

## Short-form Corner store Audit Tool (SCAT)

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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> Work is currently in progress to test the feasibility of these guidelines, and to assess how the SCAT scores correlate with basic and preferred levels.

<sup>1</sup>DeWeese R, Todd M, Karpyn A, Yedidia MJ, Kennedy M, Bruening M, Wharton CM, Ohri-Vachaspati P. Short-form audit instrument for assessing corner store healthfulness. *Am J Health Promot*. In press 2016.

<sup>2</sup>Healthy Eating Research. Minimum stocking levels and marketing strategies of healthful foods for small retail food stores. [http://healthyeatingresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/her\\_minimum\\_stocking\\_final.pdf](http://healthyeatingresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/her_minimum_stocking_final.pdf). Published February, 2016. Accessed May 3, 2016

Rater ID \_\_\_\_\_ Store ID \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Start time \_\_\_\_\_ End time \_\_\_\_\_

Notes

1. **Milk:** Any size unflavored skim or 1% cow's milk
2. **Fresh fruit types:** Must be a distinct fruit to count as a "type (e.g., all apples count as 1 type, regardless of number of different varieties). Do *not* count lemons or limes.
3. **Fresh vegetable types:** Must be a distinct vegetable to count as a "type" (e.g., all onions count as 1 type, regardless of number of different varieties). *Do* count potatoes and onions.
4. **Frozen vegetables:** *Cannot* have any added ingredients such as salt, sugar, or sauces.
5. **Ground meat:** Any type, including beef, turkey, or chicken
6. **Refrigeration:** Must contain fresh fruits or vegetables, or ground meat. *Do not* include refrigeration for beverages only.
7. **WIC signs:** Signs on door, windows, near cash registers, and/or on shelves indicating that WIC vouchers are accepted.

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### 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 type 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