

Measuring Techniques



Notes on the Use of Height and Weight

Height and weight attained charts (distance)

Heights and weights can most easily be charted by using a transparent ruler, especially if the measurements have been in inches and pounds. The lines marked 'longitudinal standards' represent the centiles for children followed at successive ages. The shaded areas marked 'limits' for single occasions (cross-sectional) represent the 3rd and 97th centiles for cross-sectional data. On the first occasion a child is seen these wider limits apply; however on subsequent occasions a child initially falling within the shaded area should progress towards and into the longitudinal centiles.

The limits of normality taken must depend on the purpose for which the standards are being used. They also depend on the level of the average values obtained in a given clinic; regional variations may require a slight shifting of the scale from place to place. Some allowance for Registrar-General Occupational Category differences may also be made. As a rough guide, however, one might say that children outside the area of the tenth to ninetieth percentile range should be regarded with slight suspicion, and those outside the third to ninety-seventh range as unhealthy until proved otherwise.

Height and weight velocity charts

The standards are appropriate for velocity calculated over a whole year period, not less (since a smaller period requires wider limits). The yearly velocity should be plotted at the midpoint of the year. The 'longitudinal whole-year centiles' are appropriate to children who have their peak velocity at the average age for this event. The shaded areas include the velocity curves of all children who have their peak velocities up to two standard deviations of age before and after this average age. The arrows and diamonds mark the 3rd, 50th and 97th centiles of peak velocity when the peak takes place at these early and late limits. Corresponding points for peaks at other ages may be found by interpolation. Whether early or late the shape of the velocity curve should follow the general shape shown by the centile lines. The charts are published in J. M. Tanner & R. H. Whitehouse, *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 1976, Vol. 51.

Stages of Puberty

Ages of attainment of successive stages of pubertal sexual development are given in the 'distance' charts. The stage Public Hair 2+ represents the state of a child who shows the public hair appearance stage 2 but not stage 3 (see below). The centiles for age at which this state is normally seen are given, the 97th centile being considered as the early limit, the 3rd centile as the late limit. The child's puberty stages may be plotted at successive ages. Testis sizes are judged by comparison with the Prader orchidometer (Zachmann, Prader, Kind, Haslinger & Budliger, *Heil. Paed. Acta*, 29, 61-72, 1974); only two sizes are given here out of a succession of 10.

Sources of standards

The data used in the construction of these standards are set out in the *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 1976, Vol. 51.

5½-15½ years: the London County Council survey reported by Scott in 1959. Height attained and height velocity percentiles are calculated on the assumption of a Gaussian distribution at each age; weight attained and weight velocity percentiles were estimated directly from the frequency distributions. Smoothing was in general carried out graphically. The shape of the longitudinal standards are based on longitudinal data from the Harpenden Growth Study and the International Children's Centre, London Longitudinal Study of the Institute of Child Health, London.

Stages of development of the secondary sex characters may be recorded on the front page. The following standard ratings on a scale of 1 to 5 may be used. (Taken by kind permission of the publishers from the standard illustrations in *Growth at Adolescence* 2nd ed.; Oxford, Blackwell Sci. Pupl., 1962; see also Chapter 7 in *Textbook of Paediatrics* ed. J. Forfar and G. Arneill, Churchill-Livingstone 1973).

Genital (penis) development:

- Stage 1. Pre-adolescent, testes, scrotum and penis are of about the same size and proportion as in early childhood.
- Stage 2. Enlargement of scrotum and testes. Skin of scrotum reddens and changes in texture. Little or no enlargement of penis at this stage.
- Stage 3. Enlargement of penis, which occurs at first mainly in length. Further growth of testes and scrotum.
- Stage 4. Increased size of penis with growth in breadth and development of glans. Testes and scrotum larger; scrotal skin darkened.
- Stage 5. Genitalia adult in size and shape.

Pubic hair

- Stage 1. Pre-adolescent. The vellus over the pubes is not further developed than that over the abdominal wall, i.e. no pubic hair.
- Stage 2. Sparse growth of long, slightly pigmented downy hair, straight or slightly curled, chiefly at the base of the penis.
- Stage 3. Considerably darker, coarser and more curled. The hair spreads sparsely over the junction of the pubes.
- Stage 4. Hair now adult in type, but area covered is still considerably smaller than in the adult. No spread to the medial surface of thighs.
- Stage 5. Adult in quantity and type with 'distribution of the horizontal (or classically "feminine") pattern. Spread to medial surface of thighs but not up linea alba or elsewhere above the base of the inverse triangle (spread up linea alba occurs late and is rated stage 6).

DECIMAL AGE

The system of decimal age has been used in all charts. Thus the year is divided into 10 not 12. Each date in the calendar is marked (from the table on front page) in terms of thousandths of the year. Thus January 7th 1962 is 62.016. The child's birth date is similarly recorded e.g. child born on June 23rd 1959 has decimal age 59.474. Age at examination is then obtained by subtraction.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| | Reg. No. | Growth and Development Record | | | | | | |
| | Surname | Boys: Birth-19 years | | | | | | |
| | Forename | Height and Weight | | | | | | |
| Hospital/Clinic Name | Date of Birth | / | / | . | TANNER-WHITEHOUSE (1975) | | | |
| Decimal Yr. | | | | | | | | Ref. 11A INTEGRATED SERIES |
| Date of Examination | | | | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| Height cm/in | | | | | | | | |
| Weight kg/lb | | | | | | | | |
| Bone Maturity Score | | | | | | | | |
| Skeletal Age | | | | | | | | |
| Puberty Ratings | Genitalia | | | | | | | |
| | Pubic Hair | | | | | | | |
| | Axillary Hair | | | | | | | |

| TABLE OF DECIMALS OF YEAR | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| JAN. | FEB. | MAR. | APR. | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG. | SEPT. | OCT. | NOV. | DEC. | |
| 1 | 000 | 085 | 162 | 247 | 329 | 414 | 496 | 581 | 666 | 748 | 833 | 915 |
| 2 | 003 | 088 | 164 | 249 | 332 | 416 | 499 | 584 | 668 | 751 | 836 | 918 |
| 3 | 005 | 090 | 167 | 252 | 334 | 419 | 501 | 586 | 671 | 753 | 838 | 921 |
| 4 | 008 | 093 | 170 | 255 | 337 | 422 | 504 | 589 | 674 | 756 | 841 | 923 |
| 5 | 011 | 096 | 173 | 258 | 340 | 425 | 507 | 592 | 677 | 759 | 844 | 926 |
| 6 | 014 | 099 | 175 | 260 | 342 | 427 | 510 | 595 | 679 | 762 | 847 | 929 |
| 7 | 016 | 101 | 178 | 263 | 345 | 430 | 512 | 597 | 682 | 764 | 849 | 932 |
| 8 | 019 | 104 | 181 | 266 | 348 | 433 | 515 | 600 | 685 | 767 | 852 | 934 |
| 9 | 022 | 107 | 184 | 268 | 351 | 436 | 518 | 603 | 688 | 770 | 855 | 937 |
| 10 | 025 | 110 | 186 | 271 | 353 | 438 | 521 | 605 | 690 | 773 | 858 | 940 |
| 11 | 027 | 112 | 189 | 274 | 356 | 441 | 523 | 608 | 693 | 775 | 860 | 942 |
| 12 | 030 | 115 | 192 | 277 | 359 | 444 | 526 | 611 | 696 | 778 | 863 | 945 |
| 13 | 033 | 118 | 195 | 279 | 362 | 447 | 529 | 614 | 699 | 781 | 866 | 948 |
| 14 | 036 | 121 | 197 | 282 | 364 | 449 | 532 | 616 | 701 | 784 | 868 | 951 |
| 15 | 038 | 123 | 200 | 285 | 367 | 452 | 534 | 619 | 704 | 786 | 871 | 953 |
| 16 | 041 | 126 | 203 | 288 | 370 | 455 | 537 | 622 | 707 | 789 | 874 | 956 |
| 17 | 044 | 129 | 205 | 290 | 373 | 458 | 540 | 625 | 710 | 792 | 877 | 959 |
| 18 | 047 | 132 | 208 | 293 | 375 | 460 | 542 | 627 | 712 | 795 | 879 | 962 |
| 19 | 049 | 134 | 211 | 296 | 378 | 463 | 545 | 630 | 715 | 797 | 882 | 964 |
| 20 | 052 | 137 | 214 | 299 | 381 | 466 | 548 | 633 | 718 | 800 | 885 | 967 |
| 21 | 055 | 140 | 216 | 301 | 384 | 468 | 551 | 636 | 721 | 803 | 888 | 970 |
| 22 | 058 | 142 | 219 | 304 | 386 | 471 | 553 | 638 | 723 | 805 | 890 | 973 |
| 23 | 060 | 145 | 222 | 307 | 389 | 474 | 556 | 641 | 726 | 808 | 893 | 975 |
| 24 | 063 | 148 | 225 | 310 | 392 | 477 | 559 | 644 | 729 | 811 | 896 | 978 |
| 25 | 066 | 151 | 227 | 312 | 395 | 479 | 562 | 647 | 731 | 814 | 899 | 981 |

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