1
II.	Pretest Sample . . . . .	1
III.	Evaluation Methods . . . . .	2
IV.	Decision Rules . . . . .	3
V.	General Summary of Interviewer Debriefing and Behavior Coding Results. . . . .	3
VI.	Evaluation of Questionnaire Items. . . . .	4
	A. Food Expenditures . . . . .	4
	B. Program Participation . . . . .	6
	C. Food Sufficiency. . . . .	6
	D. Coping. . . . .	7
	E. Concern About Food Sufficiency. . . . .	.11
	F. Food Safety . . . . .	.11
VII.	Summary. . . . .	.12
VIII.	Appendices	
	Pretest Questionnaire. . . . .	Attachment A
	Respondent Debriefing Questionnaire. . . . .	Attachment B
	Behavior Coding Training Manual. . . . .	Attachment C
	Decision Rules . . . . .	Attachment D
	Table of Behavior Coding Results . . . . .	Attachment E
	Table of Respondent Debriefing Results (close-ended questions only). . . . .	Attachment F

## I. Introduction

This report summarizes evaluation activities undertaken by the Center for Survey Methods Research in connection with the pretest of the Food and Nutrition Service-sponsored Food Security Supplement to the April 1995 Current Population Survey. The objective of the supplement is to measure household food security in the U.S. Factors such as food adequacy, money for food, access to food and use of emergency food, program participation, hunger, and concern about food sufficiency are associated with food security.

The purpose of the pretest was to identify problems in the questionnaire. This report summarizes the problems identified. It does not provide recommendations for addressing these problems. Recommendations for the final questionnaire will be jointly decided in upcoming meetings between the two agencies.

## II. Pretest Sample

The pretest (Attachment A) was carried out from August 27-31, 1994 in six states: Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, and New Mexico. There were 596 sample cases. One-third of the cases were conducted in the field by Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). The other two-thirds were conducted at the Tucson Telephone Center by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI).

The overall response rate was 70.3 percent (83.8 percent for CAPI and 64.1 percent for CATI). The sample description that follows is based on CSMR's requested sample. Actual sample distributions may vary slightly. The sample was roughly half urban and half rural. Three-quarters of the sample were poor (below 200 percent poverty as defined by DSD) and one-quarter was non-poor. Roughly 200 of the 596 sample cases were elderly (60 years of age or older and of any race). Of the remaining cases, approximately 43 percent were White (non-Hispanic), 38 percent were Black (non-Hispanic), and 19 percent were Hispanic. Respondents were selected from expired rotations of the Current Population Survey (CPS). (Their last month in sample was either April or May, 1994). The Dallas and Atlanta Regional Offices sent advance letters to sample households indicating that the Census Bureau would be contacting them again to conduct a one-time survey.

Respondents received both the CPS labor force questions and the Food Security Supplement questions. The supplement averaged 10.0 minutes (standard deviation (sd)=5.3, N=384). When the non-poor households are excluded, the average time per case is 11.6 minutes (sd=4.95, N=292). Average time for each section of the questionnaire was as follows:

Section	Average Time (minutes)	SD (minutes)	N
Shopping (Q1-8)	2.8	1.5	395
Program participation and "least amt" (Q9-10A)	1.4	1.0	397
Food sufficiency (Q11-14A)	0.8	0.5	395
Coping (Q15-23)	2.0	1.0	301
Hunger (Q24-39)	1.5	1.1	300
Children's hunger (Q40-52)	0.6	0.6	172
Concern about food sufficiency (Q53-58)	1.5	1.1	306
Food safety (Q59-62)	1.1	0.8	391

### III. Evaluation Methods

Four kinds of questionnaire evaluation activities were undertaken:

A. Four groups of interviewers were debriefed in conference calls immediately following their administration of the interview. Two groups of interviewers were from the centralized Tucson CATI facility. The third group was field interviewers from the Atlanta region, and the fourth consisted of field interviewers from the Dallas region. The two field debriefings were held on August 31, 1994 and the two Tucson debriefings were held on September 1, 1994. Six to seven interviewers participated in each debriefing, and each lasted approximately one and one-half hours.

B. Respondents were asked a series of up to 17 debriefing questions at the conclusion of the interview, most of them structured, a few open-ended (Attachment B).

C. Responses to the supplement were examined for item nonresponse rates and correlational patterns between items.

D. Almost half of the interviews were tape-recorded and behavior coded (187 of 386 cases). Of the taped interviews, 78 percent were poor households who received the entire questionnaire and debriefing items. The remainder (22 percent) were non-poor households who received the food expenditure, food sufficiency, and food safety questions only. The tapes were coded by four Hagerstown Telephone Center interviewers and Jennifer Hess of CSMR. The Hagerstown coders were experienced behavior coders (they had all recently behavior coded interviews from the Survey of Income and Program Participation). They were trained over two days (September 9 and 12, 1994) on questionnaire content and the behavior coding scheme (see Attachment C for training manual). The coders completed four practice cases before beginning production coding. Production coding began on September 12 and

was completed September 16. Part way through production coding, each coder coded the same five interviews to check reliability. The five coders averaged 88.4 percent agreement (standard deviation=2.3).

#### IV. Decision Rules

Prior to conducting the August field test, CSMR prepared guidelines (decision rules) for determining whether a question was problematic (Attachment D). Three of the evaluative methods mentioned above applied to the entire questionnaire. These include behavior coding, interviewer debriefing and nonresponse. Respondent debriefing focused on questions that were thought to be potentially difficult for respondents, and correlations were conducted for items that seemed similar. Items discussed in this report are limited to those that were identified as problematic based on the decision rule guidelines.

#### V. General Summary of Interviewer Debriefing and Behavior Coding

In what follows, we report on the outcomes of the four evaluation procedures described above. We begin by discussing the results of the interviewer debriefing and behavior coding in general, and then talk about each section of the questionnaire, bringing in results from the different evaluation procedures, as warranted.

##### A. Interviewer Debriefing

In general, interviewers in the four debriefings thought the questionnaire flowed well, but that it was too long and repetitive. A handful of problematic items were identified in each debriefing with considerable overlap of items identified among the four groups. (Specific problems identified by interviewers are included in the subsequent sections.) As in the first pretest, interviewers identified far fewer problems with the questionnaire than the behavior coding revealed. Perhaps the one-time nature of this survey and the limited number of cases administered by each interviewer limited their ability to identify problematic items. In our judgement, interviewer debriefings are not very valuable at this stage of questionnaire research. We believe that the behavior coding data offer much better and more reliable data.

##### B. Behavior Coding

Questions were considered problematic if less than 85 percent of the time interviewers read questions exactly or with only slight changes that did not affect question meaning, or if less than 85 percent of respondents gave adequate or qualified answers to the question. (See Attachment E for behavior coding results.)

Behavior coding for the August field pretest revealed more problems than the wave 1 pretest. This was not because of interviewer behaviors: Only 4 of 79 questions had interviewer problems. But 42 of 79 questions--53.2 percent--caused problems for respondents. Even if we eliminate 7 of these (because they were answered by fewer than 7 respondents), 35 of the 79 (44 percent) showed problems for respondents. This represents an increase in question difficulty from the wave 1 pretest, where only 26 percent of 74 questions manifested such problems.

Of the 42 questions with problems, 25 are new questions added since the pretest (5 were "new" because of changes in the reference period). Six more are questions in the food expenditure section which combined asking about "you" and "other members of the household" in one question after the wave 1 pretest in order to save time. Of the 11 others, 4 are in the food expenditure section: The two questions (10 and 10A) asking about the "least amount" the respondent could get by on; and the two asking whether the total is the correct amount and if not, what the correct amount is (questions 5 and 6). The "least amount" question caused problems in the wave 1 pretest also--respondents find this a difficult task--but the question asking whether the total amount was correct was answered without difficulty by 91 percent of the wave 1 pretest sample, in contrast to only 82 percent in the field test.

In addition to the 42 questions identified above, we also examined questions giving rise to respondent interruptions before being adequately answered. For example, the respondent may provide an adequate answer to a question before all the response options were read. Five additional questions were problematic because of respondent interruptions.

In the sections that follow, we discuss the results of the evaluation for each of the questionnaire sections in turn.

## VI. Evaluation of Questionnaire Items

### A. Food Expenditure Section (1-8, 10-10A)

Fifteen of the 17 food expenditure questions (all items except questions 1 and 4) manifested respondent problems on the field test. Most of these problems were, apparently, resolved in the course of negotiations between the respondent and the interviewer; none of these items had unacceptably high nonresponse rates. However, many of the answers were qualified; that is, people answered in terms of approximate rather than precise amounts.

Behavior coding notes indicate that some respondents focused on the latter part of question 1A ("...Not counting money spent on nonfood items, such as cleaning or paper products, pet food, or

cigarettes.") rather than the first part ("how much did you spend for food at a supermarket last week,..."). Several respondents reported that they don't smoke. There were also some requests for clarifications regarding what to include, such as "Just on food items?", and a few regarding the reference period, such as "For the whole week?"

Both the interviewer debriefings and the behavior coding notes indicated that there is confusion between a "supermarket" and a "grocery store". Several respondents requested clarification regarding the difference between the two when asked question 2, and the interviewers said that for some respondents the two terms are synonymous.

Both interviewer debriefings and behavior coding notes indicate that some respondents who shopped at the bakery or deli in their supermarket had difficulty answering question 3, which asks about buying food at a specialty store or food vender, such as a bakery, meat market, produce stand, delicatessen, or health food store. Respondents didn't know whether they should report the amounts they bought at the supermarket bakery or deli in 1A (amount spent at the supermarket) or 3A (amount spent at specialty stores).

Respondents also had difficulty answering question 7, "Is this the usual amount (you/you and other members of your household) spend on food per week?" Behavior coding notes indicate that for some respondents the usual amount they spend per week varies. This results in inadequate answers such as, "Usually it varies" or "Sometimes". A few respondents who shop less than weekly wanted to give usual amounts biweekly or monthly. Interviewers also noted that the food expenditure questions were difficult for respondents who shop monthly and for elderly respondents who had someone else shop for them.

Question 10 (and 10A) was difficult for respondents based on both behavior coding and interviewer debriefing data. Behavior coding notes indicate respondents had difficulty with the concepts of "least amount" and "just enough food". Additionally, several of the inadequate answers resulted from respondents saying that what they spend now is the least they could get by on, rather than giving a dollar amount to this question. Interviewers confirmed that the concept of "just enough food" was difficult for respondents. Interviewers also questioned the quality of the data collected in this item because some respondents said that the least amount they needed was what they currently spent, but later these same respondents reported that they did not have enough to eat.

We examined the relation between the amounts reported in response to the more detailed questions, and in response to the question, "Is this the usual amount (you/you and other members of your

household) spend on food per week? (If not) "What is the usual amount?" As would be expected on the basis of earlier work by Schwarz and others, respondents who report a discrepancy between actual and usual amounts tend to say that they "usually" spend less: ~~65.79~~ percent of respondents (N=364) reported that their actual expenditures are what they usually spend each week; 14 percent said that what they actually spent is less than what they usually spend; 21 percent said what they actually spent is more than what they usually spend. One would expect the expenditures brought to mind by the question about "usual" expenditures to be less comprehensive and, hence, less accurate than the cued responses to detailed questioning; that is, the perception of what one "usually" spends is likely to be an underestimate.

We also compared the percent difference between the dollar amounts reported for actual and usual food expenditures. Thirty percent of respondents (N=362) reported usual weekly food expenditures that differed by more than twenty percent from their actual expenditure for the week preceding the interview. This includes 78 percent (N=50) of those who said their actual expenditures were less than their usual expenditures, and 90 percent (N=78) of those who said that their actual expenditures were more than their usual expenditures.

#### B. Program Participation (9-9G)

Only the question asking for the amount of food stamps received last month (9A) showed problems as far as the behavior coding was concerned, and these problems, too, were apparently resolved in subsequent rounds of negotiation. There was a negligible amount of nonresponse to this question.

Interviewers suggested combining the breakfast and lunch questions into one item (9C and 9D) and both interviewers and respondents questioned why 9E is asked for children under 13, rather than those under age 5.

#### C. Food Sufficiency (11-14A)

Both question 11 and question 12 caused problems for respondents, 12 more so than 11: Only 73 percent (N=151) of respondents gave adequate or qualified answers to question 12, in spite of revisions made to the wave 1 pretest version. Eighty-four percent of respondents gave adequate or qualified answers to question 11 (N=187), which is comparable to the wave 1 pretest results (80 percent gave adequate or qualified answers, N=35).

Interviewers indicated that question 12 may not be discriminating in the way it is intended. They noted that the concept of "the kind (of food) you want" in question 12 is confusing for some respondents because "everybody wants something better...even



millionaires". Interviewers also found this question difficult to read.

Behavior coding notes indicate that respondents often reiterate that they have "enough to eat" in response to question 12, which intends to get at the quality of food eaten rather than the quantity of food. Other respondents noted that because of diet restrictions or trying to eat "healthy foods" they don't always have the kind of food they like.

Interviewers found that question 13 was problematic for some respondents because the category may apply to the respondent (e.g. "no working refrigerator") but that may not be the reason the respondent does not have enough to eat.

Question 14 also caused problems for 3 of the 7 respondents who received it. When asked, "Which is the main reason you don't always have enough to eat--(fill with items marked in 13)?" two of the three respondents who gave inadequate answers to this question indicated that both reasons they had listed in question 13 applied; that is, they could not choose a "main" reason. The third answered "not enough food", which suggests that this respondent didn't understand the question.

#### D. Coping (15-52)

Eighteen questions in this section caused problems for respondents, as identified by the behavior coding (17, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48, 49). Of the 18, 12 were new questions added since the pretest. The reference period in the other 6 was changed since the pretest. The problems with the "coping" questions were concentrated among those asking about frequency estimates--i.e., number of months in past 12 months, and number of days in past 30 days. Note that the questions about children (41-49) had less than 7 respondents, but are included here because they are similar to the adult questions and are probably difficult for respondents to answer for similar reasons. Only 6 questions in this section caused problems for respondents on the wave 1 pretest; and only 2 of these had an adequate answer rate of less than 80 percent.

Behavior coding notes for the two adult questions asking in how many months the respondent (or other adults in the household) cut the size of or skipped meals (Q25) or went a whole day without eating (Q35) indicate that respondents have difficulty quantifying these behaviors in the terms requested. Some respondents gave vague answers such as "occasionally," "not many," or "all my life". Others answered in terms of "times"--it is not clear whether these respondents are referring to days or months--and at least one respondent answered in days. In addition, respondents had difficulty understanding the phrase "In how many months". Several respondents requested clarification

from the interviewer asking, "How many times?", while others asked "How many months?"

Respondents also provided vague quantifiers in response to the question asking how many days in the last 30 days they had cut the size or skipped meals (Q27), eaten less than they felt they should (Q30), or were hungry but didn't eat (Q33). For example, respondents gave answers such as "Daily--that was a bunch of times," "about once a week," "many times". Others gave ranges. There were also several requests for clarification regarding the reference period, such as "In the last 30 days?" or "In the last what?" Questions such as these suggest that respondents are having difficulty remembering the reference period and/or switching between the 12-month and 30-day reference periods. Additionally, interviewers found it difficult to switch back and forth between 12 months and 30 days, and said that this caused problems for respondents too, especially the elderly.

Interviewers said that the sequence of questions in this section is confusing because it shifts back and forth between "you alone" (i.e. the respondent) and "you or other adults in your household". Questions 18-27 ask about all adults in the household; questions 28-33 ask about the respondent only; questions 34-37 ask about all adults in the household; and questions 38-39 ask about the respondent only.

There were other indicators of problems with these questions. Many questions asking for days and months tended to have "don't know" (DK) rates greater than 10% (Q25 = 7.5 percent DK, N=67; Q27=7.7 percent DK, N=39; Q33 = 17.4 percent DK, N=23; Q35 = 10.0 percent DK, N=20; Q37 = 9.1 percent refusals and 18.2 percent DK, N=11). Respondents indicated, on the debriefing questions, that they could not remember the months during which they skipped meals or cut the size of their meals (D7 = 46.7 percent said "no", N=45) or did not eat for a whole day (D6 = 53.3 percent said "no", N=15). Additionally, 23.4 percent (N=295) of respondents failed to understand correctly the time period referred to by the questions asking about "the last 12 months" (D9). When asked how they had arrived at the number of days during the past 30 days on which they had cut the size of meals or skipped a meal (D10), 20 percent of the 36 respondents who said they had done so said they had "guessed" or "estimated" the number of days.

We examined correlations between the more objective versus subjective questions in this section. The correlation between question 24 (cut the size of or skip meals) and question 28 (eat less than you felt you should) was 0.61 (N=298), and the correlation between question 24 and question 31 was 0.50 (N=298). Although these correlations are not high enough as to be redundant, they do indicate considerable overlap among questions.

A series of debriefing questions were designed to elicit respondents' reactions to various aspects of the questionnaire. (See Attachment F for response distributions to the close-ended respondent debriefing questions.) Two debriefing questions were asked about the entire questionnaire, but are reported here because the coping and hunger questions comprise the bulk of the questionnaire items and are most likely to be viewed by respondents as similar. Debriefing question D1 asked, "Did this part of the interview seem too short, about the right length, or too long?" Twenty-two percent of respondents said the interview was too long (N=296). Debriefing question D3 asked, "Did many of the questions seem to be asking about the same thing, or did they ask about different things?" Forty-six percent of respondents (N=295) said the questions asked about the same thing. This suggests that this series of questions should perhaps be shortened.

general  
interview questions

One possibility for reducing the length of the interview for some respondents is to use questions 15 and 16 as screeners for the remaining questions in the "coping" and "concern about food sufficiency" sections. That is, respondents who said that they had never run short of money and tried to make their food or their food money go further (Q15) and also said that they had never run out of the foods that they needed to make a meal and didn't have money to get more (Q16) would be skipped over questions in the "coping" and "concern about food sufficiency" sections.

When both questions 15 and 16 are answered negatively, 85 out of 106 respondents answer all subsequent questions (through 38) negatively, and an additional 16 respondents answered "no" to all but one of these questions. Three others answered "no" to all but 2. The question most frequently eliciting a "yes" response (when 15 and 16 are both "no") is question 20, which we discuss below as being of questionable quality.

### Quality of Responses

We addressed the issue of the quality of responses in a variety of ways by means of the respondent debriefing questions.

(1) Debriefing item D11 asked respondents to paraphrase question 31: "We asked you whether you were ever hungry but you didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food. Could you tell me in your own words what that question means to you?" Answers indicate that this question was understood, although respondents did not really distinguish between ever being hungry but not eating because they couldn't afford enough food and running out of money to buy food (which is asked about in other questions).

Can you tell me

(2) Debriefing item D12 asked respondents about the meaning of question 16: "You told me earlier that you ran out of the foods that you needed to make a meal and you didn't have money to get more. Did you run out of food altogether, or did you have some food but not the kinds needed to make a meal?" Responses indicated that respondents understood this question as intended. About 88 percent said they "had some food but not the kinds needed to make a meal". However, when we asked about what kinds of food they needed to make a meal, we found that almost 100 percent (N=98) mentioned meat as the food that was needed to make a meal; many of them gave this as the first mention.

*something  
not made it*

(3) Debriefing item D14 asked respondents to paraphrase question 20: "We asked you earlier if you ever ate the same thing for several days in a row because you only had a few different kinds of food on hand and didn't have money to get more. Could you tell me in your own words what that question means to you?" Almost half the respondents (N=294) made no mention of lack of money as a reason for eating the same thing for several days in a row; it is doubtful that this question was understood or answered as it was intended. When we followed up in debriefing item D15 by asking those who had said "yes" to question 20 what it was they ate for several days in a row, 23 of 108 respondents mentioned some kind of meat first, and 17 others included meat somewhere on the list of foods eaten for several days in a row.

✓

Interviewers also found Q20 problematic for both themselves and respondents. Interviewers said that some respondents didn't hear the phrase "and didn't have money to get more", and had to stress that the question is not referring to leftovers or eating the same thing for several days because the respondent likes that kind of food. Interviewers also said Q20 was too long and contained too many different ideas.

(4) Responses to D17, which probed how respondents decide how much they should eat, indicated that this question was well understood by most respondents.

(5) We asked respondents if they thought the questions were "biased or unbiased" (D4) and, if they said "biased", we asked them "In what way do you think they were biased?" (D5). (These questions were asked in reference to the entire questionnaire. Results are included here because this series of questions comprises the bulk of the questionnaire.) Half of the respondents said the questions were unbiased (N=295). Twelve percent said the questions were biased. Twenty-eight percent said they didn't know what "biased" meant and seven percent said they didn't know whether the questions were biased or unbiased. When we probed regarding how the questions were biased (D5), the verbatim answers indicate that the concept of "bias" was not adequately understood.

#### E. Concern About Food Sufficiency (53-58)

All six questions in this section were new, and all but one (Q56) posed problems for respondents, as indicated by the behavior coding. There were apparently no problems with nonresponse, however.

Approximately half of the inadequate answers for questions 53, 54, and 55 arose because respondents indicated whether or not the statement applied; that is, they gave answers such as "no," "true," or "yes" rather than "often," "sometimes," or "never" true. Such responses require interviewers to probe to get a codable answer.

Behavior coding indicates that there are fewer requests for clarification as respondents cycle through these questions. This suggests that respondents catch on to the response task as they proceed through this series of questions. Requests for clarification increase, however, at question 58 (9.8 percent, N=61). The behavior coding notes indicate that respondents have difficulty with the concept of a "limited number of foods" and in one case the respondent interpreted this as a "limited amount" of food.

We looked at the correlations between these questions and the more "objective" questions asking about similar information. The correlations among the items are as follows: 53 and 15, correlation=.44, N=298; 53 and 16, correlation=.55, N=298; 54 and 15, correlation=.45, N=297; 54 and 16, correlation=.62, N=298; 56 and 58, correlation=.51, N=131; 57 and 43, correlation=.61, N=132; 57 and 40, correlation=.57, N=132; 57 and 47, correlation=.71, N=132. Although these correlations are not so high as to be redundant, they indicate considerable overlap among the questions.

Interviewers said that they had to read the first statement and question several times for the respondent to understand the task. Many interviewers also said they had to probe because respondents often answered "true" rather than "often true" or "sometimes true". This is consistent with the behavior coding data.

#### F. Food Safety

Most of the questions were deleted from this last section since the wave 1 pretest. In addition, one of the response alternatives was dropped to simplify the response task. Nevertheless, all four of the remaining questions posed problems for respondents, and did so to a greater extent than they had on the wave 1 pretest. Ultimately, most respondents did give codable responses to these questions, however.

Both interviewer debriefings and behavior coding notes indicate that respondents say they are concerned about the issue, but that they don't answer how concerned they are. For example, the respondent will answer, "Yes, I'm concerned about that" rather than "very concerned" or "somewhat concerned". In such cases interviewers need to probe to get codable answers. This is particularly noticeable in the first question of this series (Q59) in which 37 of 51 respondent problems (72 percent) were of this variety. This drops to about 30 percent of respondent problems in the next three questions.

Behavior coding notes also indicate that questions 61 and 62 caused problems for respondents because they didn't apply to the respondent's situation. Several respondents said that they didn't eat at restaurants when asked how concerned they were about eating spoiled or contaminated food at restaurants. When asked how concerned they were about eating spoiled or contaminated food at home, several respondents said that they don't eat spoiled food or that they would never let this happen.

Interviewers said that the section on food safety was one of the easier sections and that respondents were interested in this section. Interviewers noted that some people are very concerned about Q62 (eating spoiled or contaminated food at home); however, others are offended by the question. According to interviewers, there seem to be different interpretations of what it means to be "concerned about" eating spoiled or contaminated food at home: some respondents are "concerned" and try to avoid it while others are "concerned" because they think it may happen. Interviewers also noted that some respondents had trouble with the concept "contaminated".

## VII. Summary

Following is a summary table of all pretest questions. Problematic questions are identified by evaluation methodology. (See Attachment D, Decision Rules, for how problematic questions were determined.) Questions that were not problematic are listed in the second column under "no problems".

In some cases, respondent and interviewer debriefing data pertained to the entire questionnaire or to sections of the questionnaire, rather than to a particular item. Such information is not portrayed in the summary table, but should be kept in mind when revising the questionnaire. Two such respondent debriefing items that did not pass the decision rule criteria are items D1 and D3 regarding the length of the questionnaire and whether the questions ask about the same or different things, respectively. Similarly, interviewer comments regarding the following three areas also pertain to the entire question or to sections of it and are not included in the summary table: (1) length and repetitiveness of the questionnaire, (2)

switching of the reference period between the 12-month and 30-day reference period, and (3) sequencing of questions that switch between "you alone" and "you or other adults in your household".

Correlations between items thought to be similar were conducted. The correlations suggest that there is considerable overlap among questions; however, the correlations did not surpass the decision rule criteria of 0.8 or higher and are not included in the table.

According to the decision rules, questions identified by one or more methodologies as being problematic should either be revised or deleted as laid out in the decision rule guidelines. Actual decisions regarding questionnaire revisions, however, will be decided jointly by Food and Nutrition Service and Census Bureau staff in upcoming meetings.

**Summary Table of Questions**  
**Problematic Questions Identified by Evaluation Methodology**

<u>Question</u>	<u>No Problems</u>	<u>Behavior Coding<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Interviewer Debriefing<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Respondent Debriefing</u>	<u>Nonresponse</u>
<b>Food Expenditures</b>					
1			X		
1A		X			
1B	X				
1C		X			
2		X	X		
2A		X			
3		X	X		
3A		X	X		
4	X				
4A		X			
5		X			
6		X			
7		X			
8		X			

---

<sup>1</sup>An asterisk indicates that there were less than 7 respondents in the behavior coding data.

<sup>2</sup>Interviewer-identified problems regarding questions 13A-13E, 53-58, and 59-62 were general comments that applied to the series, rather than to a particular question. As such, all items in those series were marked as problematic based on the interviewer debriefings.

<u>Question</u>	<u>No Problems</u>	<u>Behavior Coding</u>	<u>Interviewer Debriefing</u>	<u>Respondent Debriefing</u>	<u>Nonresponse</u>
<b>Program Participation</b>					
9	X				
9A		X			
9B	X				
9C			X		
9D			X		
9E			X		
9F	X				
9G	X				
<b>Least Amount</b>					
10		X	X		
10A		X	X		
<b>Food Sufficiency</b>					
11		X			
12		X	X		
13A			X		
13B			X		
13C			X		
13D			X		
13E			X		
14		X			
14A	X				
<b>Coping</b>					
15	X				
16				X	
17		X			
18	X				
19	X				
20			X	X	
21	X				
22	X				
23	X				
24				X	
25		X		X	
26		X			
27		X		X	
28				X	
29		X			
30		X			
31	X			X	
32		X			
33		X			X



<u>Question</u>	<u>No Problems</u>	<u>Behavior Coding</u>	<u>Interviewer Debriefing</u>	<u>Respondent Debriefing</u>	<u>Nonresponse</u>
<b>Coping -- cont.</b>					
34	X			(X)	
35		X		X	X
36		X			
37		X*			X
38				X	
39		X			
<b>Children's Items</b>					
40				X	
41		X*			
42		X*			
43				X	
44		X*		X	
45	X				
46		X*			
47				X	
48		X*			
49		X*			
50	X				
51		NA			
52		NA			
<b>Concern About Food Sufficiency</b>					
53		X	X		
54		X	X		
55		X	X		
56			X		
57			X		
58		X	X		
<b>Food Safety</b>					
59		X	X		
60		X	X		
61		X	X		
62		X	X		

<u>Question</u>	<u>No Problems</u>	<u>Behavior Coding</u>	<u>Interviewer Debriefing</u>	<u>Respondent Debriefing</u>	<u>Nonresponse</u>
<b>Coping -- cont.</b>					
34	X			(X)	
35		X		X	X
36		X			
37		X*			X
38				X	
39		X			
<b>Children's Items</b>					
40				X	
41		X*			
42		X*			
43				X	
44		X*		X	
45	X				
46		X*			
47				X	
48		X*			
49		X*			
50	X				
51		NA			
52		NA			
<b>Concern About Food Sufficiency</b>					
53		X	X		
54		X	X		
55		X	X		
56			X		
57			X		
58		X	X		
<b>Food Safety</b>					
59		X	X		
60		X	X		
61		X	X		
62		X	X		

ATTACHMENT A

FIELD TEST QUESTIONNAIRE

I. FOOD SHOPPING

[IF MORE THAN ONE PERSON AGE 10 OR OVER, USE WORDING AFTER SLASH IN PARENTHETICAL. OTHERWISE USE WORDING BEFORE SLASH IN PARENTHETICAL.]

1. The first few questions are about buying food for your household. During the last week, did (you/anyone in your household) shop for food at a supermarket?

- Yes (ASK 1A)  
 No (SKIP TO 1B)  
 DK (SKIP TO 1B)

- 1A. How much did (you/your household) spend for food at a supermarket last week, NOT counting money spent on nonfood items, such as cleaning or paper products, pet food, or cigarettes.

\$ \_ \_ \_ .00 (ACCEPT RANGE)

- DK

- 1B. How often (do/does) (you/someone from your household) usually shop for food at a supermarket --once a week or more, 2 to 3 times a month, once a month or less, or do you never shop at a supermarket?

- Once a week or more (SKIP TO 2)  
 2 to 3 times a month (ASK 1C)  
 Once a month or less (ASK 1C)  
 Never shop at a supermarket (SKIP TO 2)  
 DK (SKIP TO 2)

- 1C. How much (do/does) (you/your household) usually spend for food at a supermarket each month?

\$ \_ \_ \_ .00 (ACCEPT RANGE)

- DK

2. Last week, did (you/anyone in your household) buy food at a convenience store or grocery store other than a supermarket?

- Yes (ASK 2A)  
 No (SKIP TO 3)  
 DK (SKIP TO 3)

2A. How much did (you/your household) spend for food at convenience stores or grocery stores other than a supermarket last week?

\$ \_ \_ \_ .00 (ACCEPT RANGE)

DK

3. Last week, did (you/anyone in your household) buy food at any kind of a specialty store or food vender, such as a bakery, meat market, produce stand, delicatessen, or health food store?

Yes (ASK 3A)

No (SKIP TO 4)

DK (SKIP TO 4)

3A. How much did (you/your household) spend for food at all such places last week?

\$ \_ \_ \_ .00 (ACCEPT RANGE)

DK

4. Last week, did (you/anyone in your household) buy food at a restaurant, fast food place, cafeteria, or a vending machine?

Yes (ASK 4A)

No (SKIP TO 5)

DK (SKIP TO 5)

4A. How much did (you/your household) spend for food at restaurants, fast food places, cafeterias, or vending machines last week?

\$ \_ \_ \_ .00 (ACCEPT RANGE)

DK

- [IF DK IN 1A, 2A, 3A, AND 4A SKIP TO CK9]  
[ADD AMOUNTS IN 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A]
5. Let's see, you've told me (you/you and other members of your household) spent a total of \$ \_\_\_\_ .00 last week on all your food. Is that the right amount?
- Yes (SKIP TO 7)  
 No
6. What is the correct amount?
- \$ \_\_\_\_ .00 (ACCEPT RANGE)
- DK (Skip to CK9)
7. Is this the usual amount (you/you and other members of your household) spend on food per week?
- Yes (Skip to CK9)  
 No  
 DK (Skip to CK9)
8. What is the usual amount?
- \$ \_\_\_\_ (Accept range)
- DK

-----  
**CK9** If household is more than 200% poverty skip to 10. Otherwise ask 9.  
-----

9. During the past 30 days, did anyone in this household get food stamps?

- Yes (ASK 9A)
- No (SKIP TO 9B)
- DK (SKIP TO 9B)

9A. During the past 30 days, what was the total value of the food stamps received by the household?

\$ \_ \_ \_ .00

DK

9B. [IF ANYONE IN HOUSEHOLD IS 60 YEARS OLD OR OLDER, ASK 9B. OTHERWISE SKIP TO 9C.]

During the past 30 days, did anyone in the household receive free or reduced-cost meals for the elderly?

- Yes
- No
- DK

9C. [IF CHILDREN AGES 5 THROUGH 18, ASK 9C. OTHERWISE SKIP TO 9F.]

During the past 30 days, did (name/any children in the household) (receive/between 5 and 18 years old receive) free or reduced-cost lunches at school?

- Yes
- No
- DK

9D. During the past 30 days, did (name/any children in the household) (receive/between 5 and 18 years old receive) free or reduced-cost breakfasts at school?

- Yes
- No
- DK

9E. [IF CHILDREN UNDER 13, ASK 9E. OTHERWISE SKIP TO 9F.]

During the past 30 days, did (name/any children in the household) (receive/less than 13 years old receive) free or reduced-cost food at a day-care center or Head Start program?

- Yes
- No
- DK

9F. [IF WOMEN AGES 15 TO 45 OR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK 9F. OTHERWISE SKIP TO 9G.]

[IF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5, FILL PARENTHETICAL.]

During the past 30 days, did any (women/women or children) in this household get food through the WIC program?

- Yes
- No
- DK

9G. During the past 30 days, did (you/anyone in the household) get food, or vouchers to buy food, from any other kind of program?

- Yes (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- DK

---

CK10.

IF DK IN (1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A) or (6 or 8) skip to 10A otherwise ask 10.

---

10. [IF AMOUNT IN 8, FILL DOLLAR WITH THAT AMOUNT ELSE IF 7 IS YES AND AMOUNT IN 6 FILL DOLLAR WITH THAT AMOUNT OTHERWISE FILL WITH AMOUNT IN 5.]

[READ FIRST PARENTHETICAL ONLY IF RESPONDENT HAS INDICATED ANY SOURCES OF FREE OR REDUCED-COST FOOD. OTHERWISE READ SECOND PARENTHETICAL.]

You told me that you usually spend \$\_\_\_\_\_ on food per week (and that you received some food or vouchers for food from government or other programs. If you had to pay for all the food yourself,) (Now I'd like to know) what is the least amount of money you would need to spend per week in order to have just enough food for everyone in the household?

\$ \_\_\_\_\_.00 (ACCEPT RANGE)

DK

10A. [READ PARENTHETICAL ONLY IF RESPONDENT HAS INDICATED ANY SOURCES OF FREE OR REDUCED-COST FOOD.]

(If you had to pay for all the food yourself) What is the least amount of money you would need to spend per week in order to have just enough food for everyone in the household?

\$ \_ \_ \_ .00 (ACCEPT RANGE)

[ ] DK



II. FOOD SUFFICIENCY

11. These next questions are about the food eaten in your household.

Which of the following statements best describes the amount of food eaten in your household--enough food to eat, sometimes not enough to eat, or often not enough to eat?

- Enough food to eat
- Sometimes not enough to eat (SKIP TO 13)
- Often not enough to eat (SKIP TO 13)
- DK (SKIP TO 15)

12. Do you have enough AND the kind of food you want to eat, or do you have enough BUT NOT ALWAYS the kind of food you want to eat?

- enough and the kind you want (SKIP TO CK15)
- enough but not always the kind you want (SKIP TO CK15)
- DK (SKIP TO CK15)

13. Here are some reasons why people don't always have enough to eat. For each of these, please tell me whether or not it applies to you. [READ LIST. MARK ALL THAT APPLY.]

	YES	NO	DK
Not enough money for food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Too hard to get to the store	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No working stove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No working refrigerator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not able to cook or eat because of health problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. [IF NO REASON OR ALL DK MARKED IN 13, SKIP TO 14A.  
IF ONLY ONE REASON INDICATED "YES" IN 13, FILL AS MAIN REASON AND GO TO 15.  
IF MORE THAN ONE REASON INDICATED "YES" IN 13, PLUG PARENTHETICAL WITH CATEGORIES MARKED IN 13.]

Which is the main reason you don't always have enough to eat(--fill with items marked in 13)?  
[MARK ONLY ONE.]

- Not enough money for food
- Too hard to get to the store
- No working stove
- No working refrigerator
- Not able to cook or eat because of health problems
- DK

14A. What is the main reason you don't always have enough to eat?

\_\_\_\_\_ (specify)

III. COPING MECHANISMS AND FOOD SCARCITY

---

CK15

If H is "enough to eat" and household is  
more than 200% poverty.....(SKIP TO 59)  
Otherwise.....(ASK 15)

---

15. People do different things when they are running out of money for food in order to make their food or their food money go further.

In the last 12 months, since September 1993, did you ever run short of money and try to make your food or your food money go further?

Yes  
 No  
 DK

16. In the last 12 months, did you ever run out of the foods that you needed to make a meal and you didn't have money to get more?

Yes  
 No (Skip to 18)  
 DK (Skip to 18)

17. Now think about the last 30 days. Did you ever run out of the foods that you needed to make a meal in the last 30 days and you didn't have money to get more?

Yes  
 No  
 DK

[IF MORE THAN ONE PERSON AGE 18 OR OVER IN HOUSEHOLD, FILL PARENTHETICAL REGARDING OTHER ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLD IN QUESTIONS 18 THROUGH 40.]

18. In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever get food or borrow money for food from friends or relatives?

Yes  
 No  
 DK

19. [IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK 19. OTHERWISE SKIP TO 20.]  
In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever send or take (name/the children) to the homes of friends or relatives for a meal because you were running out of food?

Yes  
 No  
 DK

20. In the last 12 months, since September 1993, did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever eat the same thing for several days in a row because you only had a few different kinds of food on hand and didn't have money to get more?

- Yes
- No
- DK

21. In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever put off paying a bill so that you would have money to buy food?

- Yes
- No
- DK

22. In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever get emergency food from a church, a food pantry, or food bank?

- Yes
- No
- DK

23. In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever eat any meals at a soup kitchen?

- Yes
- No
- DK

24. In the last 12 months, since September 1993, 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 TO 28)
- DK (SKIP TO 28)

25. In how many months since September 1993 did (you/you or other adults in your household) cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of months

- DK

26. Now think about the last 30 days. Did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals in the last 30 days because there wasn't enough money for food?

- Yes
- No (SKIP TO 28)
- DK (SKIP TO 28)

27. In the last 30 days, how many times did (you/you or other adults in your household) cut the size of your meals or skip meals?

\_\_\_\_\_ times

DK

28. 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 (SKIP TO 31)

DK (SKIP TO 31)

29. In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money to buy food?

Yes

No (SKIP TO 31)

DK (SKIP TO 31)

30. In the last 30 days, how many days did you eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money to buy food?

\_\_\_\_\_ number of days

31. In the last 12 months, since September 1993, were you ever hungry but you didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?

Yes

No (SKIP TO 34)

DK (SKIP TO 34)

32. In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but you didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?

Yes

No (SKIP TO 34)

DK (SKIP TO 34)

33. In the last 30 days, how many days were you hungry but you didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?

\_\_\_\_\_ number of days

34. In the last 12 months, since September 1993, 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 TO 38)

DK (SKIP TO 38)

35. In how many months since September 1993 did (you/you or other adults in your household) not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

\_\_\_ number of months

36. Now think about the last 30 days. Did (you/you or other adults in your household) ever not eat for a whole day in the last 30 days because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No (SKIP TO 38)

DK (SKIP TO 38)

37. In the last 30 days, how many times did (you/you or other adults in your household) not eat for a whole day?

\_\_\_\_\_ times

DK

38. Sometimes people lose weight because they don't have enough to eat. In the last 12 months, did you lose weight because there wasn't enough food?

Yes

No (SKIP TO 40)

DK (SKIP TO 40)

39. In the last 30 days, did you lose weight because there wasn't enough food?

Yes

No

DK

40. [IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK 40. OTHERWISE SKIP TO 53.]  
[IF ONLY ONE CHILD UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, FILL PARENTHETICAL WITH CHILD'S FIRST NAME.]

The next questions are about (child's name/children living in the household who are under 18 years old).

In the last 12 months, since September 1993, did you ever cut the size of (child's name/any of the children)'s meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No (SKIP TO 43)

DK (SKIP TO 43)

41. In the last 30 days, did you cut the size of (child's name/the children)'s meals?

- Yes
- No (SKIP TO 43)
- DK (SKIP TO 43)

42. In the last 30 days, how many times did you cut the size of (child's name/the children)'s meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

\_\_\_\_\_ times

- DK

43. In the last 12 months, since September 1993, did (child's name/any of the children) ever skip a meal because there wasn't enough money for food?

- Yes
- No (SKIP TO 47)
- DK (SKIP TO 47)

44. In how many months since September 1993, did (child's name/any of the children) skip a meal because there wasn't enough money for food?

\_\_\_\_\_ number of months

45. Now think about the last 30 days. Did (child's name/the children) ever skip a meal in the last 30 days because there wasn't enough money for food?

- Yes
- No (SKIP TO 47)
- DK (SKIP TO 47)

46. In the last 30 days, how many times did (child's name/the children) skip a meal because there wasn't enough money for food?

\_\_\_\_\_ times

- DK

47. In the last 12 months, (was CHILD'S NAME/were the children) ever hungry but you just couldn't afford more food?

- Yes
- No (SKIP TO 50)
- DK (SKIP TO 50)

48. In the last 30 days, (was CHILD'S NAME/were the children) ever hungry but you just couldn't afford more food?

- Yes
- No (SKIP TO 50)
- DK (SKIP TO 50)

49. In the last 30 days, how many days (was CHILD'S NAME/were the children) hungry but you just couldn't afford more food?

\_\_\_ number of days

50. In the last 12 months, since September 1993, did (child's name/any of the children) ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No (SKIP TO 53)

DK (SKIP TO 53)

51. In the last 30 days, did (child's name/the children) ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

Yes

No (SKIP TO 53)

DK (SKIP TO 53)

52. In the last 30 days, how many times did (child's name/the children) not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

\_\_\_\_\_ times

DK

#### IV. CONCERN ABOUT FOOD SUFFICIENCY

53. [IF SINGLE ADULT IN HOUSEHOLD, USE "I" AND "my" IN PARENTHETICALS. OTHERWISE, USE "we" and "our".]

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 (or the other members of your household) in the last 12 months.

"I worried whether (my/our) food would run out before (I/we) got money to buy more." Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?

- Often true  
 Sometimes true  
 Never true

54. "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 in the last 12 months?

- Often true  
 Sometimes true  
 Never true

55. "(I/we) couldn't afford to eat properly." Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?

- Often true  
 Sometimes true  
 Never true

56. [IF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK 56. OTHERWISE SKIP TO 59.]  
"(I/we) couldn't feed the children a balanced meal, because (I/we) couldn't afford that." Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?

- Often true  
 Sometimes true  
 Never true



57. "(The children were) not eating enough because (I/we) just couldn't afford enough food." Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?

- Often true
- Sometimes true
- Never true

58. "(I/we) relied on a limited number of foods to feed (the children) because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food for a meal." Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?

- Often true
- Sometimes true
- Never true

## V. CONCERN ABOUT FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY

59. Some people are concerned about the safety of their food. Tell me how concerned you are about each of the following.

How about pesticides in the fruits and vegetables you buy--are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

- very concerned
- somewhat concerned
- not at all concerned
- DK

60. How about additives and artificial ingredients in the food you buy--are you very, somewhat, or not at all concerned?

- very concerned
- somewhat concerned
- not at all concerned
- DK

61. How about eating spoiled or contaminated food at restaurants or take-outs--are you very, somewhat, or not at all concerned?

- very concerned
- somewhat concerned
- not at all concerned
- DK

62. How about eating spoiled or contaminated food at home--are you very, somewhat, or not at all concerned?

- very concerned
- somewhat concerned
- not at all concerned
- DK

## ATTACHMENT B

### Respondent Debriefing Questions

[IF CK15 IS 2, ASK D1. OTHERWISE SKIP TO END.]

We've completed the main part of the interview. Now I have a few final questions about the part of the interview that has to do with hunger in America. Your answers will help us to improve these questions for the future.

D1. Did this part of the interview seem too short, about the right length, or too long?

- Too short
- About the right length
- Too long

D2. Were the questions easy to answer, hard to answer, or neither easy nor hard?

- Easy (SKIP TO D3)
- Hard (ASK D2A)
- Neither easy nor hard (SKIP TO D3)

D2A. Why was that?  
(verbatim) \_\_\_\_\_

D3. Did many of the questions seem to be asking about the same thing, or did they ask about different things?

- Same thing
- Different things

D4. Did you think the questions were biased or unbiased?

- Biased (ASK D5)
- Unbiased (SKIP TO D6)
- Don't know whether the questions were biased or unbiased (SKIP TO D6)
- Don't know what "biased" means (SKIP TO D6)

D5. In what way do you think they were biased?

(verbatim) \_\_\_\_\_

D6. [IF 35 IS 2 OR MORE, ASK D6. OTHERWISE SKIP TO D7.]

You said there were some months in the past 12 months when you (or other adults in your household) did not eat for a whole day. Do you happen to remember which months these were?

Yes [MARK ALL MONTHS MENTIONED, THEN SKIP TO D8.]

Before August 1993 (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

August 1993

September

October

November

December

January 1994

February

March

April

May

June

July

August 1994

No (SKIP TO D8)

D7. [IF 25 IS 2 OR MORE, ASK D7. OTHERWISE SKIP TO D8.]

You said there were some months in the past 12 months when you (or other adults in your household) cut the size of your meals or skipped meals. Do you happen to remember which months these were?

Yes [MARK ALL MONTHS MENTIONED]

Before August 1993 (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

August 1993

September

October

November

December

January 1994

February

March

April

May

June

July

August 1994

No (SKIP TO D8)

D8. [IF 44 IS 2 OR MORE, ASK D8. OTHERWISE SKIP TO D9.]

You said there were some months in the past 12 months when (CHILD'S NAME/the children) skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food. Do you happen to remember which months these were?

- [ ] Yes [MARK ALL MONTHS MENTIONED]  
[ ] Before August 1993 (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] August 1993  
[ ] September  
[ ] October  
[ ] November  
[ ] December  
[ ] January 1994  
[ ] February  
[ ] March  
[ ] April  
[ ] May  
[ ] June  
[ ] July  
[ ] August 1994  
[ ] No

D9. We asked you several questions about things you might have done in the past 12 months like borrowing food, putting off paying a bill, or skipping or cutting the size of your meals. When you answered these questions, were you thinking of the 12 months starting September 1993 and ending August 1994, or were you thinking of the 12 months starting January 1993 and ending December 1993?

- [ ] September 1993 through August 1994  
[ ] January 1993 through December 1993

D10. [IF 27 IS GREATER THAN ZERO, ASK D10. OTHERWISE SKIP TO D11.]

We asked you how many times in the last 30 days you skipped meals or cut the size of your meal. How did you figure out how many times you skipped or cut the size of meals in the last 30 days?

(PROBE: How did you come up with your answer to that question?)

(verbatim) \_\_\_\_\_

D11. We asked you whether you were ever hungry but you didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food. Could you tell me in your own words what that question means to you?

(verbatim) \_\_\_\_\_

D12. [IF 16 IS YES, ASK D12. OTHERWISE SKIP TO D14.]  
You told me earlier that you ran out of the foods that you needed to make a meal and you didn't have money to get more. Did you run out of food altogether, or did you have some food but not the kinds needed to make a meal?

- ran out of food altogether (SKIP TO D14)  
 had some food but not the kinds to make a meal

D13. What kinds of food do you need to make a meal?

(verbatim) \_\_\_\_\_

D14. We asked you earlier if you ever ate the same thing for several days in a row because you only had a few different kinds of food on hand and didn't have money to get more. Could you tell me in your own words what that question means to you?

(verbatim) \_\_\_\_\_

D15. [IF 20 IS YES, ASK D15. OTHERWISE SKIP TO D17.]  
What kinds of things did you eat?

(verbatim) \_\_\_\_\_

D16. Do you ever eat the same food for several days in a row even when there is enough money for food?

- Yes  
 No

D17. We asked you whether in the past 12 months you ate less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money to buy food. How do you decide how much you should eat?

(verbatim) \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTACHMENT C

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### Development of the CPS Supplement on Hunger

The Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture is sponsoring a supplement to the April 1995 CPS which will focus on Americans' experience of poverty-driven hunger. In January 1994 the Center for Survey Methods Research (CSMR) was asked to help improve the questionnaire intended for this supplement, which had been developed by FNS in cooperation with leading researchers on poverty and hunger.

An earlier version of the Food Security Supplement was pretested in May, 1994. Following the pretest, the supplement was revised and administered to 600 households in August 1994. The tapes you will be coding are from the second pretest.

#### What Is Behavior Coding?

Behavior coding is the systematic coding of the interactions between an interviewer and a respondent. It can be used to monitor interviewer performance as well as to identify problem questions. We are using it in order to identify problem questions.

#### What Interactions Are Coded?

The simplest interaction between an interviewer and a respondent is one in which the interviewer asks the question, the respondent gives an answer, and the interviewer is able to record the answer and go to the next question and begin the process all over again. This, however, is not always the case. Sometimes the respondent gives an answer that does not give the interviewer enough information to code a response. At other times the respondent doesn't know the answer to the question asked. All of these are the type of interactions that this behavior coding is designed to capture.

Interviewer codes have been chosen to indicate how the interviewer asks the question. That is, does he/she read it exactly as worded or with some modifications? Respondent codes are designed to show what the respondent did when it was her turn to answer. Did she interrupt while the interviewer was reading the question? If the respondent provided an answer, did it meet the objectives of the question?

In the case of a simple interaction, there will be one interviewer code and one respondent code. With more complex interactions, the interviewer may have to repeat the question or otherwise probe for an adequate answer. This could take several turns at interviewer/respondent exchanges and would require a code for each exchange. However, for this study, we are coding the first exchange only, because we are interested primarily in identifying problems with the questions rather than monitoring interviewers' performance.

## **How Does Behavior Coding Help Identify Problem Questions?**

What insight into problems do interviewer and respondent interactions give us? Suppose interviewers consistently ask a question incorrectly. We should review that question to see if the reason for the error is that the question is too complex or badly worded. Or, if several respondents say they don't know the answer to a question, it may indicate that what we are asking is too difficult to remember or figure out, or there are terms in the question that are unfamiliar to the respondent.

## **How Reliable Is Behavior Coding?**

Research indicates that behavior coding can be used to evaluate questions. But in order to do so, the coding must be reliable--that is, each coder must apply the same codes under the same conditions. This manual along with your training will provide you with instructions for coding.

In order to make sure that coders are applying these instructions in the same way, you will be given interviews to code that others have coded. We will then compare the results to make sure they are comparable between coders. If necessary, we will provide additional training to increase coding reliability.

A (reduced) copy of the form to be used for coding interactions between interviewers and respondents appears on the next page. Instructions on how to use this form to code interactions appear in sections III and IV. If any of these instructions are unclear, please do not hesitate to ask questions!

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

### **Maintaining Confidentiality of the Tapes**

Since these tapes contain confidential material, appropriate measures must be taken to maintain confidentiality. When the tapes are not being used, they should be stored in a locked cabinet or drawer. Only persons authorized to listen to the tapes should have access to them.

### **Timing**

Training for behavior coding will be held on September 9, 1994. If need be, additional training will be conducted on September 12, 1994 and production coding will begin thereafter. We are estimating that coding an interview will take an average of 30 minutes. Obviously, some interviews are longer than others and some are more complex than others, so this time will vary between interviews. Also, as you become more proficient, the time it



takes to code an interview will be reduced.

If possible, we would like you to do behavior coding only if you have a block of 2-3 hours available without interruption. Good coding takes concentration, and you should finish coding a case without interruption. Coding 3 or 4 cases at a time will help to improve your accuracy and speed.

### **Assigning Cases**

Cases should be randomly assigned to a coder, except that each interviewer should have his/her interviews coded by several coders. No interviewer's work should be assigned to one coder only

### **Reliability of Coding Between Coders**

As mentioned above, it is critical that each coder use the same standards for coding interviews. To maintain a standard of quality between coders, you will be assigned cases that others will also code. When all coders have completed the coding of these cases, we will compare the codes for comparability between coders.

## **III. COMPLETING THE TOP PORTION OF THE CODING FORM**

For every interview you code, you will have to record some background information on the coding form to enable researchers to match the coded data with the audiotape of the interview. You will need to code the information listed below at the top of the first coding page for each interview. You only need to record the case ID and page number on subsequent pages for the same interview.

### **A. Case ID (13 digits)**

The case ID is the 13 digit code representing the RO, PSU, segment and serial number. The case ID is on the cassette tape label. Enter the case ID in the space provided at the top of the coding form.

### **B. Interviewer Code**

We would like to have a record of who conducted which interviews. Enter the four-digit interviewer code on the cassette tape label at the top of the coding form. If the interviewer code is not on the cassette tape label, it might be listed on a log sheet with its associated case ID. Match the case ID on the cassette tape to the case ID on the log sheet and enter the

associated interviewer code on the top of the coding sheet. If there is no interviewer code on either the cassette tape label or on a log sheet, enter 99 for the interviewer code.

### **C. Coder's ID**

We would like to have a record of who coded which interviews. Enter your interviewer code in the space provided.

### **D. Page Number**

Because you will need several coding forms for each case you code, please enter the page number in the space provided--e.g., page 1 of 7, page 2 of 7, etc. Enter the case ID and page number on each page. The interviewer and coder ID's only need to be on the first page of each interview.

## **IV. CODING INTERVIEWER-AND-RESPONDENT EXCHANGES**

Once the top of the coding form has been completed, the next step will be the actual coding of interviewer and respondent behaviors. All the tapes should begin with the interviewer requesting permission to tape the interview and the respondent's affirmative response to that request. Coding begins with the first question that follows, "The first few questions are about buying food for your household. During the last week, did (you/anyone in your household) shop for food at a supermarket?"

A description of the procedures to be followed in coding interviewer/respondent exchanges follows.

### **A. Question Number**

Enter the number of the question you are coding in the column marked QLABEL. You will need only one line of code per question, because we are coding only the first exchange between the interviewer and the respondent. You will not, of course, hear the interviewer read the question number aloud, but you will have a paper copy of the instrument in front of you, so you can match the question the interviewer is reading with the correct number.

The introduction to a section or a series of questions is coded along with the first question. If the interviewer skips the introduction, that is coded as a major change; note this in the Interviewer Notes column.

## B. Interviewer Codes

Coding interviewer behavior is very important for determining if interviewers are deviating from verbatim question readings. If many interviews show a deviation in wording on a particular question, it usually indicates that a question is poorly worded. The five codes that you will be using to code interviewer behaviors are described below.

You should not have to enter more than one code per question for the interviewer; if you think more than one code is needed, consult your supervisor. Very rarely, you may have to code two behaviors for the respondent--for example, if the respondent asks for clarification but then immediately answers the question without waiting for the interviewer to respond, you would code both C (clarification) and A (adequate answer) for the respondent. The rule is this: **You code all the behaviors on the part of the interviewer and the respondent that occur before the other person says anything at all.** So if, for example, the respondent asks for clarification and the interviewer answers, you would code only the request for clarification for the respondent.

### **Code E: Exact Question Reading**

Use code "E" if the interviewer reads the question exactly as worded. The addition of transitional words, such as "and" or "now" at the beginning of an item can be considered exact reading.

If the interviewer stumbles while asking the question, but starts over and reads the question as worded, code this as an exact reading. If the interviewer is interrupted while reading the question but finishes the question, code this as an exact reading.

### **Code S: Slight Change in Question Reading**

Use code "S" if the interviewer reads the question with slight wording changes that do not alter the meaning of the question. To be coded as a slight change, the interviewer must not have left out any key words or phrases. For example, if the interviewer omits the word "that" in the following question: "In the last 12 months, did you ever run out of the foods (that) you needed to make a meal and you didn't have money to get more?" code this as a slight change.

If the interviewer stumbles over a word and mispronounces it, code this as a slight change as long as one could understand what the interviewer was trying to say. If the interviewer is interrupted while reading the question and does not finish the question, code this as a slight change as long as the meaning of the question was not changed by the missing words.

### **Code M: Major Change in Question Reading**

Use code "M" if the interviewer changes item wording in a way that alters the intended meaning of the question. The omission of one or more key words, or entire phrases, are sufficient conditions for the use of this code. For example, if the interviewer omits the phrase "you buy" in any of questions 59-62, code this as a major change. Also use this code if the interviewer does not complete the reading of the question and the words that were omitted were important to the meaning of the question.

If the meaning of the question has been altered as a result of a change in wording--no matter how minor the change may seem--code this behavior as a major change. Context is very important here. If the interviewer omits the word "ever," for example, and prior context does not inform the respondent of the appropriate reference period, code this as a major change. On the other hand, if all the questions in a series asks "Are you very, somewhat or not at all concerned?" and the interviewer omits the phrase in the third or fourth question, you may consider the change a slight change.

It is sometimes difficult to differentiate between a slight change and a major change. If the meaning of the question can be interpreted differently (even though it doesn't appear that it necessarily was), code this as a major change.

If the interviewer was interrupted while reading the question and does not finish reading it, code this as a major change if the meaning of the question is altered by the missing words.

Whenever you enter code M, for major change, describe the change in the "Interviewer Notes" column.

### **Code V: Verify.**

Use code V if, instead of asking a specific question, the interviewer accurately verifies or repeats relevant information that the respondent had provided earlier. Also use this code if the interviewer first reads the question exactly as worded and then verifies the answer.

In rare cases, an interviewer will incorrectly "verify" the answer to a particular question. In such cases, circle code V, and briefly explain why the answer was incorrectly verified.

It is **not acceptable** to silently verify the answer to a question, even if the respondent did provide the relevant information earlier. For example, suppose in response to the question, "Last week, did (you/anyone in your household) buy food at a restaurant, fast food place, cafeteria, or a vending machine?" the respondent answers, "Yes. We spent about \$40 at dinner one night." If the interviewer simply records "\$40" in response to the next question (4A), which asks how much the respondent spent without verifying the amount with the respondent, use code O for Other and indicate that the question was incorrectly silently verified in the Interviewer Notes column. Use code O for the respondent as well and indicate that the data are missing because the interviewer silently verified the information in the Respondent Notes column.

### **Code O: Other**

Use code O for situations that do not fit into the above mentioned categories. You should also include an explanation for why you used this code in the Interviewer Notes. (See, also, the use of code O in the previous paragraph.)

Use code O whenever it is impossible to determine from the audiotape what an interviewer has said or done. In most cases, when this code is used, it will be because of silent verifys or because the tape recording is of poor quality. In other cases, it may be necessary to use this code because of background noise.

### **C. Respondent Codes.**

Coding respondent behavior is important for determining if respondents are having difficulty understanding the meaning of questions and for identifying sensitive questions. The codes you will be using to code respondent behavior are described below.

Again, note that only the first exchange between interviewer and respondent is coded in this study. You may have to code two behaviors for the respondent--for example, if the respondent asks for clarification but then immediately answers the question without waiting for the interviewer to respond, you would code both C and A for the respondent. The rule is this: **You code all the behaviors on the part of the interviewer and the respondent that occur before the other person says anything at all.** So if, for example, the respondent asks for clarification and the interviewer answers, you would code only the request for clarification for the respondent.

### **Code A: Adequate Answer.**

Use code A if the respondent provides an answer that meets the objective of the question. An adequate answer is one that matches, or can be reasonably classified, into one of the available precodes. If the interviewer has to classify an answer, it would be helpful if you would note, in the Respondent Notes column, what the respondent actually said. For example, if the answer categories are "Yes" and "No" and the respondent says "sometimes," code this as an adequate answer but note the actual response in the Respondent Notes column. Or if the respondent says "I went shopping twice and I spent about \$40 each time," code this as an adequate answer but note in the Respondent Notes column that the respondent answered in terms of how much she spent each time she shopped last week, not in terms of how much she spent last week.

If the question is open-ended, use your judgment in deciding whether or not the answer is adequate. If the answer appears to meet the objective of the question, code it as adequate.

If an interviewer verifies prior information instead of asking the question and the respondent answers "yes," code the respondent behavior as adequate. If the respondent does not answer verbally (she may have shaken her head in a personal visit interview, for example), circle code O for missing data.

### **Code Q: Qualified Answer**

Use code Q if the respondent appears uncertain about the answer he/she has provided and qualifies that answer in some way. For example, "I probably spent about \$25 at the supermarket last week" would be coded as a qualified answer.

Also use this code when a respondent says "I don't know," and then gives an answer anyway. A qualified answer expresses uncertainty or imprecision. Please include a short description or the respondent's words indicating doubt in the Respondent Notes when using this code. For the above example, you could write "probably spent about \$25".

We instructed interviewers to accept ranges for dollar amounts in the food expenditures section. So, for example, if a respondent said, "We spent \$35-\$40 at the grocery store last week," code this as a qualified answer (rather than as an adequate or an inadequate one), and write "Range" in the Respondent Notes column.

### **Code I: Inadequate Answer**

Use code I if the respondent provides an answer that does not meet the objective of the question. An inadequate answer is one that does not match, or cannot reasonably be classified, into one of the available precodes. For open-ended responses, coders will have to use their judgment. In some cases, it may be necessary to refer to the Interviewers' Instruction Manual in making this decision. For example, question 62 asks, "How about eating spoiled or contaminated food at home--are you very, somewhat, or not at all concerned? The Guide says that we want to know the level of concern (i.e. very, somewhat, or not at all concerned). If the respondent answers that he is "concerned about that", code the answer as inadequate.

### **Code C: Clarification**

Use code C whenever the respondent asks the interviewer to clarify the meaning of a particular question or concept. If possible, try to distinguish a request for clarification from a request to have the question repeated that is due to a hearing impairment or to surrounding noise. If hearing impairment or noise is the reason for the request, use code O, Other Behavior, instead, and write a brief explanation in the Respondent Notes column.

If you feel you know the reason why a respondent has asked for clarification on a particular question (e.g. difficult word, concept, or reference period), please write this reason down in the Respondent Notes column or write down the respondent's exact wording. For example, if in response to question 16, "In the last 12 months, did you ever run out of the foods that you needed to make a meal and you didn't have money to get more?" the respondent asks, "In the last what", write this in the notes column. Or if in response to this question, the respondent asks, "What do you mean by food to make a meal?" write that the respondent didn't understand "food to make a meal" in the Respondent Notes column. This information will be very useful to us in revising the questionnaire.

### **Code B: Break-in**

Use code B whenever the respondent interrupts the interviewer while s/he is reading a survey question. Generally speaking, break-ins occur in one or more of the following situations: (a) when the respondent is in a hurry, (b) when the question is wordy, and/or (c) when the respondent has heard the interviewer read a response option relevant to his/her situation.

Break-ins complicate the coding process in two ways. First, they often surprise interviewers and sometimes short-circuit the question-reading process. If the interviewer does not follow through and read the whole question, the coder must decide whether to code the interviewer behavior as a slight change in question reading (code S) or as a major change (code M). For example, if the respondent says, in answer to question 11, "enough to eat" before the interviewer has read the second and third alternatives and if the interviewer does not read those alternatives, that would be coded as a major change.

Second, when respondents break in, usually it is to provide an answer or to request clarification. In either case, the coder must code two respondent behaviors: the break-in itself, and at least one other respondent behavior (such as adequate answer, request for clarification, refusal, etc.).

#### **Code D: Don't Know**

Use code D whenever the respondent says "I don't know" to a question or gives an answer that is equivalent to a Don't Know response (e.g., "I have no idea how much I spent for food last week"). If the respondent says "I don't know" but then gives an answer ("I don't know. I guess I spent about \$30), code this as a qualified answer (code Q).

#### **Code R: Refusal**

Use code R whenever the respondent refuses to answer a particular question.

#### **Code O: Other Respondent Behavior**

Use code O whenever the respondent does something not covered by one of the previous respondent codes. You should also include an explanation in the Respondent Notes column. For example, whenever a respondent requests that a question be repeated because he could not hear it, code that behavior as "O" and explain the code in the Notes column.

Use code O whenever you cannot hear what the respondent said. This may occur because the tape is unclear or, if the interview is personal visit, the respondent shook his/her head rather than verbally answering the question. Indicate in the Respondent Notes column why you used code "O" (e.g. "tape unclear" or "respondent shook head"). If you cannot hear anything the respondent says throughout the entire interview, code the interviewer behavior as appropriate and use code "O" for all of the respondent behaviors. You do not need to write "tape unclear" in the Respondent Notes column for each item in this case. Just indicate at the bottom of the first page



in the "Comments" section that you cannot hear the respondent at all in the entire interview. (In some interviews, I have heard only the interview and her keystrokes. I assume this is due to the equipment not being properly hooked up.)

### **Double Entries:**

For most questions, you will only need to circle one respondent code. However, in certain situations, two codes may be marked—for example, if the respondent interrupts the reading of a question by the interviewer and then immediately gives some kind of answer.

## **D. GENERAL NOTES AND HINTS ON CODING INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

### **Permission to Record the Interview**

The permission to tape the interview must be on the tape in order to behavior code the case. If you do not hear the interviewer ask for permission to tape and the respondent grant permission, do not behavior code the tape. Note this on the tape log.

### **Instrument Fills**

There are several places in the instrument that are filled depending on household composition. These fills are indicated in parentheses in the paper questionnaire. When coding the tape, you should assume that the interviewer is reading the correct fill. Note that the instrument was instructed to fill the child's name if there was only one child in the household and to use "any of the children" (or similar wording) if there was more than one child in the household. It is appropriate for the interviewer to read either the child's first name or first and last name.

### **Screening Questions**

There are two places in the questionnaire where respondents will be skipped out of series of questions if the family income is above 200 percent of poverty. The first place is CK9, before the program participation questions, and the second place is CK15, before the coping and food scarcity questions. At CK9, if the respondent's family income is above 200 percent poverty, the respondent will be skipped over all the program participation questions (9 through 9G). At CK15, if the respondent answered "enough to eat" in question 11 and the respondent's family income is over 200 percent poverty, the respondent will be skipped to question 59 on food safety. You will not know the family income of the respondent. Assume that the computer is correctly skipping respondents over these questions.

## **Skip Patterns for Questions on Children**

Questions 40-52 are asked about children under 18 years old. If there are no children in the household under 18, the respondent will be skipped over these questions. You will not know the family composition. Assume that the computer correctly skipped the respondent over these questions.

## **Hints for Coding Individual Items**

- Questions 1A, 1C, 2A, 3A, 4A, 6, 8

The interviewers were instructed to accept ranges such as \$35-40. Code ranges as Qualified answers and write "range" in the Respondent Notes column.

- Question 1B

If the interviewer is interrupted while reading the response options to this question (i.e. "once a week or more..."), code this as a slight change. This question is different than most others in this survey because the respondents can provide an adequate answer to this question without hearing the response options.

- Question 3

Respondents sometimes purchase bread at the bakery in the supermarket or sandwiches at the delicatessen in the supermarket. If the respondent says, "I bought bread at the bakery in the supermarket," or "I bought meat at the deli counter in the supermarket," code this as an Inadequate answer. These answers are inadequate because the interviewer will need to probe to find out whether the amount the respondent reported spending in the supermarket in question 1A included these purchases or not. Please note such instances in the Respondent Notes column.

If the respondent reports shopping at a store other than a "specialty store" in question 3, code this as an Inadequate response. For example, if the respondent says, "I bought some eggs at the Stop and Go," code this as an Inadequate answer because "Stop and Go" is a convenience store rather than the type of store listed in question 3. The purchases made at the Stop and Go should have been reported under question 2. Please note such instances in the Respondent Notes column. This information indicates that the respondent didn't understand the categories we are using and will help us revise the questionnaire in the future.

- Question 5

Interviewers were instructed to mark "no" if the amount in question 5 was incorrect and then to correct the amount in question 6. Interviewers should not back up and change the amounts in the previous items. If this occurs, please note it in the Respondent Notes column.

- Questions 9 to 9G

Failure to read the phrase "During the past 30 days," should be coded as a Major change.

- Question 11

Failure to read all of the response options should be coded as a Major change.

- Question 13

Label the five items in question 13 as 13A-13E. The introduction to the question ("Here are some...") and the first item in the list ("Not enough money for food") comprise 13A. The interviewer should read the introduction along with the first item and then the respondent should answer whether or not it applies to him/her. Next, the interviewer should read the second item, ("Too hard to get to the store") and the respondent should answer whether or not it applies to him/her.

- Questions 14 and 14A

See interviewer instructions regarding who is asked these questions.

- Question 15

Failure to read "since September 1993," or the word "ever" should be coded as a Major change.

- Questions 16 and 17

Failure to read "ever" or "and you didn't have money to get more" should be coded as a Major change.

- Questions about the past 12 months

If, in response to a question about a behavior in the past 12 months, the respondent answers, "Yes, I've done that before" code this as an Inadequate answer since it is unclear whether the respondent did the behavior in the last 12 months.

- Questions 18 to 23

Failure to read the word "ever" should be coded as a Major change. Failure to read the phrase "In the last 12 months," should be coded as a Major change.

- Question 24

A response of "Yes, I skipped meals" should be coded as an Adequate answer because the question asks about cutting the size of meals or skipping meals. However, if the respondent says, "No, I've never skipped meals," code this as an Inadequate response because the question asks about skipping or cutting the size of meals. This type of answer suggests that the respondent only heard part of the question. If the respondent simply answers "No", code this as an Adequate answer.

- Questions 24-52

If the interviewer doesn't read the reference period (i.e. "In the last 12 months," or "In the last 30 days") code this as a Major change.

- Questions 24-26, 28-36, 38-40, 42-52

The end of these questions all refer to doing a behavior because the respondent "didn't have enough money to buy food" or was "not able to afford enough food". Failure to read this phrase should be coded as a Major change.

- Question 25, 35, 44

If the respondent answers in terms of anything but "months", code this as an Inadequate answer. For example, an answer of "5 times" is inadequate.

- Question 27, 42, 46

If the respondent answers in terms of anything but "times", code this as an Inadequate answer.

- Questions 37, 52

These questions ask how many "times" the respondent or the respondent's child went a whole day without food. Accept answers in terms of either "times" or "days" as Adequate answers since they represent the same unit in this case.

- Questions 30, 33, 49

If the respondent answers in terms of anything other than "days", code it as an Inadequate answer.

- Question 53

Code the introduction and the first statement together in question 53. Failure to read the response options in Question 53 should be coded as a Major change since this is the first time the respondent will hear the response options following the statement.

- Questions 54-58

If the interviewer is interrupted while reading the response options (i.e. "Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?") and does not finish reading the response options, code this as a Slight change as long as the response choices could be understood from context.

- Questions 53-58

If the respondent answers that the statement is "true" for them, code this as an Inadequate answer since we are asking for a frequency (often, sometimes, or never).

- Question 59

Code the introduction along with the first question about pesticides in question 59. Failure to read the response options in question 59 should be coded as a Major change since this is the first time the respondent will hear the response options.

- Questions 60-62

If the interviewer is interrupted while reading the response options (i.e. "very, somewhat, or not at all concerned?") and does not finish reading the response options, code this as a Slight change as long as the response choices could be understood from context.

- Questions 59-62

If the respondent answers that he/she is "concerned", code this as an Inadequate answer since we are asking for a level of intensity (very, somewhat, or not at all concerned).

- Question 61

If the respondent answers, "I don't go out to eat" or otherwise indicates that this question doesn't apply to him/her, code this as an Inadequate answer.

- Question 62

If the respondent answers, "I don't eat spoiled food" or otherwise indicates that this question doesn't apply to him/her, code this as an Inadequate answer.

## ATTACHMENT D

### Decision Rules

#### 1. General:

- ✓(a) Questions that receive an inadequate response more than 15% of the time must be revised or dropped (based on behavior coding results).
- ✓(b) Questions with more than 10% nonresponse (don't know or refusal) must be revised or dropped (based on response distributions).
- (c) Questions identified as difficult for interviewers or respondents by the interviewers should be considered for revision (based on interviewer debriefings).

#### 2. Q. 15 and 16 as screeners:

If fewer than 6% of those who answer No to Q. 15 and 16 answer Yes to any subsequent questions, then Q's 15 and 16 must be used to screen out respondents in April.

#### 3. Objective vs. Subjective Questions:

- ✓(a) If correlation between Q. 28 and Q. 24 is .8 or higher, delete Q. 28.
- ✓(b) If correlation between Q. 31 and Q. 24 is .8 or higher, delete Q. 31.

#### 4. Respondent Fatigue:

*32.9% too long* If D1 is answered "Too long" by more than 15% of respondents, or D3 is answered "Same thing" by more than 15%, cut length of questionnaire and reduce repetition.

#### 5. Repetitiveness:

*not asked* If D3 is answered "same thing" by more than 15% of respondents, reduce repetition.

#### 6. Bias:

*not asked* If D4 is answered "biased" by more than 15% of respondents, and more than half of those saying "biased" indicate that the bias was in favor of the hungry (in D5), delete items 28-33, 38-39, 47-49, 53-58.

7. Reliability:

If more than 10% of respondents either say they do not remember which months they skipped or cut meals or give a different number of months to the debriefing question (D7) than to the corresponding questionnaire item (Q.25), drop question asking for number of months. The same criteria apply to the other two questions about the number of months (D6 and D8) and their corresponding questionnaire items (Q. 35 and Q. 44). If one of the adult items exceeds the 10% criterion but the other one does not, we will need to evaluate whether it makes sense to keep the one question or whether both should be dropped.

8. Statements vs. Questions:

- (a) If correlation between Q. 53 and 15 or 16 is .8 or more, delete Q. 53.
- (b) If correlation between Q. 54 and 15 or 16 is .8 or more, delete Q. 54.
- (c) If correlation between Q. 56 and 58, is .8 or more, delete 58.
- (d) If correlation between Q. 57 and 43 is .8 or more, delete 57.
- (e) If correlation between Q. 57 and 40 is .8 or more, delete 57.
- (f) If correlation between Q. 57 and 47 is .8 or more, delete 57.

9. Usual vs. Actual:

If there is a large discrepancy between usual and actual food expenditures (more than 20% of actual expenditures) in 15% or more of the cases, reconsider use of one or other measure.

10: Factor Analysis:

If the factors identified in field test are different from those identified by CHIP, reconsider questionnaire. Drop those items that no longer load on factors. Experiment with scale reliability by dropping items one at a time.

11. Comprehension:

D9: If more than 15% misunderstand "past 12 months," revise question asking about the past 12 months: Q. 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 31, 34, 38, 40, 43, 47, 50.

D10: If more than 15% of respondents indicate that they guessed or estimated very imprecisely, drop all questions asking for number of days in past month (Q. 27, 30, 33, 37, 42, 46, 49, 52).

D11: If more than 15% of respondents fail to mention lack of money as a reason for not eating, drop Q. 31-33.

D12: If fewer than 85% say "had some food but not the kind needed to make a meal," drop phrase regarding "food to make a meal" from Q. 16 and 17.

- D14: If fewer than 85% mention lack of money as a reason for eating same thing, drop Q. 20. *10% (10/100)*
- D15: If more than 15% of respondents mention things like cold cuts, chicken, hamburger, hotdogs, etc. (i.e. not "hardship" foods), drop Q. 20.
- D17: If more than 10% of respondents say "don't know" or give a similar response, drop Q. 28-30. *10% (10/100)*



ATTACHMENT E

Results of Behavior Coding<sup>1</sup>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Interviewer Behavior (percent exact or slight readings)</u>	<u>Respondent Behavior (percent adequate or qualified answers)<sup>2</sup></u>
1	100.0 (N=187)	87.7 (N=187)
1A	91.5 (165)	<b>69.5</b> (167)
1B	85.8 (184)	85.6* (187)
1C	98.5 (65)	<b>79.7</b> (64)
2	97.9 (186)	<b>84.4</b> (186)
2A	91.5 (47)	<b>83.0</b> (47)
3	93.6 (186)	<b>83.7</b> (184)
3A	<b>83.3</b> (36)	<b>77.1</b> (35)
4	99.5 (186)	90.8 (184)
4A	89.6 (106)	<b>81.1</b> (106)
5	92.5 (174)	<b>82.0</b> (172)

---

<sup>1</sup>Interviewer behavior items in bold indicate less than 85 percent exact reading or readings with slight changes. Respondent behaviors in bold indicate less than 85 percent adequate or qualified answers.

<sup>2</sup>When respondent interruptions are coded rather than adequate answers (for items that received both behaviors), items marked with an asterisk had less than 85 percent adequate or qualified answers.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Interviewer Behavior (percent exact or slight readings)</u>	<u>Respondent Behavior (percent adequate or qualified answers)</u>
6	40.0 (10)	44.4 (9)
7	97.7 (173)	79.2 (173)
8	70.0 (60)	65.5 (58)
9	98.6 (143)	92.9 (141)
9A	88.4 (43)	74.4 (43)
9B	96.6 (58)	89.5 (57)
9C	98.1 (52)	90.4 (52)
9D	86.0 (50)	92.2 (51)
9E	95.6 (45)	93.3 (45)
9F	98.6 (70)	92.9 (70)
9G	98.6 (142)	93.7 (142)
10	91.4 (174)	50.0 (174)
10A	100.0 (12)	50.0 (12)
11	97.3 (184)	84.5 (187)
12	97.4 (151)	72.9 (151)
13A	93.8 (32)	88.2 (34)

<u>Question</u>	<u>Interviewer Behavior (percent exact or slight readings)</u>	<u>Respondent Behavior (percent adequate or qualified answers)</u>
13B	100.0 (34)	85.3 (34)
13C	100.0 (34)	85.3 (34)
13D	97.1 (34)	90.9 (33)
13E	100.0 (34)	88.2 (34)
14	85.7 (7)	<b>57.1</b> (7)
14A	100.0 (2)	100.0 (2)
15	91.0 (144)	88.1 (143)
16	98.6 (145)	86.7 (143)
17	98.2 (55)	<b>78.2</b> (55)
18	100.0 (145)	92.4 (144)
19	98.4 (64)	98.4 (64)
20	98.6 (145)	88.1* (143)
21	98.6 (145)	93.8 (144)
22	99.3 (144)	93.7 (143)
23	98.6 (143)	87.9 (141)
24	99.3 (143)	95.1 (142)

<u>Question</u>	<u>Interviewer Behavior</u> (percent exact or slight readings)	<u>Respondent Behavior</u> (percent adequate or qualified answers)
25	92.9 (28)	18.5 (27)
26	100.0 (27)	85.2* (27)
27	100.0 (15)	<b>33.3</b> (15)
28	98.6 (143)	90.8 (141)
29	92.3 (39)	<b>81.1</b> (37)
30	88.5 (26)	<b>50.0</b> (26)
31	98.6 (142)	96.4 (140)
32	94.4 (18)	<b>83.3</b> (18)
33	<b>55.6</b> (9)	<b>25.0</b> (8)
34	97.2 (143)	96.5 (142)
35	100.0 (9)	<b>11.1</b> (9)
36	100.0 (9)	<b>55.6</b> (9)
37	100.0 (5)	<b>40.0</b> (5)
38	98.6 (142)	94.3 (141)
39	100.0 (8)	<b>75.0</b> (8)
40	100.0 (63)	98.4 (63)

<u>Question</u>	<u>Interviewer Behavior (percent exact or slight readings)</u>	<u>Respondent Behavior (percent adequate or qualified answers)</u>
41	100.0 (4)	75.0 (4)
42	100.0 (3)	33.3 (3)
43	95.2 (63)	96.8 (62)
44	100.0 (3)	66.7 (3)
45	100.0 (3)	100.0 (3)
46	100.0 (2)	50.0 (2)
47	100.0 (63)	98.4 (63)
48	100.0 (4)	75.0 (4)
49	100.0 (2)	0.0 (2)
50	98.4 (62)	100.0 (62)
51	NA	NA
52	NA	NA
53	93.0 (142)	75.4 (142)
54	97.9 (143)	83.1 (142)
55	98.6 (143)	83.1 (142)
56	96.8 (62)	88.9* (63)
57	96.8 (62)	85.3* (61)

<u>Question</u>	<u>Interviewer Behavior</u> (percent exact or slight readings)	<u>Respondent Behavior</u> (percent adequate or qualified answers)
58	98.4 (62)	83.6 (61)
59	94.5 (182)	72.0 (182)
60	98.3 (181)	76.1 (180)
61	98.9 (180)	80.7 (181)
62	97.3 (182)	77.3 (176)

ATTACHMENT F

Results of Close-ended Respondent Debriefing Questions

D1. Did this part of the interview seem too short, about the right length, or too long?

	<u>Percent</u>
Too short	1.7
About the right length	75.3
Too long	22.3
Don't know	<u>0.7</u>
	100.0
	(N=296)

D2. Were the questions easy to answer, hard to answer, or neither easy nor hard?

	<u>Percent</u>
Easy	69.8
Hard	5.1
Neither easy nor hard	24.4
Don't know	<u>0.7</u>
	100.0
	(N=295)

D3. Did many of the questions seem to be asking about the same thing, or did they ask about different things?

	<u>Percent</u>
Same thing	46.4
Different things	<u>53.6</u>
	100.0
	(N=295)

D4. Did you think the questions were biased or unbiased?

	<u>Percent</u>
Biased	12.5
Unbiased	51.5
Don't know whether biased or unbiased	7.5
Don't know what "biased" means	27.8
Don't know	<u>0.7</u>
	100.0
	(N=295)

D6. You said there were some months in the past 12 months when you (or other adults in your household) did not eat for a whole day. Do you happen to remember which months these were?

	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	46.7
No	<u>53.3</u>
	100.0
	(N=15)

D7. You said there were some months in the past 12 months when you (or other adults in your household) cut the size of your meals or skipped meals. Do you happen to remember which months these were?

	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	51.1
No	46.7
Don't know	<u>2.2</u>
	100.0
	(N=45)

D8. You said there were some months in the past 12 months when (CHILD'S NAME/the children) skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food. Do you happen to remember which months these were?

	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	75.0
No	<u>25.0</u>
	100.0
	(N=4)

D9. We asked you several questions about things you might have done in the past 12 months like borrowing food, putting off paying a bill, or skipping or cutting the size of your meals. When you answered these questions, were you thinking of the 12 months starting September 1993 and ending August 1994, or were you thinking of the 12 months starting January 1993 and ending December 1993?

	<u>Percent</u>
September 1993 through August 1994	70.5
January 1993 through December 1993	23.4
Don't know	<u>6.1</u>
	100.0
	(N=295)



D12. You told me earlier that you ran out of the foods that you needed to make a meal and you didn't have money to get more. Did you run out of food altogether, or did you have some food but not the kinds needed to make a meal?

	<u>Percent</u>
Ran out of food altogether	11.7
Had some food but not the kinds to make a meal	<u>88.3</u>
	100.0
	(N=111)

D16. Do you ever eat the same food for several days in a row even when there is enough money for food?

	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	53.7
No	45.4
Don't know	<u>0.9</u>
	100.0
	(N=108)