

WHO child growth standards:  
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weight-for-length, weight-for-height and  
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Abstract : The revised WHO growth standards for children, which was derived from the WHO Multicentre Growth Reference Study undertaken between 1997 and 2003, is presented. The study involved 8440 healthy breast fed infants and children from diverse ethnic backgrounds and cultural settings, including the countries as Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and USA. This growth standard replaces the NCHS/WHO growth reference which had been in use since the 1970s, and is the best description of physiological growth for children under 5 years of age. The standards depict normal early childhood growth under optimal environment and can be used to assess children everywhere, regardless of ethnicity, socio-economic status and type of feeding.

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