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Subject: Re: Child Anthropometric data  
Posted by [anilgvdbm](#) on Thu, 22 May 2014 09:27:23 GMT  
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Dear Sir,  
In child recode file these are variables called height/Age percentile, Height/Age standard deviation and Height/Age percent of ref. median so how to classify those values. can we need to divide by 100 or 1000? because i need to classify the nutritional status but values are too high. please can you suggest me As early as possible. Thank you in Advance.

Regards,  
Anil

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Subject: Re: Child Anthropometric data  
Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2014 04:08:53 GMT  
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Dear User,  
We are currently researching your post and will get back to you as soon as possible.  
Thank you!

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Subject: Re: Child Anthropometric data  
Posted by [Reduced-For\(u\)m](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2014 04:18:47 GMT  
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For the standard deviation measures, divide them by 100 to get the proper units. The mean should be somewhere between -1 and -2 for most new-ish DHS rounds. What looks wrong with the other two (what are their means, mins and maxes)?

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Subject: Re: Child Anthropometric data  
Posted by [anilgvdbm](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2014 04:43:49 GMT  
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Dear Sir,  
can you elaborate how you have done this standard deviation ,percent of ref. Median and percentile for weight/Age, Height/age and weight/height variables. Please if you can explain with the formula and examples its a great help for me. the same thing i can use for my own research data.

Please i request you to give me reply as soon as possible.

Thanks and Regards,  
Anil

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Subject: Re: Child Anthropometric data  
Posted by [Reduced-For\(u\)m](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2014 05:26:44 GMT  
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The formulae and descriptions can be found here:

[http://userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=rview&goto=2396#page\\_top](http://userforum.dhsprogram.com/index.php?t=rview&goto=2396#page_top)

The "standard deviations (or z-score)" refers to how many standard deviations from the median of the reference group (defined in the link above) the height of the person is, conditional on age and gender. So the median, well nourished 41 month old boy (or 23 month old girl) would have a value of 0, and someone below the median would have a negative score. Most children in developing countries have a value below 0.

The formula is:  $[(\text{respondent height}) - (\text{median height in the reference group})] / (\text{standard deviation of height in the reference group for that age and gender})$

The percentile value is the percentile of the reference group distribution of heights that the person falls into. So a person with a z-score of -2 would be in the 2nd percentile or so, and a z-score of 0 would be in the 50th percentile.

I believe the "percent of ref. median" uses height in cm and the formula would be something like:  $[(\text{respondent height}) / (\text{median height of the reference group})]$ . I'm not 100% sure about this one.

The standards I provided in the other post are where you get the medians and standard deviations of the reference group (for each age and gender combination). Before you work with any standardized anthropometric measure, you should be sure you fully understand what the measure is telling you. The links I provided should help with that.

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