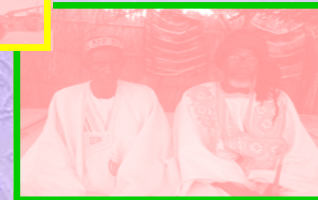




**Chapter 2. Population Characteristics**



This chapter presents information on the density and distribution of Gambia's population. The maps were created using population and area totals of districts. Where possible the maps are accompanied by a graph using population totals of local government areas and tables showing districts with the highest and lowest population.

Notes: Population density was calculated by dividing total district/municipality population by the area in sq km. Except for districts in Banjul, area included mangroves and other wetlands which are primarily uninhabited. This may result to lower density in a number of districts. Age-distribution and other age-base analysis are based on age reported during the enumeration. Given that many rely on memory more than documentation of births, there is age misreporting in some instances.

## CHAPTER 2: POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The population of The Gambia in April 2003 was 1,360,681. The population is heavily concentrated along the coast where the three largest cities, Banjul, Kanifing Municipality and Brikama are located. About 27% of the population live in the Greater Banjul Area, the metropolitan area comprising of the City of Banjul and Kanifing Municipality, a combined area of 88 sq. km (0.08% of the total land area). Over 52% of the population live within 20 km of the Atlantic Ocean an area less than 10% of the total land area.

Table 3. Land area (Sq. km) and total population of local government areas in 2003

LGA	Land area (Sq. km)	Population in 2003
Banjul	12	35,061
Kanifing	76	322,735
Brikama	1,764	389,594
Mansakonko	1,618	72,167
Kerewan	2,255	172,835
Kuntaur	1,467	78,491
Janjanbureh	1,428	107,212
Basse	2,070	182,586
The Gambia	10,690	1,360,681

Brikama is the most populous Local Government Area with 29% of the population followed by Kanifing Municipal Council with 24%. Between 1993 and 2003 censuses the national population grew 31% and Brikama LGA grew 66% surpassing Kanifing as the fastest growing LGA in the country. At district level, Kombo North had the fastest growing population, with a 106% increase between 1993 and 2003. This was largely driven by rapid expansion of settlements along the recently constructed Kombo Coastal Road and establishment of Brusubi Housing Estate.

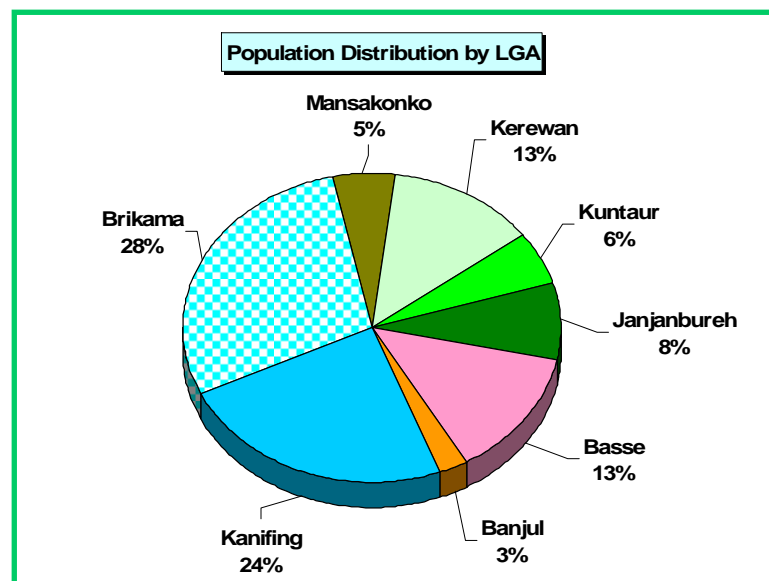


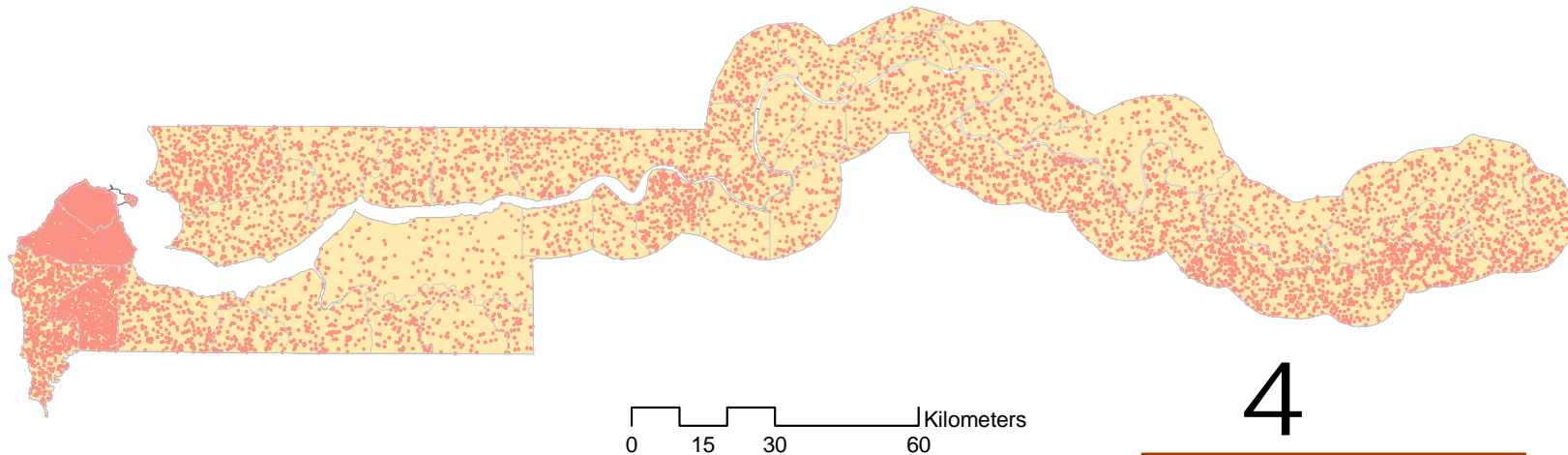
Figure 2. Population distribution in 2003 by LGA.

At LGA level, only the Banjul Municipality had experienced a decrease in population (17%) between 1993 and 2003, continuation of a trend that began in 1983. Districts whose population had decreased since 1993 include Upper Baddibu and the neighboring districts of Central Baddibu, Lower Saloum and Niamina Dankunku. Kanifing Municipality and Brikama local government area had the fastest growth rates between the two censuses, with all but one district (Foni Jarrol) with a growth rate higher than the national average. The maps and charts in this section show the characteristics of the population on April 15, 2003, using district level data.

**Population dot map, 2003.**

1 Dot = 100 persons

This map uses the population totals from the districts. Each dot represents 100 persons. Areas of high population have high concentration of dots, e.g. western Gambia.



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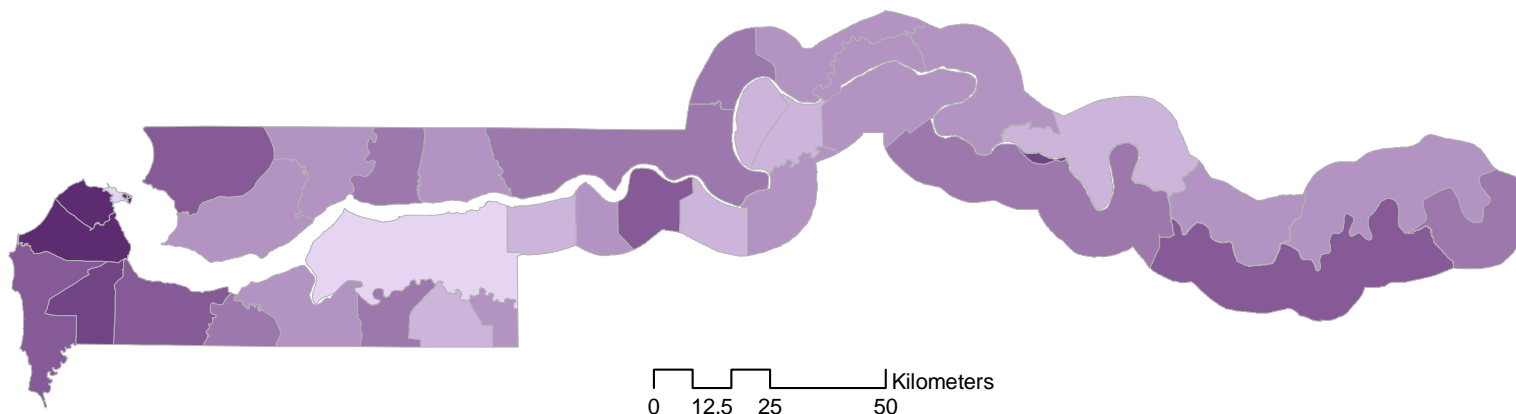
Population dot map using district data

1 Dot = 100 Persons

Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003  
District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.

### Population density in 2003

Population density was calculated by dividing total population of each district by the land area in square kilometers. Average population density for The Gambia in 2003 is 128 persons per sq. km; which was 97 in 1993. Excluding the area covered by mangrove swamps, the three districts of Banjul are the most densely populated areas in The Gambia, in excess of 9,000 inhabitants per sq. km, followed by Kanifing with 7,335 persons per sq. km. Kiang West remains the least densely populated district, 21 persons per sq. km.

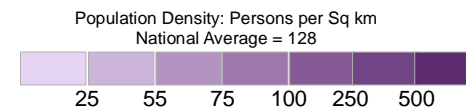


Districts with the highest and lowest population density in 2003

District	Population	Density Persons per sq km*	District	Population	Density Persons per sq km
Banjul North	17,514	19,246	Niamina West	14,833	44
Banjul Central	9,094	17,831	Foni Bondali	15,816	38
Banjul South	8,453	9,392	Jarra Central	16,943	38
Kanifing Municipality	322,735	4,035	Sami	49,958	38
Kombo North	166,493	919	Kiang West	71,092	21

\*Land area excludes mangrove swamps which are largely uninhabited

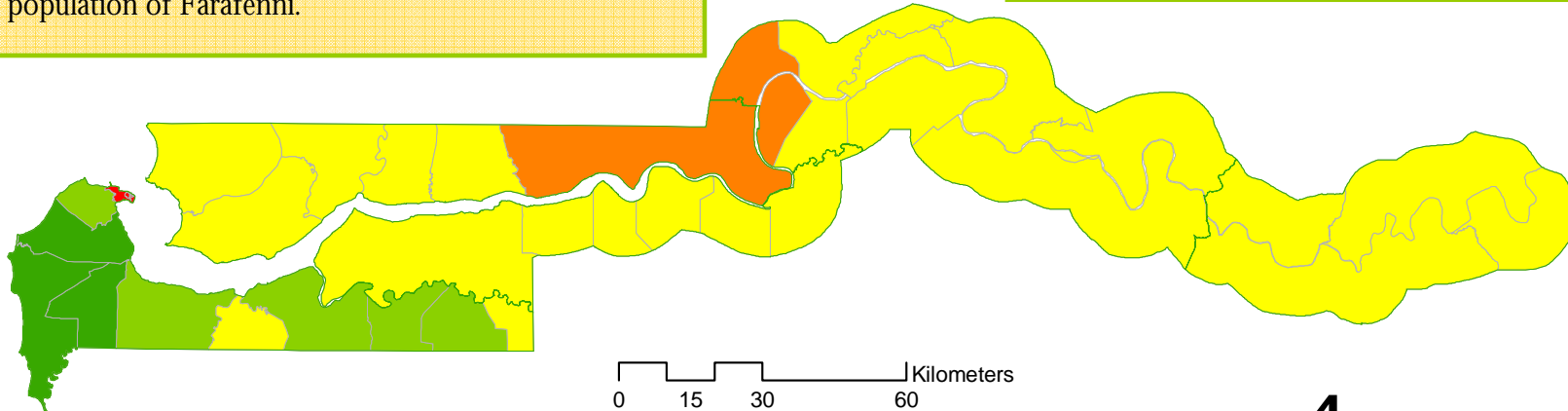
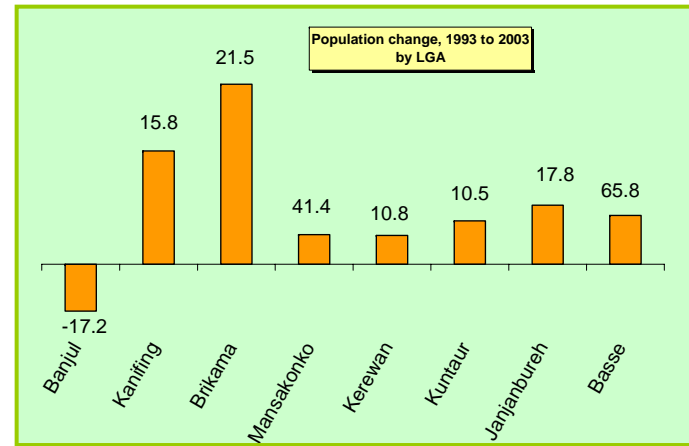
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Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003  
 District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.

**Population change, 1993 to 2003**

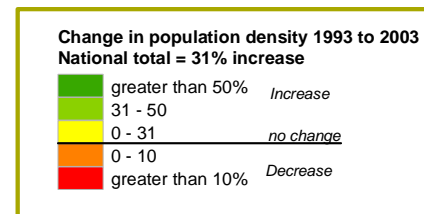
Between 1993 and 2003 the population of The Gambia grew by 31%. This amounts to an average annual growth rate of 2.7% down from 4.2% during the previous 10 years. Brikama LGA saw the highest increase 66% followed by Kanifing Municipality 21%. Banjul's population had decreased by 17% a trend that has started in the last 10 years. Mansakonko and Kerewan LGA recorded slight increase, 11% and 10% respectively. Notable is the decline in the population of Upper Baddibu, largely driven by a decline in the population of Farafenni.



Districts that experienced the greatest change in population between 1993 and 2003

Districts that gained population			Districts that lost population		
District	Population	% increase in density	District	Population	% decrease in density
Kombo North	166,493	207	Niamina	5,892	3.2
Kombo South	61,615	155	Dankunku	13,564	4.4
Kombo Central	84,296	150	Lower Saloum	17,514	14.8
Foni Kansala	11,353	146	Banjul North	9,094	17.5
Kanifing	322,735	141	Banjul Central	8,453	21.3

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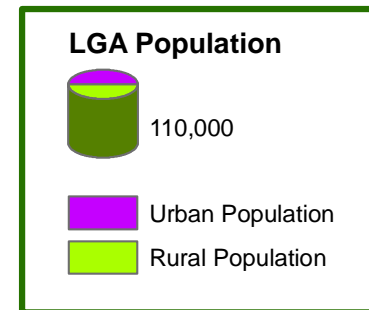
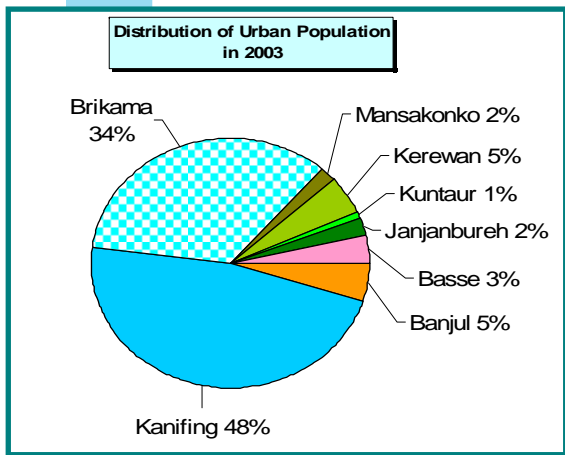
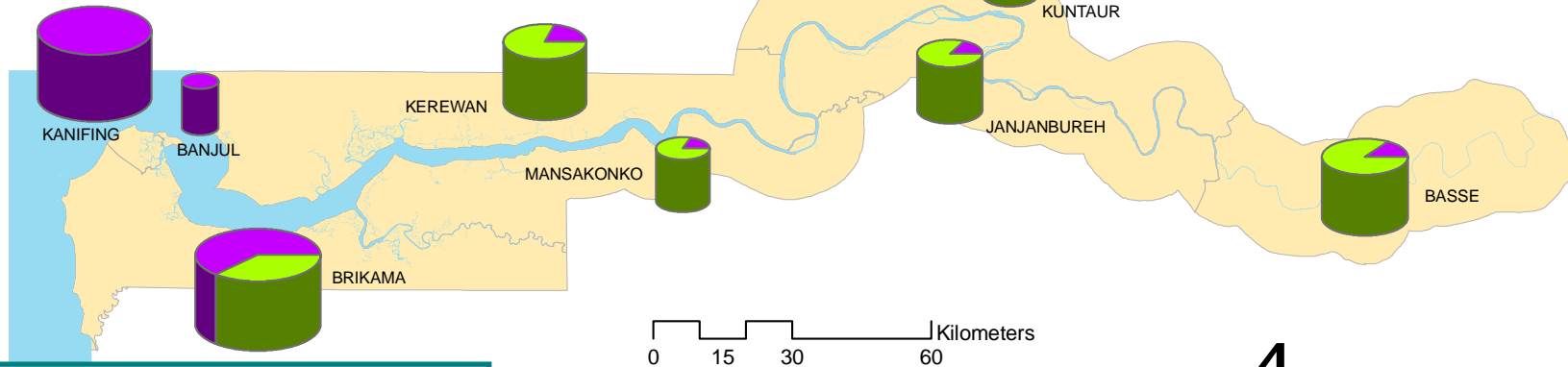
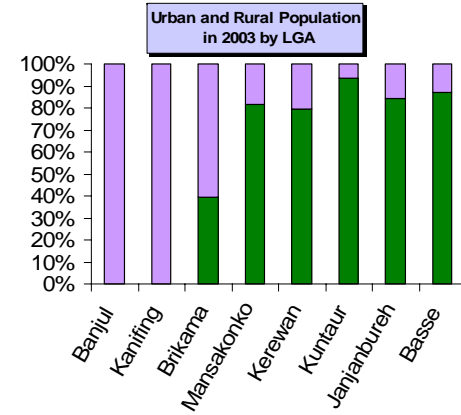


Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003  
 District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.



### Urban and Rural population in 2003

Fifty-one percent of Gambia's population lives in the urban areas compared to 37% in 1993. Fifty-three percent of urban dwellers live in Banjul and Kanifing Municipalities. Overall, urbanization decrease with distance from Banjul with about 85% of urban population living within 20km of the Atlantic coast. The south bank (with relatively good roads) is more urban than the north bank of the river. Kuntaur, home to only 6% of the urban dwellers is the least urbanized LGA.

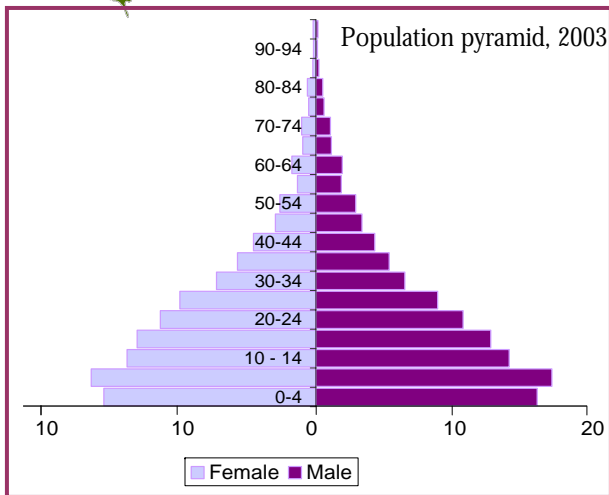
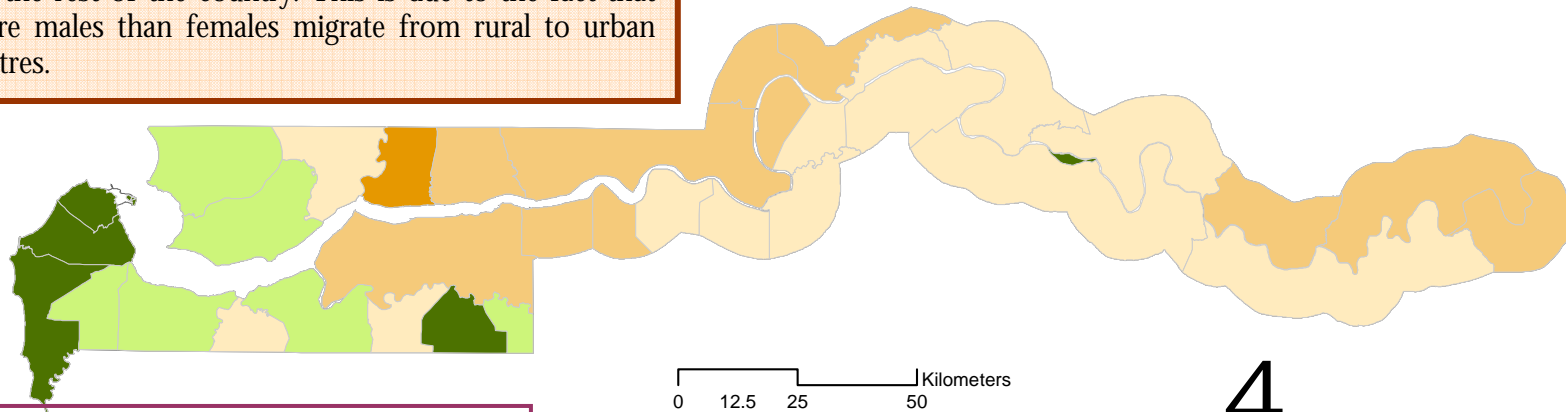


Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003  
 District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.

### Sex Ratio in 2003

#### Number of males per 100 females

Sex ratio compares how many males there are per 100 females. Population with equal males and females will result in sex ratio equal 100. Nationwide, There were about 97 males for every 100 females in 2003. In general, there are more males than females in Banjul, Kanifing and Brikama LGA, whilst the reverse is true for the rest of the country. This is due to the fact that more males than females migrate from rural to urban centres.



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Sex Ratio: number of males for every 100 females. \* National ratio = 97

- Greater than 100
- 95 - 100
- 90 - 95
- 85 - 90
- Less than 85

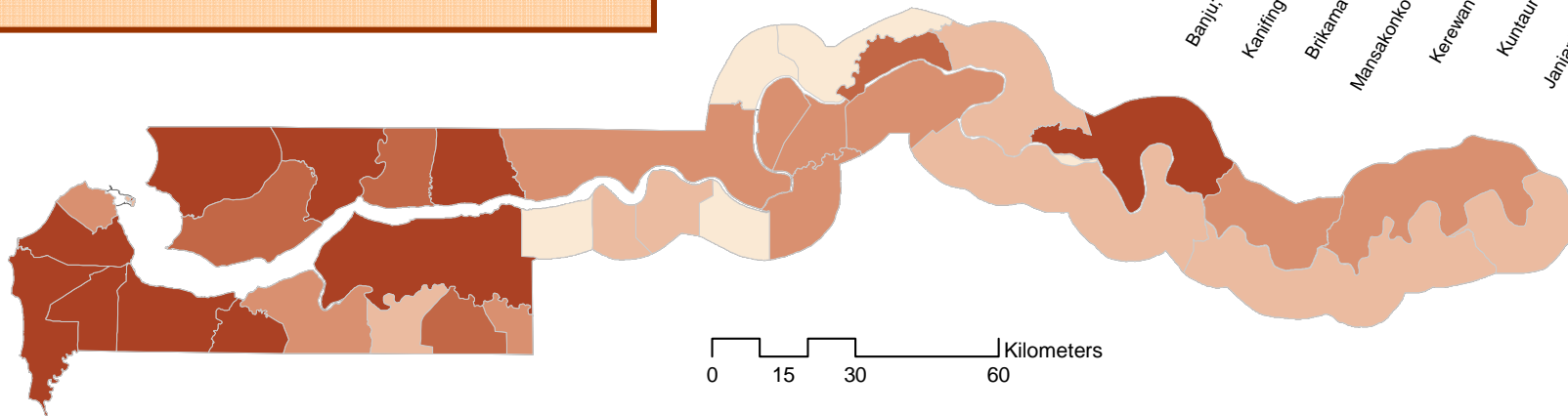
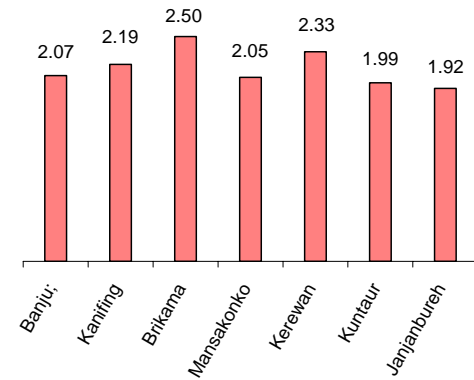
Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003  
 District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.



**Infant population in 2003**

The proportion of infant (age less than 1 year) population in The Gambia was 2.2% in 2003. With the exception of Sami, Sandu and Wuli districts, the proportion of infant population in eastern Gambia is lower than western Gambia. Outside Brikama, only Kanifing and Kerewan LGAs had the proportion of infant population at or greater than the national total.

Percentage of Population less than 1 year old

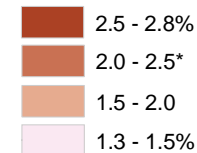


Districts with highest and lowest proportion of infant population in 2003

Top Five Districts		Bottom Five Districts	
District	%	District	%
Jokadu	2.8	Kiang Central	1.8
Kombo South	2.7	Janjanbureh	1.4
Kombo East	2.6	Lower Saloum	1.5
Foni Brefet	2.7	Upper Saloum	1.6
Sami	2.5	Jarra Central	1.8

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Percentage of Infant (less than 1 year old) population. \*National total = 2.2%



Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003  
 District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.