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Subject: definition of urban areas

Posted by [sandra.jurasszovich](#) on Thu, 08 Jun 2017 13:20:23 GMT

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Dear all,

I have a question concerning the definition of urban areas in DHS surveys. I was not able to find any reference what definition was used to distinguish urban and rural areas.

I looked through various final reports as well as the sampling and household listing manual.

Do the DHS surveys follow the respective national definition of the national statistical offices?

Or do you know where to find information about this topic?

Any help is much appreciated!

Thank you!

Best,

Sandra

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Subject: Re: definition of urban areas

Posted by [Liz-DHS](#) on Thu, 29 Jun 2017 14:13:06 GMT

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A response from sampling expert, Dr. Ruilin Ren,

Quote:

The DHS surveys never define the urban/rural, it always follows the national definition which was defined by the population census. That is why we never address the urban/rural definition in the final report.

Thanks

Ruilin

If you check the Citation page which is usually located behind the Title page in the final reports, you will see contact information for the implementing agencies. Usually there's an email and phone number. They may be able to provide more information.

Thank you!

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Subject: Re: definition of urban areas

Posted by [sandra.jurasszovich](#) on Fri, 30 Jun 2017 06:29:04 GMT

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Many thanks for your response!

Best,

Sandra

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Subject: Re: definition of urban areas

Posted by [kingx025](#) on Sun, 22 Apr 2018 02:45:40 GMT

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The IPUMS-International project has consulted census documentation from national statistical offices and put online whatever information they had about the definition of Urban in various national censuses. You can find the information online here:

[https://international.ipums.org/international-action/variables/URBAN#comparability\\_section](https://international.ipums.org/international-action/variables/URBAN#comparability_section)

If you want to impose a more consistent definition of urban status, consider using the contextual variable on population density in IPUMS-DHS (available at [idhsdata.org](http://idhsdata.org)), where you can define whatever threshold(s) you prefer based on population density:

[https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/POPDENSITY#description\\_section](https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/POPDENSITY#description_section)

Miriam King

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