Methods Depicting Population Distribution

There are two main methods used to depict population distribution, a dot map and a lorenz curve. It is very important that one understands what these are, how they are created and also the merits and demerits of the methods.

What is the Lorenz Curve

Lorenz curves are used to show inequalities in distributions. In many cases you will notice that the Lorenz curve is used to plot income distribution within a population. For the purpose of achieving this objective we will focus on using the Lorenz curve to show unequal distribution of population over a given area.

On the curve one must understand the meaning behind each line.

- The diagonal line, shows even distribution, the concave or convex curve shows the degree of concentration of population within an area.
- A slope which is 'more concave' in nature means the greater the inequality of population distribution.
- The converse is true where a curve which is less in concavity represents less inequality in population distribution.



Y is the land area and X axis represents the population. The **Diagonal line** represents the even distribution and the bulging line usually plots population in correspondence with the specific land area on the Y axis. Population is constantly changing and as a result the Lorenz curve is not static.