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Subject: Stunting and wasting across countries and years

Posted by [uysay](#) on Wed, 01 Jul 2020 20:39:19 GMT

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Hello,

I am trying to combine various surveys across countries and years to examine trends in child stunting and wasting. However, the BR files only include the variables hw70-72 in more recent years. How should I go about looking for similar variables in prior years and then combining across samples? For example, the Kenya BR file from 2003 does not have the hw70-72 variables (unlike the recent BR files), but only has height hw3 (in cm). Any guidance would be appreciated

Thanks!

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Subject: Re: Stunting and wasting across countries and years

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 10 Jul 2020 12:47:19 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

The WHO standard used to construct hw70-hw72 was established in 2006. For earlier surveys you have two options. First, you could use the earlier standard, for which the corresponding variables are hw5 hw8, and hw11. I would discourage that because the earlier standard was tilted toward U.S. children and you will get a discontinuity. Second, and better, you can look for HW files for earlier surveys. Those files include hw70-hw72 and information to merge with the other files. Let us know if you have difficulty locating those HW files.

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