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Subject: Re: BMI of males

Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Tue, 30 Apr 2024 20:41:48 GMT

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

I will paste below the means of hb5 in these three surveys, after restricting to the range -600 to +600 and dividing by 100. The means come out to be -1.82, -0.02, and -0.15. The first mean may be too low because of measurement error, but otherwise these means are on the same scale.

Z scores for adults are not generally used; BMI is considered a better measure of malnutrition, but even BMI has been criticized. The files include other measures. The prefix "hb" refers to men (ha refers to women and hc to children).

As I said before, I cannot speak to the conversion from DHS to IPUMS data. The DHS files are referred to as standard recode files, not "raw" data files. Raw data files do exist but they are not distributed.

```
use "...IAPR52FL.dta", clear
```

```
describe hb5
```

```
summarize hb5
```

```
gen haz=hb5/100 if hb5>-600 & hb5<600
```

```
summarize haz
```

```
use "...IAPR74FL.dta", clear
```

```
describe hb5
```

```
summarize hb5
```

```
gen haz=hb5/100 if hb5>-600 & hb5<600
```

```
summarize haz
```

```
use "...IAPR7EFL.dta", clear
```

```
describe hb5
```

```
summarize hb5
```

```
gen haz=hb5/100 if hb5>-600 & hb5<600
```

summarize haz

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