GeoMaps

Laos-specific

Vincent Dufour

Population Density *(choropleth map)*

Laos
Population Density

Persons

per sq mi		per sq km
30		12
50		20
70		25
130		50

Province boundaries
■ Cities over 100,000
● Cities 25,000 to 100,000

Xam Nua
Louangphrabang
Vientiane
Thakhèk
Savannakhét
Pakxé

Source: 2005 Census Data

0   50   100 mi
0   75   150 km

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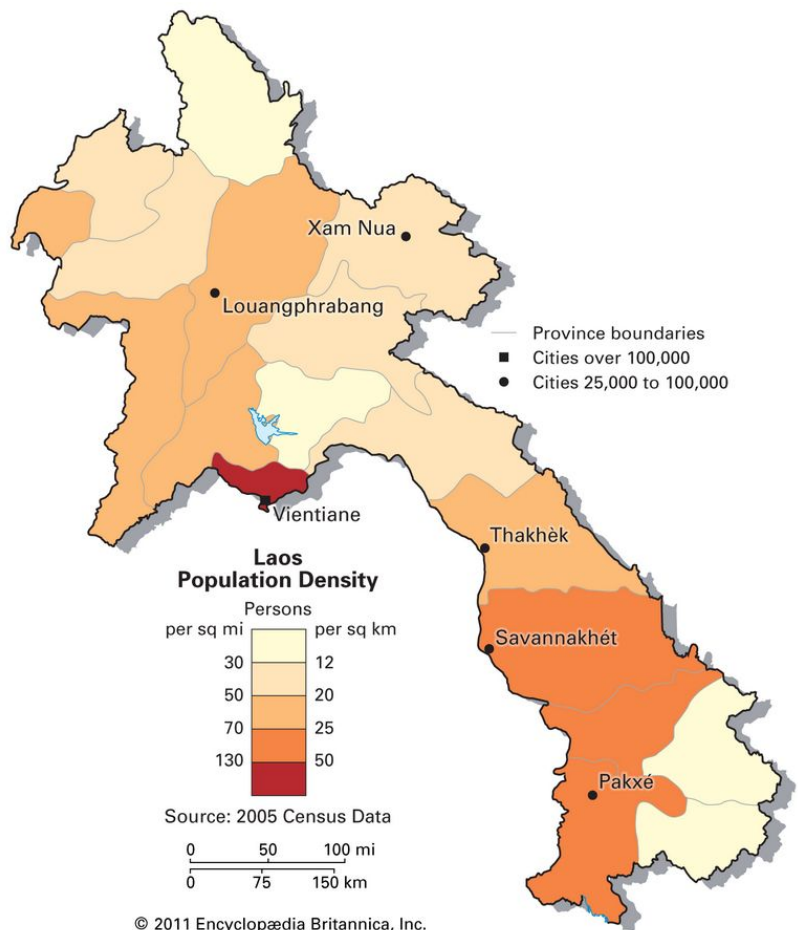
This choropleth map from Encyclopedia Britannica shows the population density of Laos grouped by province.

Vientiane Prefecture, where the capitol Vientiane is located, is the province with the highest population density. The next three most populated provinces are all found in the south of Laos.

Population density is shown thanks to a color gradient going from yellow to red for higher population densities.

This map is limited by its province grouping. Variations of population density within provinces is impossible to display unless the grouping was removed, if the data was available.

Rainfall Map *(heatmap)*
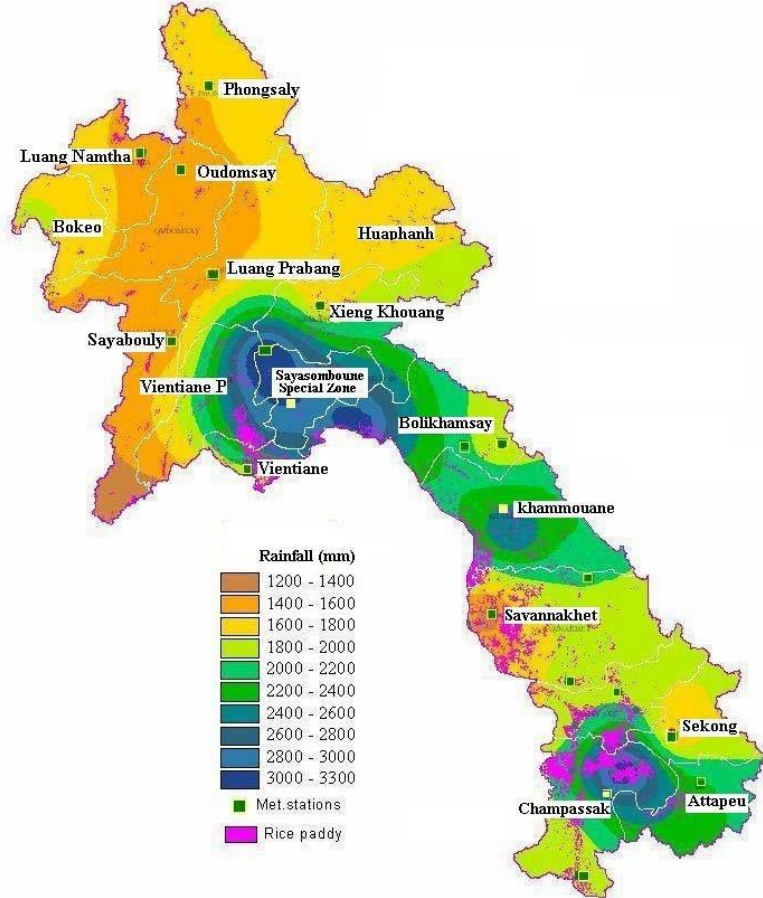
This heatmap from a research paper by Jayampathi Basnayake shows the mean annual rainfall as well as rice paddy field locations.

It shows the north being relatively dry, and the middle and south getting a lot more rainfall. There are large rice paddy fields in areas with high rainfall, and interestingly, Savannakhet is an area with a high amount of rice paddy fields despite being within the lower half on this map's rainfall scale.

This map uses a colour gradient to show rainfall within different ranges measured in millimeters.

Someone who didn't review the legend may inadvertently mistake purple areas for high rainfall.

U.S. Bombs Dropped on Laos *(point map)*
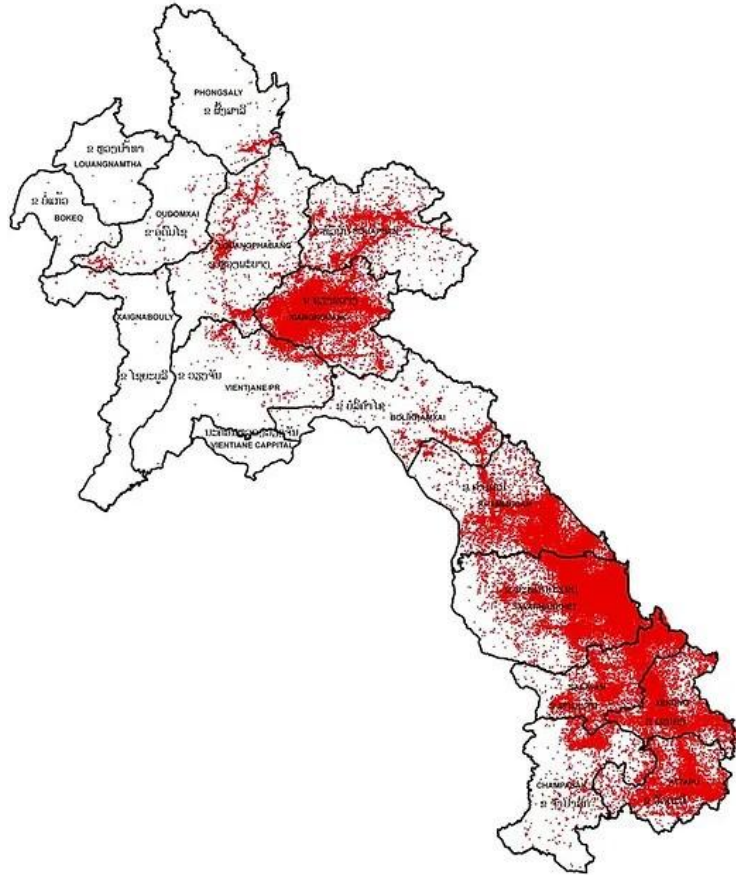
This point map from the Schuster Institute shows a point map, where each point represents where a cluster bomb was dropped on Laos by the U.S. Military during the Vietnam War.

The higher density of bomb droppings happened on Laos' eastern border, closer to Vietnam, where roads were being used by North Vietnam troops.

This point map is simple - each red dot representing one cluster bomb which then exploded into more smaller bombs. Each bomb is overlaid on top of each other.

The map does a poor job of showing the frequency with overlapping bombs - many areas were bombed hundreds of times over, but once an area is filled with points, the map fails to continue to show how many bombs were dropped.

Lao Airlines Flight Map *(flow map)*

This flow map from laos-airlines.com shows domestic & international flight routes hosted by Lao Airlines.

The small scale of the map shows Lao Airlines doesn't have many routes available, and they don't yet offer great distances.

The map uses a legend showing international routes in purple, domestic routes in red, and "under study" routes with dashed lines.

At this scale, individual lines for each flight route works, but once Lao Airlines offers more routes, the number of lines may start to get crowded and make finding details difficult.
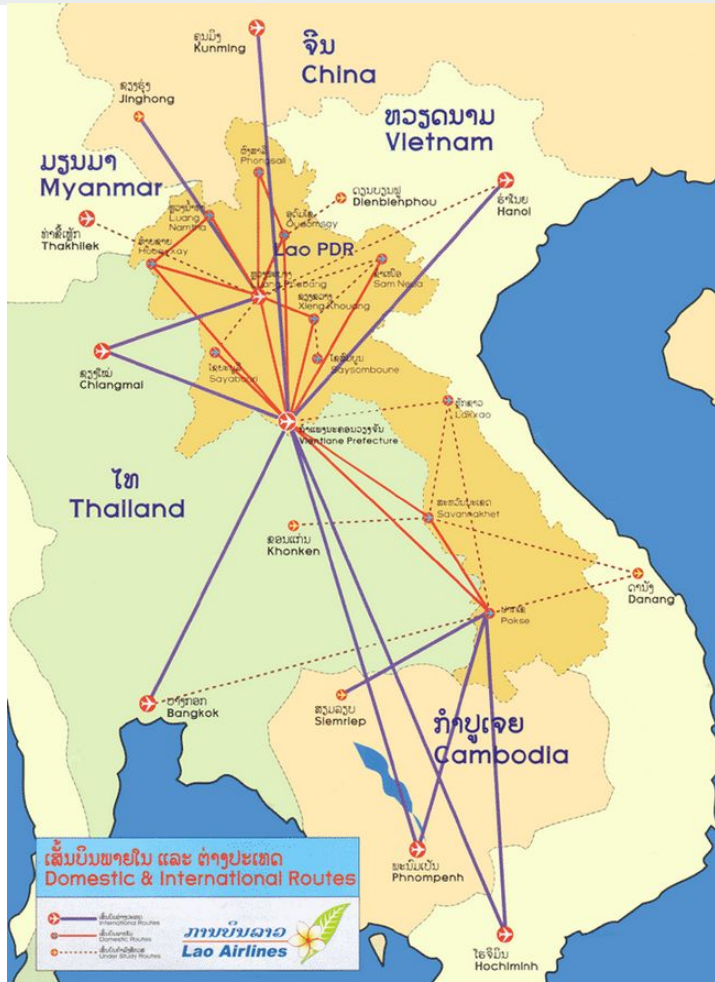
Laos Ethno-Linguistic Map *(density map)*
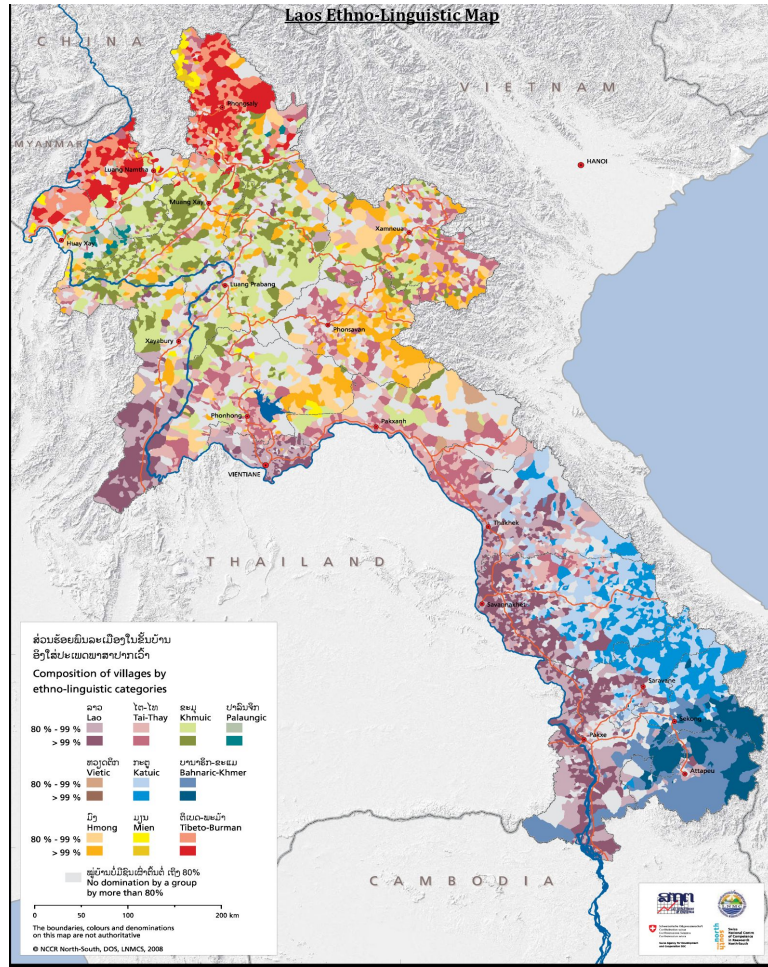
This density map from the Swiss Agency for Development & the Lao Department of Statistics shows a composition of villages by ethno-linguistic categories.

The map is as you'd expect, putting similar ethno-linguistic groups closer together and separated across regions.

The map only shows concentrations larger than 80%, then has a different shade per ethno-linguistic group when reaching concentration levels higher than 99%.

This map is very detailed already, and limiting visualizations to groups over 80% helps minimize clutter, but does leave us with large gray spots where ethno-linguistic groups are mixed.