

# Health Alert Network Update

## Stark County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Project

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**To:** Area Physicians

**From:** The Ohio Department of Health Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

**Date:** April 3, 2012

**Time:** 8:30

**Alert Number:** 2-2012

**Contact Person:** Kimberly Walker, RD, LD, CLC  
WIC Supervisor  
330-489-3326  
330-430-7857 fax  
kwalker@cantonhealth.org

**Health Alert Network Update 2-2012:** The new birth to 24 months gender specific growth charts used by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) represent growth standards that describe how infants that were mostly breastfed should grow under optimal environmental and health conditions. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program has adopted the new growth charts as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Attached is a letter from ODH Director, Dr. Wymyslo, which further explains these changes. To print a color copy of the updated growth charts please visit our website at <http://www.cantonhealth.org/wic/>.

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### Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

**Info Service:** provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergency nature

### To change your emergency contact information with our office, please contact:

Health Alert Network Coordinator

(330) 489-3327

[HAN@cantonhealth.org](mailto:HAN@cantonhealth.org)

(330) 489-3335 (fax)

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**Alliance City Health Department**

(330) 821-7373

**Massillon City Health Department**

(330) 830-1710

**Canton City Health Department**

(330) 489-3231

**Stark County Health Department**

(330) 493-9904



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

246 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

614/466-3543  
[www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)

John R. Kasich / Governor

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director of Health

**FEB 29 2012**

Dear Physician:

The Ohio Department of Health Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) would like to inform you of a policy update with regard to the use of growth charts. WIC will be using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Birth to 24 months growth charts based on the World Health Organization (WHO) growth charts and the CDC Body Mass Index (BMI) charts for children 2 years and older. In addition, WIC will only plot Adjusted Gestation Age (AGA) children up to 2 years of age.

**Please note that these changes in policy will take effect on April 1, 2012.**

The WHO growth standards for children birth to 24 months are based on data from children born between 37 and 42 weeks gestation and introduced to complementary food by at least 6 months but not before 4 months. Additionally, WHO standards establish the breastfeeding infant as the norm for growth. The WHO charts reflect growth patterns among children that were primarily breastfed for at least 4 months and still breastfeeding at 12 months. Both USDA and State WIC believe that infant and child growth should be based on the healthiest feeding habits. For additional information, please visit [www.cdc.gov/growthcharts](http://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts).

As a reminder, with a change in the growth charts, some infants and children that originally plotted in a healthy weight range may now appear overweight. State WIC currently uses code 54 (high weight for height) for children 2-5 years of age when the growth plots greater than the 95th percentile. WIC makes referrals for all children with a code 54 and will continue to do so after the implementation of the policy change.

The partnership between the physicians and WIC plays a vital role in public health efforts to reduce the prevalence of obesity by actively identifying children who are obese or are at risk of being obese. By making referrals to physicians, WIC is able to offer the recommended medical assessments needed to confirm or rule out any medical conditions.

Thank you for your continued support of the WIC program. If you should have any questions, please contact your local WIC office.

Sincerely,

Theodore E. Wymyslo, MD  
Director of Health

TEW/PLK/plk

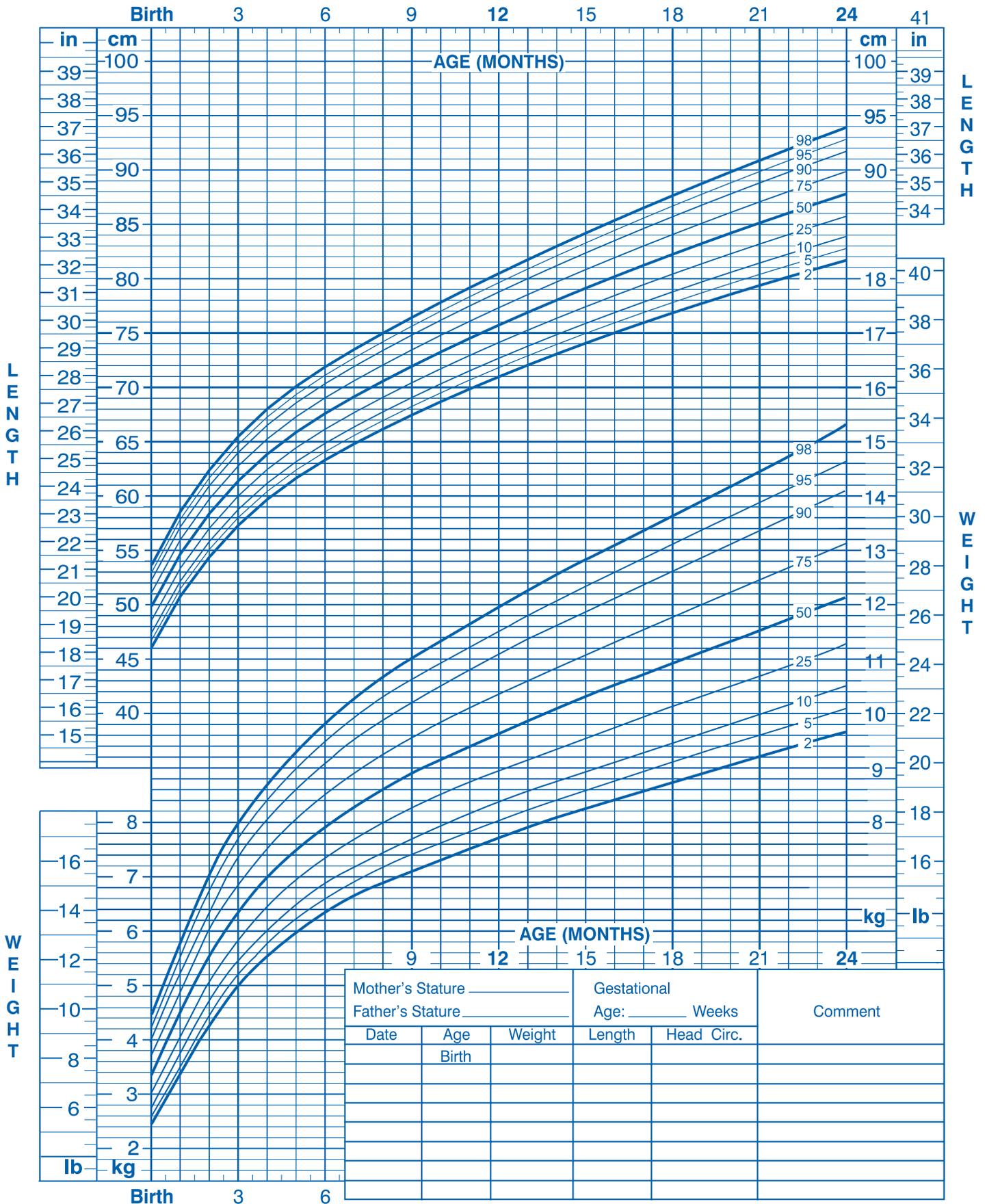
c: Melissa Wervey Arnold, Executive Director, Ohio Chapter American Academy of Pediatricians  
Ann M. Spicer, Executive Vice President, Ohio Academy of Family Physicians

# Birth to 24 months: Boys

## Length-for-age and Weight-for-age percentiles

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RECORD # \_\_\_\_\_



Published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, November 1, 2009  
 SOURCE: WHO Child Growth Standards (<http://www.who.int/childgrowth/en>)



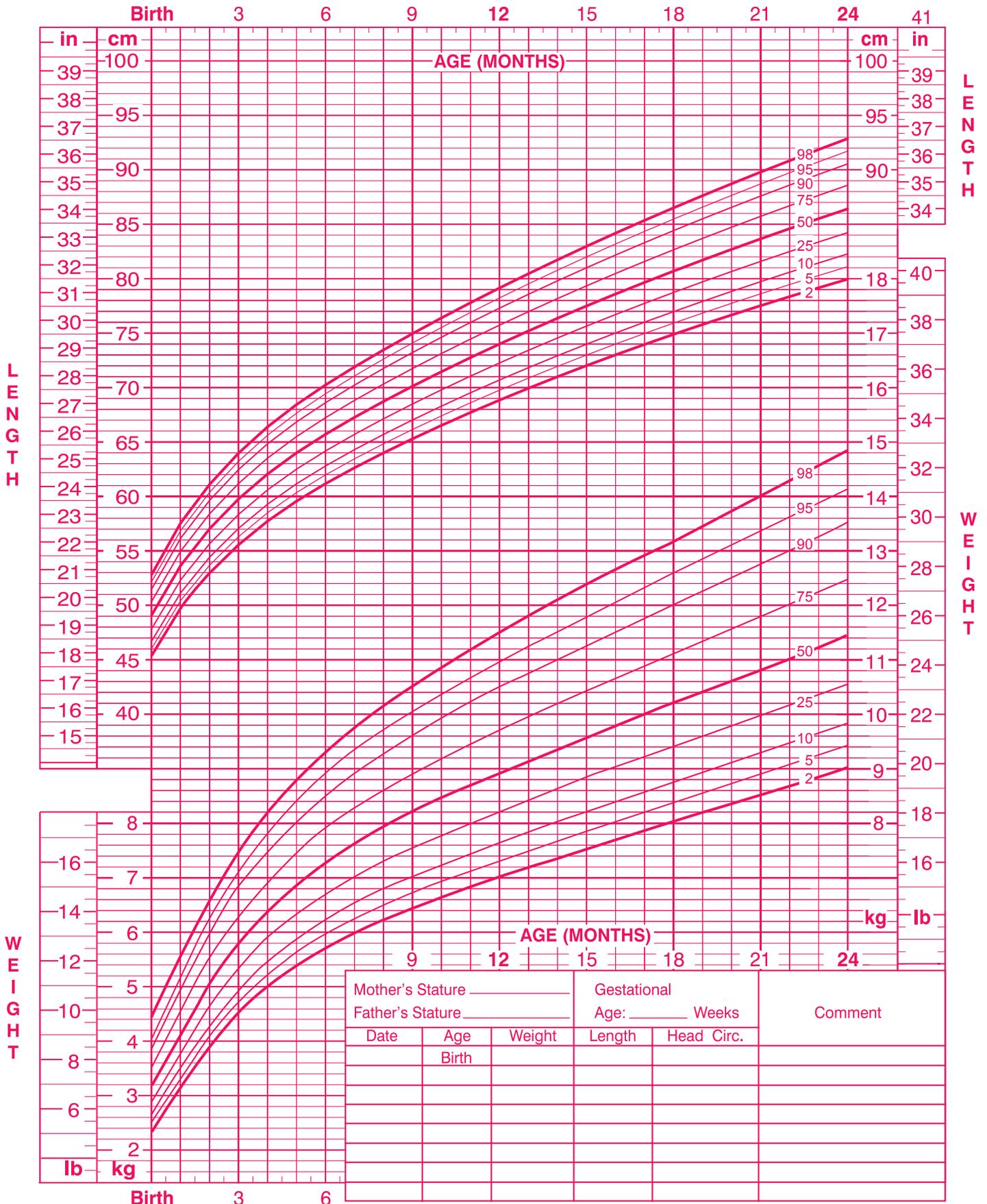


# Birth to 24 months: Girls

## Length-for-age and Weight-for-age percentiles

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RECORD # \_\_\_\_\_



Mother's Stature _____		Gestational Age: _____ Weeks		Comment
Father's Stature _____				
Date	Age	Weight	Length	Head Circ.
	Birth			



# Birth to 24 months: Girls

## Head circumference-for-age and Weight-for-length percentiles

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RECORD # \_\_\_\_\_

