Programs such as the Healthy Corner Store Initiative have been widely adopted in recent years to increase the availability of healthy foods in small retail food stores. Valid and reliable measures are necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs. The validated instruments currently available for assessments require in-person evaluations, with surveys taking up to 30 minutes per store to complete. This instrument was developed by researchers at Arizona State University to simplify the process of evaluating the effectiveness of healthy store interventions, and to enable community partners and practitioners to conduct their own evaluations of food access. The SCAT was validated against an adapted version of the Nutrition Environment Measures Survey for Corner Stores, and tested for feasibility of use over the telephone. The SCAT was found to discriminate between corner stores in the top 20% of healthfulness scores from those in the lower 80% with 89% accuracy.¹

In 2015 a panel of experts was convened by Healthy Eating Research, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to establish a set of minimum guidelines small retail food stores could reach to be classified as meeting basic or preferred stocking levels.² Work is currently in progress to assess how the SCAT scores correlate with basic and preferred levels.


In-store version

Look for the presence of each of the following items.

1. Skim or 1% milk (unflavored)
   - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

2. 5 or more different types of fresh fruits
   - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

3. 5 or more different types of fresh vegetables
   - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

4. Frozen vegetables (any type)
   - Without sauce, salt, or sugar
     - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

5. Ground meat
   - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

6. Refrigeration containing fresh fruits, vegetables, or ground meat
   - [ ] Yes  [ ] No  [ ] NA

7. Does the store have WIC signs?
   - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

Total score [ ]  Scoring: 7 total points possible

Yes: 1 point
No: 0 points