

Insight 1

Where is the largest income per capita disparities located in the contiguous United States?

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/brittney.orais.bonheimer/viz/Incomepercapitadisparity/Dashboard1?publish=yes>

This dashboard includes data on the minimum, median, and maximum income per capita by county. These results are per capita, which means the median income per person, including children and unemployed adults. By using the census tract information, which divides counties up into smaller neighborhood-sized areas, I could find the disparity in each county by comparing the census tracts with the highest income per capita and the census tracts with the lowest income per capita. The map shows the highest income disparities in shades of orange and lower disparities in shades of blue. The highest is Essex county New Jersey where one tract's median income per capita is \$118,173 and the lowest tract is \$128. This is a 99.89% difference between the tracts. There are many counties around the United States with a 0% difference in tract income per capita. This is explained by looking at the number of tracts in those counties, which all appear to be one. Census tracts are based on population size and these counties have very small populations when reviewed on the map. The county with the most census tracts is Los Angeles county with 2346 tracts and a total population of 10,038,388. This county also has one of the highest income disparities at 99.15%

I have also included the median income per capita for each county as well as a separate bar chart showing median income per capita by state. The national average is \$25,344. The bar chart shows the difference between the state median and the national average.

From these visualizations, it can be determined that many of the largest income disparities are in areas surrounding large cities, such as Los Angeles California, and New York, New York. These are also places known for high costs of living which would suggest that the poverty rates would be much higher for the people living on the lower end of the median income scale.

Many of the States with the lowest median income per capita are located in the southern part of the United States, such as Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama. It would be interesting to analyze these results next to data on the cost of living. I only included the states in the contiguous United States and left out Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico to make the map more simple to read.

Insight 2

Do Unemployment rates affect poverty levels?

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/brittney.orais.bonheimer/viz/StatepovertypercentagesvsUnemploymentrates/Dashboard2?publish=yes>

This is a dashboard that shows two visualizations of the same data. The bubble size on the first visualization reflects the rate of unemployment in each state. The color is the poverty rate. Looking at this, you can see the size difference isn't very large and the colors are different for bubbles around the same size. This would suggest that poverty rates may be different in places where unemployment rates are the same.

The one outlier is Puerto Rico. It has the largest unemployment rate at 19.65% and the largest poverty rate at 46.75%. Puerto Rico is an island and a US territory. It has also had a history of devastating hurricanes. These factors may explain why the unemployment and poverty rates are much higher.

The second visualization shows the poverty rate as bars and the unemployment rate as markers on the bars. This makes it easier to see if there is any correlation between poverty and unemployment rates. It appears that most states have similar unemployment rates even though some have much higher poverty rates. New Hampshire has the lowest poverty rate at 9.71% and has an unemployment rate of 5.82%. The lowest unemployment rate is in North Dakota at 2.93% with a poverty rate of 11.79%.

These findings could suggest that poverty rates are more affected by some other factors such as median income or cost of living.

Insight 3

What are the differences between the state with the largest average income and the state with the smallest average income?

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/brittney.orais.bonheimer/viz/Differencesinstateswithlargestaverageincomeandsmallestaverageincome/Dashboard3?publish=yes>

This dashboard analyzes different factors for two states. Mississippi has the smallest average income, and Maryland has the largest. The maps of each state show average, minimum and maximum incomes by county. They are calculated by census tract, which is roughly the size of a neighborhood. The data shows that Maryland's average household income is \$78,765.40, while Mississippi's is \$38,909.92. Even though Mississippi is larger in size, the population of Maryland is much larger at 5,930,538 compared to 2,988,081. It appears there are slightly more professional jobs in Maryland with 33.43%, the remaining job categories are very similar in their percentages.

The diversity of both states is similar at around 52% white population. Mississippi has a larger black population of 41.12% and Maryland with 30.31%. Maryland has a larger Hispanic and Asian population.

The states have very different poverty rates with Mississippi at a 24.80% poverty rate and a 34.09% child poverty rate. Maryland is an 11.09% poverty rate and a 14.14% child poverty rate.

With this data, the main differences I am seeing are the population and poverty rates. Since Maryland has a higher population in a smaller area with large cities within the state and surrounding areas, including Washington DC, I believe the differences in average income are due to the cost of living and higher wages. Mississippi is larger with a smaller population which would suggest it is more rural and the cost of living is most likely to be a lot less. There is a much higher poverty rate as well which suggests that more of the population is making less than the actual cost of living even if it is lower than in other areas.

Resources:

United States Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/>