

THE ABBREVIATED INDIVIDUAL WATER INSECURITY EXPERIENCES (IWISE-4) SCALE

Items & guidance on
their administration
& scoring

To be read aloud if recall period is 4 weeks:

I will now ask you about your experiences with water. For each experience, we want to know how frequently this happened to you in the previous 4 weeks. Responses are never (0 days), rarely (1–2 days), sometimes (3–10 days), often (11–20 days), and always (more than 20 days).

To be read aloud if recall period is 1 year:

I will now ask you about your experiences with water. For each experience, we want to know how frequently this happened to you in the previous 12 months. Even if it happened just once during a month, we'd like you to count that month. Responses are never (0 times), rarely (in 1–2 months), sometimes (in some but not every month), and often/always (in almost every month/every month).

Abbreviation	Full phrasing	Score
Worry	In the last [4 weeks/1 year] how often did you worry that you would not have enough water for all of your needs?	
Plans	How often did you have to change schedules or plans because of problems with water?	
Hands	In the last [4 weeks/1 year] how often were you not able to wash your hands after dirty activities because of problems with water?	
Drink	How often did you not have as much water to drink as you would have liked?	
Total		

Notes

- The interviewer should repeat the scale responses and recall period as necessary after the first item.
- See additional guidance, including on item ordering, probes, item adaptation, and scoring in the WISE Scales Manual: <https://doi.org/10.21985/n2-20sc-f113> and www.WISEscales.org.
- WISE Scale scores are calculated by summing responses to each question. The responses to each item are scored from 0–3. For a recall period of 4 weeks, “never” is scored as 0, “rarely” as 1, “sometimes” as 2, and “often” and “always” are scored as 3. For a one-year recall period “never” is scored as 0, “in 1 or 2 months” is scored as 1, “in some but not every month” is scored as 2 and “in almost every month” and “every month” is scored as 3. The overall scores for the IWISE-4 range from 0–12 (4x3=12). Higher scores indicate greater water insecurity.
- IWISE-4 Scale citation: Bethancourt, Hilary J., Edward A. Frongillo, and Sera L. Young. 2022. “Validity of an Abbreviated Individual Water Insecurity Experiences (IWISE-4) Scale for Measuring the Prevalence of Water Insecurity in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.” *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development* 12 (9): 647–58.
- Worksheets in .pdf and .doc formats are available at www.WISEscales.org. Files are also available at <https://doi.org/10.21985/n2-xsw5-mz63>.