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Subject: Re: Two or Three Sampling Stages  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 04 Apr 2014 12:33:51 GMT  
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Following is a response to msg\_1787, from DHS Senior Sampling Specialist, Ruilin Ren:

Stratification means to group similar units into a group (sampling stratum) in the sampling stage, and design and select an independent sample for each sampling stratum. This is aimed at strengthening the representativity of the sample with a given total sample size. Region crossed by urban and rural are frequently used as stratification for DHS surveys. Stratification is for sample selection purposes. There is no restriction on the stratum sample size once it is bigger than 2. A survey domain is a subpopulation (geographically defined or social-economically, or demographically defined) where most of the survey indicators will be reported for the domain. Regions are usually survey domains in the DHS survey. Survey domain is for reporting purposes. A survey domain can cover many sampling strata, like the regions covering two strata (urban and rural). Since we pay attention to the precision of the indicators calculated/reported, usually there is a minimum sample size requirement for a survey domain. For example, for the DHS surveys, in high fertility countries, DHS requests at least 800 women interviews per domain in order to produce reliable estimates of fertility and childhood mortality at domain level.

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