
Subject: Inconsistencies in heights between NFHS-3 NFHS-4

Posted by [MaryH](#) on Tue, 15 Mar 2022 17:16:49 GMT

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Hi all,

I was hoping someone might be able to help explain some inconsistencies we found when working on the 2005/06 and 2015/16 DHS Surveys for India (NFHS-3 and NFHS-4) with regards to average heights by birth cohort.

When plotting (weighted) national-level average heights for men (e.g. aged 23-50) for each year of birth for both waves, it is evident, that the line obtained using NFHS-4 data consistently lies 2 cm below the curve obtained from using data of the NFHS-3. For instance, the average height for people born in 1980 is 163.5cm according to NFHS-4 but 165cm according to the NFHS-3. Yet, the two lines do not converge for "younger" cohorts suggesting that this difference is unlikely to be driven by an age-effect (which usually sets in after age 40). Furthermore, height appears to be measured in the same way for both waves and the same cannot be observed for women's height. I unfortunately was not able to find any information in the corresponding DHS-reports or online. Does someone have an idea how this may come about?

Thank you in advance for your time and comment!

Mary

File Attachments

1) [F1_height_yob_mean_nat_men_23-50.png](#), downloaded 550 times
