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Subject: Urban and Rural Area  
Posted by [niruj](#) on Mon, 10 Jul 2023 08:35:04 GMT  
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Hi,  
How are the urban and rural areas in NFHS defined in India? Can I get access to some official documents regarding this definition?

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Subject: Re: Urban and Rural Area  
Posted by [fred.arnold@icf.com](mailto:fred.arnold@icf.com) on Mon, 10 Jul 2023 13:58:36 GMT  
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All NFHS surveys (including NFHS5) use the Census definitions of urban and rural areas, according to the Federal definition. Since the 1950 Census, when the Census Bureau first defined densely settled urbanized areas of 50,000 or more people, the urban area delineation process has addressed non-residential urban land uses through criteria designed to account for commercial enclaves, special land uses such as airports, and densely developed noncontiguous territory. In developing criteria for delineating urban areas, the Census Bureau uses an objective approach that is designed to meet the needs of a broad range of analysts and users interested in the definition of and data for urban and rural communities for statistical purposes.

According to the Census of India, an area is considered rural if it has a population of less than 5,000 people and a population density of less than 400 people per square kilometer. An area is considered urban if it has a population of 5,000 or more people and a population density of more than 400 people per square kilometer<sup>1</sup>. The Census employs three socio-economic variables to distinguish rural villages from urban towns: (1) population size greater than 5000; (2) more than 75% of the male workforce engaged in non-agricultural occupations; and (3) population density greater than 400/km<sup>2</sup>.

For more information on the India definition of urban and rural areas, see India - Census 2011 - Concepts & Definitions Used in Town and Village Amenities ([censusindia.gov.in](http://censusindia.gov.in))

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