
Subject: Re: Maternal height: strange patters

Posted by [Reduced-For\(u\)m](#) on Wed, 24 Jan 2018 22:57:38 GMT

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Hmmmm....

1 - it could be the DHS people changing the reference population, and so even if you were using weights, it could still be a problem (such as - they used to weight to a population that was 50-50 rural/urban, and now weight 40-60). But it seems unlikely.

2 - The fact that the same birth cohorts changed heights is scary weird...and points to your measurement conjecture (at least to me).

3 - If it is true across all regions and cohorts, it probably wasn't some weird exposure in the world...

So yeah, those ideas are probably wrong, other than possibly #1.

The DHS reports should specify how they actually measured people (like, what instruments they use). You could see if they changed their measurement technique.

You may also be able to test your "the equipment was breaking down" hypothesis by looking at the effect by month of survey...the first few people measured should be taller than the last few people measured if it is about equipment breakdown.

Other than that, I'm out of ideas at the moment. ;Cool mystery! Let's hope it doesn't mean the world is falling apart.
