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Subject: Re: Calculating Undernutrition Indicators for Under-5 Children in Older surveys

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2024 21:31:42 GMT

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

The formulas for the WHO Child Growth Standards

(<https://www.who.int/tools/child-growth-standards>) have not changed since 2006. The only part of the standards that DHS uses to construct hw70-hw72 are weight, height/length, and whether the child was standing (height) or lying (length) at the time of measurement. The assumptions, cutoffs, etc., are all consistent with WHO standards. We have had several reports related to the quality of the anthropometric data (see our publications page) and there is good evidence of improved measurement, especially of height/length, in the past 6 years or so. With the HW files you can get the values that would have been calculated in earlier years if the formulas had been available in earlier years. If you go back to the earliest years of DHS, however, there was no anthropometry at all.

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