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Subject: Re: Stratification

Posted by [Trevor-DHS](#) on Mon, 03 Mar 2014 17:12:08 GMT

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The implicit stratification is an ordering that has been made prior to selection of the clusters, and it is that ordering that permits the implicit stratification. However, I would suggest using the explicit strata defined at the time of the sample design - that is what DHS does now. The strata are generally the urban and rural areas in each region, but not always. Read appendix A of the final reports to confirm what is used for each survey.

I would not say that the sampling errors are incorrect or inadvisable. With using the implicit stratification, the assumption is that there is some improvement over simply randomly selecting the sample in a strata, thus the sampling errors tend to be slightly smaller and the confidence intervals slightly narrower. However, DHS has decided to be more conservative in its estimates of sampling error and confidence intervals and using the original design strata, you will get slightly wider confidence intervals. Of course, the difference is typically tiny and frequently negligible.

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