Population Density 2000

Every 10 years, the federal government counts the number of people who live in each state. This is called our national census. Each state is divided into many “census blocks” that may vary in size from a few city streets to an entire small town. Census blocks in rural areas may be large and irregular and contain many square miles. The irregular shapes in this map result from census blocks of different size.

Census data allows us to determine the number of people who live in each square mile. This is called the population density. About half of all Californians live in the densely populated urban areas of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In contrast, less than one percent lives in the sparsely populated northeast and southeast corners of the state.

IMAGE BELOW: Population density is very low in this part of eastern California, where large census blocks cover many square miles and are irregular in shape.

SOURCE: STEPHEN CUNHA

Census Block
People per square mile

Source: U.S. Census Bureau