

Los Angeles vs. New York

Who wins the density battle?



Sandra O'Flaherty

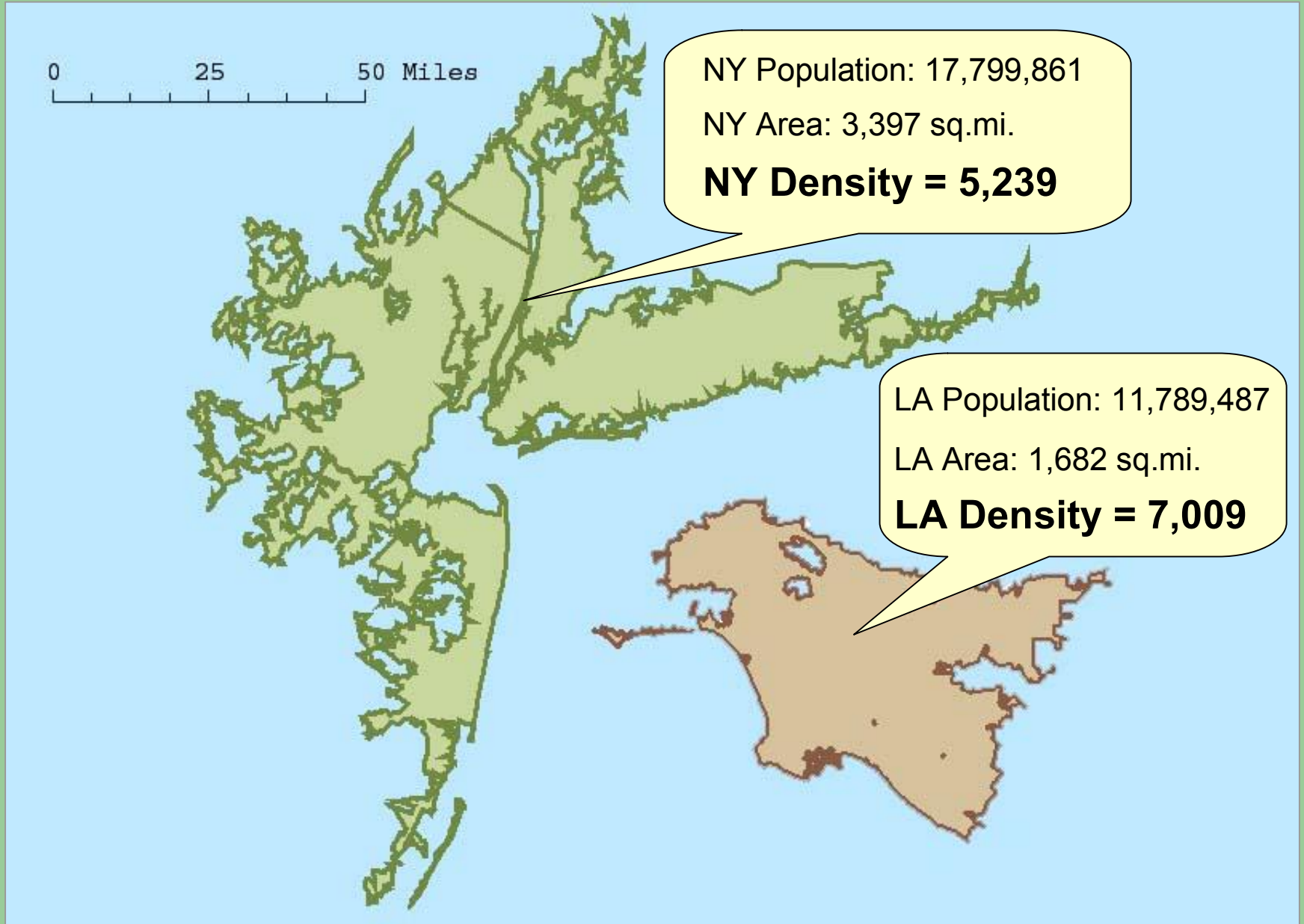
Andrea Osgood

Lara Regus

What is an “Urbanized Area”?

- Census block groups with:
 - Population density: 1,000 people/sq.mi.
 - Surrounding blocks: overall density 500 people/sq.mi.
- How do the urbanized areas of NY and LA compare?

Comparing the Urbanized Areas of NY & LA



0 25 50 Miles

NY Population: 17,799,861

NY Area: 3,397 sq.mi.

NY Density = 5,239

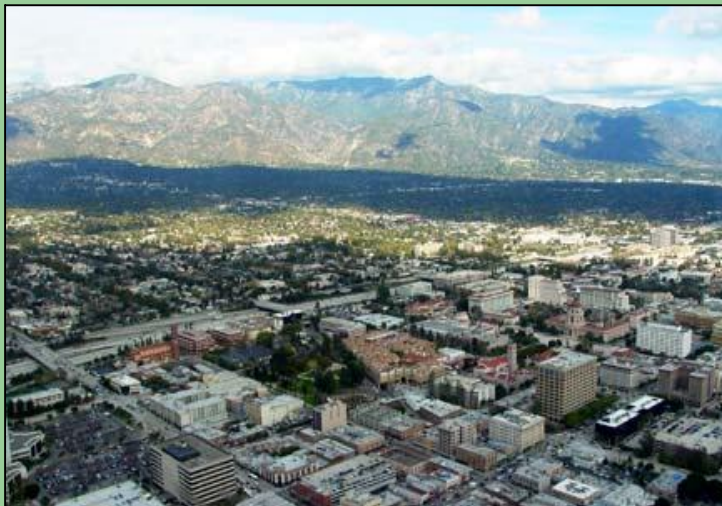
LA Population: 11,789,487

LA Area: 1,682 sq.mi.

LA Density = 7,009

Strictly By the Numbers?

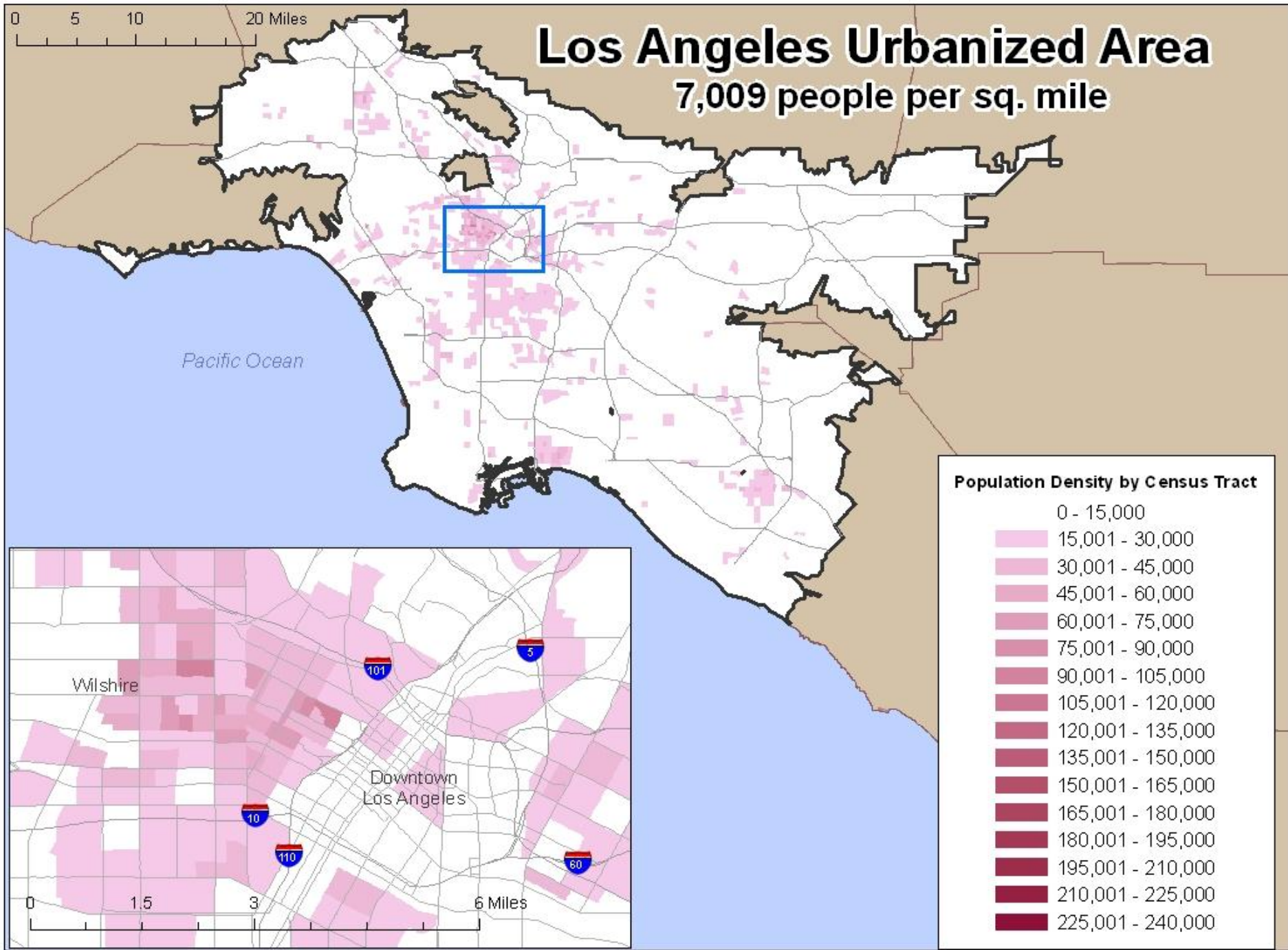
- Technically speaking: Los Angeles' "urbanized area" has a higher density than New York's "urbanized area"
- How is density dispersed throughout these "urbanized areas"?
- Is "urbanized area" a useful measure?



Pasadena, CA



Paterson, NJ



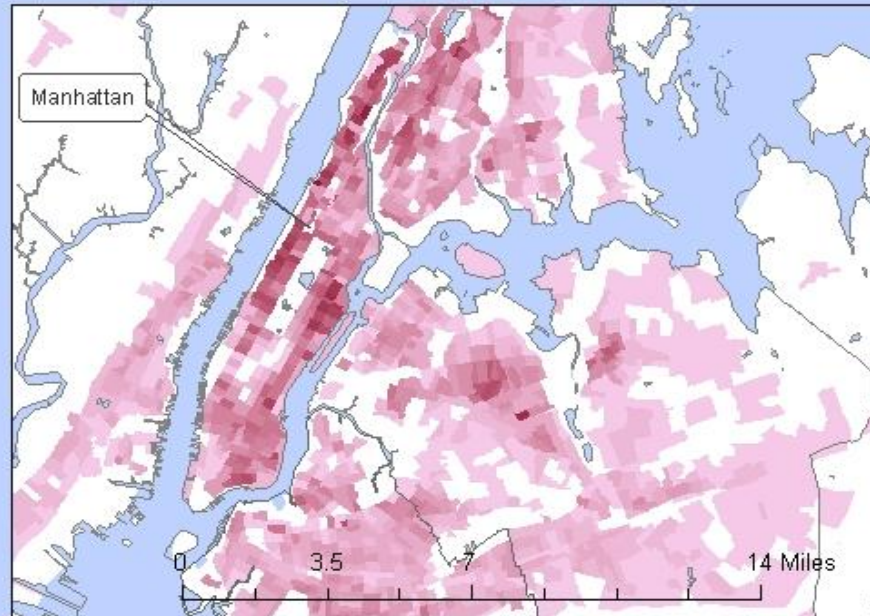
0 12.5 25 50 Miles

New York Urbanized Area

5,239 people per sq. mile



Atlantic Ocean



Population Density by Census Tract

0 - 15,000

15,001 - 30,000

30,001 - 45,000

45,001 - 60,000

60,001 - 75,000

75,001 - 90,000

90,001 - 105,000

105,001 - 120,000

120,001 - 135,000

135,001 - 150,000

150,001 - 165,000

165,001 - 180,000

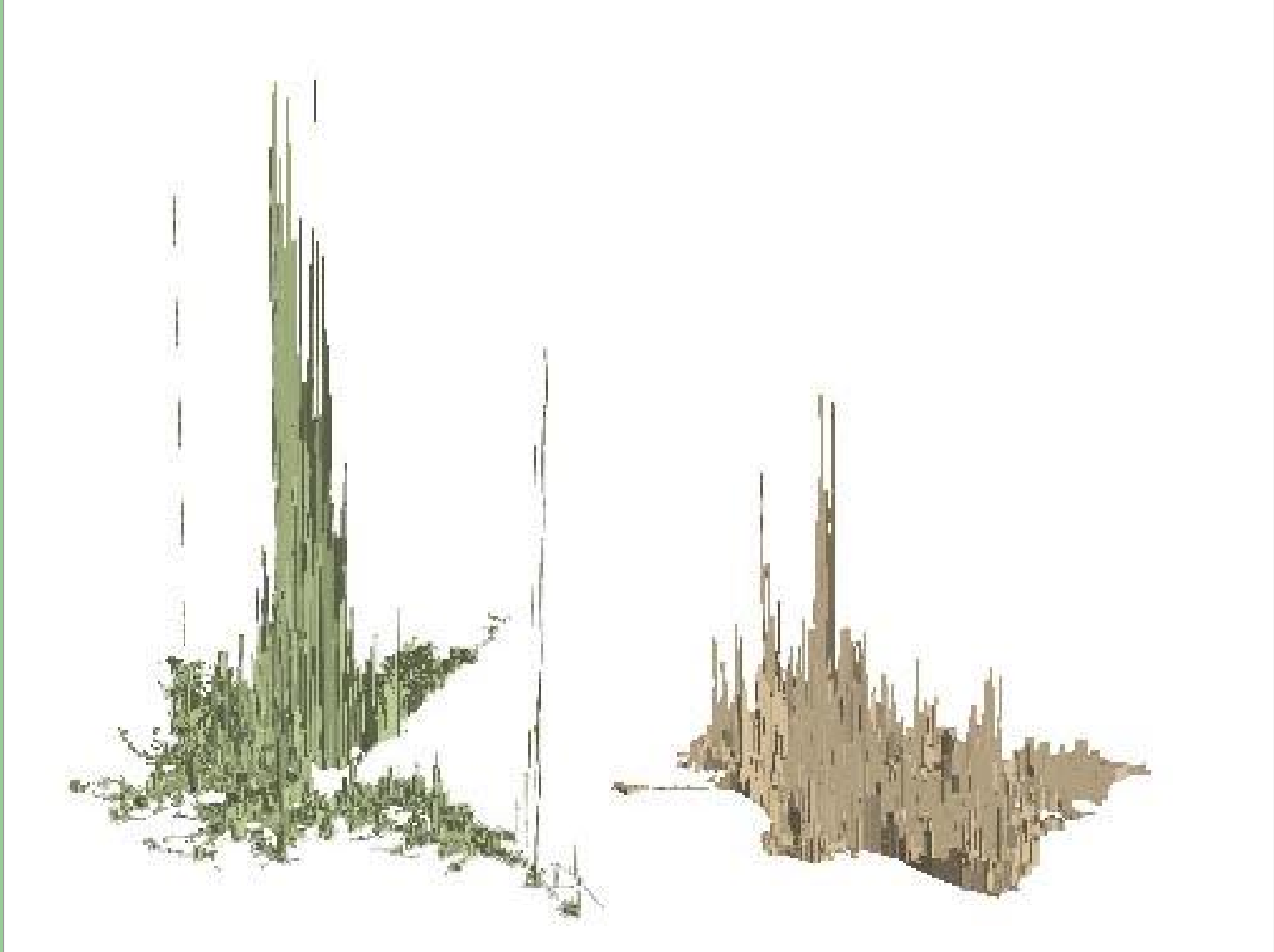
180,001 - 195,000

195,001 - 210,000

210,001 - 225,000

225,001 - 240,000

Population Density in 3-D



Statistics vs. Perception

- Technical definition of “Urbanized Area” likely contrary to residents’ perception

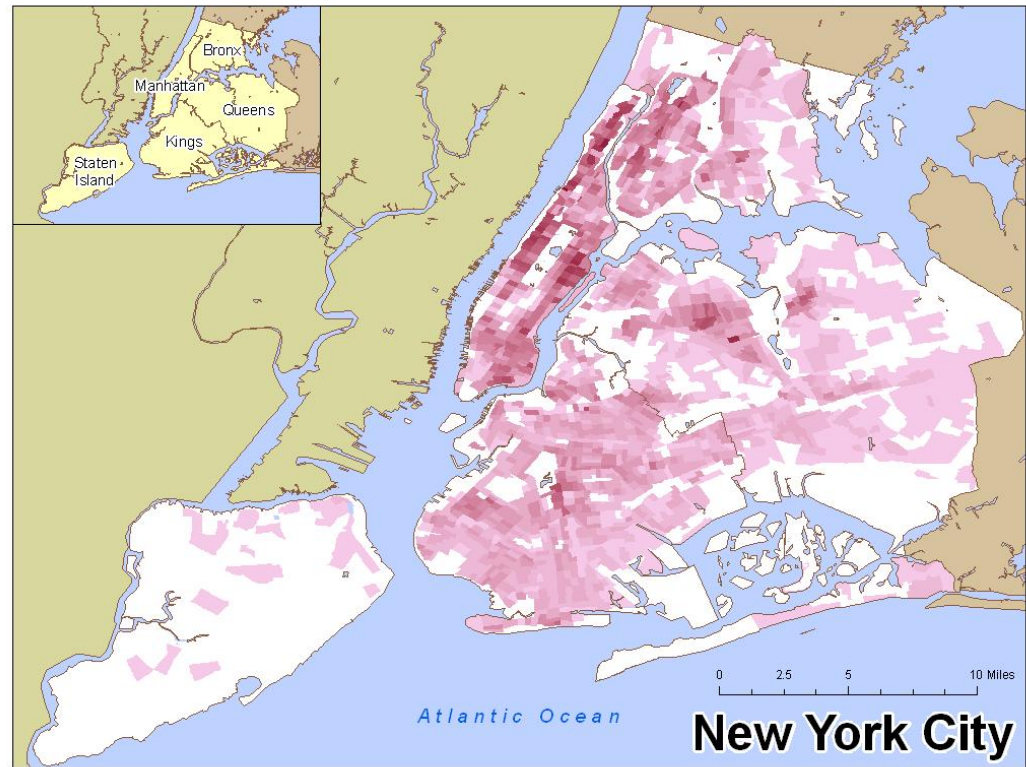
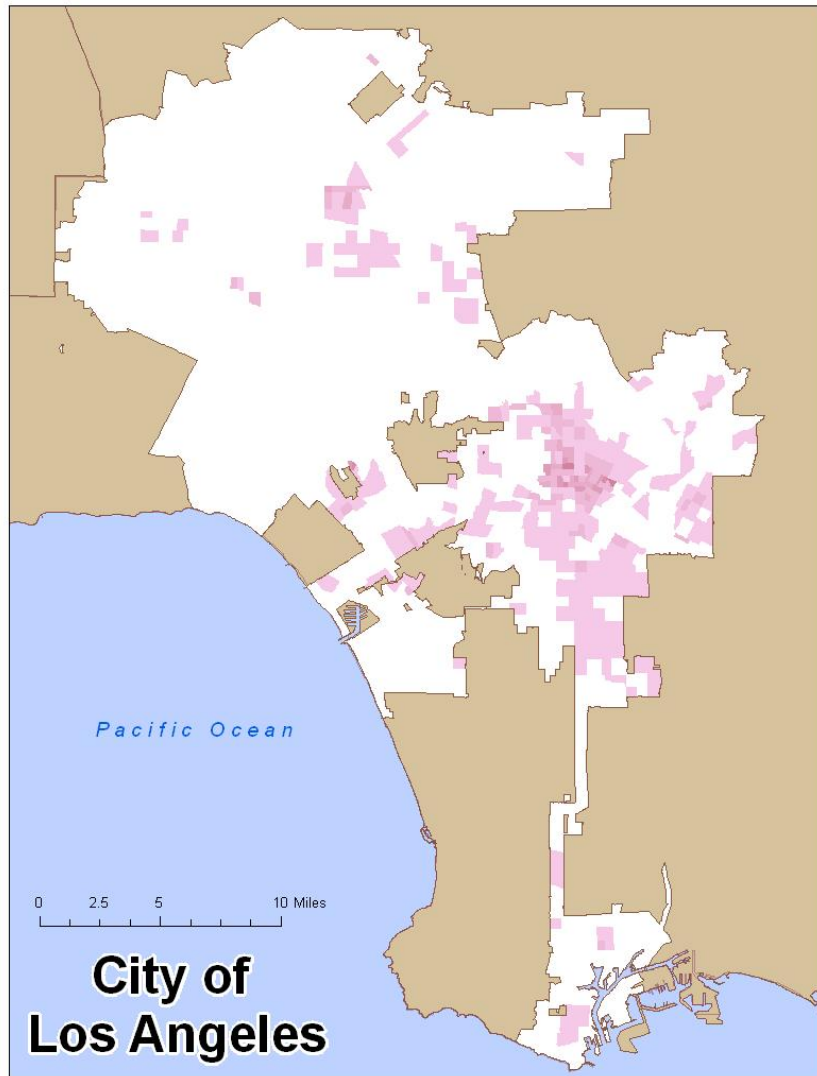


- Is comparing density by **city boundary** a more useful measure?

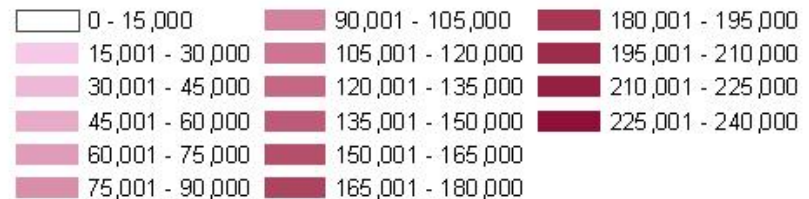
NYC is nearly 4 times denser than City of LA

City of LA = 7,828 people per sq. mile

City of New York = 26,343 people per sq. mile



Population Density by Census Tract



*cities not shown in same scale

A Closer Look: NYC Wins the Density Battle

Total Square Miles of High Density			
CITY LEVEL	Total Area (mi²)	Area with > 15,000 people/ mi²	Percent
Los Angeles	472	75	15%
New York	304	156	51%

Conclusion

- TRUE: LA “urbanized area” denser than NY “urbanized area”
- BUT: Comparing density by city boundaries is a far better measure
- New York City is nearly 4 times as dense than City of Los Angeles
- LA has room to build!