

INDIVIDUAL WATER INSECURITY EXPERIENCES (IWISE) 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?	
Interruption	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 your clothes could not be washed?	
Plans	How often did you have to change schedules or plans because of problems with water?	
Food	Still thinking about the last [4 weeks/1 year], how often did you change what you ate because of problems with water?	
Hands	How often were you not able to wash your hands after dirty activities because of problems with water?	
Body	How often were you not able to wash your body because of problems with water?	
Drink	How often did you not have as much water to drink as you would have liked?	
Anger	Still thinking about the [last 4 weeks/1 year], how often did you feel angry because of problems you were experiencing with water?	
Sleep	How often did you go to sleep thirsty because there was no water to drink?	
No Water	How often did you have no usable or drinkable water whatsoever?	
Shame	How often did you 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 as necessary after the first item. Although the respondents are reminded of the timeframe in items 1, 2, 5, 9 and 12, the interviewer should repeat the time frame or responses only as frequently as necessary.
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 and IWISE Scales range from 0-36 (12x3=36). Higher scores indicate greater water insecurity.
4. IWISE Scale citation: Young, Sera L., Hilary J. Bethancourt, Zacchary R. Ritter, and Edward A. Frongillo. 2021. “The Individual Water Insecurity Experiences (IWISE) Scale: Reliability, Equivalence and Validity of an Individual-Level Measure of Water Security.” *BMJ Global Health* 6 (10): e006460.
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>.