In 1993 the World Health Organization (WHO) undertook a comprehensive review of the uses and interpretation of anthropometric references. The review concluded that the NCHS/WHO growth reference, which had been recommended for international use since the late 1970s, did not adequately represent early childhood growth and that new growth curves were necessary. The World Health Assembly endorsed this recommendation in 1994. The WHO Multicentre Growth Reference Study (MGRS) was undertaken in response to that endorsement and implemented between 1997 and 2003 to generate new curves for assessing the growth and development of children the world over. The MGRS collected primary growth data and related information from 8440 healthy breastfed infants and young children from diverse ethnic backgrounds and cultural settings (Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and USA). The growth standards developed based on these data and presented in this report provide a technically robust tool that represents the best description of physiological growth for children under five years of age. The standards depict normal early childhood growth under optimal environmental conditions and can be used to assess children everywhere, regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic status and type of feeding.
WHO Child Growth Standards

Length/height-for-age, weight-for-age, weight-for-length, weight-for-height and body mass index-for-age

Methods and development
WHO child growth standards: length/height-for-age, weight-for-age, weight-for-length, weight-for-height and body mass index-for-age: methods and development.

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ISBN 92 4 154693 X (NLM classification: WS 103)
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Acknowledgements

The WHO Child Growth Standards were constructed by the Coordinating Team in the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development of the World Health Organization.

The Study Group is indebted to the parents, children and more than 200 field staff that participated in the WHO Multicentre Growth Reference Study. The generous contribution of many individuals that provided expertise and advice was also crucial to the development of the growth standards.

The project has received funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, the Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Financial support was also provided by the Ministry of Health of Oman, the United States National Institutes of Health, the Brazilian Ministry of Health and Ministry of Science and Technology, the Canadian International Development Agency, the United Nations University, the Arab Gulf Fund for United Nations Development, the Office of the WHO Representative to India, and the Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development.
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