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Subject: Re: Question regarding NFHS variable definition  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 23 Dec 2013 18:53:23 GMT  
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Here is a response from one of our STATA experts Tom Pullum, that should answer your question.

If you cross-tabulate hv025 and hv026 in any DHS survey you will see that "rural" for hv025 and "countryside" for hv026 are exactly the same. I don't think there is any good reason for using two different terms. Basically, the difference between the two variables is that hv026 subdivides "urban" into three types of places: "capital, large city"; "small city"; and "town". This subdivision, as well as the designation rural/countryside, has no consistent relationship with density or size of place. These are country-specific designations. In many cases, administrative or historical significance is more important than size. In general, the classification is determined by each country's central statistical office.

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