
Subject: nfhs5 rural and urban

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 18 Apr 2023 14:19:20 GMT

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i am working with nfhs 5 data, and i want to observe how variables such as women bmi , area of agricultural land , diarrhea, toilet facilities , availability of clear water and female literacy rate is impacting stunting and under weight in urban and rural levels accross states of india.

Subject: Re: nfhs5 rural and urban

Posted by fred.arnold@icf.com on Wed, 19 Apr 2023 15:28:05 GMT

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I suggest that you refer to the Guide to DHS Statistics on the DHS Program website (<https://dhsprogram.com/data/Guide-to-DHS-Statistics/index.cfm>), which should help you decide how to proceed with your analysis.

Subject: Re: nfhs5 rural and urban

Posted by [fdsouza](#) on Mon, 05 Jun 2023 10:23:13 GMT

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Hi Fred,

I am looking at how rainfall affects birthweight of newborns in India.

As one of my explanatory variables I want to look at the mothers weight, but am struggling to understand the data.

I looked at using v005, the womens individual sample weight but it is lacking data on unit of measurement. I looked at transforming it by dividing it by 100000 but couldn't make sense of it.

I then looked at using body mass index, but it says the value is not suitable for pregnant women. Although only a few of the women are currently pregnant at the time they were surveyed, I would prefer to be sure I am using the best measure possible.

I have looked at the DHS guide but it is not helping still.

So my questions are:

- 1) How can I get the weight of the mother, and what would the unit of measurement be?
- 2) If I use BMI instead, is there any drawbacks I should note?

Thanks in advance.

Francesca

Subject: Re: nfhs5 rural and urban
Posted by fred.arnold@icf.com on Mon, 05 Jun 2023 14:41:15 GMT
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Any analysis of nutritional status in DHS surveys should exclude women who are pregnant and women who had a birth in the last two months. With respect to BMI in NFHS-5, you should look at the footnotes for BMI in Tables 10.19.1 and 10.20.1 in the national report, which indicate that the women above are excluded from the BMI calculation. Similarly, the footnotes for waist circumference and waist-to-hip ratio in Tables 10.21.1 and 10.22.1 indicate that pregnant women and women who had a birth in the last two months are excluded from those calculation.

You should also look at the relevant section of the Guide to DHS Statistics below.

https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/DHSG1/Guide_to_DHS_Statistics_DHS-7_v2.pdf
Page 11.55 Number of women age 15-49, excluding women who are pregnant or who gave birth in the 2

valid
BMI (v445 in 1200:6000).

For information on the calculation and use of sample weights, you should look at Step 7 of the sample weights section below:

https://dhsprogram.com/data/Using-Datasets-for-Analysis.cfm#CP_JUMP_14042
Step 7: Using sample weights

Subject: Re: nfhs5 rural and urban
Posted by fdsouza on Mon, 05 Jun 2023 14:58:42 GMT
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Hi Fred,

Would I be able to impute data for the BMI for those missing data or would you advise against?

Subject: Re: nfhs5 rural and urban
Posted by fred.arnold@icf.com on Mon, 05 Jun 2023 15:20:37 GMT
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I would advise against it. There's no standard way to do that, and given the huge sample size for NFHS-5, you don't really need those cases.

Subject: Re: nfhs5 rural and urban

Posted by [fdsouza](#) on Mon, 05 Jun 2023 15:27:34 GMT

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Ok thank you that's great!

One last question, with the BMI data, what is the cut off value for which it is coded missing?

Subject: Re: nfhs5 rural and urban

Posted by [fdsouza](#) on Mon, 05 Jun 2023 17:51:19 GMT

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hey,

for those ladies who gave birth 2 months after the survey, shouldn't the calc be if $b19 \leq 2$, rather than if $b19 \geq 2$

Subject: Re: nfhs5 rural and urban

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 05 Jun 2023 20:08:24 GMT

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

In the IR file, the woman's weight is given by v437. Codes 9994-9996 are special codes and should be ignored for analysis (that is, women with those codes should be omitted from the analysis. The scale is tenths of a kilogram. For example, a value of 500 should be interpreted as 50 kg. The woman's height is given by v438. Again, codes 9994-9996 should be dropped. The units are tenths of a centimeter, i.e. millimeters. For example, a value of 1500 should be interpreted as 1500 mm or 150 cm or 1.5 meters.