Re-conceptualizing food insecurity with a new, multi-dimensional scale

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ABSTRACT

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**Background**

- USDA’s Food Security Survey Module – measure of food insecurity
- Used for national monitoring and surveillance in Canada and US
- FSSM has important limitations

**Objective**

To develop and evaluate a new, multi-dimensional measure of food insecurity for use in programs and research.

**Methods**

- Cross-sectional data (2014-2015) from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, ²Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, ³RTI International, ⁴Department of Sociology and Anthropology, North Carolina State University
- Diverse sample of mothers from North Carolina (n=109)
- Qualitative and quantitative data
  - In-depth interviews
  - Surveys
- Four Dimensional Food Insecurity Scale (4D-FIS) reflects four dimensions of food insecurity:
  - Quantitative
  - Qualitative
  - Psychological
  - Social
- Categorization of severity:
  - Food secure
  - Mildly food insecure
  - Severely food insecure

**Results**

- Data supported the four-factor model
- 4D-FIS categorized more participants as food insecure vs. USDA scale
- Fair to moderate agreement in categorization between scales

**Conclusions**

- Promising alternative measure
- Implications for programs, interventions, and research applications

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REFERENCES


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