
Subject: Re: Child Health and WASH

Posted by [hamid](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2021 14:08:05 GMT

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What I wrote in the previous post and then deleted was referring to the actual computation of the WAZ, HAZ etc..

It is nice that DHS provides these measures in their recent dataset, however, for older DHS you need to compute them just using gender, age in months/days, weight and height (which it is a very useful thing to do if you do not have much experience).

From your code I believe that you want a dummy indicator taking on value 1 for children with HAZ below -2SD, and zero otherwise (Moderate Stunting).

Your code has mistakes.

First, a value of 9999 (not 9990!) for hw70 means that the measurement is missing, thus you do NOT want to replace this value with zeros (which means that a child is in good health).

Be also careful because hw70 can take on values 99998 and 99999.

In short: hw70 = 9999 or 99999: either height, weight or any other variable needed to compute HAZ is missing (age, gender, ..)

hw70 - 99998: no variable is missing but HAZ takes on a biological implausible value.

```
replace hw70 = hw70 / 100
```

```
gen stunted = .
```

```
replace stunted = . if hw70 == 9999 | hw70 == 99999 | hw70 == 99998
```

```
replace stunted = 1 if hw70 < -2
```

```
replace stunted = 0 if hw70 >= -2
```

The de facto household members are those individuals that slept in the household dwelling the night before the interview. The de facto but not de jure members are somehow outside of the sampling design: they are visitors.

Including visitors below age 5 for your study in my opinion does not make much sense:

- if a child was present in the household dwelling by chance (just visiting) all your variables of interest have no causal effect on the dependent variable (especially HAZ which is a measure of long-term malnourishment);
- there is a high likelihood that a visitor cannot be linked to the characteristics of her/his parents;

Best,
Hamid