
Subject: What is the definition of "Major cities" for v103?

Posted by [AmsP](#) on Thu, 26 Oct 2017 16:56:27 GMT

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One of the four categories of v103 is "capital". In the DHS recode manual, "capital" is defined as capital cities and major cities. However, it does not give a clear definition of "major cities".

So I would like to ask what the definition of "major cities" is.

Many thanks.

Subject: Re: What is the definition of "Major cities" for v103?

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 17 Nov 2017 18:50:19 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Data Specialist, Tom Pullum:

This distinction was made in some older surveys but not in recent ones. The urban/rural classification of the country's statistical office is always used. I have asked around and it seems that the distinction between, say, "major cities" and other urban areas was also usually based on advice from the country's statistical office. The lack of a standard criterion was part of the reason why this distinction was dropped. You could look at specific survey reports to see if they specify criteria.

Subject: Re: What is the definition of "Major cities" for v103?

Posted by [AmsP](#) on Wed, 06 Dec 2017 21:55:03 GMT

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Dear Tom,

Thank you so much for the information!

Subject: Re: What is the definition of "Major cities" for v103?

Posted by [kingx025](#) on Sun, 22 Apr 2018 01:53:42 GMT

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You might consider using the new contextual variable on population density in IPUMS-DHS as an alternative measure of urbanization.

https://www.idhsdata.org/idhs-action/variables/POPDENSITY#description_section

While countries vary in their definition of urban status, this population density measure is consistent across samples and lends itself to more categories than the dichotomous URBAN/RURAL variable in the DHS.

You can access IPUMS-DHS at idhsdata.org and can make a customized data file with the

variables and samples you want, including this population density variable, if you log in with your regular DHS user email and password.

Miriam King
