

**Evaluation of the April 1995  
Food Security Supplement to the  
Current Population Survey**

Prepared by  
Jennifer Hess, Eleanor Singer, and Susan Ciochetto  
Center for Survey Methods Research  
U.S. Bureau of the Census  
January 26, 1996

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  | <u>Page</u>  |
|--|--------------|
| I. Introduction                                | 1            |
| II. Supplement sample                          | 1            |
| III. Evaluation methods                        | 1            |
| A. Respondent debriefing                       | 1            |
| B. Item nonresponse and correlational patterns | 2            |
| C. Behavior coding                             | 2            |
| D. Interviewer debriefing                      | 3            |
| IV. Decision rules                             | 3            |
| V. General summary of evaluative methods       | 3            |
| A. Respondent debriefing                       | 3            |
| B. Item nonresponse and correlational patterns | 4            |
| C. Behavior coding                             | 4            |
| VI. Evaluation of questionnaire items          | 6            |
| A. Food expenditure section                    | 6            |
| B. Program participation                       | 14           |
| C. Food sufficiency                            | 16           |
| D. Coping mechanisms and food scarcity         | 21           |
| E. Concern about food sufficiency              | 28           |
| F. Concern about food quality and safety       | 32           |
| VII. References                                | 33           |
| VII. Appendices                                |              |
| Food Security Supplement questionnaire         | Attachment A |
| Pretest questionnaire                          | Attachment B |
| Supplement respondent debriefing questionnaire | Attachment C |
| Pretest respondent debriefing questionnaire    | Attachment D |
| Behavior coding training manual                | Attachment E |
| Behavior coding reliability measures           | Attachment F |
| Decision rules                                 | Attachment G |
| Behavior coding results                        | Attachment H |
| Comparison of pretest and supplement results   | Attachment I |

## I. Introduction

As a condition of the Terms of Clearance for the April 1995 Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey (Attachment A), OMB requested that the Center for Survey Methods Research, U.S. Bureau of the Census, conduct an evaluation of the supplement questionnaire. This report presents the results of that evaluation, compares these results to those obtained during a pretest of the questionnaire (Attachment B) conducted in August 1994, and provides recommendations for revising the questionnaire based on our evaluation.

## II. Supplement Sample

The Food Security Supplement was conducted from April 16-22, 1995 on a nationally representative sample of 53,665 households. Respondents were asked both the CPS labor force questions and the Food Security Supplement questions. The nonresponse rate for the supplement was 14.6 percent resulting in a supplement sample of 45,830 households. Approximately 85 percent of the cases were conducted in the field using computer assisted personal interviewing, and 15 percent were conducted at the Census Bureau's centralized telephone facilities using computer assisted telephone interviewing.

Approximately 34 percent of the sample households for the supplement were "low income", which, for the purposes of this study, is defined as at or below 185 percent of the poverty level. Three-quarters of the sample households were urban and one-quarter rural. Approximately 85 percent of the households were White, 10 percent were Black, and 6 percent were Hispanic (could be of any race).<sup>1</sup>

## III. Evaluation Methods

We used three different methods to evaluate the supplement questionnaire. In addition to these three methods, a fourth method, interviewer debriefing, was used to evaluate the pretest but not the supplement.

- A. **Respondent debriefing:** Following the supplement, a subset of respondents were asked a series of up to 12 debriefing questions (Attachment C). (Attachment D is the pretest debriefing questionnaire.) Approximately one-quarter of the sample (11,458) received these questions. (Only the outgoing rotation groups, that is, month-in-sample four and eight households received these questions.) The actual set of questions received by any one respondent depended on the answers that the respondent had provided in the supplement. The debriefing questions were designed to measure respondent comprehension of selected items and reliability of selected answers as well as respondents' general impressions of the supplement questionnaire. We included both closed- and open-ended debriefing questions. The open-ended debriefing

---

<sup>1</sup>Race of household is measured by the unweighted race of the reference person. The reference person is the first person listed on the household roster, who is the person or one of the persons who owns or rents the house/apartment.

questions were hand coded based on a similar coding scheme used for open-ended questions in the pretest. Because of the large number of responses, we coded only a sample of the responses to each question.<sup>2</sup>

- B. **Item nonresponse and correlational patterns:** Responses to the supplement were examined for item nonresponse rates and correlational patterns between items.
- C. **Behavior coding:** Behavior coding is the systematic coding of the interactions between an interviewer and a respondent. Interviewers at the Hagerstown and Tucson Telephone Centers tape recorded a total of 147 cases for subsequent behavior coding. Of the 147 cases, 136 were behavior coded. The remaining 11 cases were not used because permission to tape record the interview was not on the tape.

We used the same scheme to code these interviews as during the pretest (Attachment E). We coded the first exchange between the interviewer and respondent for each question. Coders assigned one interviewer code and up to two respondent codes per question. (Two respondent codes are most often used when the respondent interrupts the question reading to provide an answer. Thus, one of the codes is a "break-in" and the other may be any of the remaining respondent codes.) Four experienced coders from the Hagerstown Telephone Center behavior coded the tapes. The four coders participated in a two-day training designed to teach them the content of the survey and how to apply the behavior codes specifically to this survey. In addition to coding the interviewer and respondent interactions, the coders also provided written or verbatim responses for problematic items. For example, if an interviewer made a major change to question wording, the coder would record the wording change in the "notes" section; or if a respondent provided an inadequate answer to a question, the coder recorded the verbatim response (or a summary of the response) in the notes. These written comments are referred to as "behavior coding notes" throughout this report.

During production coding, each coder was asked to complete the same five cases (in addition to the regular workload) to assess their reliability in applying the codes. The coders averaged 87 percent agreement on interviewer codes, 92 percent agreement on at least one of the two respondent codes, and 83 percent agreement on both respondent codes. The kappa statistics, which take into account the probability that two coders will agree on a code by chance, ranged from .68 to .80 for between coder agreement on interviewer codes, .74 to .93 on at least one of the two respondent codes, and .55 to .84 on both respondent codes. (See Attachment F for complete reliability measures.) Kappa values above .75 represent excellent agreement and values from .40 to .75

---

<sup>2</sup>We coded every n<sup>th</sup> response for the open-ended respondent debriefing questions -- ranging from every fourth to seventh response depending on the total number of verbatim responses to the question -- resulting in approximately 160 coded cases per question.

represent fair to good agreement beyond chance (Fleiss, 1981). Thus, our statistics indicate fair to excellent agreement between coders.

- D. Interviewer debriefing: Following the pretest, we had conducted a series of interviewer debriefings. We asked interviewers which questions caused problems for either themselves or their respondents. We did not conduct interviewer debriefings after the April 1995 supplement; therefore, we are not able to compare interviewers' impressions of the pretest and supplement questionnaires.

#### **IV. Decision Rules**

Prior to conducting the pretest, CSMR prepared a set of guidelines (decision rules) for determining whether a question was problematic (Attachment G). As far as possible, these same guidelines are used for determining whether a question in the supplement is problematic. Decision rules 1 and 2 below were applied throughout the questionnaire. Rule 3 was applied to selected questionnaire items.

1) Behavior coding guidelines stated that a question was considered problematic if less than 85 percent of the time interviewers read questions exactly as written 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. As in the pretest evaluation report, our recommendations are limited to those questions with a minimum of 7 cases, although data for cases with less than 7 responses are shown.

2) Questions with nonresponse ("don't know" or "refusal") over 10 percent were considered problematic.

3) We examined correlation coefficients for selected questions. If the correlation coefficients between selected items were higher than .8, then we suggested deleting the more subjective question and retaining the more objective question.

Additional item-specific decision rules are included in Attachment G. New questions that were added to the questionnaire following the pretest are evaluated under the general guidelines specified above that applied to all other questions.

#### **V. General Summary of Evaluative Methods**

##### **A. Respondent Debriefing**

Twelve respondent debriefing questions were included after the supplement. Nine of these questions were similar to debriefing questions included in the pretest. Two of the nine asked about respondents' impressions of the questionnaire in general and the other seven asked about specific questionnaire items. Three additional questions were included on topics we

thought might be problematic. Owing to the limited time we had to prepare the respondent debriefing questions and to concerns about respondent burden, we did not ask all of the respondent debriefing questions that had been included in the pretest. (We omitted pretest respondent debriefing questions D2A, D3, D4, D5, D10, D11, D14, D16, and D17. We added supplement respondent debriefing questions SD8, SD9, and SD10.) Thus, data are not available for some comparisons of interest between the pretest and the supplement. Furthermore, some of the debriefing items, while similar, were not identical from the pretest to the supplement. Changes were made to the debriefing items to accommodate wording revisions incorporated following the pretest. These differences between the pretest and supplement debriefing items make drawing conclusions difficult in some instances.

In general, results from the respondent debriefing items that are comparable between the pretest and supplement questionnaires show improvement in respondent comprehension and reliability. Detailed results from the respondent debriefing are contained in Section VI addressing the item by item results.

### **B. Item Nonresponse and Correlational Patterns**

There was little item nonresponse for any of the items in the supplement. This is an improvement from the pretest, in which questions asking for the frequency with which a particular behavior occurred (during the past 30 days or the number of months in the past 12 months) had nonresponse rates over 10 percent. While those items in the supplement that ask about the frequency of a particular behavior during the past 30 days have the highest item nonresponse rates in the supplement, none of these approaches the 10 percent level.<sup>3</sup>

### **C. Behavior Coding**

In general, the results showed that 49 percent of the questions (39 of the 80) were problematic for either the respondent or the interviewer (Attachment H). Twelve questions were problematic for both the interviewer and the respondent, 22 were problematic for the respondent only, and 5 questions were problematic for the interviewer only. When questions with less than 7 responses are dropped from the analysis, 37 percent of the question were problematic (30 of the 80): 7 questions for both interviewers and respondents, 21 for respondents only, and 2 question for interviewers only. By far, most of the problems with the questionnaire occurred for respondents.

As measured by the number of problem questions, these results show only slight (16 percent) improvement over the pretest.<sup>4</sup> In the pretest, 42 of the 79 questions (53 percent) had problems as indicated by respondent behaviors.

---

<sup>3</sup>Questions asking "in how many months" the behavior occurred were revised following the pretest and are described in detail in the "Coping Mechanisms and Food Scarcity" section below.

<sup>4</sup>Calculation excludes items with fewer than 7 respondents.

When questions with less than 7 respondents were dropped from the analysis, 35 of 79 questions (44 percent) showed problems for respondents. Of the questions that were a problem on both the pretest and the supplement, there was little change in the percentage of respondents who continued to have problems with these questions.

Table 1 below summarizes the percentage of problematic supplement questions by section.

**Table 1. Percentage of Problematic Supplement Questions By Section**

| Section                             | Question numbers | Total number of questions in section | Percent problematic questions  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Food expenditures                   | 1-8              | 18                                   | 83 percent   |
| Program participation               | 9-9G             | 10                                   | 20 percent   |
| Food sufficiency                    | 11A-16           | 10                                   | 60 percent   |
| Coping mechanisms and food scarcity | 17-52            | 36                                   | 28 percent<br><br>6 percent (excluding questions with less than 7 cases) |
| Concern about food sufficiency      | 53-58            | 6                                    | 67 percent   |

The food expenditures section caused the most problems of any section. Most of the questions in this section were flagged as problematic by behavior coding (83 percent), as indicated in Table 1. Two other sections, the food sufficiency section and the concern about food sufficiency section, also had large percentages of questions flagged as problematic. However, three of the six problematic questions in the food sufficiency section were only marginally problematic (16.7 percent of respondent gave inadequate answers to questions 13C and 13E, and 16.7 percent of interviewers failed to read question 13A exactly as written or with only slight changes). In addition, analysis of these three questions is limited by the small number (N=12) of responses. The remaining two sections, the program participation section and coping mechanisms and food scarcity section, caused fewer problems. Twenty percent of the questions in the program participation section and 28 percent of the questions in the coping mechanisms and food scarcity section were problematic. However, 15 of the 36 questions in the latter had less than 7 responses. When these cases are excluded, the percentage of problematic cases in this section drops to 6 percent.

## VI. Evaluation of Questionnaire Items

In each of the sections A-E that follow, we begin with a table that summarizes whether a question was identified as a problem by any of the four evaluative methodologies used on the pretest, whether it was revised for the supplement, and whether it is still a problem on the supplement. The question numbers displayed in these tables are from the pretest. (See Attachment I for a summary of comparable pretest and supplement question numbers.) Second, we outline the changes made to the questionnaire following the pretest in "Revisions to Pretest Questionnaire." The question numbers in this section also refer to the pretest questionnaire. Third, we discuss the results of the evaluation for the supplement drawing on the behavior coding results and, where they are available, on the respondent debriefing questions. Only selected items are discussed in the results section. In general, these include the following: 1) Questions that were problematic on both the pretest and the supplement, 2) Questions that were problematic on the supplement but not on the pretest, 3) New questions added since the pretest that are problematic, and 4) Questions that are not problematic but for which data of interest is available from the respondent debriefing or verbatim responses. In a few instances, questions that were marginally problematic (based on behavior coding data) are not discussed because the results were inconclusive. The question numbers in the "Results" section refer to the supplement with comparable pretest questionnaire numbers displayed in parentheses where appropriate. Finally, we suggest recommendations for additional revisions of the questionnaire where appropriate.

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

Table 2. Summary Table: Food Expenditures Section

| IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON SUPPLEMENT? | IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON PRETEST? |                            |                        |                            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                      | YES                               |                            | NO                     |                            |
|                                      | Revised for Supplement            | Not Revised for Supplement | Revised for Supplement | Not Revised for Supplement |
| YES                                  | 1A, 1C, 3, 5, 7, 8                | 3A, 4A, 6                  | 1B                     | ---                        |
| NO                                   | 1                                 | ---                        | ---                    | 4                          |

The goal of this section of the questionnaire was to get information on how much a household actually spent on food purchases during the past week, and how much they usually spend during a week. The actual weekly amount was collected by breaking the purchases into 3 groups: supermarket/grocery stores, specialty stores (bakery, convenience store, etc.), and restaurants.



## 1. Revisions to Pretest Questionnaire (Food Expenditure Section)

We made several changes to this section following the pretest. First, since respondents had trouble differentiating between a "supermarket" and a "grocery store," we combined pretest questions 1 and 2 and asked about expenditures at supermarkets and grocery stores together.<sup>5</sup> Minor wording changes were also made to pretest question 1B, 1C, and 3 to accommodate this change.

Second, the sponsor was concerned that respondents might forget to include food purchases made with food stamps and debit or credit cards. Following the question on expenditures at supermarkets and grocery stores and the one on food expenditures from all other kinds of stores, we added a question to confirm with respondents that the amount they reported included all food expenditures regardless of how they paid for them.

Third, pretest question 1A asked for food expenditures at supermarkets and included an instruction to exclude non-food items. This question was long and some respondents focused on the latter part of the question rather than on the first part. We revised pretest question 1A by breaking it into two separate questions: one about all expenditures at supermarkets and grocery stores and the other asking how much of the total was for non-food items.

Fourth, some respondents were unable to provide a weekly estimate of usual food expenditures. We modified pretest question 8 to allow respondents to report either a weekly or a monthly estimate.

Fifth, we deleted pretest questions 10 and 10A at OMB's request, and made minor wording changes to pretest questions 5 and 7.

## 2. Results (Food Expenditure Section)

Behavior coding of the April 1995 supplement showed that respondents found this section very difficult. Fifteen of the 18 questions in this section indicated problems. Two of the three questions that screened for purchases (at supermarkets/grocery stores and at restaurants) were not problematic. All of the questions that asked for specific amounts were problematic.

**Question 1A (1A): "How much did (you/your household) spend at supermarkets and grocery stores last week?"**

Question 1A was difficult for respondents to answer. Several respondents said they didn't know -- either they didn't buy the food or there were some

---

<sup>5</sup>In the pretest we asked about shopping at supermarkets in question 1 and shopping at grocery stores other than supermarkets in question 2. Behavior coding notes from the pretest indicate that respondents had difficulty with question 2 once they realized that we were distinguishing between "supermarkets" and "grocery stores". In the supplement, we deleted question 2 and asked about shopping at "supermarkets or grocery stores" in question 1 and added "convenience stores" to the list of "other kinds of stores" in question 2.

extenuating circumstances that made the amount different from what they usually spent, and they couldn't remember the actual amount. Although most respondents tried to at least guess at an actual amount, behavior coding notes indicate that several respondents interpreted the question as asking for an average or usual amount. Additionally, behavior coding notes for question 2A ("How much did (you/your household) spend for food at all such places last week?") indicate that in some cases respondents reported all food purchases in question 1A, and not just those at grocery stores and supermarkets. As a result, some interviewers backed up from question 2A and changed the amount reported in question 1A. Respondents also requested clarification regarding what purchases to include when answering question 1A such as, "That's including meals out, right?" and "Is that food items and non-food items?"

**Question 1A1:** "Does this (dollar amount) include ALL purchases (you/your household) made at supermarkets and grocery stores, whether paid for by cash, check, (or charge card/charge card or food stamps)?"

Almost one-third of the respondents interpreted question 1A1 as asking how they paid for their food purchases. Responses included statements like, "I paid cash," "We get food stamps," and questions such as, "How do I pay for it?"

**Question 1B:** "How much of the (dollar amount) was for non-food items, such as cleaning or paper products?"

Question 1B was also difficult for respondents. Almost one-third gave inadequate answers. Most likely, respondents had never thought about how much they spend for non-food items. Interviewers received vague answers such as, "Almost all of it was for food," "Not much, it's hard for me to tell," and "90% was for food." One respondent said, "I spent \$15 dollars of my money - just cash not food stamps." This may imply that she considered anything that food stamps wouldn't buy as non-food items.

**Question 1C (1B):** "How often (do/does) (you/someone from your household) USUALLY shop for food at a supermarket or grocery store-- once a week or more, 2 to 3 times a month, (once a month or less?/once a month or less, or do you never shop at a supermarket or grocery store?)

Question 1C was marginally problematic for respondents and also caused problems for interviewers, as indicated by behavior coding. The main problem for respondents is that their answers don't fit the pre-coded response categories, particularly for people who shop irregularly. Answers such as, "They just go if they need anything," "Sometimes once a week, sometimes every two weeks," and "My main shopping is once a month and I just do little things," indicate the categories don't fit respondents' shopping habits well. This question is relatively long. In over 20 percent of the interviews, respondents interrupted the interviewers while they were reading this question. Interruptions short-circuit the interview process because respondents often do not hear all the answer categories before answering the question.

**Question 1D (1C): "How much (do/does) (you/your household) usually spend for food at supermarkets and grocery stores each MONTH?"**

Almost 40 percent of respondents had difficulty with question 1D, as indicated by the behavior coding; however, most respondents did eventually provide an answer to this question, as indicated by the low nonresponse rate of 3.6 percent. There were several requests for clarification regarding the reference period. Perhaps respondents were confused by the switch between "last week" in the previous question and "a month" in this question. Moreover, we have also switched between actual expenditures last week to usual expenditures a month. The inadequate answers we received primarily resulted from respondents indicating their difficulty in estimating a monthly amount.

**Question 2 (3): "Last week, did (you/anyone in your household) buy food from any other kind of store such as a meat market, produce stand, bakery, warehouse or convenience store?"**

Behavior coding notes indicate that there were two main problems with question 2. First, respondents missed the reference period (last week) and reported usual behavior. This may be caused by the long list at the end of the question which describes the other stores or it may be because the previous question asked about a usual behavior. The second problem stemmed from respondents' uncertainty whether to mention certain purchases if the type of store they bought it from was not mentioned on the list. Some answers to this question include the following: "I get my milk and stuff from the milkman," "I don't know what you call a SAM'S club," and "Base commissary."

**Question 2A (3A): "How much did (you/your household) spend for food at all such places last week?"**

As mentioned above, question 2A was difficult for some respondents, especially those who had interpreted question 1A (supermarkets and grocery store expenditures) more broadly than it was intended. Interviewers sometimes had to back up from question 2A to question 1A and change answers. Behavior coding notes also showed that interviewers changed the wording of this question. After reading the question, interviewers added statements such as, "Like what you spend at the bakery and so forth," or they included the store that the respondent mentioned when answering the previous question. Perhaps interviewers sensed the difficulty respondents were having with this question and added these phrases in an attempt to help them.

**Question 2A1: "Does the (dollar amount) include all purchases (you/your household) made at such places, whether paid for by cash, check, (or charge card/charge card or food stamps)?"**

Question 2A1 didn't cause as much difficulty for respondents as its sister question in the supermarket/grocery store section (question 1A1) perhaps because interviewers had already clarified its meaning. As in question 1A1, however, a few respondents did focus on the method of payment rather than whether they had included all purchases. One of the requests for clarification raises an interesting problem with this question. One respondent asked, "Does it include all purchases or food purchases?"

**Question 3A (4A): "How much did (you/your household) spend for food at restaurants, fast food places, cafeterias, and vending machines last week?"**

Respondents had little difficulty answering question 3 ("Last week, did (you/anyone in your household) buy food at a restaurant, fast food place, cafeteria, or vending machine?"). Respondents did, however, have difficulty answering how much their households spent at these places (question 3A). This was particularly a problem for people who were trying to estimate how much other household members had spent at such places. For example, one respondent reported, "He (another household member) spends at least \$5 a day," and another stated, "Actually my son buys his lunch at work...(I) have no idea."

**Question 4 (5): "Let's see, you've told me you (and other members of your household) spent a total of about \$\_\_\_\_\_.00 on all your food last week. Is that the right amount?"**

Question 4, which totals the amounts given in previous questions and confirms that this is the correct total, caused problems for respondents. The computer calculates the total by adding the amounts in questions 1A, 2A, and 3A and subtracting the amount in 1B (amount spent on non-food items at grocery stores). If respondents gave ranges for items in 1A, 2A, or 3A, the computer took the mean and used this in the calculation. How the computer calculates this total is not evident to respondents or interviewers. In several cases, there was confusion about the total and how the computer arrived at it. Respondents and interviewers went back and forth regarding what the correct numbers to the previous questions were and what the total should be. Sometimes interviewers ended up backing up and changing previous numbers rather than entering "no" at question 4 and entering a new total in question 5. When respondents get to question 4, they often want to change their answers because the amount they actually spent in the preceding week strikes them as different from what they usually spend.

**Question 5 (6): "What is the correct amount?"**

Behavior coding indicated that getting the corrected total in question 5 was also a difficult process for both the respondent and the interviewer. One respondent provided new estimates to all the previous questions and another wanted the interviewer to divide her monthly estimate. In a few cases, this question was not directly asked because the information had been given when answering the previous question.

**Question 6 (7): "Is this the USUAL amount (you spend/your household spends) on food per week?"**

Behavior coding notes indicate that most of the inadequate responses to question 6 stem from respondents being uncertain whether the amount for the previous week is the usual amount. Examples of responses to this question include, "Sometimes more, sometimes less," and "That seems awfully high. I don't think we spend that much a week, but..."

Question 7 (8): "About how much (do/does) (you/your household) usually spend? Remember to include all food purchases whether paid for by cash, check, (or charge card/charge card or food stamps)."

Question 8: READ IF NECESSARY:  
"Is that weekly or monthly?"

Questions 7 and 8 are intended to find out what the respondent usually spends for food. We revised these question following the pretest to allow respondents to report a monthly amount rather than a weekly amount if that is the only way they can report their food expenditures. Behavior coding indicates that question 7 caused problems for over half of the respondents. The behavior coding notes indicate that there is considerable confusion regarding what food purchases to include. Respondents were unclear whether to include money spent at restaurants. For example, one respondent asked, "Are you talking about restaurants now or are you talking total everything?" Another asked, "That's including restaurants and fast foods?" Respondents were also unclear regarding the reference period. Several respondents asked if they were to report about "a week." This question frustrated some respondents because they thought they had already provided this information in the previous questions.

### 3. Recommendations (Food Expenditure Section)

We propose two recommendations for the food expenditure series. First, we recommend that the Food and Consumer Service (FCS) compare the food expenditure data from the supplement to other sources of food expenditure data (such as diary data) to assess whether the data on actual food expenditures for last week or those on usual weekly food expenditures more closely match the other source. Based on that comparison, we recommend that FCS choose either to ask usual weekly expenditures OR actual expenditures last week, depending on whichever is shown to be a more valid indicator. Second, we recommend that FCS consider revising this series. Below is our recommendation for a new series. This series includes questions on both actual and usual expenditures; however, FCS has three options when deciding which questions to use for this series depending on the results of our first recommendation:

- 1) ask only the questions on actual expenditures,
- 2) ask only the question on usual expenditures, or
- 3) ask both usual and actual expenditures as presented below.

We also recommend that the new food expenditure questions be pretested prior to being fielded in September 1996.

a. Proposed Food Expenditure Section

- 1) These first questions are about food shopping. First, I will ask about the actual amount you spent on food last week. Then, since last week may have been unusual for you, I will ask about the amount you usually spend.

Last week, did (you/anyone in your household) shop for food at a supermarket or grocery store?

- <1> Yes  
<2> No

- 2) Think about other places where people buy food such as meat markets, produce stands, bakeries, warehouse clubs, and convenience stores. Did (you/anyone in your household) buy food from any stores such as these last week?"

- <1> Yes  
<2> No

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

- <1> Yes  
<2> No

CHECK ITEM 1: IF Q1=1, ASK Q4. ELSE SKIP TO CHECK ITEM 2.

- 4) How much did (you/your household) spend for food at supermarkets and grocery stores last week?

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

CHECK ITEM 2: IF Q2=1, ASK Q5. ELSE SKIP TO CHECK ITEM 3.

- 5) How much did (you/your household) spend for food at stores other than supermarkets and grocery stores last week?

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

CHECK ITEM 3: IF Q3=1, ASK Q6. ELSE SKIP TO Q7.

- 6) How much did (you/your household) spend for food at restaurants, fast food places, cafeterias, and vending machines last week?

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

- 7) You told me what (you/your household) actually spent on food last week. Now, think about how much (you/your household) usually (spend/spends). On average, how much (do you/does your household) usually spend on food from all sources in a week?

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

- 8) READ IF NECESSARY: Is that weekly or monthly?  
<1> Weekly  
<2> Monthly

**b. Explanation for Revisions to the Food Expenditure Section**

First, respondents had difficulty differentiating between usual and actual expenditures. We revised the introduction to better inform the respondent that we will be asking about both.

Second, we resequenced the series of questions to ask about all the places the respondent may have bought food last week (supermarket/grocery store, other stores, restaurants) and then ask about the amount of money spent at each place. This format alerts the respondent to the categories we will be using in subsequent questions, which may alleviate such things as reporting all purchases in the question on supermarkets and grocery stores.

Third, we deleted questions regarding whether the amount included all purchases whether paid for by cash, check, charge card, or food stamps, and the question asking for an estimate of non-food purchases. Respondents did not understand these questions as intended. In addition, few respondents revised their answers in response to questions 1A1 and 2A1: 2.6 percent of respondents said "no" to question 1A1 as did 0.8 percent of respondents to question 2A1.

Fourth, we deleted questions on monthly shopping frequency and monthly food expenditures at supermarkets and grocery stores. These questions introduce the concept of "usual monthly expenditures" in the middle of a series on actual food expenditures for last week. This confused and frustrated many respondents as they progressed through this series. Additionally, these questions are not used in any subsequent calculations in this series.

Fifth, since some respondents limited their scope to the examples listed in question 2, we revised the wording of this question to broaden respondents' frame of reference.

Sixth, rather than feeding back the summed total of what the respondent spent last week and then asking if this is the usual amount spent, we recommend asking for an independent estimate of usual expenditures. The current series caused problems for some respondents who wanted to back up and change estimates to all actual expenditure questions to make them more in line with usual expenditures. Moreover, the total calculated internally by the computer

confused some respondents and interviewers since it was not clear to either of them how it was derived.

**B. Program Participation** (Supplement 9-9G, Pretest 9-9G)

**Table 3. Summary Table: Program Participation Section**

| IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON SUPPLEMENT? | IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON PRETEST? |                            |                        |                            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                      | YES                               |                            | NO                     |                            |
|                                      | Revised for Supplement            | Not Revised for Supplement | Revised for Supplement | Not Revised for Supplement |
| YES                                  | 9A                                | 9E                         | ---                    | ---                        |
| NO                                   |                                   | 9C, 9D <sup>6</sup>        | ---                    | 9B, 9F, 9G                 |

**1. Revisions to Pretest Questionnaire (Program Participation Section)**

The questions in this section changed little since the pretest. Pretest question 9A asked about the value of food stamps received in the last 30 days. In the supplement we revised the question to ask first for the date the household last received food stamps and then asked for the amount they received. This change provides additional information that may be useful for analytical purposes and also focuses the respondent on a particular payment rather than on a more nebulous reference period of the last 30 days. We added a question regarding the number of women and children in the household on WIC to get a better picture of the number of program participants in the household.

**2. Results (Program Participation Section)**

**Question 9A (added):** "On what date did (you/your household) last receive your monthly food stamps?"

Question 9A caused problems for both respondents and interviewers. Most inadequate answers resulted from respondents providing a partial date, such as the day they last received food stamps and not the month, or vice versa. Some respondents were also unsure of when they received their food stamps and gave two dates, such as, "I can't remember the date -- it came about the 5th or 6th." In all likelihood, interviewer reading errors are correlated with respondents' inability to give adequate dates. Some interviewers read the question as worded but then added an additional question to clarify that we wanted the month as well as the day. For example, interviewers would tack on

<sup>6</sup>Questions 9C and 9D were identified as problematic by interviewers who suggested combining the two questions into one. No problems were detected with these questions in the behavior coding.



"What month was that, March or April?" after reading the supplement question. This was counted as a major wording change because it may lead the respondent to give an answer that may not be correct.

Question 9E (9E): "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 or Head Start program?"

Question 9E caused problems for 22 percent (N=32) of respondents. In two cases, respondents answered that their child was either not in school or not in Head Start. One respondent reported her son receiving WIC here, and another didn't hear the reference period and reported that her son was on Spring break last week. No such problems were found during the pretest.<sup>7</sup>

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

Question 9G was not a problematic item. The following description of the verbatim responses is included solely for informational purposes. Of the respondents asked this question, 1.3 percent (N=15,838) responded positively. Analysis of the 212 verbatim entries indicates that the most common responses were: commodities (14.6 percent), church-related food assistance or vouchers (13.2 percent), and food banks (9.4 percent). About 5 percent of responses included government programs that were not directly associated with providing food such as general relief, welfare, AFDC, SSI, and VA benefits.

### 3. Recommendations (Program Participation Section)

We recommend revising question 9A to ask for the month and day the household last received food stamps as follows:

"On what month and day did (you/your household) last receive food stamps?"

We recommend moving question 9F (WIC assistance) before question 9E to avoid misreporting of WIC in question 9E.

Based on the results for question 9G, we do not recommend adding new questions to the series to accommodate additional sources of free food. However, common answers such as those mentioned above could be used as precoded response categories along with an "other (specify)" category.

---

<sup>7</sup>The wording of this question was revised slightly after the pretest; however, this change is not related to the problems respondents had with this question.

C. Food Sufficiency (Supplement 11A-16, Pretest 11-16)<sup>8</sup>

Table 4. Summary Table: Food Sufficiency Section

| IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON SUPPLEMENT? | IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON PRETEST? |                            |                        |                            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                      | YES                               |                            | NO                     |                            |
|                                      | Revised for Supplement            | Not Revised for Supplement | Revised for Supplement | Not Revised for Supplement |
| YES                                  | 12, 13A <sup>9</sup>              | 11, 13C, 13E               | ---                    | ---                        |
| NO                                   | ---                               | ---                        | ---                    | 13B, 13D, 15, 16           |

1. Revisions to Pretest Questionnaire (Food Sufficiency Section)

Two major changes were made to this section since the pretest. First, we included a split-ballot comparison of questions 11 and 12 versus a version of the question that USDA used in other studies (supplement question 11A). This change was made for two reasons: 1) to provide comparable data between this survey and previous USDA surveys conducted using question 11A, and 2) to examine what differences, if any, arise in measuring food insecurity because of the use of questions 11 and 12. One-eighth of the sample received question 11A and the remainder received questions 11 and 12. Question 11A asks about both the quantity and quality of food eaten in the household in a single question. In the pretest, we decomposed question 11A to ask separate questions about the quantity (11) and quality of food eaten (12), since previous research had shown that respondents had difficulty dealing with both concepts in a single question (Briefel and Wotecki, 1992).

The second change we made to this section pertains to the use of questions to screen respondents either into or out of the remainder of the questionnaire. In the pretest, households that had "enough to eat" (question 11) and were above 200 percent poverty were skipped over the questions on "coping mechanisms and food scarcity." The screening process in the supplement is more complicated. First, all households with family income below 185 percent of the poverty level are asked the "coping mechanisms and food scarcity"

<sup>8</sup>The Food Sufficiency Section on the pretest questionnaire includes questions 11-14A. Questions 15 and 16 are included here to accommodate the skip pattern changes incorporated in the supplement questionnaire for the screening items.

<sup>9</sup>Item 13A includes question 13 and the first response option, "Not enough money for food." Items 13B-13E are the remaining four response options. Revisions to 13A were made in the question wording, not the response option.

questions.<sup>10</sup> Second, households above 185 percent of poverty are eligible for the "coping mechanisms and food scarcity" questions depending on how they answer questions 11 and 12 (or 11A for those receiving this version of the split ballot), 15, and 16. These changes were made in response to concerns on the part of the sponsor that some food-insecure households might be missed by the skip pattern in the pretest.

Two additional changes we made included minor wording changes to question 13 and, at OMB's request, deleting pretest question 14, since some respondents had difficulty stating a "main reason" for not having enough to eat.

## 2. Results (Food Sufficiency Section)

The question wording for the split ballot items is shown below.

### Question 11A:

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

Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household--enough of the kinds of food you want to eat, enough but not always the kinds of food you want to eat, sometimes not enough to eat, or often not enough to eat?

### Question 11 (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?

### Question 12 (12):

Do you have enough of the KINDS of food you want to eat, or do you have enough but NOT ALWAYS the KINDS of food you want to eat?

---

<sup>10</sup> Our measure of "185 percent of poverty" in this survey is based on family size and family income. This measure, however, is rather imprecise, because the only measure of family income in the CPS is based on a single question about family income in the previous calendar year and is a categorical variable composed of income ranges.

The data for the comparable split ballot items are shown below.

|  | <u>Questions<br/>11 and 12</u> | <u>Question<br/>11A</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Enough of the kinds of<br>food you want to eat             | 83.1 %                         | 81.0 %                  |
| Enough but not always the<br>kinds of food you want to eat | 10.9                           | 16.0                    |
| Sometimes not enough to eat                                | 5.1                            | 2.3                     |
| Often not enough to eat                                    | 0.9                            | 0.7                     |
| N=   | 39,301                         | 5,495                   |

Combining the two categories that represent those who have "enough to eat" shows that 94.0 percent of those receiving question 11 had "enough" versus 97.0 percent of those receiving question 11A. The majority of this 3.0 percentage point difference shows up in the "sometimes not enough to eat" category. Respondents who receive question 11 asking only about the quantity of food eaten are more likely to say they "sometimes don't have enough to eat," whereas respondents who receive question 11A asking about the quantity and quality of food eaten simultaneously are more likely to say they have "enough but not always the kinds of food you (they) want to eat."

The behavior coding data provides some evidence that it is difficult for respondents to address both the quantity and quality of food eaten in a single question. Almost half the respondents who received 11A did not provide an adequate or qualified answer (N=25). The inadequate responses we received in question 11A resulted primarily from respondents providing only partial answers, such as commenting only on the quantity (e.g., "I always have enough to eat") or commenting only on the quality (e.g., "I'd say often the kind of food we want to eat").

Eighty-three percent of respondents (N=108) provided adequate answers to question 11, which asks about the quantity of food eaten. This is comparable to the pretest. Of those respondents who had trouble with question 11, some requested that the question be repeated, a few respondents commented on their dietary restrictions, and a few others took the concept "household" literally and talked about the food they actually had in their household. In one case, the respondent said he went out to eat when he didn't have enough food at home. In another case, the respondent said she kept "only ... light foods in the house."

While question 11 clearly works better than question 11A, the combined results for 11 and 12 versus 11A are not so clear. Just over 60 percent (N=98) of respondents gave adequate or qualified answers to question 12. Instead of reporting the quality of food eaten in question 12, several respondents again provided answers relating to the quantity of food eaten (e.g. "We have enough always"). Question 12 performed better in the pretest (73 percent gave adequate or qualified answers), however, the source of the problem was the same.

We conducted a limited analysis of the screening questions to examine how well the income threshold worked in conjunction with the four screening questions (supplement questions 11, 12, 15, and 16). In the supplement, all households with family incomes at or below 185 percent of the poverty level are asked the "coping mechanism and food scarcity" (referred to as "coping" questions in the table below) questions regardless of their answers to the screening questions. We examined the responses to the 12-month "coping" questions (supplement questions 18, 20-24, 28, 32, 35, 38) for these "low income" households. Data on the distribution of responses for low income households for which it was reported that they had "enough to eat" in question 11 (or question 11A for those receiving this version of the split ballot) and who answered "no" to question 15 ("In the last 12 months, since (date), did you ever run short of money and try to make your food or your food money go further?") and "no" to question 16 (In the last 12 months, did you ever run out of the foods that you needed to make a meal and didn't have money to get more?") are shown below. Also shown below are data for the two subgroups distinguishing the quality of food for those that have "enough to eat."

**Distribution of Answers to "Coping" Questions for Households with Family Income at or below 185 Percent Poverty Who Said They Have "Enough to Eat" and Who Said "No" to Questions 15 and 16**

|  | <u>Percent of respondents who answered:</u> |   | <u>N</u> |
|--|---|---|----------|
|  | <u>"No" to all "coping" questions</u>       | <u>"No" to all but one "coping" questions</u> |          |
| "Enough to eat"                            | 89.6  | 97.5  | 8,422    |
| "Enough of the kinds of food you want"     | 91.2  | 98.1  | 7,750    |
| "Enough but not always the kinds you want" | 71.3  | 91.3  | 668      |

Almost 90 percent of low income households who answered "no" to questions 15 and 16 said "no" to all subsequent "coping" questions (N=8,422). An additional 8 percent said "no" to all but one of the subsequent "coping" questions for a total of almost 98 percent. The most common single "yes" responses were to the following questions: question 21 on putting off paying a bill (264), question 18 on getting food or borrowing money for food from friends or relatives (154), questions 20 on serving only a few kinds of food for several days in a row (141), and question 22 on getting emergency food from a church, food pantry, or food bank (68).

We also examined the distribution of responses by the quality of food eaten and found difference in these distributions. Over 91 percent of respondents who had "enough of the kinds of food they wanted" to eat said "no" to all of the "coping" questions (N=7,750). An additional 7 percent said "no" to all

but one of the "coping" questions. Again, the most common single "yes" responses were to the same questions as listed above: question 21 (220), question 18 (132), question 20 (90), and question 22 (60). In contrast, only 71 percent of respondents who said they had "enough but not always the kinds of food they wanted" said "no" to all subsequent "coping" questions. This percentage rises an additional 20 percentage points when we add those respondents who said "no" to all but one of the "coping" questions. The most common single "yes" responses differed slightly for this group as the other: question 20 (50), question 21 (43), and question 18 (22).

As discussed in footnote 10, our measure of 185 percent of poverty is rather imprecise and the results presented above suggest that poverty level alone, as measured in this survey, may not be the best indicator of whether a respondent should be asked the "coping" questions. These results suggest that a sizeable proportion of households below 185 percent of the poverty level who say they have enough to eat and answer questions 15 and 16 negatively do not exhibit signs of food insecurity as measured in the "coping" questions.

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

Supplement debriefing item D2 was included to measure respondents' understanding of supplement 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?" The same question was included in the pretest debriefing. As in the pretest, the results indicate that this question was understood as intended. Over 90 percent of respondents (N=1,212) said they had some food but not the kinds needed to make a meal. We also asked a follow-up question to find out what kinds of foods respondents thought they needed to make a meal (question D3). We coded a sample of responses (coded 159 cases out of 1,109) and found that two-thirds of respondents mentioned meat somewhere on their list of foods needed to make a meal and 44 percent of all respondents listed meat first (N=159). Meat was also the most commonly mentioned food needed to make a meal in the pretest debriefing.

### **3. Recommendations (Food Sufficiency Section)**

The results from the split ballot comparison indicate that question 11 is probably more accurate than question 11A so far as the dimension of "amount of food eaten" is concerned. However, question 12 needs more pretesting to better address the quality of food eaten. We recommend adding an introduction prior to question 11 to alert respondents that we will be asking about two aspects of their food supply -- the amount and quality. We also recommend revising the wording of question 12 to better focus respondents on the concept of being able to afford the quality of food they would like to eat and deleting the reference to having "enough" to eat since this is already addressed in question 11.

We recommend that the sponsor consider modifying the screening items to allow households who meet the following characteristics to be skipped over the "coping" questions: households with family incomes at or below 185 percent of the poverty level who say they have "enough to eat" and "the kinds of food they want to eat," and who answer questions 15 and 16 negatively. The data indicate that only a very small percentage of this group experiences any food insecurity as measured in the "coping" questions. We acknowledge that our analysis of the screening questions is limited and that the sponsor may have other data to support maintaining the screening items as they are.

**D. Coping Mechanisms and Food Scarcity** (Supplement-17-52, Pretest 17-52)

**Table 5. Summary Table: Coping Mechanisms and Food Scarcity**

| IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON SUPPLEMENT? | IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON PRETEST?   |                            |                                   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
|                                      | YES   |                            | NO                                |  |
|                                      | Revised for Supplement  | Not Revised for Supplement | Revised for Supplement            | Not Revised for Supplement                           |
| YES                                  | 25, <u>27</u> , <sup>11</sup><br><u>33</u> , <u>35</u> , <u>37</u> ,<br><u>39</u> , <u>42</u> | 30, 38, <u>49</u>          | ---                               | ---  |
| NO                                   | 17, 20, <u>29</u> ,<br>32, <u>41</u> , <u>44</u> ,<br><u>46</u> , <u>48</u>                   | 24, 36, 40,<br>43, 47      | <u>31</u> , <u>51</u> , <u>52</u> | 18, 19, 21,<br>22, 23, 26,<br>28, 34, <u>45</u> , 50 |

**1. Revisions to Pretest Questionnaire (Coping Mechanisms and Food Scarcity Section)**

We made several changes to this section of the questionnaire after the pretest. First, behavior coding notes from the pretest indicated that respondents had difficulty shifting between questions that asked about all adults in the household and those that were just about the respondent. We changed the sequence of the questions in the supplement so that questions about all adults in the household are asked first followed by questions about just the respondent. (Pretest questions 28-33 follow the series of questions on adults going a whole day without food.)

<sup>11</sup>Underlined items indicate that there were less than seven cases in the supplement behavior coding.

Second, respondent debriefing from the pretest indicated that over 23 percent (N=295) of respondents were thinking of an incorrect reference period when answering questions pertaining to the "past 12 months." In the supplement, we simplified subsequent questions about the same behavior to better focus respondents on the reference period (supplement questions 17, 27, 31, 33, 36, 39, 41, 46, 48, 51).

Third, respondents were unable to give precise answers to the questions regarding in how many months they (or their children) had done a particular behavior (pretest questions 25, 35, 44) in the last 12 months. We revised those questions in the supplement to take into account this imprecision. In the supplement, we asked respondents whether the behavior happened "almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?" (supplement questions 25, 29, 44).

Fourth, pretest results indicated that respondents did not understand question 20 ("In the last 12 months, since September 1993, did 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?"). This question is intended to measure diminished diet quality as a result of constrained resources. The pretest debriefing indicated that respondents were not focusing on lack of money as a reason for eating the same thing for several days in a row. Additionally, 37 percent mentioned some kind of meat as the food they ate for several days in a row. We were concerned that some respondents who ate leftovers for several days in a row would incorrectly answer this question affirmatively. We revised question 20 to emphasize that we want to know if the respondent ate inexpensive food repeatedly because they couldn't afford a more varied diet. The supplement question reads: "In the last 12 months, did you ever serve only a FEW KINDS of low-cost foods--like rice, beans, macaroni products, bread or potatoes--for SEVERAL DAYS in a row because you couldn't afford anything else?"

Fifth, we made minor wording changes to questions 31, 33, 42, and 52.

## 2. Results (Coping Mechanisms and Food Scarcity Section)

The first revision, resequencing the questions to ask first about all adults in the household and then about the respondent only, reduced respondent confusion. The behavior coding notes for the supplement indicate that there were no requests for clarification regarding who the question referred to.

The second revision, simplifying the questions, did somewhat improve the respondents' understanding of the 12-month reference period. Results from the respondent debriefing (pretest debriefing question D9 and supplement debriefing question SD7B) show a reduction in the percentage of persons reporting an incorrect reference period from 23 percent (N=295) in the pretest to less than 17 percent (N=4,748) in the supplement ( $\chi^2=8.77$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.01$ ).

The third revision, using categorical responses rather than numeric ones, also improved the questionnaire by making these questions easier for respondents to answer. Question wording for comparable items is shown below in Table 6:



**Table 6. Pretest and Supplement Question Wording for Comparable Questions Asking "In How Many Months" a Behavior Occurred**

| Label                 | Pretest wording  | Supplement wording  |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Adults skip/cut meals | Question 25:<br>"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?" | Question 25:<br>"How often did this happen--almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?" |
| Adults go whole day   | Question 35:<br>"In how many months since September 1993 did (you/...) not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?"  | Question 29:<br>Same as above.  |
| Children skip meals   | Question 44:<br>"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?"                                      | Question 44:<br>Same as above.  |

Pretest questions 25, 35, and 44 had some of the highest item nonresponse in the pretest questionnaire. Item nonresponse was reduced considerably in the comparable supplement questions, as shown in Table 7 below.<sup>12</sup>

**Table 7. Percent Item Nonresponse for Pretest and Supplement Questions Asking "In How Many Months" Behavior Occurred**

|                          | <u>Pretest<br/>Questionnaire</u> | <u>Supplement<br/>Questionnaire</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Adults skip or cut meals | 7.5<br>(N=67)                    | 0.5<br>(N=2,951)                    |
| Adults go whole day      | 10.0<br>(N=20)                   | 0.6<br>(N=656)                      |
| Children skip meals      | 28.6<br>(N=7)                    | 0.7<br>(N=142)                      |

<sup>12</sup>Item nonresponse usually includes both "don't know" and "refusals". In these questions, there were no refusals. Hence, the nonresponse rate is actually a "don't know" rate.

In both the pretest and the supplement, we included debriefing questions to assess the reliability of these questions. Examples of the debriefing questions are given below:

**Pretest debriefing question D7:**

"You said there were some months in the past 12 months when (you/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?"

**Supplement debriefing question SD5:**

"You said that there were some months in the last 12 months when (you/you or other adults) cut the size of your meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food. Do you happen to remember in how many months this happened?"

Debriefing questions identical to those above were asked about adults going a whole day without food and children skipping meals (pretest debriefing question D6 and D8, and supplement debriefing question SD6 and SD7). The supplement debriefing question is similar to the survey pretest question ("In how many months since September 1993 did you cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?"), except that we included the filter, "Do you happen to remember...". Unfortunately, filtered questions elicit many more "don't know" responses than the same question without a filter would do, as shown in Table 8 below (Schuman and Presser, 1981).

**Table 8. Percent Reporting "Don't Know" to Question Asking "In How Many Months" Behavior Occurred**

|                       | <b>Supplement<br/>Debriefing<br/>Question<br/>(with filter)</b> | <b>Pretest<br/>Question<br/>(without filter)</b> |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Adults skip/cut meals | 30.9<br>(750)   | 7.5<br>(67)                                      |
| Adults go whole day   | 24.0<br>(154)   | 10.0<br>(20)                                     |
| Children skip meals   | 34.8<br>(23)  | 28.6<br>(7)                                      |

From one-quarter to one-third of the respondents said they couldn't remember in how many months they had done the behavior in response to the supplement debriefing question.

We, therefore, examined the agreement between the number of months given by respondents who said they could remember in how many months the behavior occurred (supplement debriefing question SD5-7) and those same respondents' answers to the corresponding supplement question (questions 25, 29, and 44).

We grouped the number of months into three categorical variables: 1-2 months, 3-10 months, and 11-12 months to correspond to the supplement question categories--"only 1 or 2 months," "some months but not every month," and "almost every month." Overall, there was 61.7 percent agreement (N=499) regarding adults skipping or cutting the size of their meals, 62.6 percent agreement (N=115) for the question on adults going a whole day without food, and 52.9 percent agreement (N=15) for children skipping meals.<sup>13</sup> Chance agreement is approximately 33 percent.

Table 9. Percent Agreement Between the Supplement Question and Correspondent Debriefing Question

| Supplement Question   | Almost every month/<br>11-12 months | Some months/<br>3-10 months | Only 1 or 2 months/<br>1-2 months |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Adults skip/cut meals | 58.2<br>(N=153)                     | 63.5<br>(N=177)             | 62.7<br>(N=169)                   |
| Adults go whole day   | 55.3<br>(N=38)                      | 69.1<br>(N=42)              | 62.9<br>(N=35)                    |
| Children skip meals   | 25.0<br>(N=4)                       | 57.1<br>(N=7)               | 75.0<br>(N=4)                     |

The debriefing questions also allow us to do a rough check on whether the new version of these questions introduces unwanted order effects into the responses. Schwarz, et al. (1992) have shown that self-administered questionnaires give rise to primacy effects--i.e., greater-than-expected endorsement of the first response alternative in a series--whereas telephone or face-to-face interviews give rise to recency effects--i.e., greater-than-expected endorsement of the last response alternative in a series. In the closed-ended version of the survey question, "only one or two months" is the last response alternative offered to respondents. If, in response to the question asking for the precise number of months, fewer people say one month or two months than do so to the closed-ended question, this suggests that an order effect may be occurring. However, a comparison of the debriefing and the supplement results suggest that the supplement question does not introduce unwanted order effects (see Table 10).

<sup>13</sup>The Census Bureau conducted a reinterview of the supplement at FCS's request. The reinterview data for supplement items 25 and 29 show moderate to high levels of response variance. The overall gross difference rate (GDR) for these two items were 36.7 and 30.8, respectively, indicating that approximately a third of respondents gave different responses to the original survey and the reinterview. The index of inconsistency for question 25 was 55.4. An index of less than 20 indicates low response variance, 20-50 indicates moderate response variance, and over 50 indicates high response variance. There were too few cases to report the GDR for question 44 or to report the index of inconsistency for either question 29 or 44 (final report on reinterview forthcoming).

Table 10. Comparison of Percent Endorsing "1" or "2" Months on Debriefing Question and Percent Endorsing "Only 1 or 2 months" on Supplement

|  | <u>Adults<br/>skip/cut<br/>meals</u> | <u>Adults go<br/>whole day</u> | <u>Children<br/>skip meals</u> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Percent endorsing "1" or "2" months on debriefing    | 32.3<br>(499)                        | 33.0<br>(115)                  | 46.7<br>(15)                   |
| Percent endorsing "Only 1 or 2 months" on supplement | 30.5<br>(2,935)                      | 31.0<br>(652)                  | 34.0<br>(141)                  |

Although nonresponse was dramatically reduced as exhibited in Table 7, behavior coding indicates that question 25 (how often adults skipped or cut the size of meals in the past 12 months) still caused problems for some respondents. A few respondents gave answers indicating that they skipped or cut the size of their meals "once in a while" or "sometimes." Such answers could not be coded into the existing response categories without interviewer probing, but interviewer training can address the need to probe such responses neutrally.

As discussed on page 22, question 20 is intended to measure diminished diet quality as a result of constrained resources. We revised the pretest question to better focus respondents on lack of money as the reason for eating the same thing for several days in a row. The pretest and supplement questions are shown below:

Pretest question 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?"

Supplement question 20:

"In the last 12 months, did you ever serve only a FEW KINDS of low-cost foods -- like rice, beans, macaroni products, bread or potatoes -- for SEVERAL DAYS in a row because you couldn't afford anything else?"

Both the pretest and the supplement included a debriefing question asking about the kinds of foods eaten for several days in a row in order to assess respondents' understanding of these questions.

Pretest debriefing question D15:  
"What kinds of things did you eat?"<sup>14</sup>

Supplement debriefing question SD4:  
"You said that in the last 12 months you sometimes served only a few kinds of food for several days in a row because you couldn't afford anything else. What kinds of food did you serve?"

Low-cost foods, such as those listed in the supplement question, are labeled "Rice, etc." in Table 11 below. The percentages do not add to 100 because respondents could mention both low-cost foods, such as rice, and other foods, such as meat, on their list at the same time. Such persons would be counted in both categories. (If "hotdog" was the only meat listed, it was not included under "meat.")

Table 11. Percent Mentioning Each Item

|   | <u>Pretest</u> | <u>Supplement</u> |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Rice, etc. mentioned<br>somewhere on list | 75.7           | 86.1              |
| Rice, etc. mentioned<br>first on the list | 47.7           | 69.9              |
| Meat mentioned<br>somewhere on list       | 42.1           | 22.3              |
| Meat mentioned<br>first on the list       | 19.6           | 9.6               |
| N=  | 107            | 166               |

The supplement question resulted in an increased percentage of persons mentioning low-cost foods. Over 86 percent of supplement respondents listed at least one low-cost food on their list. These data also indicate a dramatic reduction in the number of persons mentioning meat on their list in the supplement, suggesting that fewer people who ate leftovers for several days in a row gave an incorrect positive response to the supplement question.

Question 38 (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?"

We asked two supplement debriefing questions (SD9, SD10) to assess how well question 38 regarding weight loss worked:

---

<sup>14</sup> This question was asked following debriefing question 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?"

SD9: Did you lose weight in the last 12 months?

SD10: Why was that?

The first debriefing question asked if the respondent lost weight in the last 12 months. A positive response to this question was then followed with a question regarding why the respondent had lost weight. Results indicate that 22 percent of respondents misunderstood the supplement question. Of the 172 respondents who answered question 38 positively, that is, they said they had lost weight in the past 12 months because there wasn't enough food, 38 (22 percent) gave reasons other than not having enough money to buy food in the debriefing. Of the 38 who gave inappropriate responses, 16 said they were trying to lose weight or were dieting, 10 said they lost weight because of ill health, and the remainder indicated reasons such as stress, increased exercise, changes in eating habits, or returning to work.

### 3. Recommendations (Coping Mechanisms and Food Scarcity Section)

We recommend the following:

- a. Keep the question order the same as it is in the supplement.
- b. Ask for categorical responses rather than numeric ones to the questions regarding how often the respondent did the behavior in the past 12 months.
- c. Use the simplified question wording to help the respondent focus on the reference period.
- d. Train interviewers to neutrally probe inadequate answers to supplement questions 25, 29, and 44.
- e. Keep the supplement wording for question 20.
- f. Delete question 38 (weight loss) since the respondent debriefing data indicate that almost a quarter of respondents providing a positive response answered this question incorrectly.

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

Table 12. Concern About Food Sufficiency Section

| IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON SUPPLEMENT? | IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEM ON PRETEST? |                            |                        |                            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                      | YES                               |                            | NO                     |                            |
|                                      | Revised for Supplement            | Not Revised for Supplement | Revised for Supplement | Not Revised for Supplement |
| YES                                  | 53, 55, 58                        | 54                         | ---                    | ---                        |
| NO                                   | ---                               | 56, 57                     | ---                    | ---                        |

## 1. Revisions to Pretest Questionnaire (Concern About Food Sufficiency Section)

We made a few minor wording changes to the questions in this section. The introduction to question 53 was shortened and we added "The first statement is" before the statement in question 53. These changes were made in response to interviewer suggestions. "Eat properly" was changed to "eat balanced meals" in question 55. Question 58 was changed from relying on "a limited number of foods" to relying on "only a few kinds of food" to feed the children. Changes to questions 55 and 58 were made at OMB's request.

## 2. Results (Concern About Food Sufficiency Section)

All but two of the questions in this section continued to pose problems for respondents, as indicated by behavior coding (inadequate answers for these items ranged from 15 to 25 percent). This is similar to the results obtained for the pretest. Most of the inadequate answers to the questions in this section resulted from respondents providing answers that did not fit into one of the precoded response categories. Rather than answering how true the statement was for them, these respondents simply replied, for example, "No," indicating that the statement didn't apply to them, or "Yes, that's a problem I have," indicating that the statement does apply to them. Respondents also tended to interrupt the interviewer during these questions (12 to 15 percent interruption rate for these questions). These same problems also surfaced during the pretest. Although we discussed alternative response categories, the sponsor indicated a strong preference for maintaining the categories as they are. Assuming these categories remain, interviewer training will need to address the issue of neutrally probing inadequate responses such as those mentioned above.

Question 53 (53): "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, sometimes, or never true for (you/you or the other members of your household) in the last 12 months.

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

Behavior coding indicated that interviewers often left off the reference period at the end of question 53. Most likely, interviewers thought it was redundant to read "in the last 12 months" since the reference period was included in the introduction to this question.

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

Behavior coding notes also indicated that the concept of "balanced meals" caused difficulty for some respondents. There were several requests for

clarification regarding this concept, such as, "Balanced meals meaning vegetables and all that, right?" At least one respondent was offended by this question as indicated by her comment, "You're asking me questions that aren't even fair because I'm a good provider, I'm a good cook, and I make sure my family has good meals." Asking about "eating properly" on the pretest did not appear to cause any problems.

Whatever confusion respondents had regarding this concept in question 55 was resolved by the time they got to question 56, as there were no requests for clarification of this term at question 56.

**Question 58 (58): "(I/We) relied on only a few kinds of low cost food to feed (name/the children) because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food.' Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?"**

Behavior coding notes do give some indication that this question works better than the pretest question. In the pretest, some respondents had difficulty with the concept of a "limited number of foods." In the supplement, this wording was changed to "only a few kinds of food." Behavior coding notes indicate that we did not receive any requests for clarification of this concept.

We included supplement debriefing question SD8 to measure how well question 58 worked: "You told me earlier that in the last 12 months you relied on only a few kinds of food to feed the children because you were running out of money to buy food. What kinds of food did you rely on?" We coded this question similarly to debriefing question SD4, which referred to supplement question 20 (see page 25 for question wording). Low-cost foods, such as rice, beans, macaroni products, bread or potatoes are listed as "Rice, etc." in Table 13 below. (If "hotdog" was the only meat listed, it was not included under "meat".) The percentages do not add to 100 because respondents could mention both low-cost foods and meat on their list. Such persons would be counted in both categories.

**Table 13. Percent Mentioning Each Item in Supplement Debriefing Question SD8**

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Rice, etc. mentioned<br>somewhere on list | 84.0 |
| Rice, etc. mentioned<br>first on the list | 56.8 |
| Meat mentioned<br>somewhere on list       | 31.5 |
| Meat mentioned<br>first on the list       | 16.7 |
| N=  | 162  |



Since no comparable debriefing question was included on the pretest, it is difficult to determine whether this question worked better than the pretest question. The data do indicate that this question does not elicit the concept of low-cost foods as well as question 20. We have more respondents including meat somewhere on their list and listing it first in this item than in debriefing question SD4 (22.3 percent included meat somewhere on list; 9.6 percent listed meat first). In revising this question after the pretest, we considered including a list of low-cost foods, such as those in question 20, but this idea was rejected because the list made the question too long and cumbersome.

We also looked at the correlations between the questions in this section and the more "objective" question asking about similar information. The correlations among the items are as follows:<sup>15</sup>

Table 14. Correlations Between Selected Items in the Supplement Questionnaire

| <u>Items</u> | <u>Correlation</u> | <u>N</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|----------|
| 53 and 15    | .47                | 18,262   |
| 53 and 16    | .53                | 18,269   |
| 53 and 54    | .74                | 18,277   |
| 54 and 15    | .43                | 18,256   |
| 54 and 16    | .57                | 18,262   |
| 55 and 56    | .71                | 7,946    |
| 56 and 58    | .59                | 7,942    |
| 57 and 43    | .37                | 7,943    |
| 57 and 40    | .45                | 7,943    |
| 57 and 47    | .46                | 7,944    |

As in the pretest, these correlations are not so high as to be redundant, but they do suggest considerable overlap particularly among the questions asking about adults. However, the correlation between question 53 and 54 is .74, and between 55 and 56 is .71, suggesting that one of each pair might be eliminated in the future.

### 3. Recommendations (Concern About Food Sufficiency)

We recommend the following:

- a. Retain the same wording for question 53 as used in the supplement.
- b. Since the following pairs of questions -- 53 and 54, 55 and 56 -- are ostensibly asking for different information, we recommend revising them to try to help respondents distinguish between them. If the correlations remain as high as they are in spite of such revisions, we recommend that one of each pair of questions be deleted.
- c. Add a few examples of low cost foods to question 58.
- d. Train interviewers to neutrally probe inadequate answers to all questions in this series.

---

<sup>15</sup> Refer to Attachment A for question wording.

F. Concern About Food Quality and Safety (Pretest 59-62)

Revisions

This section of the questionnaire was dropped after the pretest at OMB's request.

## REFERENCES

- Briefel, Ronette R., and Catherine E. Woteki, "Development of the Food Sufficiency Questions for the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey," Journal of Nutrition Education, Vol 24, Number 1 January-February 1992, pp. 24-28.
- Fleiss, J.L. (1981) Statistical Methods for Rates and Proportions. 2nd editions. New York: Wiley.
- Schuman, Howard and Stanley Presser, Questions and Answers in Attitude Surveys, San Diego, California, Academic Press, 1981.
- Schwarz, Norbert, Hans J. Hippler, and Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann, "A Cognitive Model of Response-Order Effects in Survey Measurement," in Context Effects in Social and Psychological Research, Norbert Schwarz and Seymour Sudman, eds., Springer-Verlag, New York, 1992.

f:\hesal\food\supprt.doc

ATTACHMENT A

FOOD SECURITY SUPPLEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE  
APRIL 1995

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. Last week, did (you/anyone in your household) shop for food at a supermarket or grocery store?

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

- 1A. How much did (you/your household) spend at supermarkets and grocery stores last week?

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

DK

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

[If household is <185% poverty, fill with second option else fill with first option.]

- 1A1. Does this (amount) include ALL purchases (you/your household) made at supermarkets and grocery stores, whether paid for by cash, check, (or charge card?/charge card or food stamps?)

- Yes (skip to 1B)  
 No (ask 1A2)  
 Don't Know (Skip to 1B)

- 1A2. What would the total amount be?

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

DK

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

1B. How much of the (amount) was for nonfood items, such as cleaning or paper products?

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

[ ] DK

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

[If answer to 1 is yes, fill the parentheses accordingly.]

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

[ ] Once a week or more (SKIP TO 2)

[ ] 2 to 3 times a month (ASK 1D)

[ ] (Or once a month or less/Once a month or less) (ASK 1D)

[ ] ( /Never shop at a supermarket or grocery store) (SKIP TO 2)

[ ] DK (SKIP TO 2)

1D. How much (do/does) (you/your household) usually spend for food at supermarkets and grocery stores each MONTH?

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

[ ] DK

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

2. Last week, did (you/anyone in your household) buy food from any other kind of store such as a meat market, produce stand, bakery, warehouse or convenience store?

[ ] Yes (ASK 2A)

[ ] No (SKIP TO 3)

[ ] DK (SKIP TO 3)

2A. How much did (you/your household) spend for food at all such places last week?

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

[ ] DK

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

[If household is <185% poverty, fill with second option else fill with first option.]

2A1. Does this (amount) include all purchases (you/your household) made at such places, whether paid for by cash, check, (or charge card?/charge card or food stamps?)

- Yes (skip to 3)
- No (ask 2A2)
- Don't Know (Skip to 3)

2A2. What would the total amount be?

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

DK

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

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

- Yes (ASK 3A)
- No (SKIP TO 4)
- DK (SKIP TO 4)

3A. How much did (you/your household) spend for food at restaurants, fast food places, cafeterias, and vending machines last week?

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

DK

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

[IF DK IN 1A, 2A, AND 3A SKIP TO CK9]

[ADD AMOUNTS IN 1A, 2A, 3A, 1A2, 2A2 AS NECESSARY THEN SUBTRACT AMOUNT IN 1B FROM TOTAL AND DISPLAY IN \$]

4. Let's see, you've told me you (and other members of your household) spent a total of about \$ \_\_\_\_ .00 on all your food last week. Is that the right amount?

- Yes (SKIP TO 6)
- No

5. What is the correct amount?

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

DK (Skip to CK9)

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

6. Is this the USUAL amount (you spend/your household spends) on food per week?

- Yes (Skip to CK9)  
 No  
 Varies  
 DK (Skip to CK9)

7. [If household is <185% poverty, fill with second option else fill with first option.]  
About how much (do/does) (you/your household) usually spend? Remember to include all food purchases whether paid for by cash, check, (or charge card./charge card or food stamps.)

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

- DK

8. **READ IF NECESSARY:**  
Is that weekly or monthly?

- Weekly  
 Monthly

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

---

CK9 If household is more than 185% poverty skip to 11. Otherwise ask 9.

---

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

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

- 9A. On what date did (you/your household) last receive your monthly food stamps?

Month \_ \_

Day \_ \_

9A1. How much did (you/your household) receive?

\$ \_ \_ \_ .00

[ ] DK

Check if amount is within x and x, if not go to an interviewer check screen, otherwise continue

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

9B. During the past 30 days, did (you/anyone in the household receive free or reduced-cost meals for the elderly?

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

[ ] DK

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

9C. 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 (Skip to 9E)

[ ] DK (Skip to 9E)

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

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

9E. 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 or Head Start program?

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

[ ] DK



[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.]

9F. During the past 30 days, did any (women/women or children/children) in this household get food through the WIC program?

- Yes
- No (skip to 9G)
- DK (skip to 9G)

9F1. How many (women/women or children/children) in the household got WIC foods?

\_\_ number

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

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

NOTE: Will not renumber from this point because of time constraints. Would have to reprogram entire instrument and there is not sufficient time to test all the renumbering adequately.

## II. FOOD SUFFICIENCY

11CK If month-in-sample equals 8 then ask 11A else ask 11

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

Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household-- enough of the kinds of food you want to eat, enough but not always the kinds of food you want to eat, sometimes not enough to eat, or often not enough to eat?

- Enough of the kinds of food we want to eat (skip to 15)
- Enough but not always the kinds of food you want to eat (skip to 15)
- Sometimes not enough to eat (skip to 13)
- Often not enough to eat (skip to 13)
  
- DK (skip to 15)

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 of the KINDS of food you want to eat, or do you have enough but NOT ALWAYS the KINDS of food you want to eat?

- enough of the kinds you want (SKIP TO 15)
- enough but not always the kinds you want (SKIP TO 15)
- DK (SKIP TO 15)

13. Here are some reasons why people don't always have enough to eat. For each one, please tell me if that is a reason why YOU don't always have enough to eat.

[READ LIST. MARK ALL THAT APPLY.]

|  | YES                      | NO                       | DK                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Not enough money for food                          | <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"/> |

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 (date), 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 didn't have money to get more?

- Yes
- No
- DK

CKALT If entry in 11A then go to CK17A else go to CK17

---

CK17A

- If household is less than 185% poverty.....(go to 17)  
If household is more than 185% poverty and  
    A.) 11A=3, 4, D or R.....(go to 17)  
    B.) 16=1, D, or R.....(go to 17)  
    C.) 11A=2 and 15=1, D or R.....(go to 17)  
    D.) 11A=1.....(END)  
    E.) 11A=2 and 15=2.....(END)  
All others.....(go to 17)

---

CK17

- If household is less than 185% poverty.....(go to 17)  
If household is more than 185% poverty and  
    A.) 11=2, 3, D or R.....(go to 17)  
    B.) 16=1, D or R.....(go to 17)  
    C.) 11=1 and 12=2, D or R and 15=1, D or R.....(go to 17)  
    D.) 11=1 and 12=1.....(END)  
    E.) 11=1 and 12=2, D or R and 15=2 .....(END)  
All others.....(go to 17)

---

III. COPING MECHANISMS AND FOOD SCARCITY

[If 16=2 then skip to 18 else ask 17.]  
17. Did this ever happen in the last 30 days?

- 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 (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 ever send or take (CHILD'S 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, did you ever serve only a FEW KINDS of low-cost foods--like rice, beans, macaroni products, bread or potatoes--for SEVERAL DAYS in a row because you couldn't afford anything else?
- Yes  
 No  
 DK
21. In the last 12 months, did (you/you or other adults in the 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 (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 (or other adults in your household) ever eat any meals at a soup kitchen?
- Yes  
 No  
 DK
24. In the last 12 months, since (date), did 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. How often did this happen--almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?
- Almost every month  
 Some months but not every month  
 Only 1 or 2 months  
 DK
26. Now think about the last 30 days. Did 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 days did this happen?

\_\_\_\_\_ days

DK

28. In the last 12 months, since (date), did 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 32)

DK (SKIP TO 32)

29. How often did this happen--almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

Almost every month

Some months but not every month

Only 1 or 2 months

DK

30. Now think about the last 30 days. Did 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 32)

DK (SKIP TO 32)

31. In the last 30 days, how many times did this happen?

\_\_\_\_\_ times

DK

32. 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 35)

DK (SKIP TO 35)

33. Did this happen in the last 30 days?

Yes

No (SKIP TO 35)

DK (SKIP TO 35)

34. 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

35. In the last 12 months, since (date), were you ever hungry but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?

- Yes
- No (SKIP TO 38)
- DK (SKIP TO 38)

36. Did this happen in the last 30 days?

- Yes
- No (SKIP TO 38)
- DK (SKIP TO 38)

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

\_\_\_ number of days

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. Did this happen in the last 30 days?

- 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 (children living in the household who are under 18 years old).

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

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

41. Did this ever happen in the last 30 days?

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ days

- DK

43. In the last 12 months, since (date), did (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. How often did this happen--almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

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

45. Now think about the last 30 days. Did (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 days did this happen?

\_\_\_\_\_ days

- 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. Did this ever happen in the last 30 days?

- 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 (date), did (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. Did this ever happen in the last 30 days?

- Yes
- No (SKIP TO 53)
- DK (SKIP TO 53)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ days

- 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, sometimes, or never true for you (or the other members of your household) in the last 12 months.

The first statement is "(I/We) worried whether (my/our) food would run out before (I/we) got money to buy more." Was that often, 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 balanced meals." 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. "(Name was/The children were) not eating enough because (I/we) just couldn't afford enough food." Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?
- Often true
  - Sometimes true
  - Never true
58. "(I/we) relied on only a few kinds of food to feed (name/the children) because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food." Was that often, sometimes or never true for you in the last 12 months?
- Often true
  - Sometimes true
  - Never true

END

f:\jhess\food\suppqr.doc

ATTACHMENT B

FOOD SECURITY SUPPLEMENT PRETEST QUESTIONNAIRE  
AUGUST 1994

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                          | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] |
| Too hard to get to the store                       | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] |
| No working stove                                   | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] |
| No working refrigerator                            | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] |
| Not able to cook or eat because of health problems | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] |

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 11 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

F:\JHESI\FOOD\PREQRE.DOC

ATTACHMENT C

Food Security Supplement, April 1995  
Respondent Debriefing Questionnaire

Specifications

SDCK If MISCK=4 or 8 and onpath entry in S18 then go to SDINTRO else go to end.

SDINTRO 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.

SD1 Did this part of the interview seem too short, about the right length, or too long?

- <1> Too short
- <2> About the right length
- <3> Too long

Blind <D> or <R>

SD1A Were the questions easy to answer, hard to answer, or neither easy nor hard?

- <1> Easy
- <2> Hard
- <3> Neither easy nor hard

Blind <D> or <R>

SD2CK If onpath entry of <1> in S16 ask D2 else skip to SD4CK

SD2 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?

- <1> Ran out of food altogether (SKIP TO SD4CK)
- <2> Had some food but not the kinds needed to make a meal

Blind <D> or <R>

SD3 What kinds of food do you need to make a meal?

ENTER VERBATIM RESPONSE

\_\_\_\_\_ (allow 150 characters)



SD4CK If onpath entry of <1> in S20 ask SD4 else skip to SD5CK.

SD4 You said that in the last 12 months you sometimes served only a few kinds of foods for several days in a row because you couldn't afford anything else. What kinds of food did you serve?

ENTER VERBATIM RESPONSE

\_\_\_\_\_ (allow 150 characters)

SD5CK If onpath entry of <1>, <2> or <3> in S25 ask SD5 else skip to SD6CK.

SD5 If more than one household member with age greater than or equal to 18 then fill with second option else fill with first.

You said that there were some months in the last 12 months when (you/you or other adults) cut the size of your meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food. Do you happen to remember in how many months this happened?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No (skip to SD6CK)

Blind <D> or <R> skip to SD6CK

SD5A ENTER NUMBER OF MONTHS

<1-12>

SD6CK If onpath entry of <1>, <2> or <3> in S29 ask SD6 else skip to SD7CK.

SD6 If more than one household member with age greater than or equal to 18 then fill with second option else fill with first.

You said that there were some months in the last 12 months when (you/you or other adults) didn't eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food. Do you happen to remember in how many months this happened?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No (skip to SD7CK)

Blind <D> or <R> skip to SD7CK

SD6A ENTER NUMBER OF MONTHS

<1-12>

SD7CK If onpath entry of <1>, <2> or <3> in S44 ask SD7 else skip to SD7B.

SD7 If only one person with AGE<=17 then fill with first options else fill with second option.

You said that there were some months in the last 12 months when (NAME/the children) skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food. Do you happen to remember in how many months this happened?

<1> Yes

<2> No (skip to SD7B)

Blind <D> or <R> skip to SD7B

SD7A ENTER NUMBER OF MONTHS

<1-12>

SD7B 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 May 1994 and ending April 1995, or were you thinking of the 12 months starting January 1994 and ending December 1994?

<1> May 1994 through April 1995

<2> January 1994 through December 1994

Blind <D> or <R>

SD8CK If onpath entry of <1> or <2> in S58 ask SD8 else skip to SD9

SD8 You told me earlier that in the last 12 months you relied on only a few kinds of food to feed the children because you were running out of money to buy food. What kinds of food did you rely on?

ENTER VERBATIM RESPONSE

\_\_\_\_\_ (allow 150 characters)

SD9 Did you lose weight in the last 12 months?

<1> Yes

<2> No (end)

Blind <D> or <R> end

SD10 Why was that?  
[MARK ALL THAT APPLY]

- <1> Trying to lose weight/dieting
  - <2> Not enough money to buy food/not enough food
  - <3> Ill health
  - <4> Other-specify (go to SD11SP)
- <N> No more

Blind <D> or <R> (allow only in the first answer space)

SD10CK If onpath entry of <4> in SD10 ask SD10SP else end.

SD10SP ENTER VERBATIM RESPONSE

(allow 150 characters)

f:\jhess\food\suppdeb.qre

ATTACHMENT D

Food Security Supplement, August 1994 Pretest  
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) \_\_\_\_\_

f:\jhess\food\predeb.qre

ATTACHMENT E

**BEHAVIOR CODING TRAINING MANUAL  
APRIL 1995 CPS FOOD SECURITY SUPPLEMENT**

**September 1995**



## I. INTRODUCTION

### Development of the CPS Supplement on Hunger

In January 1994 the Center for Survey Methods Research (CSMR) was asked to help improve a questionnaire that focuses on Americans' experience of poverty-driven hunger. This questionnaire had been developed by the Food and Consumer Service of the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with leading researchers on poverty and hunger.

An initial 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. You may remember doing behavior coding of cases from this second pretest. This round of behavior coding consists of selected cases from the actual survey which was conducted nationwide as a supplement to the April 1995 CPS. These selected cases were conducted by staff from the Hagerstown and Tucson Telephone Centers.

### 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 only 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 will also code. We will then compare the results to make sure they are comparable between coders.

## 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 21 and 22, 1995. Production coding will begin thereafter. Coding should be completed by October 4.

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.

## Automated Coding

Behavior coding for this survey will be automated. That is, you will listen to the tape and enter the codes directly into a terminal. For simplicity, the instrument consists of only the supplement. That is, there is no front/back, control card or labor force sections. The supplement instrument is similar to the one used in production, except that answer spaces have been added on each screen for the interviewer and respondent behavior codes.

In addition to entering the interviewer and respondent behavior codes, you must enter the answer that the interviewer entered in order to follow the skip pattern of the instrument. In most cases, you will know this information from the interview. However, in some instances, particularly in complicated situations when interviewers backed up in the instrument, you will need to refer to a computer printout. This printout is discussed in detail in Section IV below.

There are several items that instruct the interviewer not to read the screen to the respondent - for example, when a range should be recorded item SSIACK1 or when the amount entered is unusual and the interviewer is asked to review the entry such as in item SSIARC. THESE ITEMS WILL NOT BE CODED.

As with the other behavior coding you have done, it is very important for the researchers to understand the problems that interviewers and respondents have with the questions. We encourage you to enter notes whenever possible. The instrument will automatically direct you to the F7-Notes screen when you select certain interviewer and respondent behavior codes. Additionally, use the F7-Notes key to enter other comments you may want to make.

## 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 coding these cases, we will compare the codes for comparability between coders. It is important that you code these cases without help from or discussions with the other coders.

## Debriefing

When coding has been completed, we will conduct a debriefing of all coders. Each of you will have listened to many interviews and may be able to provide insights into ways to improve the questionnaire. Feel free to jot down notes to help you remember any particular questions you want to discuss.

### III. CODING INTERVIEWER AND RESPONDENT EXCHANGES

On the computer, call up the case you have been assigned by specific case ID. The first screen that you will see is the >PROB< screen. It is designed to allow you to exit a case if there is any reason that the case cannot be coded. Rules of taping require that we have permission to tape the interview from the respondent. IF THE PERMISSION TO TAPE IS NOT RECORDED, WE CANNOT USE THE INTERVIEW. If this happens, enter the appropriate code on the >PROB< screen and follow the verification screens.

If there is no problem with the taping of the interview, enter precode <4> and continue with the coding of the interview. It begins with the first question "The first few questions are about buying food for your household. Last week did (you/anyone in your household) shop for food at a supermarket or grocery store?"

The basic rule of coding that this survey will follow is this: You code all behaviors on the part of the interviewer and the respondent that occur before the other person says anything at all. Since the interviewer begins the interaction by asking the question, he/she can only have one behavior before the respondent speaks. This means you should not have more than one code per question for the interviewer. On the other hand, 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. If, however, the respondent asks for clarification and the interviewer answers and then the respondent answers the question, you would code only the request for clarification for the respondent. Enter <N> for No More for the second respondent behavior.

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

#### A. 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.

##### 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 30 days, did you ever run out of the foods (that) you needed to make a meal and 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 "or reduced cost" in any of questions SS9B-SS9E 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 ask "Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?" 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 "specify" that comes up.

### 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, enter 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 (with the exception of SS8 described below under "Code 0"). 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 (SS3A), which asks how much the respondent spent without verifying the amount with the respondent, use code 0 for Other and indicate that the question was incorrectly silently verified on the Notes screen. Use code 0 for the respondent behavior as well and indicate that the data are missing because the interviewer silently verified the information in the notes screen for that item.

### Code 0: Other

Use code 0 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 "specify" screen. (See, also, the use of code 0 in the previous paragraph.)

Use code 0 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 verifies or because the tape recording is of poor quality. In other cases, it may be necessary to use this code because of background noise.

Note that item SS8 says "READ IF NECESSARY." This means that if the respondent gave the answer to this question when answering the previous question, the interviewer does not have to read the question. If the respondent has already answered whether the amount is weekly or monthly, code this as a Other (0) for both the interviewer and the respondent. If, however, the interviewer reads the item, code the interviewer and respondent behaviors as you would any other item.

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

### 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, on the F7-Notes screen 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 on the F7-Notes screen. Or if the respondent says "I went shopping twice and I spent about \$40 each time," code this as an adequate answer but note on the F7-Notes screen 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.

### 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. The "specify" screen will automatically come up when this code is entered. Please include a short description or

the respondent's words indicating doubt in these notes. 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" on the Notes screen.

### **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, you will have to use your judgment. In some cases, it may be necessary to refer to the Interviewers' Instruction Manual in making this decision. For example, question S9A asks, "On what date did (you/your household) last receive your monthly food stamps?" If the respondent answers that he gets them once a month, code the answer as inadequate.

A "specify" screen will automatically come up when this code is entered. Enter a brief note describing what the respondent said.

### **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 notes.

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 on the "specify" screen that automatically comes up. If you don't know the reason, write down the respondent's exact wording. For example, if in response to question SS16, "In the last 12 months, did you ever run out of the foods that you needed to make a meal and didn't have money to get more?" the respondent asks, "In the last what?", write this in the "specify" screen. Or if in response to this question, the respondent asks, "What do you mean by food to make a meal?" either write the exact question or write that the respondent didn't understand "food to make a meal" in the "specify" screen. 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 SS11, "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. When this code is entered, the "specify" screen will automatically come up. Include an explanation for using the code. 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 on the "specify" screen.

Use code 0 whenever you cannot hear what the respondent said. This may occur because the tape is unclear. Indicate in the "specify" screen why you used code "0" (e.g. "tape unclear"). If you cannot hear anything the respondent says throughout the entire interview, code the interviewer behavior as appropriate and use code "0" for all of the respondent behaviors. You do not need to write "tape unclear" in each "specify" screen in this case. Just indicate on one item early in the interview that you cannot hear the respondent at all in the entire interview. (In earlier pretests of this questionnaire, I have heard only the interviewer and her keystrokes. I assume this is due to the equipment not being properly hooked up when the interview was originally taped.)

#### Code N: No More

The instrument allows for up to two respondent behavior codes. In most cases you will only use one code. If there is not a second behavior to record, enter code N to indicate there are no more codes.

#### C. Entering Notes

The F7-Notes screen will automatically come up at the bottom of the screen when you enter interviewer codes M and O and respondent codes Q, I, C, or O. On this screen, enter a note about the interviewer/respondent exchange. Try to make your remarks as concise as possible. If your comment is lengthy, however, you will need to hit a return at the end of the line in order to drop down to the next line. Enter return a second time to exit the F7-Notes screen and return to the item.

There will be instances when you will want to enter a note about the interview because the codes won't adequately reflect the situation. Consider when the respondent is asked if the amount spent last week was the USUAL amount spent on food per week, she replies "yes, but you already asked me that question." This is an adequate answer to the question, but it doesn't reflect the confusion by the respondent. You should press F7 to enter a note about the situation. Note that you should enter the note BEFORE you enter the behavior code so that the note is associated with the correct item.

When you enter F7, you are asked if you want to Append, Browse, or Exit. To enter a note, you should use the Append option. Enter Exit when you have finished entering the note.

#### D. Partially Coded Cases

If you need to exit a case before completing the coding, you can enter F10. When you call the case back up, the status on the screen will say "Need Labor + Supp." Enter "P" on the <Start> screen and then press F3-Jump Forward, to get to where you exited the case. Note that the instrument will stop at the F7-Notes. Just press return to continue the jump forward.

#### IV. USING THE INTERVIEW ANSWER SHEETS

For each case you are assigned, you should also receive a computer printout of the answers that the original interviewer entered. Refer to this answer sheet when you have questions regarding how the interviewer coded what the respondent said. This should keep you on the same skip pattern that the original interviewer followed. In the case where the original interviewer backed up and changed answers, the answer sheet only shows the final answer that was recorded.

##### Layout of the Answer Sheet

The items on the answer sheet are in alphabetical order according to the computer's dictionary. The first three letters of each item are "HUS". Following these letters are either numbers, such as 1 to 58 (HUS58 is the last question in the supplement), or a combination of letters and numbers, such as 1A. The computer's dictionary sorts the items so that those items from 1 to 58 are listed before items that are a combination of letters and numbers. Therefore, HUS1-HUS58 come before HUS1A, even though HUS1A is the first item after HUS1 in the survey. Therefore, if you are looking to see what was entered in item HUS3A, you will need to look beyond HUS58 before you will find this item listed on the printout. If the item does not appear on the answer sheet, the item was blank. Items HUSDXXX at the bottom of the sheet are from the respondent debriefing and do not apply to your work.

##### Item names

The item name on the screen of the instrument begins with an "SS." However, on the answer sheet, the first "S" has been replaced by "HU." Therefore, what appears as SS1 on the screen shows up as HUS1 on the answer sheet.

##### Answer values

For the most part, the answer values on the computer printout will be those entered originally by the interviewer, for example, "1" for "yes", and "2" for "no". However, there are some exceptions. When the interviewer enters a range (coded as an X in the instrument), the value "-5" will appear for the item on the computer printout. The value for the range will show up as the midpoint of the range. For example, if the respondent said she spent between \$45 and \$55 at the grocery store, the value on the answer sheet will be \$50. Other differences include the value "-2" for a "don't know" response and "-3" for a refusal.

## V. 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. This information will be entered on the >PROB< screen. Depending on when the interviewer turned on the tape recorder, there may be some introductory remarks on the tape before the interviewer asks the respondent for permission to tape.

### Reading Names as Part of Instrument Fills

For questions that ask about the children in the household, the instrument fills with the child's first and last name when there is only one child in the household. It is acceptable for the interviewer to only read the first name. Therefore, if no other wording changes were made in the question, code the interviewer behavior as Exact reading (E). However, if the interviewer refers to the child by the pronoun he/she, code this as a Slight change (S).

### Coding Individual Items

#### - Question SS1

If the respondent answers "grocery store" or "supermarket," code this as Adequate. However, record an F7-Note before entering the code to alert the researchers to the confusion.

- Questions SS1A, SS1D, SS2A2, SS3A, SS5, SS7, ~~SS8~~  
The interviewers were instructed to accept ranges such as \$35-40. Code ranges as Qualified answers and write "range" in the F7-Notes.

#### - Questions SS1A1, SS2A1, SS7

If respondents answer "I pay cash" code this as Inadequate.

#### - Question SS1C

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 SS2

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 it does not tell us if the respondent also bought food at these kinds of stores.

- Question SS3  
If the respondent answers "I don't eat fast food" or "Yes, I ate fast food last week," code this as Inadequate because we don't know if the respondent bought any fast food. If, however, he says "Yes, fast food," code this as Adequate because he is telling you which of the options applied. Make an note about the extra information.
- Question SS4  
Interviewers were instructed to mark "no" if the amount in question SS4 was incorrect and then to correct the amount in question SS5. Interviewers should not back up and change the amounts in the previous items. If this occurs, please note it in the F7-Notes.
- Question SS6  
It is very important for you to enter notes for this item if the respondent did not differentiate between USUAL spending and LAST WEEK's spending.
- Question SS8  
This item is labeled READ IF NECESSARY. This means that if the respondent gave the answer to this question when answering the previous question, the interviewer does not have to read the question. If the respondent has already answered whether the amount is weekly or monthly, code this as a Other (0) for both the interviewer and the respondent. If, however, the interviewer reads the item, code the interviewer and respondent behaviors as you would any other item.
- Questions SS9 to SS9G  
Failure to read the phrase "During the past 30 days," should be coded as a Major change.
- Question SS9A  
If the respondent answers "I get them on the 5th of the month" code this as Inadequate because we don't know which month.  
  
The computer printout which contains the answers calls these items HUS9AM for the month and HUS9AD for the day.
- Question SS9D and SS9E  
If the interviewer uses a pronoun instead of the child's name, code this as a Slight change.
- Questions SS11, SS11A, and SS12  
Failure to read all of the response options should be coded as a Major change.
- Question SS13  
Label the five items in question SS13 as SS13A-SS13E. The introduction to the question ("Here are some...") and the first item in the list ("Not enough money for food") comprise SS13A. 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.

- Question SS15  
Failure to read "since May 1994" or the word "ever" should be coded as a Major change. Note that saying "May of 1994" or "May 94" is acceptable.
- Question SS16  
Failure to read "ever" or "and 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 SS18 to SS24  
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 SS24  
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.
- Question SS25  
Failure to read all of the answer categories should be coded as a Major change.
- Questions SS24-SS52  
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 SS24-SS26, SS28-SS36, SS38-SS40, SS42-SS52  
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.
- Questions SS25, SS35, and SS44  
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.
- Questions SS27, SS37, SS42, SS46, and SS49  
If the respondent answers in terms of anything but "days", code this as an Inadequate answer.
- Questions SS37, SS52  
These questions ask how many "days" 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.

- Question SS53

Code the introduction and the first statement together in question SS53. Failure to read the response options and the reference period in Question SS53 should be coded as a Major change since this is the first time the respondent will hear the response options following the statement.

- Questions SS54-SS58

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.

ATTACHMENT F

April 1995 Food Security Supplement  
Reliability Measures for Behavior Coding Data

| Coder<br><u>1</u> | Coder<br><u>2</u> | Interviewer<br>Percent<br>Agreement | Kappa <sup>3</sup> | One Respondent<br>Percent<br>Agreement | Kappa<br>Code <sup>1</sup> | Both Respondent<br>Percent<br>Agreement | Kappa<br>Codes <sup>2</sup> |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1                 | 2                 | 86.6                                | .75<br>(.06)       | 88.4                                   | .74<br>(.05)               | 76.8                                    | .55<br>(.04)                |
| 1                 | 3                 | 87.2                                | .76<br>(.06)       | 92.1                                   | .80<br>(.05)               | 85.4                                    | .72<br>(.04)                |
| 1                 | 4                 | 83.5                                | .69<br>(.06)       | 93.3                                   | .84<br>(.05)               | 86.0                                    | .74<br>(.04)                |
| 2                 | 3                 | 89.6                                | .80<br>(.06)       | 87.8                                   | .73<br>(.05)               | 79.3                                    | .58<br>(.04)                |
| 2                 | 4                 | 87.2                                | .75<br>(.06)       | 92.7                                   | .84<br>(.05)               | 79.9                                    | .61<br>(.04)                |
| 3                 | 4                 | 90.2                                | .81<br>(.06)       | 97.0                                   | .93<br>(.05)               | 92.1                                    | .85<br>(.04)                |

F:\JHESSE\FOOD\KAPPA.DOC

<sup>1</sup>We coded up to two respondent codes per question. These columns indicate between coder agreement on at least one of the two codes.

<sup>2</sup>These columns indicate between coder agreement on both of the respondent codes.

<sup>3</sup>Standard errors for kappa statistics shown in parentheses.



## ATTACHMENT G

### Decision Rules<sup>1</sup>

#### 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:

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:

If D3 is answered "same thing" by more than 15% of respondents, reduce repetition.

#### 6. Bias:

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.

---

<sup>1</sup>Question numbers refer to the pretest questionnaire.

## 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.
- 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.

ATTACHMENT H

April 1995 Food Security Supplement  
Behavior Coding Results<sup>1</sup>

| <u>Question</u> | <u>Interviewer Behavior<br/>(percent exact or<br/>slight readings)</u> | <u>Respondent Behavior<br/>(percent adequate or<br/>qualified answers)</u> |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 1               | 97.1<br>(N=136)  | 86.0<br>(N=136)  |
| 1A              | 98.4<br>(121)  | 76.0<br>(121)  |
| 1A1             | 93.2<br>(118)  | 67.0<br>(118)  |
| 1A2             | 50.0<br>(4)  | 75.0<br>(4)  |
| 1B              | 96.6<br>(118)  | 67.8<br>(118)  |
| 1C              | 77.9<br>(136)  | 83.1<br>(136)  |
| 1D              | 97.6<br>(41)   | 61.0<br>(41)   |
| 2               | 97.8<br>(136)  | 82.4<br>(136)  |
| 2A              | 84.6<br>(39)   | 51.3<br>(39)   |
| 2A1             | 94.4<br>(36)   | 80.6<br>(36)   |
| 2A2             | 100.0<br>(1)   | 100.0<br>(1)   |
| 3               | 99.3<br>(136)  | 90.4<br>(136)  |
| 3A              | 92.3<br>(78)   | 71.8<br>(78)   |

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

| <u>Question</u> | <u>Interviewer Behavior</u><br>(percent exact or<br>slight readings) | <u>Respondent Behavior</u><br>(percent adequate or<br>qualified answers) |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 4               | 91.4<br>(128)  | 76.4<br>(127)  |
| 5               | 30.8<br>(13)   | 46.2<br>(13)   |
| 6               | 95.2<br>(126)  | 81.8<br>(126)  |
| 7               | 81.3<br>(64)   | 45.3<br>(64)   |
| 8               | 12.9<br>(62)   | 48.4<br>(62)   |
| 9               | 96.6<br>(88)   | 92.1<br>(88)   |
| 9A              | 78.0<br>(19)   | 26.3<br>(19)   |
| 9A1             | 84.2<br>(19)   | 89.5<br>(19)   |
| 9B              | 89.7<br>(39)   | 87.2<br>(39)   |
| 9C              | 100.0<br>(28)  | 92.9<br>(28)   |
| 9D              | 93.3<br>(15)   | 86.7<br>(15)   |
| 9E              | 96.9<br>(32)   | 78.1<br>(32)   |
| 9F              | 95.4<br>(43)   | 88.4<br>(43)   |
| 9F1             | 87.5<br>(8)  | 75.0<br>(8)  |
| 9G              | 100.0<br>(88)  | 95.5<br>(88)   |
| 11              | 98.2<br>(108)  | 83.3<br>(108)  |

| <u>Question</u> | <u>Interviewer Behavior</u><br>(percent exact or<br>slight readings) | <u>Respondent Behavior</u><br>(percent adequate or<br>qualified answers) |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 11A             | 100.0<br>(25)  | 52.0<br>(25)   |
| 12              | 99.0<br>(98)   | 61.2<br>(98)   |
| 13A             | 83.3<br>(12)   | 100.0<br>(12)  |
| 13B             | 100.0<br>(12)  | 91.7<br>(12)   |
| 13C             | 100.0<br>(12)  | 83.3<br>(12)   |
| 13D             | 91.7<br>(12)   | 100.0<br>(12)  |
| 13E             | 100.0<br>(12)  | 83.3<br>(12)   |
| 15              | 97.0<br>(135)  | 85.2<br>(135)  |
| 16              | 97.0<br>(134)  | 94.0<br>(134)  |
| 17              | 95.8<br>(24)   | 95.8<br>(24)   |
| 18              | 96.8<br>(93)   | 93.6<br>(93)   |
| 19              | 97.5<br>(40)   | 100.0<br>(40)  |
| 20              | 98.9<br>(93)   | 87.1<br>(93)   |
| 21              | 100.0<br>(93)  | 93.6<br>(93)   |
| 22              | 98.9<br>(93)   | 92.5<br>(93)   |
| 23              | 100.0<br>(93)  | 94.6<br>(93)   |

| <u>Question</u> | <u>Interviewer Behavior<br/>(percent exact or<br/>slight readings)</u> | <u>Respondent Behavior<br/>(percent adequate or<br/>qualified answers)</u> |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 24              | 96.8<br>(93)   | 96.8<br>(93)   |
| 25              | 92.9<br>(14)   | 50.0<br>(14)   |
| 26              | 100.0<br>(14)  | 92.9<br>(14)   |
| 27              | 83.3<br>(6)  | 50.0<br>(6)  |
| 28              | 97.9<br>(93)   | 94.6<br>(93)   |
| 29              | 66.7<br>(3)  | 33.3<br>(3)  |
| 30              | 100.0<br>(3)   | 100.0<br>(3)   |
| 31              | 66.7<br>(3)  | 66.7<br>(3)  |
| 32              | 100.0<br>(93)  | 94.6<br>(93)   |
| 33              | 100.0<br>(16)  | 93.8<br>(16)   |
| 34              | 85.7<br>(7)  | 57.1<br>(7)  |
| 35              | 98.9<br>(93)   | 91.4<br>(93)   |
| 36              | 100.0<br>(8)   | 87.5<br>(8)  |
| 37              | 0.0<br>(2)   | 50.0<br>(2)  |
| 38              | 98.9<br>(93)   | 98.9<br>(93)   |
| 39              | 100.0<br>(6)   | 83.3<br>(6)  |

| <u>Question</u> | <u>Interviewer Behavior<br/>(percent exact or<br/>slight readings)</u> | <u>Respondent Behavior<br/>(percent adequate or<br/>qualified answers)</u> |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 40              | 100.0<br>(40)  | 97.5<br>(40)   |
| 41              | 100.0<br>(1)   | 100.0<br>(1)   |
| 42              | 0.0<br>(1)   | 100.0<br>(1)   |
| 43              | 100.0<br>(40)  | 97.5<br>(40)   |
| 44              | 100.0<br>(1)   | 100.0<br>(1)   |
| 45              | 100.0<br>(1)   | 100.0<br>(1)   |
| 46              | 100.0<br>(1)   | 100.0<br>(1)   |
| 47              | 95.0<br>(40)   | 97.5<br>(40)   |
| 48              | 100.0<br>(2)   | 100.0<br>(2)   |
| 49              | 0.0<br>(1)   | 100.0<br>(1)   |
| 50              | 100.0<br>(40)  | 97.5<br>(40)   |
| 51              | 100.0<br>(1)   | 100.0<br>(1)   |
| 52              | 0.0<br>(1)   | 100.0<br>(1)   |
| 53              | 81.7<br>(93)   | 77.4<br>(93)   |
| 54              | 90.3<br>(93)   | 82.6<br>(92)   |
| 55              | 92.5<br>(93)   | 79.6<br>(93)   |



| <u>Question</u> | <u>Interviewer Behavior</u><br>(percent exact or<br>slight readings) | <u>Respondent Behavior</u><br>(percent adequate or<br>qualified answers) |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 56              | 95.0<br>(40)   | 87.5<br>(40)   |
| 57              | 97.5<br>(40)   | 85.0<br>(40)   |
| 58              | 97.5<br>(40)   | 75.0<br>(40)   |

f:\jhesl\food\behcode.tbl

ATTACHMENT I

Food Security Supplement: Comparison of Pretest and Supplement Results

| Pretest Q                | Identified as Problem During Pretest <sup>1,2</sup> | Action                        | Supplement Q | Supplement Evaluation Results <sup>2,3</sup> | Recommendation |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Food Expenditures</b> |   |                               |              |  |                |
| 1                        | ID  | Revised <sup>4</sup>          | 1            |  | Revise         |
| 1A                       | BC  | Revised <sup>5</sup>          | 1A           | BC   | Resequence     |
|                          |   | Added                         | 1A1          | BC   | Delete         |
|                          |   | Added                         | 1A2          | BC*  | Delete         |
|                          |   | Added                         | 1B           | BC   | Delete         |
| 1B                       | No problem  | Revised <sup>4</sup>          | 1C           | BC   | Delete         |
| 1C                       | BC  | Revised <sup>4</sup>          | 1D           | BC   | Delete         |
| 2                        | BC, ID  | Revised <sup>6</sup> /deleted |              |  |                |
| 2A                       | BC  | Revised <sup>6</sup> /deleted |              |  |                |
| 3                        | BC, ID  | Revised <sup>7</sup>          | 2            | BC   | Revise         |
| 3A                       | BC, ID  | No change                     | 2A           | BC   | Revise         |
|                          |   | Added                         | 2A1          | BC   | Delete         |
|                          |   | Added                         | 2A2          |  | Delete         |
| 4                        | No problem  | No change                     | 3            |  | Resequence     |
| 4A                       | BC  | No change                     | 3A           | BC   | Resequence     |
| 5                        | BC  | Revised <sup>8</sup>          | 4            | BC   | Delete         |
| 6                        | BC  | No change                     | 5            | BC   | Delete         |
| 7                        | BC  | Revised <sup>9</sup>          | 6            | BC   | Revise         |
| 8                        | BC  | Revised <sup>10</sup>         | 7            | BC   | Delete         |
|                          |   | Added                         | 8            | BC   | No change      |

| Pretest Q                    | Identified as Problem During Pretest <sup>1,2</sup> | Action                | Supplement Q | Supplement Evaluation Results <sup>2,3</sup> | Recommendation                  |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Program Participation</b> |   |                       |              |  |                                 |
| 9                            | No problem  | No change             | 9            |  | No change                       |
|                              |   | Added                 | 9A           | BC   | Revise                          |
| 9A                           | BC  | Revised               | 9A1          | BC   | No change                       |
| 9B                           | No problem  | No change             | 9B           |  | No change                       |
| 9C                           | ID  | No change             | 9C           |  | No change                       |
| 9D                           | ID  | No change             | 9D           |  | No change                       |
| 9E                           | ID  | No change             | 9E           | BC   | Resequence                      |
| 9F                           | No problem  | No change             | 9F           |  | Resequence                      |
|                              |   | Added                 | 9F1          | BC   | No change                       |
| 9G                           | No problem  | No change             | 9G           |  | No change                       |
| 10/10A                       | BC, ID  | Deleted               |              |  |                                 |
| <b>Food Sufficiency</b>      |   |                       |              |  |                                 |
|                              |   | Added: split ballot   | 11A          | BC   |                                 |
| 11                           | BC  | No change             | 11           | BC   | Add intro for 11 and 12/pretest |
| 12                           | BC, ID  | Revised               | 12           | BC   | See previous comment            |
| 13A                          | ID  | Revised <sup>11</sup> | 13A          | BC   | No change                       |
| 13B                          | ID  | No change             | 13B          |  | No change                       |
| 13C                          | ID  | No change             | 13C          | BC   | No change                       |
| 13D                          | ID  | No change             | 13D          |  | No change                       |
| 13E                          | ID  | No change             | 13E          | BC   | No change                       |
| 14                           | BC  | Deleted               |              |  |                                 |
| 14A                          | No problem  | Deleted               |              |  |                                 |
| 15                           | No problem  | No change             | 15           |  | No change                       |
| 16                           |   | No change             | 16           |  | No change                       |

| Pretest Q   | Identified as Problem During Pretest <sup>1,2</sup> | Action                   | Supplement Q | Supplement Evaluation Results <sup>2,3</sup> | Recommendation |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Coping Mechanisms and Food Scarcity: Adult Questions</b> |   |                          |              |  |                |
| 17  | BC  | Revised <sup>12</sup>    | 17           |  | No change      |
| 18  | No problem  | No change                | 18           |  | No change      |
| 19  | No problem  | No change                | 19           |  | No change      |
| 20  | ID, RD  | Revised <sup>13</sup>    | 20           |  | No change      |
| 21  | No problem  | No change                | 21           |  | No change      |
| 22  | No problem  | No change                | 22           |  | No change      |
| 23  | No problem  | No change                | 23           |  | No change      |
| 24  | RD  | No change                | 24           |  | No change      |
| 25  | BC, RD  | Revised <sup>14</sup>    | 25           | BC   | No change      |
| 26  | BC  | No change                | 26           |  | No change      |
| 27  | BC, RD  | Revised <sup>15</sup>    | 27           | BC*  | No change      |
| 28  | RD  | No change <sup>16</sup>  | 32           |  | No change      |
| 29  | BC  | Revised <sup>12,16</sup> | 33           |  | No change      |
| 30  | BC  | No change <sup>16</sup>  | 34           | BC   | No change      |
| 31  | No problem  | Revised <sup>16</sup>    | 35           |  | No change      |
| 32  | BC  | Revised <sup>12,16</sup> | 36           |  | No change      |
| 33  | BC, NR  | Revised <sup>16</sup>    | 37           | BC*  | No change      |
| 34  | No problem  | No change                | 28           |  | No change      |
| 35  | BC, RD, NR  | Revised <sup>14</sup>    | 29           | BC*  | No change      |
| 36  | BC  | No change                | 30           |  | No change      |
| 37  | BC*   | Revised <sup>12</sup>    | 31           | BC*  | No change      |
| 38  | RD  | No change                | 38           | RD   | Delete         |
| 39  | BC  | Revised <sup>12</sup>    | 39           | BC*  | Delete         |

| Pretest Q  | Identified as Problem During Pretest <sup>1,2</sup> | Action                | Supplement Q | Supplement Evaluation Results <sup>2,3</sup> | Recommendation                 |
|--|---|-----------------------|--------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Coping Mechanisms and Food Scarcity: Children's Questions</b> |   |                       |              |  |                                |
| 40   | RD  | No change             | 40           |  | No change                      |
| 41   | BC*   | Revised <sup>12</sup> | 41           |  | No change                      |
| 42   | BC*   | Revised <sup>17</sup> | 42           | BC*  | No change                      |
| 43   | RD  | No change             | 43           |  | No change                      |
| 44   | BC*, RD   | Revised <sup>14</sup> | 44           |  | No change                      |
| 45   | No problem  | No change             | 45           |  | No change                      |
| 46   | BC*   | Revised <sup>15</sup> | 46           |  | No change                      |
| 47   | RD  | No change             | 47           |  | No change                      |
| 48   | BC*   | Revised <sup>12</sup> | 48           |  | No change                      |
| 49   | BC*   | No change             | 49           | BC*  | No change                      |
| 50   | No problem  | No change             | 50           |  | No change                      |
| 51   | Small sample  | Revised <sup>12</sup> | 51           |  | No change                      |
| 52   | Small sample  | Revised <sup>17</sup> | 52           | BC*  | No change                      |
| <b>Concern About Food Sufficiency</b>                            |   |                       |              |  |                                |
| 53   | BC, ID  | Revised <sup>18</sup> | 53           | BC, correlation                              | Revise 53 or 54, or delete one |
| 54   | BC, ID  | No change             | 54           | BC, correlation                              | See previous comment           |
| 55   | BC, ID  | Revised <sup>19</sup> | 55           | BC, correlation                              | Revise 55 or 56, or delete one |
| 56   | ID  | No change             | 56           | correlation                                  | See previous comment           |
| 57   | ID  | No change             | 57           |  | No change                      |
| 58   | BC, ID  | Revised <sup>20</sup> | 58           | BC   | No change                      |

| Pretest Q          | Identified as Problem During Pretest <sup>1,2</sup> | Action  | Supplement Q | Supplement Evaluation Results <sup>2,3</sup> | Recommendation |
|--------------------|---|---------|--------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Food Safety</b> |   |         |              |  |                |
| 59                 | BC, ID  | Deleted |              |  |                |
| 60                 | BC, ID  | Deleted |              |  |                |
| 61                 | BC, ID  | Deleted |              |  |                |
| 62                 | BC, ID  | Deleted |              |  |                |

Guidelines for the review process are available in the [Food Safety Supplement Review Process](#) document.

For more information on the review process, please contact the [Food Safety Supplement Review Process](#) team.

1. The review process is a multi-step process that involves the following steps:

1. Identification of potential problems
2. Review of the problem
3. Decision on the problem
4. Implementation of the decision
5. Monitoring the results

2. The review process is a multi-step process that involves the following steps:

1. Identification of potential problems
2. Review of the problem
3. Decision on the problem
4. Implementation of the decision
5. Monitoring the results

3. The review process is a multi-step process that involves the following steps:

1. Identification of potential problems
2. Review of the problem
3. Decision on the problem
4. Implementation of the decision
5. Monitoring the results

4. The review process is a multi-step process that involves the following steps:

1. Identification of potential problems
2. Review of the problem
3. Decision on the problem
4. Implementation of the decision
5. Monitoring the results

5. The review process is a multi-step process that involves the following steps:

1. Identification of potential problems
2. Review of the problem
3. Decision on the problem
4. Implementation of the decision
5. Monitoring the results

## ENDNOTES

1. Problems are identified by method as follows: BC = behavior coding, ID = interviewer debriefing, RD= respondent debriefing, NR = non-response.
2. An asterisk indicates that there were less than 7 respondents in the behavior coding data.
3. The methods used to evaluate the pretest and supplement questions were the same with the exception of the interviewer debriefing. No interviewer debriefing was conducted after the supplement.
4. We combined pretest question 1 on shopping at supermarkets with the part of pretest question 2 on shopping at grocery stores.
5. Pretest question 1A was separated into two questions: one asking about amount spent shopping at supermarkets and grocery stores and the other asking for amount spent on non-food items.
6. Pretest question 2 was incorporated into supplement question 1 (shopping at supermarkets and grocery stores) and supplement question 2 (shopping at any other kind of store).
7. Question wording changed: deleted "specialty store or food vender" and added "warehouse or convenience store".
8. Added "about" before dollar amount.
9. Question wording shortened from "you and other members of your household" to "your household".
10. Question wording changed to remind respondents to include all food purchases regardless of how they were paid for. Interviewers instructed to allow respondents to report monthly figure as well as weekly.
11. Wording of lead-in to list of reasons revised.
12. Revised question wording to focus on reference period.
13. Wording revised to give examples of low-cost foods.
14. Wording and response categories revised to account for respondents' inability to give exact answers.
15. Revised wording to focus on reference period. Changed "times" to "days".
16. Pretest questions 28-33 were moved after the questions on adults going a whole day without food because they refer to the respondent only rather than all adults in the household.
17. Changed "times" to "days."
18. Introduction shortened slightly.

19. Wording revised from "eat properly" to "eat balanced meals."

20. Revised wording from "limited number of foods" to "only a few kinds of food."