

## Perceived Food Environment Variables

### Key Exposure Variables

Perceived-Accessibility will be defined by participant's response to distance and time to grocery store, mode of transportation to store, and if they own a car as used by Rose et al<sup>32</sup>. A trichotomous access variable will be used which combines type of store, travel time and car ownership variables. **Little access** is defined as not shopping at a supermarket, not owning a car, and having to travel more than 30 minutes or more than 10 miles. **Moderate access** is defined as shopping at a supermarket but does not own a car or travels more than 30 minutes or between 5 and 10 miles. **Easy access** is defined as shopping at a supermarket, owns a car or travels less than 30 minutes or less than 5 miles.

Perceived accessibility to food stores will be measured by asking both control and special intervention respondents the following three questions:

**Question:** *Thinking about where you go to buy most of your groceries, please tell us how far you travel and how long it takes:*

1. For groceries, I travel about \_\_\_\_\_ miles and it usually takes about \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

2. *What is the most typical way you travel to the store for your groceries?*

- I drive my own car
- I ride with a friend or family member
- I take the bus
- I take a taxi
- I walk or ride my bicycle

3. *Do you own a car?*

- Yes
- No

Perceived Neighborhood Food Availability: Availability of healthy foods in respondent's neighborhood will be assessed with validated and reliable survey questions used by Moore et al.<sup>29</sup> These questions have been shown to be valid and reliable in a similar population: Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis, United States, 2000-2002 (Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.78$  for internal validity and 2-week test re-test reliability intraclass correlation coefficient = 0.69).<sup>86</sup> Neighborhood availability will be graded on a five-point Likert scale (1=strongly agree – 5=strongly disagree), reverse coded, and aggregated into a summary score with 0 indicating worst availability of healthy foods and 15 indicating best availability. Questions on perceived availability of healthy foods in the neighborhood are:

**Thinking about food resources in your neighborhood, please answer the following (1=strongly agree – 5=strongly disagree)**

- a. A large selection of fresh fruits and vegetables is available in my neighborhood
- b. The fresh fruits and vegetables in my neighborhood are of high quality
- c. A large selection of low-fat products are available in my neighborhood

Perceived-In-store Availability of healthy foods in the store they report purchasing food from will be assessed with valid and reliable survey questions used by Moore et al<sup>29</sup> (as described above). In-store food availability will be graded on a five-point Likert scale (1=strongly agree – 5=strongly disagree), reverse coded, and aggregated into a summary score with 0 indicating worst availability to healthy foods and 20 indicating best availability. The questions for in-store availability will mimic the foods captured from the in-store audit. This allows for direct comparisons between perceived and objective measures of in-store availability. Questions on perceived availability of healthy foods in the grocery store are:

***Now, think about the store where you buy most of your groceries  
(1=strongly agree – 5=strongly disagree),***

- a. A large selection of fruits and vegetables are available in this grocery store
- b. A large selection of low-fat meat products are available in this grocery store
- c. A large selection of brown breads are available in this grocery store
- d. A large selection of low-fat cheese or skim milk products are available in this grocery store

Perceived-In-store Affordability of healthy foods in the store they report purchasing food from will be assessed with valid and reliable survey questions used by Moore et al<sup>29</sup> (as described above). In-store food affordability will be graded on a five-point Likert scale (1=strongly agree – 5=strongly disagree), reverse coded, and aggregated into a summary score with 0 indicating worst affordability of healthy foods and 20 indicating best affordability. Questions on perceived affordability of healthy foods in the grocery store are:

***Thinking about the store where you buy most of your groceries,  
(1=strongly agree – 5=strongly disagree)***

- a. The fruits and vegetables are affordable for me in this grocery store
- b. The low-fat meat products are affordable for me in this grocery store
- c. The brown breads are affordable for me in this grocery store
- d. The low-fat cheese or skim milk products are affordable for me in this grocery store