



Population Density: 1970

Description

This map and the next two (4.01-03) show the distribution of people throughout the Gulf of Mexico region. Comparison of this map with population densities for 1980 (Map 4.02) reveals the changes in population distribution that have occurred over a decade (Map 4.03). Population density maps can also be compared with maps showing levels of various human activities to illustrate simple relationships between the socioeconomic characteristics of the region. For example, Map 4.18 illustrates the level of sewage inflow for municipal wastewater treatment plants. The magnitude of these inflows is directly related to population distribution.

Population density refers to the number of people occupying a defined geographic area. On this map, the total population of each American coastal county and Mexican municipal district was divided by the area of the county or district to calculate the number of persons per mi2.

Total 1970 population of American coastal counties in the region was approximately 12.6 million. Florida coastal counties had the largest population at 6.8 million, followed by coastal counties in Texas (3 million), Louisiana (2.2 million), Alabama (370,000), and Mississippi (240,000). The total population of the coastal municipal districts in Mexico for 1970 was 2.1 million. Over half of this number (1.1 million) lived in coastal municipal districts in the state of Veracruz.

Population densities were greatest around large metropolitan areas such as Miami, Houston, and New Orleans, and other large industrial complexes. No urban population was recorded for nineteen coastal counties in the USA - two in Texas, two in Louisiana, and fifteen in Florida. In Mexico, the greatest population densities are located around Veracruz and Tampico.