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Subject: calculating height for age for children in Ghana

Posted by [sammy nyarko](#) on Mon, 05 Dec 2016 23:00:13 GMT

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Good evening all

I am currently working on the relationship between child health and dwelling characteristics. In order to find this relationship I merged both the HR and KR recode files. In my analysis of child health, I used the anthropocentric indicators (height for age, weight for age, and weight for height). I would really appreciate it, if I can get help on calculating the anthropocentric indicators. I tried using the commands below in STATA but did not follow the tables in the DHS report for Ghana.

```
***height_for_age_z_score (new_who)***
tostring hw70, gen (h_w)
destring h_w, gen (HAZ)
drop h_w
tab HAZ
replace HAZ=. if HAZ==9996 |HAZ==9998
gen height_for_age= HAZ/100
```

```
***weight_for_age_z_score (new_who)***
tostring hw71, gen (h_w)
destring h_w, gen (WAZ)
drop h_w
tab WAZ
replace WAZ=. if WAZ==9996 |WAZ==9998
gen weight_for_age= WAZ/100
```

```
***weight_for_height_z_score (new_who)***
tostring hw72, gen (h_w)
destring h_w, gen (WHZ)
drop h_w
tab WHZ
replace WHZ=. if WHZ==9996 |WHZ==9998
gen weight_for_height= WHZ/100
```

```
***classifications***
fre weight_for_age
drop if weight_for_age ==.
tab weight_for_age
gen underweight = weight_for_age < -2
tab underweight
drop if weight_for_height ==.
tab weight_for_height
tab height_for_age
fre height_for_age
gen wasted = weight_for_height < -2
```

tab wasted  
gen stunted = height\_for\_age < -2

after running the commands above my unweighted "tab stunted" was 19.19, while the "tab stunted [iweight=wgt]" was 17.97. instead of 18.8 reported in the DHS report.

Any help?

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Fri, 09 Dec 2016 16:41:06 GMT

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You need to use the anthropometric data from the PR file. See variables HC70 - HC72. Also make sure that you select only the de facto children.

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana

Posted by [sammy nyarko](#) on Sat, 10 Dec 2016 12:51:44 GMT

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the you very much. but can you help me with the calculation of stunting, wasting and underweight?

i would be happy if you send me the STATA commands too.

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Wed, 21 Dec 2016 21:54:24 GMT

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See the below code:

use "GHPR70FL.DTA", clear

\* create variable for stunting and set it to missing

gen stunted = .

\* set to 0 (Not stunted) if it has a valid measure

replace stunted = 0 if hc70 < 9990

\* set to 1 (Stunted) if it is less than -2 SD (data are stored with two implied decimal places, and thus appear as -200)

replace stunted = 1 if hc70 < -200

\* tabulate stunting for children under age 60 months who stayed in the household the previous night and have valid measures

tab stunted if hc1 < 60 & hv103==1 & hc70 < 9990 [iw=hv005/1000000]

You would use the same approach for wasting and underweight.

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana  
Posted by [sammy nyarko](#) on Wed, 28 Dec 2016 23:37:24 GMT  
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Thank you very much!!

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana  
Posted by [Hassen](#) on Tue, 22 May 2018 21:43:48 GMT  
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Thank you Trevor!!

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana  
Posted by [alohciN](#) on Mon, 01 Jul 2019 15:05:39 GMT  
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Hi

Have you received any solution for this question?

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana  
Posted by [chande](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2021 05:29:22 GMT  
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Hi

I am trying to check the impact of water sanitation and hygiene on child health(diarrhea, stunting, wasting ). Should i use the PR file and how to select only the de facto children. Should i use PR file only or other files too for merging ? As i want to find relationship between child health and other household characteristics (Water, Sanitation, mother age & education, father age & education, number of households, nutritional knowledge of mother, decision making of mother, breastfeeding). I need assistance regarding which file to use for above variables and which variables do i need to generate and which are already available in data files.

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana  
Posted by [chande](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2021 07:44:15 GMT  
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why we use the de facto children

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana

Posted by [alohciN](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2021 07:57:55 GMT

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The KR file provides information on the height for age z score (hw70).

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana

Posted by [chande](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2021 08:02:45 GMT

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Thank you.

But in this thread above it is mentioned to use PR file for stunting, wasting etc. Can you please clarify

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana

Posted by [alohciN](#) on Sat, 20 Mar 2021 08:09:04 GMT

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Both the PR and KR file recorded the height for age z scores. In the KR file, it's labelled hw70 and in the PR (hc70). You can use either one depending on your research. You should check the DHS program.com to see how to calculate stunting and wasting.

Hope this is helpful.

Goodluck!

Kind Regards,  
Nichola

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Subject: Re: calculating height for age for children in Ghana

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 22 Mar 2021 14:49:50 GMT

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As mentioned by Nichola, you can use either the PR file or the KR file, but you should be aware of the difference. The PR file is the main file and contains entries for all usual household members plus visitors who stayed overnight. The KR file is a restricted subset of the children, limited to children whose mothers were interviewed. If you are using the PR file this includes both de jure and de facto household members, and you need to select for one of these two groups. Both are valid groups of the population and either could be used, however, as the children are weighed and measured for the anthropometry, de facto members are more likely to be available for measurement than de jure members as they were physically in the household the night before the survey (the de jure, non-de facto children are less likely to be measured). In practice most household members are both de jure and de facto - there is usually a 90-95% overlap between these two groups. You do have to select one of the two groups though as not selecting the group

would include double counting of the population (effectively counting something like 105% of the population as some people can be de jure members in one household and de facto members in another household).

For most analyses of stunting and wasting we recommend that you use the PR file, however, the data on diarrhea that you mention is only available in the KR file, so for this analysis you will need to use the KR file. When using the KR file, you don't need to worry about whether you use de jure or de facto as the women's file is restricted to de facto women and the KR file includes the children of these women. If you want to use the water and sanitation indicators you would need to link the water and sanitation data from the HR file to the KR file (using the cluster number and household number as the keys for merging).

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