

Food Insecurity Assessment Tool and Resource List

To help your patients and clients improve their health, it is important to understand food insecurity and provide them with resources to get more healthy food.

When patients/clients and their children cannot get enough healthy food, they have food insecurity. They:

- Are at greater risk for being emotionally distressed.
- Eat less expensive foods which are often unhealthy.
- Have little choice over what kinds of food to buy or receive for free, making it difficult or impossible to eat balanced meals.
- Have periods when they don't eat, then overeat when food is available. If they have diabetes, this makes it very difficult to manage blood sugar.
- Have a greater risk for being overweight or obese.
- Are more likely to get diseases like diabetes.

To help your patients/clients lessen food insecurity, take these three steps:

1. Read each statement* and ask your client if the statement is often true, sometimes true, rarely true, or never true.

- Within the past 12 months, we worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more. Often True Sometimes True Rarely True Never True

- Within the past 12 months, the food we bought just didn't last and we didn't have money to get more. Often True Sometimes True Rarely True Never True

2. If your client responds "often true" or "sometimes true" to either statement, they likely have food insecurity. Help them get more food by filling out the list of resources (see next page) and giving it to them.

You can also fill out the list, make copies, and leave them in waiting rooms and other areas for community members to pick up.

3. Advocate for nourishing foods in your community. Take steps to increase the availability of nutritious, affordable food.

* Hager ER, Quigg AM, Black MM, Coleman SM, Heeren T, Rose-Jacobs R, et al. Development and validity of a 2-item screen to identify families at risk for food insecurity. *Pediatrics*. 2010 Jul 1; 126(1):26-32.



Where to Get Food Assistance in This Community

Community Name: _____

Not having enough food for yourself and your family is stressful. Lack of good food makes it difficult to provide nutritious meals that help children grow and adults stay healthy. The thought of not having enough food can make you worry.

There are resources to help. If you need food assistance, please don't wait to contact the programs on this list. They can help you get the food you need for yourself and your family.*

Program Name	Contact Name	Contact Number	Other Important Information (Location, Who Can Qualify, Hours, etc.)
SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps)			
Food Distribution (Commodities)			
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)			
School Lunch and Breakfast Program			
Summer Food Service Program for Children			
Senior Center			
Meals on Wheels			
Tribal Food Program			
Farmers Markets			
Community Gardens			
Food Bank / Food Pantry			
"Mobile Grocery Store" Truck			
Church / Place of Worship			

*Check with the program to see if you qualify to get food.

