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Subject: hw70 and hw71 pre-WHO standards  
Posted by [joegrange](#) on Fri, 14 Feb 2020 14:57:51 GMT  
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Hi all,

I see hw70 and hw71 represent height and weight for age z scores relative to modern WHO population standards. These seem to be available only after the production of these WHO standards. For example, the 1999 Zimbabwe survey does not have these variables. I see in later report years, the 1999 Zim data was re-analyzed with these WHO standards to produce comparable stunting and wasting values.

Are there any plans to retrospectively include hw70 and hw71 in surveys that pre-dated the WHO standards? If not, are there WHO standard distributions available somewhere so that we could translate the raw anthro measurements into z scores with this modern reference?

Thanks,  
Joe

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Subject: Re: hw70 and hw71 pre-WHO standards  
Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Fri, 14 Feb 2020 15:53:18 GMT  
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You can find the WHO standard z-scores in the Height and Weight Scores (HW) files (see [https://www.dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Zimbabwe\\_Standard-DH\\_S\\_1999.cfm](https://www.dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Zimbabwe_Standard-DH_S_1999.cfm) for an example). There is a document included in the zipped HW files that explains how to combine them with the other datasets from the survey.

I should, though, point out that the standard analysis of anthropometry data conducted by DHS is performed using the HC variables (HC70, HC71, HC72) from the PR file, and not the HW variables in the KR or BR files. There may be good reason for you to use the KR or BR file in your analysis, but I wanted to let you know. You can find more details about how DHS calculates anthropometry indicators in the Guide to DHS Statistics by searching for Nutritional Status.

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Subject: Re: hw70 and hw71 pre-WHO standards  
Posted by [joegrange](#) on Fri, 14 Feb 2020 15:55:25 GMT  
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Thank you so much!

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