Subject: Age Categories and BMI Data in SPSS
Posted by ruram1m@cmich.edu on Thu, 12 Dec 2024 10:51:25 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Subject: Assistance Needed with Age Categories and BMI Data in SPSS

Hello,

I am currently working on a project at DHS (2017-2018) in Bangladesh. I need some clarification regarding the age categories for children (B8) because I see many unclear values such as (0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11) in the codebook. Specifically, I'd like to know the correct categories as 0-6 months, 7-12, 13-24, or any clear definition for children's ages.

Additionally, I have collected BMI data (z-scores): -490, -207, 77, -3, and 253. How can I define the values? I would appreciate your guidance on how to recode these values into categories such as normal weight, underweight, severe underweight, and overweight.

Thank you for your assistance!

Best regards

Subject: Re: Age Categories and BMI Data in SPSS
Posted by Janet-DHS on Fri, 13 Dec 2024 18:18:03 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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

DHS staff do not use SPSS.   On our GitHub site we do have SPSS (and Stata and R) code for all the standard indicators and tables. On the forum, code may be provided in Stata, but users have to translate it to SPSS.

I believe you are looking at the BR file, because you refer to ages above 4. Height and weight are only measured for children age 0-4. It will be a little easier if you use the KR file, which only contains children age 0-4.

In the BR and KR files, the "v" variables refer to the mother. They are attached to each child's record. I hope you realize that v445 is the BMI of the mother, not the child. The KR file includes the BMI of the child as hw73.

b8 is age in completed years, for living children. You may be looking for age in completed months. That variable is b19, although b19 is also given for children who have died, in which case it is interpreted as completed months since the birth. You can restrict to living children by requiring b5=1. Ranges of b19, for children who have b5=1, will give you age intervals such as "0-6 months, 7-12, 13-24".

hw73 is a z score for the BMI for children age 0-59 months (all children in the KR file). It has been multiplied by 100 (for example hw73=100 for 1 standard deviation above the mean) and it has

special codes 9996-9998. 77, for example, is z=.77

. label list HW73
HW73:
      9996 height out of plausible limits
      9997 age in days out of plausible limits
      9998 flagged cases

BMI is a useful indicator for adults but not for children. It does not have categories such as "normal" or "overweight" that are used for adults. The categories "stunted", "underweight", "overweight" and "wasted" are calculated from the HAZ, WAZ, and WHZ, which are given by hw70-hw72. You can get more information about BMI for children at the WHO website: https://www.who.int/toolkits/child-growth-standards/standards/body-m ass-index-for-age-bmi-for-age