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Subject: Re: Where can I find z-scores?

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2017 15:30:23 GMT

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In 2006 WHO released new Child Growth Standards (<http://www.who.int/childgrowth/en/>). The anthropometric z-scores for these can be found in hc70 and hw70. Prior to 2006 we used the NCHS/CDC/WHO Growth reference and the z-scores for these can be found in hc5 and hw5.

The hc variables are part of the person's recode file for household members, and these provide the data for all children living in the household or who stayed in the household the previous night. The hw variables are restricted to children of interviewed women who were residents of the household or stayed in the household the previous night, and are a copy of the hc variables for that restricted subset.

The data are stored with 2 implied decimal places, and the values should be divided by 100 to restore the decimals. However, if you are just comparing to cut-offs such as -2 SD, then you can just write `hc70 < -200` instead.

In DHS tabulations for nutritional status, we analyze the hc70 series variables.

The separate "Height and Weight Scores - WHO Child Growth Standards" are the z-scores for the new growth standard for older surveys and are design to be merged directly into the recode files, either with the KR file if the data were originally collected just for children of interviewed women (the earlier surveys), or with the PR file if te data were collected as part of the household questionnaire (later surveys).

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