

THE ABBREVIATED HOUSEHOLD WATER INSECURITY EXPERIENCES (HWISE-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 and your household members' 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 and your household members' 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).

Label	Item	Score
Worry	In the last [4 weeks/1 year], how often did you or anyone in your household worry you would not have enough water for all of your household needs?	
Plans	How often have you or anyone in your household had to change schedules or plans due to problems with your water situation?	
Hands	In the last [4 weeks/1 year], how often have you or anyone in your household had to go without washing hands after dirty activities because of problems with water?	
Drink	How often has there not been as much water to drink as you or anyone in your household would have liked?	
Total		

Notes:

1. The interviewer should repeat the scale responses and recall period as frequently as necessary after the first item. Although the respondents are reminded of the timeframe in every question, reminders may not be necessary for all items.
2. 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.
3. 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 HWISE-4 and IWISE-4 Scales range from 0–12 (4x3=12). Higher scores indicate greater water insecurity.
4. HWISE-4 Scale citation: Young, Sera L., Joshua D. Miller, Edward A. Frongillo, Godfred O. Boateng, Zeina Jamaluddine, Torsten B. Neilands, and HWISE-RCN. 2020. “Validity of a Four-Item Household Water Insecurity Experiences Scale for Assessing Water Issues Related to Health and Well-Being.” *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* 104 (1): 391–94.
5. 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>.