Correlation Between Mean Household Income and Prison Placement in Utah

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Introduction:

Many reports around the United States suggest that prisons are built in areas where income is low.

Questions:

- Does Utah follow the trend of prisons being built in counties where the household income is low?
- Which county in Utah has the most prisons?
- Does the number of prisons dictate what the average household income will be?
- What geographical trend do the prisons follow?

Results:

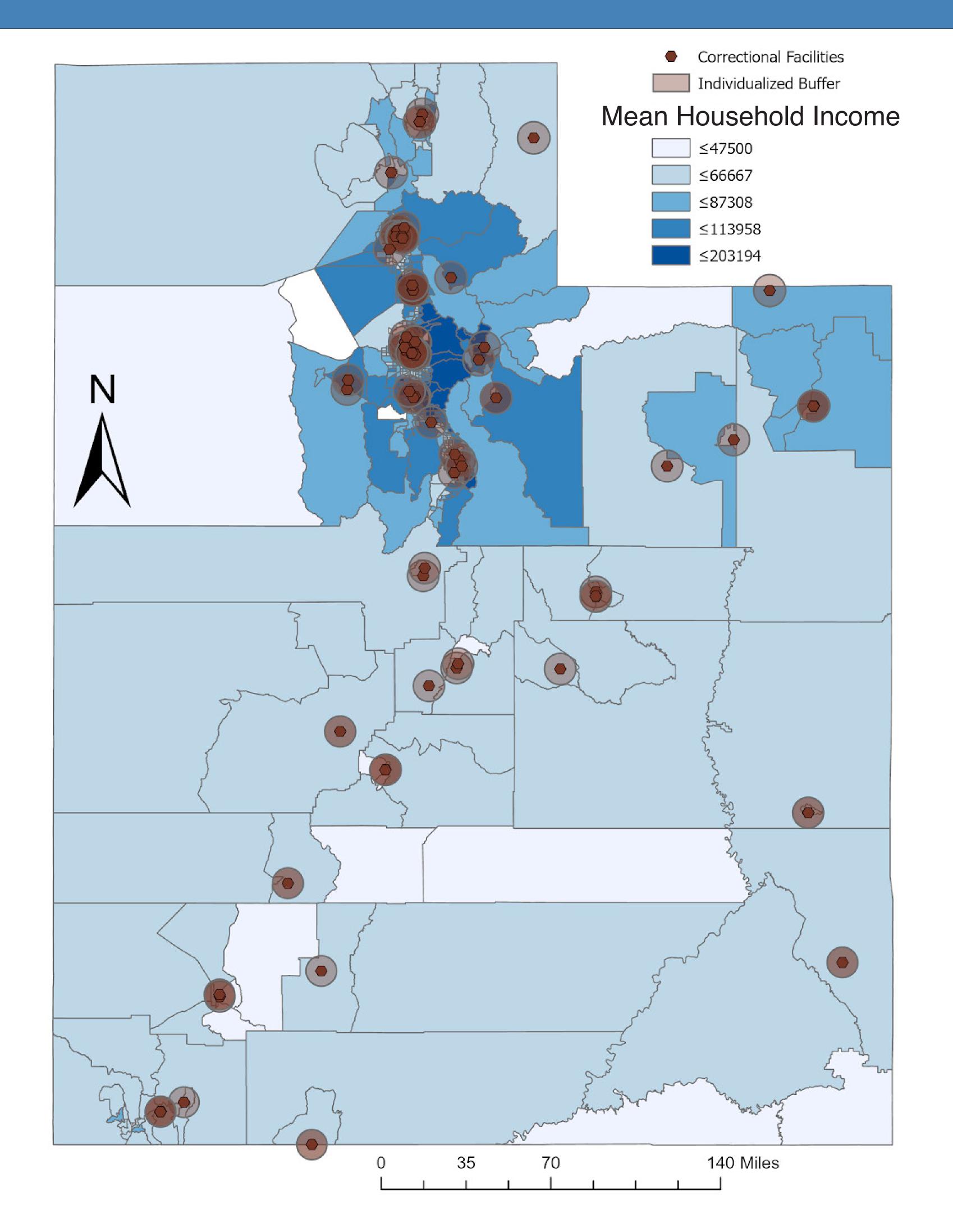
- The average household income in Utah is about \$71,435.
- The average household income within 5 miles of prisons is 64,380.
- Most prisons are located in middle class counties.
- The prisons, as they move further from the richer areas, follow a major highway.
- The greatest displacement of mean household income are those counties with 4 prisons.

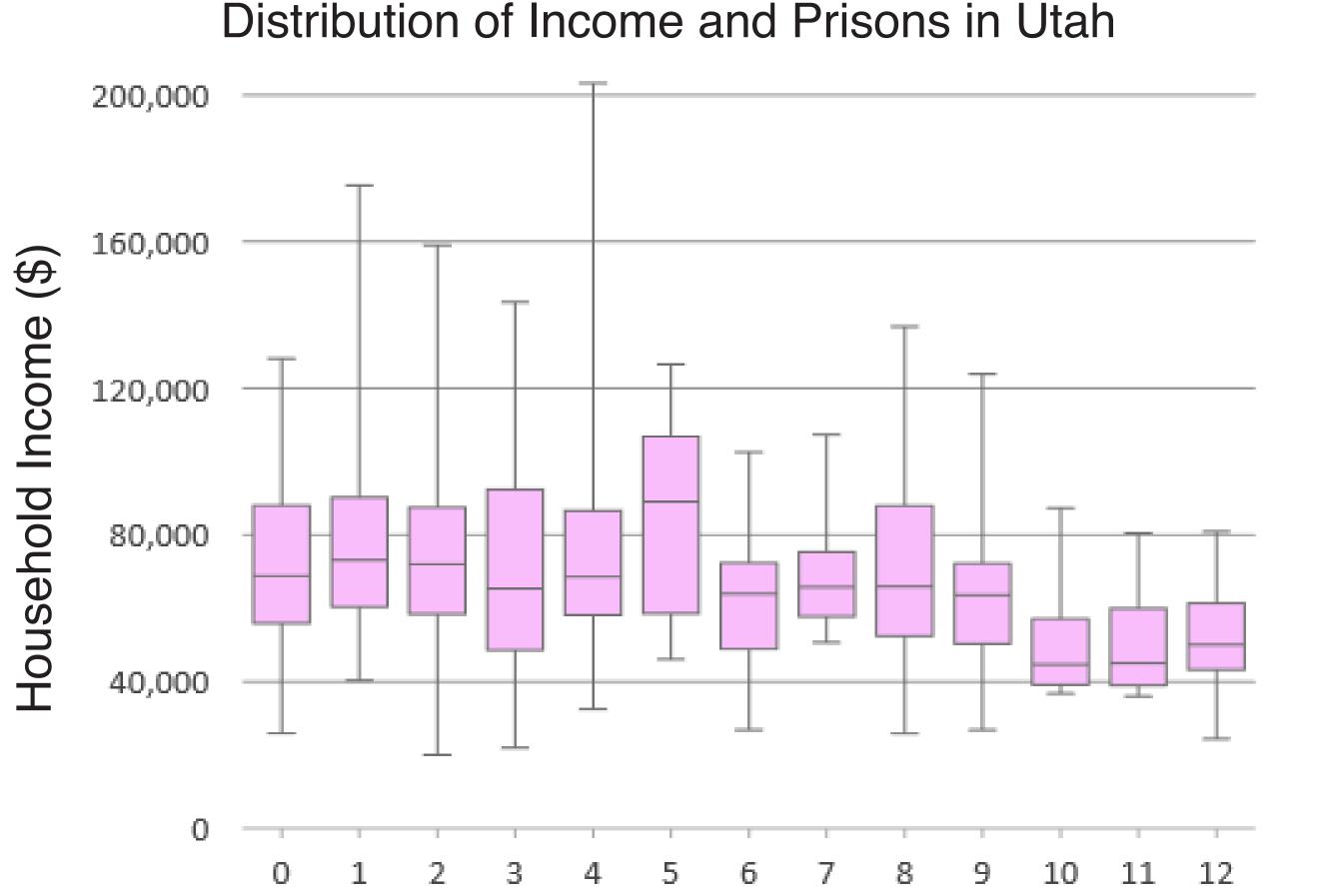
Conclusions:

- If there are between 10 and 12 prisons in the county, the displacement of average household income is lower than those with 1 to 4. This could be because many of the counties that have a larger number of prisons also are from mainly largely populated counties with cities which relies heavily on the residents making a set amount of money in order to reside in that area.
- Utah does not follow the trend of prisons being built in low income counties because the average household income of the counties within a 5-mile radius of prisons is only slightly smaller than the average household income in Utah entirely.

References:

U.S. Census Bureau
Utah Automated Reference Center
Michael Minn





Number of Prisons

