
Subject: Re: Maternal height: strange patters

Posted by J.Heckert@cgiar.org on Wed, 24 Jan 2018 22:51:47 GMT

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Thanks for your ideas. In response to each of your points:

1 - has the reference population changed, so that you are weighting to a different representative population (maybe proportion rural/urban breakdown or something like that)?

We account for weights.

2 - the age distribution of women is changing such that older cohorts (who were likely shorter) are somehow overtaking younger cohorts (even if time is moving forward)?

I've looked at this by birth cohort e.g. comparing 20-24 year olds in 2005 to 25-29 year olds in 2010. We still observe a decrease in height. So cohort replacement is not the explanation.

3 - are you perhaps picking up something in Rwanda that is a remnant of the genocide? I believe there is evidence that this led to decreases in height in children, and maybe continued through adulthood.

We observe the same in Tanzania (haven't looked at other countries). And, it occurs in regions that are further from Rwanda/Burundi, which helps consider migration and return migration patterns.

Any other ideas?
