

---

Subject: Re: Which recode file to choose IR-KR-BR  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2023 21:00:24 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

I think you are not clear on the differences between the files. The IR file has women as units. The children of the women are identified with subscripts. The children born in the past five years--these are the only children whose height and weight are measured--are indicated with subscripts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, where 1 refers to the youngest child. In these two surveys, 5 is the maximum number of children born in the past 5 years. For example, the HAZ scores are given by hw70\_1, hw70\_2, hw70\_3, hw70\_4, and hw70\_5. Most of these will be NA, depending on how many children the woman actually had in the past 5 years.

The IR file is not well-suited to the analysis of data for individual children. In fact, I don't know why or how someone would use the IR file to analyze data for children. I don't know how you did that. Instead, we use the BR and/or KR files, which have one child per record. For example, if a woman had two children in the past 5 years, there would be two records in the KR file, one for each child, and virtually all of the woman's information would be repeated for each child.

The BR file has a record for all children in the birth histories, i.e. for all children ever born. The KR file is a subset of the BR file, restricted to those children in the BR file who were born in the past 5 years. Because the HAZ, etc., are only coded for children under 5, they are supposed to be NA for children over 5. You should not get any difference between an analysis using the KR file and an analysis using the BR file. The only reason I can think of for why you could get any difference at all is that the BR file may include the HAZ, etc., for some children whose age was determined to be greater than 5, and they would be in the BR file but not the KR file. But that should not happen.

For your analysis you should use the KR file.