

**Table 2 Mean Z-scores for anthropometric indices by sociodemographic characteristics of the studied children ( $n = 1473$ ), calculated using National Center for Health Statistics/World Health Organization reference data [1]**

Variable	Mean Z-scores		
	Weight-for-age	Height-for-age	Weight-for-height
<i>Sex</i>	*	NS	*
Male	0.01	-0.02	0.08
Female	0.15	0.03	0.21
<i>Age (months)</i>	***	***	***
0-< 6	0.74	0.31	0.43
6-< 12	0.16	0.19	0.13
12-< 24	-0.02	0.57	-0.02
24-< 48	-0.15	-0.08	0.11
48-< 60	-0.32	-0.48	0.10
<i>Area of residency</i>	NS	NS	NS
Urban	0.09	0.02	0.12
Rural	0.07	-0.01	0.18
<i>Mother's education</i>	***	*	***
Illiterate	-0.22	-0.18	-0.09
Primary school	0.10	-0.09	0.23
Preparatory school	0.06	-0.09	0.19
Secondary school	0.12	0.09	0.12
University+	0.34	0.28	0.30
<i>Father's education</i>	NS	NS	NS
Illiterate	0.01	-0.20	0.25
Primary school	0.20	-0.01	0.29
Preparatory school	0.02	0.05	0.02
Secondary school	0.06	0.08	0.06
University+	0.11	0.10	0.12
<i>Family size</i>	NS	*	NS
≤ 5 or less	0.10	0.07	0.12
6+	0.06	-0.07	0.18
<i>Monthly family income (Libyan dinars)</i>	NS	NS	NS
< 100	0.11	-0.16	0.07
100-199	0.03	0.04	0.01
200-399	0.18	0.16	0.16
300-399	0.08	0.04	0.12
400-499	0.11	-0.09	0.29
500+	0.19	0.03	0.25

\* $P < 0.05$ ; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ; NS = not significant.