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GEOG:1050:0003

Lab 2 Writeup

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**Map 1 – 2010 Iowa Population Density**

I used a dot density map to represent the number of people aged 25-34 living in each county in Iowa. Each dot represents 500 people in this age group, so if you have, say 6 dots in a county, that means you have 3,000 people aged 25-34 living somewhere in that county (the dots do not represent the true location of these people, but help show a countable representation of how many people live in that county). I think this map is useful to see which counties have the most people of these ages. This leads to the viewer asking further questions of why there are the more people there. In this case, Black Hawk, Dubuque, Johnson, Linn, Scott, Polk, and Woodbury counties have more dots in them than most of the other counties. This is because the counties hold some of Iowa’s most populated cities, some of which have universities/colleges.

**Map 2 – United States Population Density 2010 by County**

I used a choropleth map here to represent the population density to measure the population density of U.S. counties in the year 2010. This type of map is a great way to show off quantitative data like how a variable can change across different regions, like how many people there are per square mile in a given county. In this case, the population density is much higher in metropolitan areas than it is in rural stretches of America. As the population density gets larger, the counties become a darker shade of blue. For example, counties with big cities like New York or Chicago will have the darkest shades of blue. Adversely, those counties with a sparse population, like some in Montana, and Nevada, and South Dakota are shown as the lightest shade of blue. Please note that the legend item “POP10\_SQMI” should read “Population Density per Square Mile”, but the map software I was using wouldn’t apply the changes.