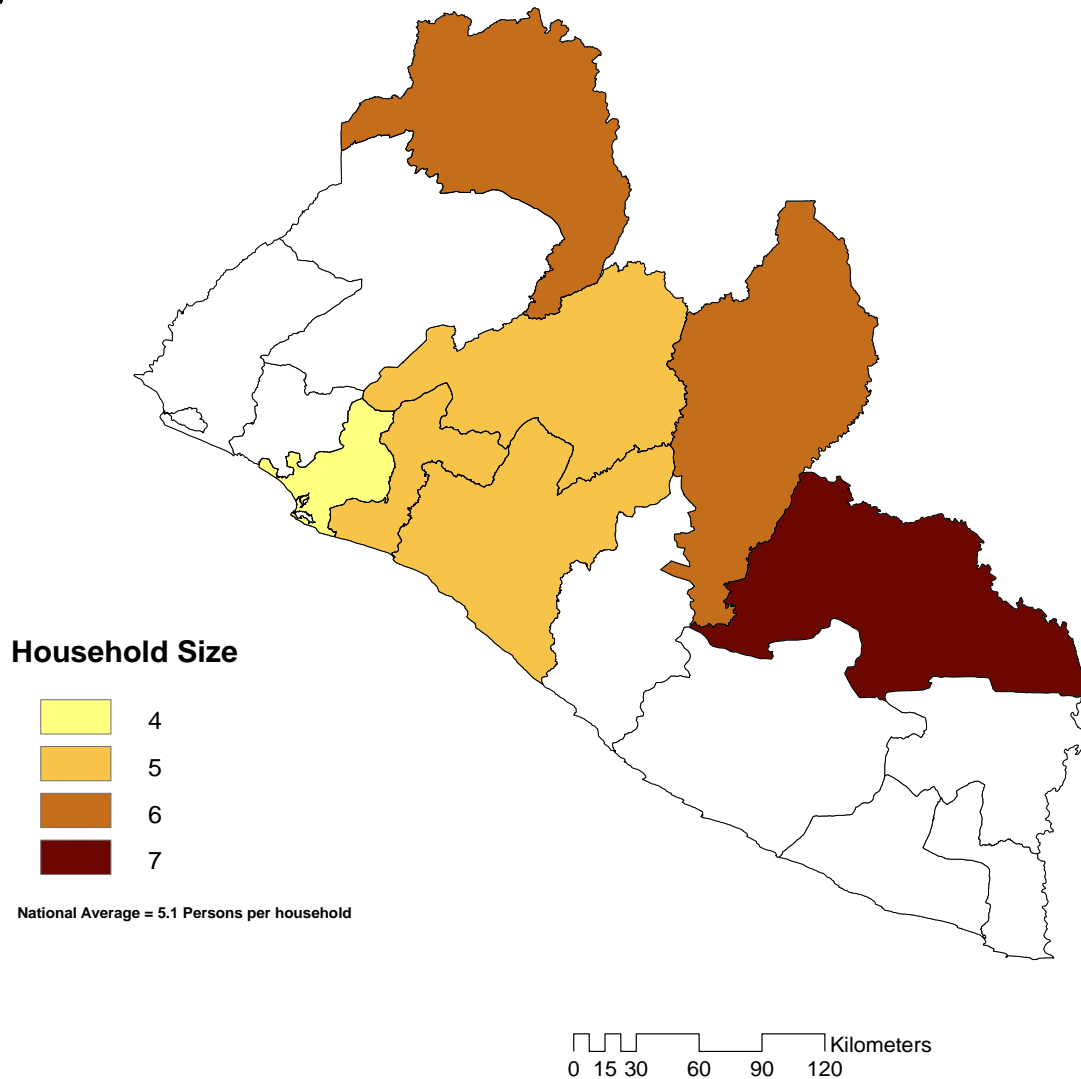


# Chapter 2: Population Size and Composition

Map 2-21



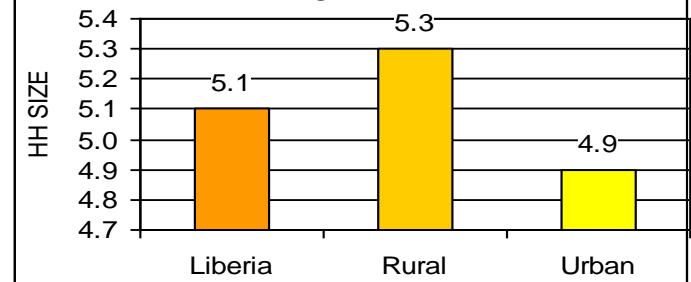
## Average Household Size in 2008

The average household size is a measure of the number of persons per household. It is important in the planning process because many people are found in such social arrangement.

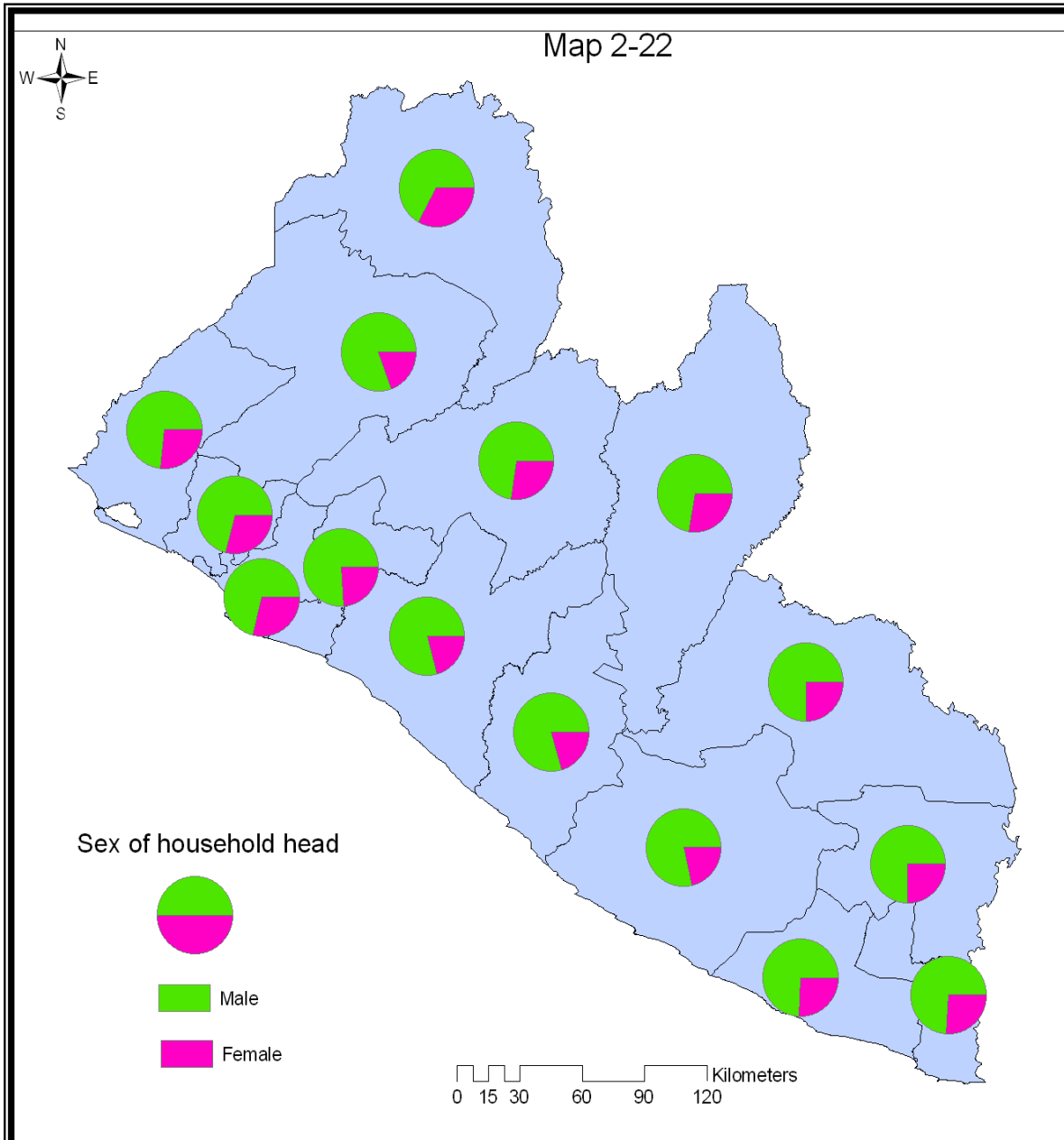
The average household size in Liberia was 5.1 persons. It was 5.3 in rural areas as compared to 4.9 in urban centres.

At the county level, the average household sizes ranged between 4 and 7 people; with Maryland and Grand Gedeh having the highest at 7 persons which is far above the national average. This could be due to three reasons: the rural nature of the counties; migration as a result of job search; and rapid increase in population growth since 1974 (LISGIS, 2009). Montserrado County depicts the least households, about 4 persons. Possibly, this may be due to the high cost of living in urban centers. The national average household size of 5.1 persons was surpassed in nine of the fifteen counties.

Fig: 2-21



# Chapter 2: Population Size and Composition

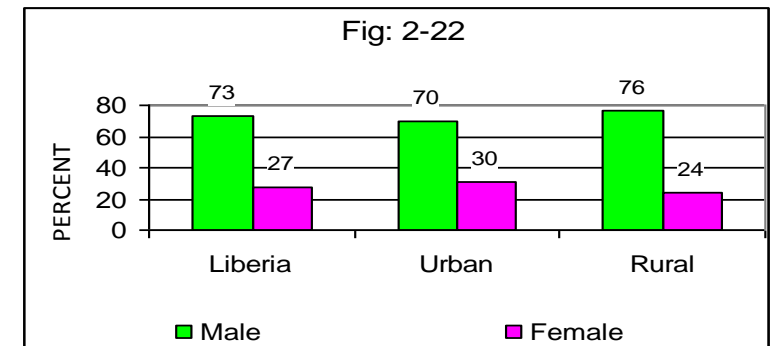


**Distribution of Households by Sex of Head and Residence in 2008**

Distinction of household heads by sex is important because it is often associated with household welfare. For instance, female-headed households are believed to be poorer than male-headed households (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000). With increasing economic hardship particularly during periods characterized by increasing level of unemployment even among educated Liberians, increase in female headship may influence demographic indicators such as mortality and fertility.

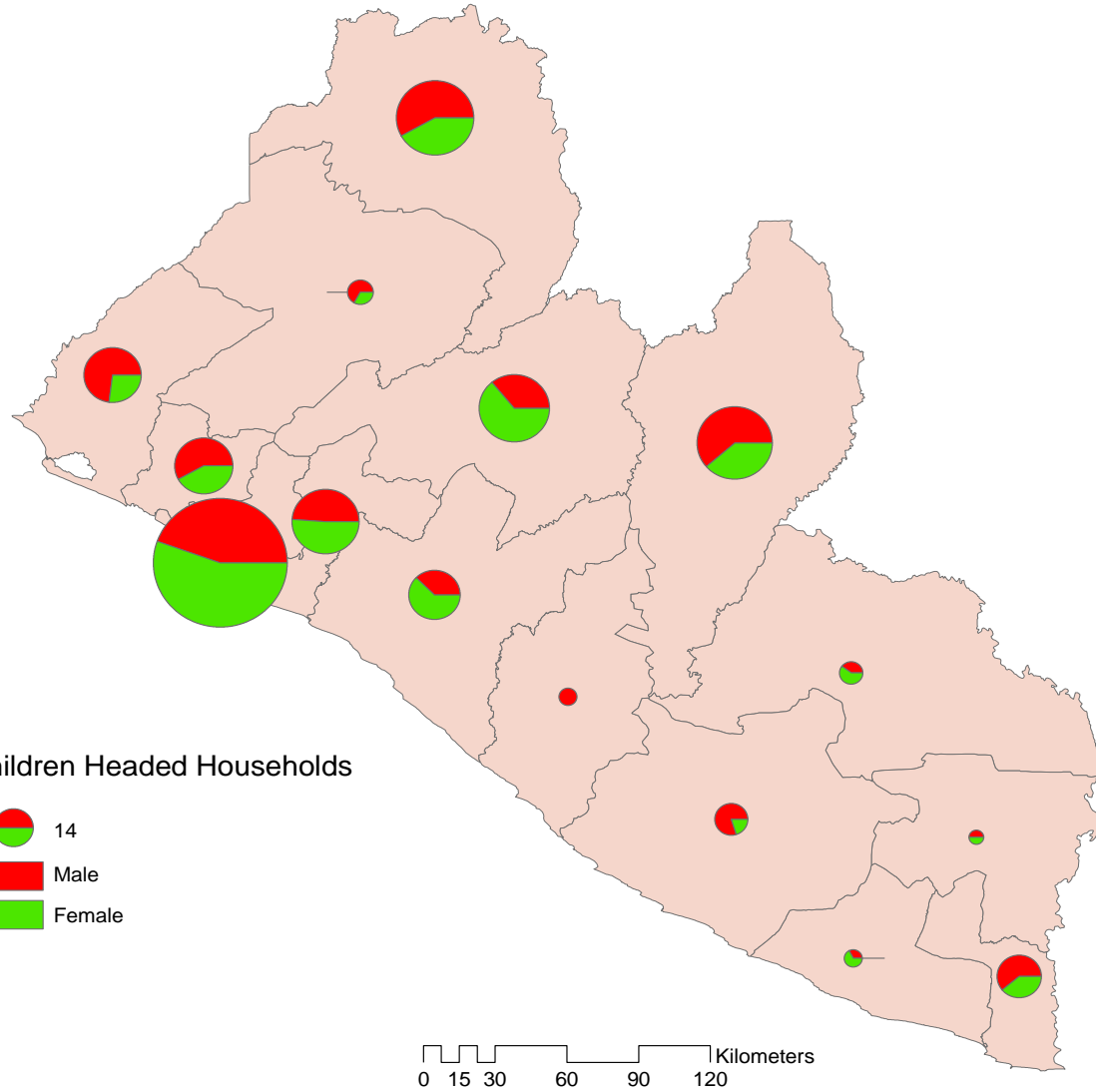
Fig: 2-22 shows that more households were headed by females in urban areas (30%) than in the rural areas, (24%). The figure also shows that the reverse holds true for males. Households headed by male were more in the rural areas (76%) than in urban areas (70%).

Viewing the map, at the county level, the highest percentage of female household is in Lofa while the lowest is in Gbarpolu. The main reason for this difference is that Lofa was a battle ground for a long time during the civil conflict and many men lost their lives in combat while Gbarpolu was on the sideline of the conflict.



# Chapter 2: Population Size and Composition

Map 2-23

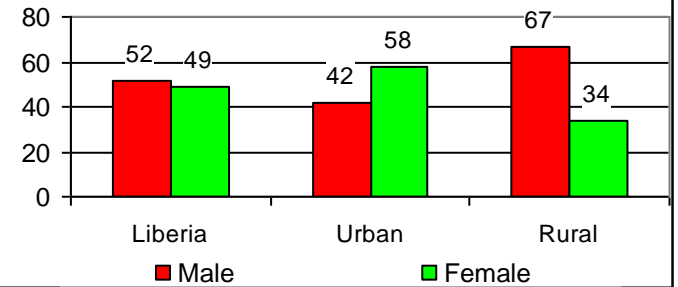


**Percentage of Households Headed by Children (<15 years) in 2008**

In 2008, the total number of households headed by children less than 15 years of age was .07%. There were more households headed by male children in the rural area (67%) than in the urban area (42%). However, there were more female headed households in the urban area (58%) than female headed households in the rural area (34%).

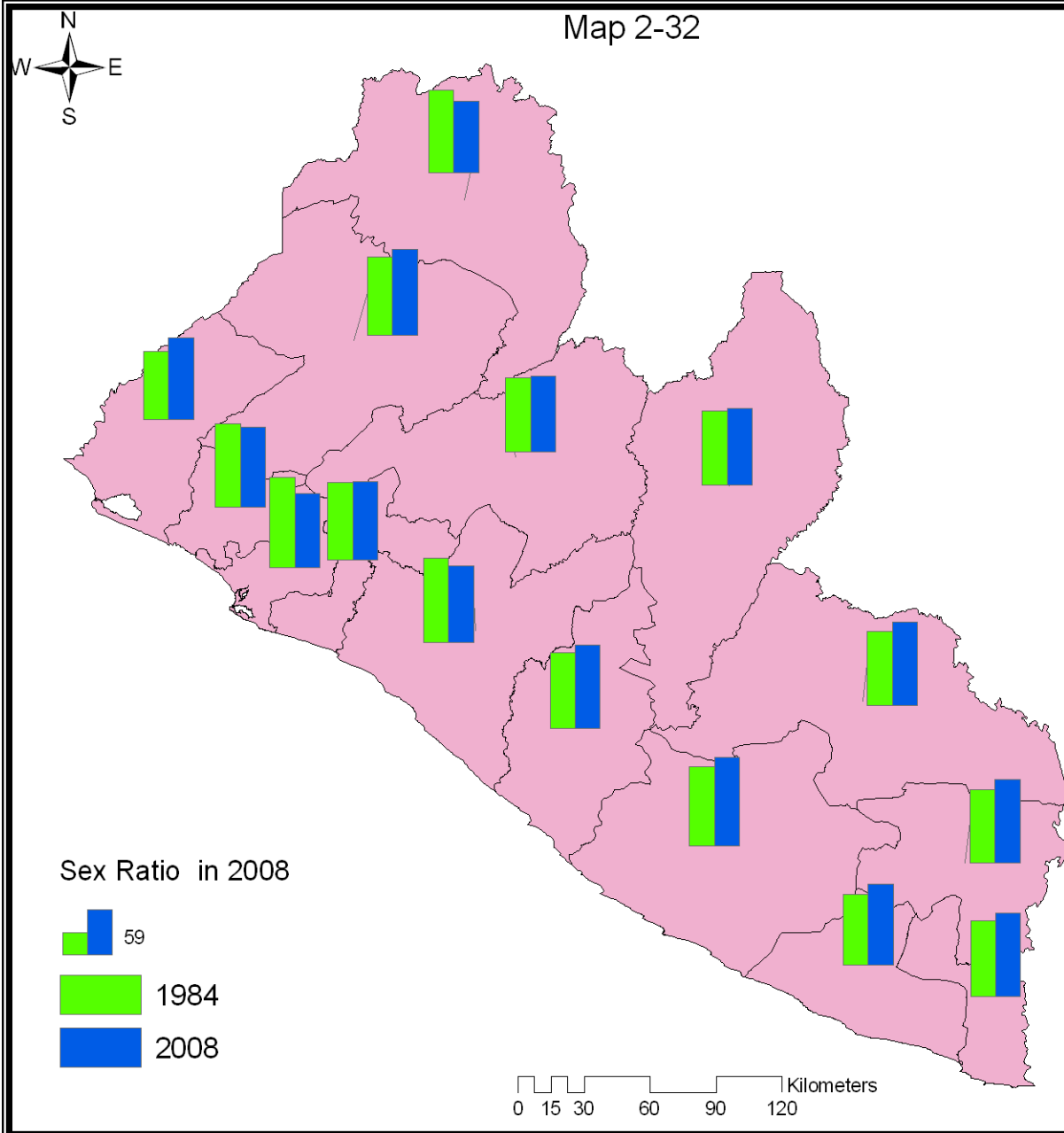
At the county level, the map below shows that the proportion of children headed households was highest in Montserrado County and lowest in River Gee County.

Fig: 2-23



# Chapter 2: Population Size and Composition

Map 2-32



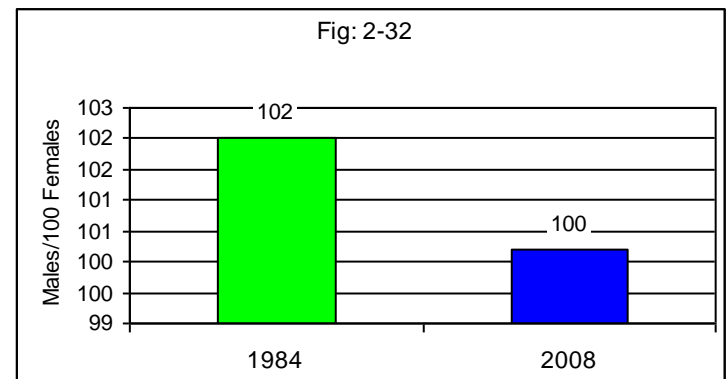
## Sex Ratio in 2008

The index used to measure sex composition of the population is the sex ratio. It is defined as the number of males for every 100 females. A ratio higher than 100 depicts an excess of males and less than 100, an excess of females in the population.

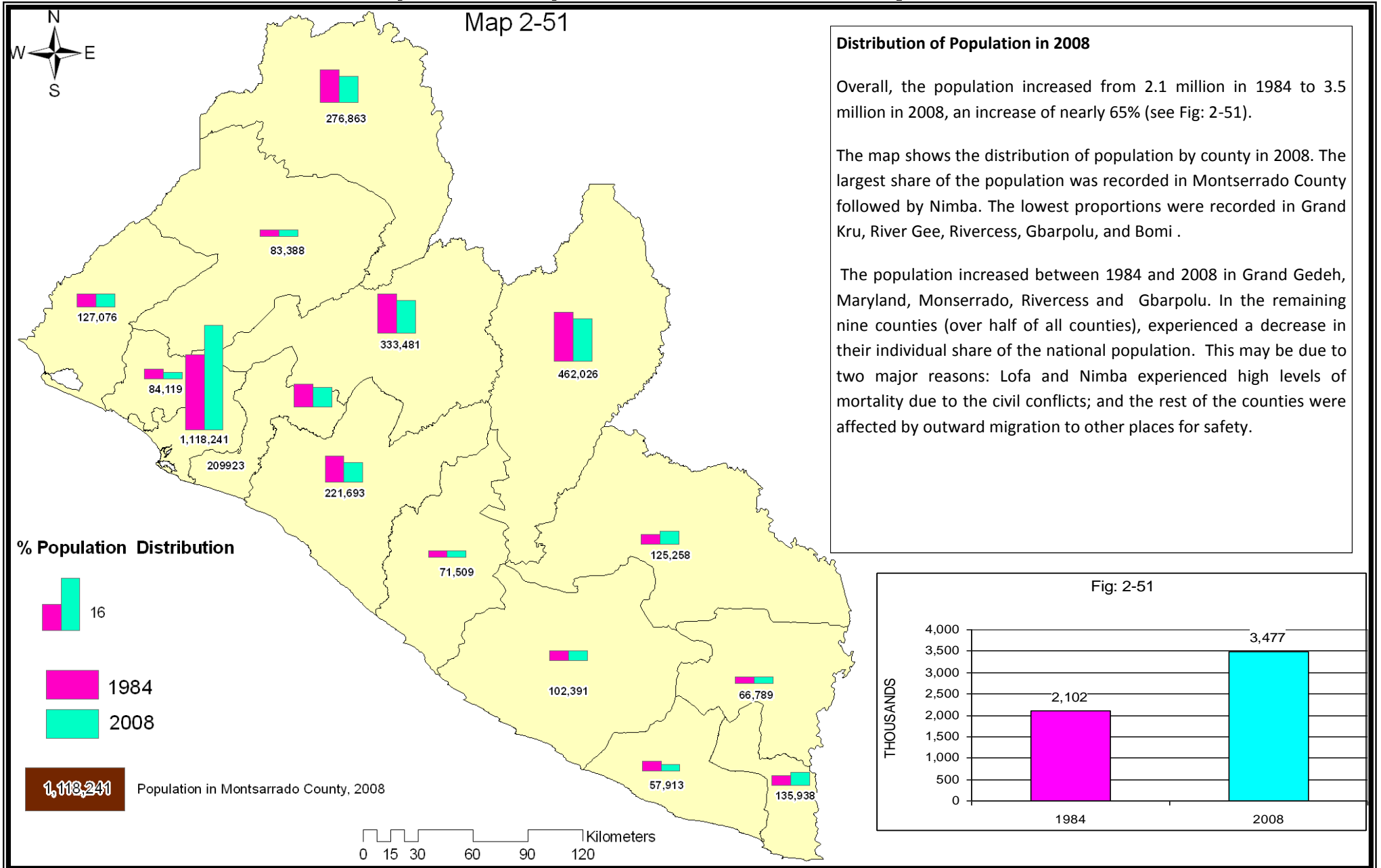
Fig: 2-32 shows that there were about 100 males in Liberia for every 100 females at the time of the 2008 census compared to 102.0 in 1974 and 102 in 1984.

According to the map, the lowest sex ratios were observed in Lofa and Montserrado counties respectively and the highest was recorded in Sinoe County. About 10 out of the 15 counties had higher sex ratio than the national average. However, there was significant decrease in the number of males compared to females observed in Bomi, Lofa, Bassa and Montserrado counties. This may be due to two reasons: Lofa and Grand Bassa were heavily affected by the Liberian Civil War, while many females migrated from rural counties to Montserrado for safety.

Fig: 2-32

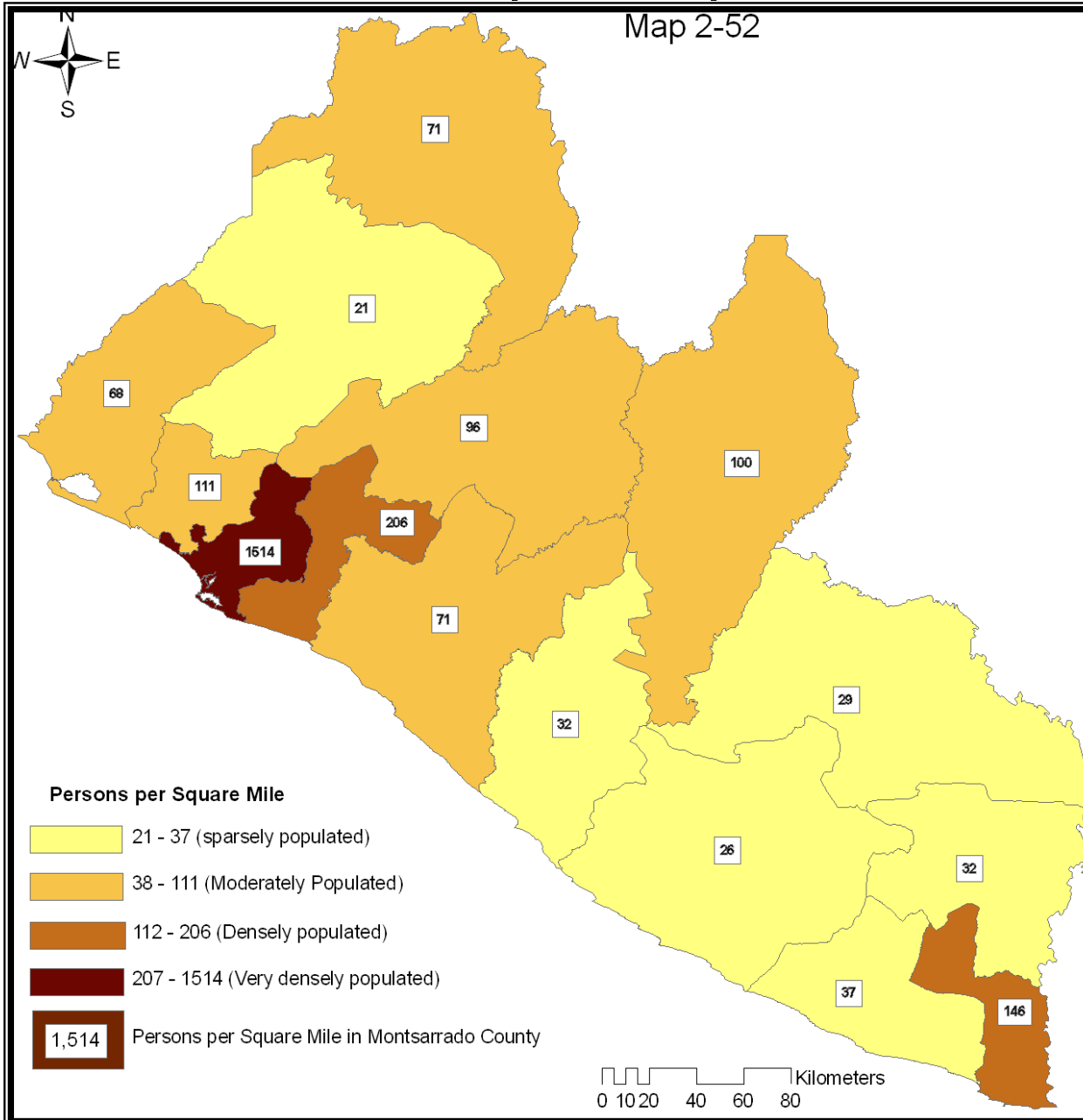


# Chapter 2: Population size and Composition



# Chapter 2: Population Size and Composition

Map 2-52



## Population Density in 2008

Population density is a measure of the man-land relationship expressed in terms of the number of persons per square kilometers or miles. In 2008, the population density of Liberia was 90 persons per square miles representing a 60.7 percent rise over the figure of 56 attained in 1984.

Population density is classified into four categories at county level as: very densely populated (over 1000); densely populated (100-210); moderately populated (50-99) and sparsely populated (below 50). As expected of a highly urbanized area, Montserrado County was the most densely populated county in Liberia with a density of 1,514 persons per square mile and also with the smallest land area. This is because Montserrado hosts the capital city of Liberia, Monrovia.

The following counties recorded population density above average: Bong (96), Nimba (100), Bomi (111), Maryland (146), Margibi (206) and Montserrado (1,514). The rest of the counties namely : Lofa (71), Grand Bassa (71), Grand Cape Mt. (68), Grand Kru (37), River Gee (32), Rivercess (32), Grand Gedeh (29) and Sinoe (26), recorded below average.

