



Children under 5 years who are wasted

Abbreviated name	Children under 5 years who are wasted
Indicator name	Children under 5 years who are wasted (moderate and severe)
Domain	Risk factors
Subdomain	NCDs and nutrition
Associated terms	Nutrition
Definition	Percentage of wasted (moderate and severe) children aged 0–59 months (moderate = weight-for-height below -2 standard deviations of the WHO Child Growth Standards median; severe = weight-for-height below -3 standard deviations of the WHO Child Growth Standards median).
Numerator	Number of children aged 0–59 months who are wasted.
Denominator	Total number of children aged 0–59 months.
Disaggregation/ additional dimension	Age, place of residence, sex, socioeconomic status
Method of measurement	Percentage of children aged < 5 years wasted = (number of children aged 0–59 months whose z-score falls below -2 standard deviations from the median weight-for-height of the WHO Child Growth Standards/total number of children aged 0–59 months who were measured) x 100. Children's weight and height are measured using standard equipment and methods (e.g. children under 24 months are measured lying down, while standing height is measured in children aged 24 months and older).
Method of estimation	WHO maintains the Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition, which includes population-based surveys that fulfil a set of criteria. Data are checked for validity and consistency and raw data sets are analysed according to a standard procedure to obtain comparable results. Prevalence below and above defined cut-off points for weight-for-age, height-for-age, weight-for-height and BMI-for-age, in pre-school children are presented using z-scores based on the WHO Child Growth Standards. A detailed description of the methodology and procedures of the database – including data sources, criteria for inclusion, data quality control and database workflow – are described in a paper published in 2003 in the <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> (de Onis M, Blössner M).
Measurement frequency	Every 3–5 years
Monitoring and evaluation framework	Outcome
Preferred data sources	National nutrition surveys
Other possible data sources	Population-based health surveys with nutrition modules, national surveillance systems
Further information and related links	A draft framework for the global monitoring of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition. Informal Consultation with Member States and UN Agencies on a Proposed Set of Indicators for the Global Monitoring Framework for Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition, 30 September to 1 October 2013. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2013 (http://www.who.int/nutrition/events/2013_consultation_indicators_globalmonitoringframework_WHO_MIYCN.pdf , accessed 29 March 2015). Countdown to 2015 decade report (2000–2010): taking stock of maternal, newborn and child survival. Geneva and New York (NY): World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund; 2010 (http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/reports-and-articles/previous-reports/2010-decade-report , accessed 29 March 2014). de Onis M, Blössner M. The World Health Organization Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition: methodology and applications. <i>Int J Epidemiol</i> 2003;32(4):518–26. Decision WHA67(9). Maternal, infant and young child nutrition. In: Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly, Geneva, 19–24 May 2014. Resolutions and decisions, annexes. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014 (http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA67-REC1/A67_2014_REC1-en.pdf , page 62, accessed 29 March 2015). Document A67/15. Maternal, infant and young child nutrition. The Global Strategy and the Comprehensive Implementation Plan. Report by the Secretariat. Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly, Geneva, 19–24 May 2014. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014 (http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA67/A67_15-en.pdf , accessed 29 March 2015). Physical status: the use and interpretation of anthropometry. Report of a WHO Expert Committee. Geneva: World Health Organization; 1995 (WHO Technical Report Series, No. 854). 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. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2006 (http://www.who.int/childgrowth/standards/technical_report/en/ , accessed 29 March 2015). World health statistics 2014. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014 (http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112738/1/9789240692671_eng.pdf?ua=1 , accessed 29 March 2015).