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Subject: Weighting for health outcomes

Posted by [Gillian](#) on Thu, 28 May 2015 19:57:57 GMT

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Could you please talk about weighting for different types of outcomes? For example, a binary response like for diarrhea (0/1) seems pretty straight forward, but what about something like malnutrition where you want to use z-scores in categories, for example:

-4.00 to -3.00 Severe wasting  
-2.99 to -2.00 Moderate wasting  
-1.99 to -1.00 Marginal wasting  
-0.99 to 2.00 Normal weight for height  
2.01 to 6.00 High range weight for height

Thank you!

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Subject: Re: Weighting for health outcomes

Posted by [Reduced-For\(u\)m](#) on Thu, 28 May 2015 21:55:34 GMT

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Do you want to estimate proportions? You could just use the "svy: mean" command after creating dummy variables for each group. But in general, the weights work exactly the same with continuous or binary variables (in fact, you are just turning one continuous variable into several binary variables with the setup you describe).

So generate a variable called "severe\_wasting" which equals 1 if  $-4 < \text{HAZ} < -3$  and then compute the mean of that variable using the "svy" prefix and you'll get the weighted proportion of people in that group.

Note though that you will have some people who are in none of those categories (namely, people with HAZ between -6 and -4, which can be quite a few in some of these countries).

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