

THE HOUSEHOLD WATER INSECURITY EXPERIENCES (HWISE) 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? | |
| Interrupt | How often has your main water source been interrupted or limited in any way in the last [4 weeks/1 year]? | |
| Clothes | How often have problems with water meant that clothes could not be washed? | |
| Plans | How often have you or anyone in your household had to change schedules or plans due to problems with water? | |
| Food | Still thinking of the last [4 weeks/1 year], how often have you or anyone in your household had to change what was being eaten because of problems with water? | |
| Hands | How often have you or anyone in your household had to go without washing hands after dirty activities because of problems with water? | |
| Body | How often have you or anyone in your household had to go without washing their body 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? | |
| Anger | Still thinking of the last [4 weeks/1 year], how often did you or anyone in your household feel angry because of problems you were experiencing with water? | |
| Sleep | How often have you or anyone in your household gone to sleep thirsty because there wasn't any water to drink? | |
| None | How often has there been no usable or drinkable water whatsoever in your household? | |
| Shame | How often did you or anyone in your household feel shame because of problems you were experiencing with water during the last [4 weeks/1 year]? | |
| 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 items 1, 5, 9, and 12, the interviewer should repeat the time frame or responses only as frequently as necessary.
2. See additional guidance, including on prompts, 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 and IWISE Scales range from 0-36 (12x3=36). Higher scores indicate greater water insecurity.
4. HWISE Scale citation: Young, Sera L., Godfred O. Boateng, Zeina Jamaluddine, Joshua D. Miller, Edward A. Frongillo, Torsten B. Neilands, Shalean M. Collins, et al. 2019. “The Household Water InSecurity Experiences (HWISE) Scale: Development and Validation of a Household Water Insecurity Measure for Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries.” *BMJ Global Health* 4 (5): e001750.
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>.