

---

Subject: Difference between HW5 and HC70  
Posted by [fraeus](#) on Thu, 02 Nov 2023 07:27:49 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi, I do not understand the difference between HW5 and HC70. I want to calculate stunting for children and I was using hw5. Then, I was suggested to use hc70 in the forum, but I do not understand the difference between the two. I suppose they give the same info, but I have a few hundreds of observations for hc70 than for hw5. Why? Thank you. I am using Rwanda DHS 2014

---

---

Subject: Re: Difference between HW5 and HC70  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2023 13:42:51 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

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

hc70, hc71, and hc72 (the basis of the HAZ, WAZ, and WHZ, respectively) are constructed from the height and weight measurements using the WHO Child Growth Standards (<https://www.who.int/tools/child-growth-standards>). DHS has used this standard since approximately 2006. Before then, the international standard came from CDC (the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and was biased toward children in the U.S. The older surveys include hc5, hc9, and hc13 (for the HAZ, WAZ, and WHZ, respectively). Even after the WHO standard was adopted, DHS has continued to include the CDC standard so that users can make comparisons. However, we ONLY use the WHO standard in tables and reports, and strongly recommend that users use the WHO standard.

---