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Subject: Re: BMI of males

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 19 Apr 2024 20:55:13 GMT

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

I meant to say that there seem to have been some inconsistencies in the measurement of men's heights across the NFHS surveys but certainly not by an order of magnitude.

Powers of 10 are used consistently across DHS surveys for the same variables, but are different for different variables. Powers of 10 are used simply to move the decimal point to the right, often enough for it to be ignored. The most familiar example is the sampling weight, which is multiplied by  $10^6$ , so the decimal point can be ignored. The same sort of thing is done for height weight, z scores, etc.

I am unfamiliar with the IPUMS files, variable names, recodes, etc. It looks like you are using the zanthro construction for adults by setting age at 17 years and 11 months. You can do that, but I believe nutrition experts would question whether the standards for that age should be applied to all adult ages. DHS staff cannot help with these kinds of analysis issues.

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