Income Inequality Predicting Incarcarceration Rates

Research Question: Is there a correlation between income inequality and incarceration rates across economically advanced countries?

Variables:
Independent: Gini Coefficient: Economic measure of income inequality
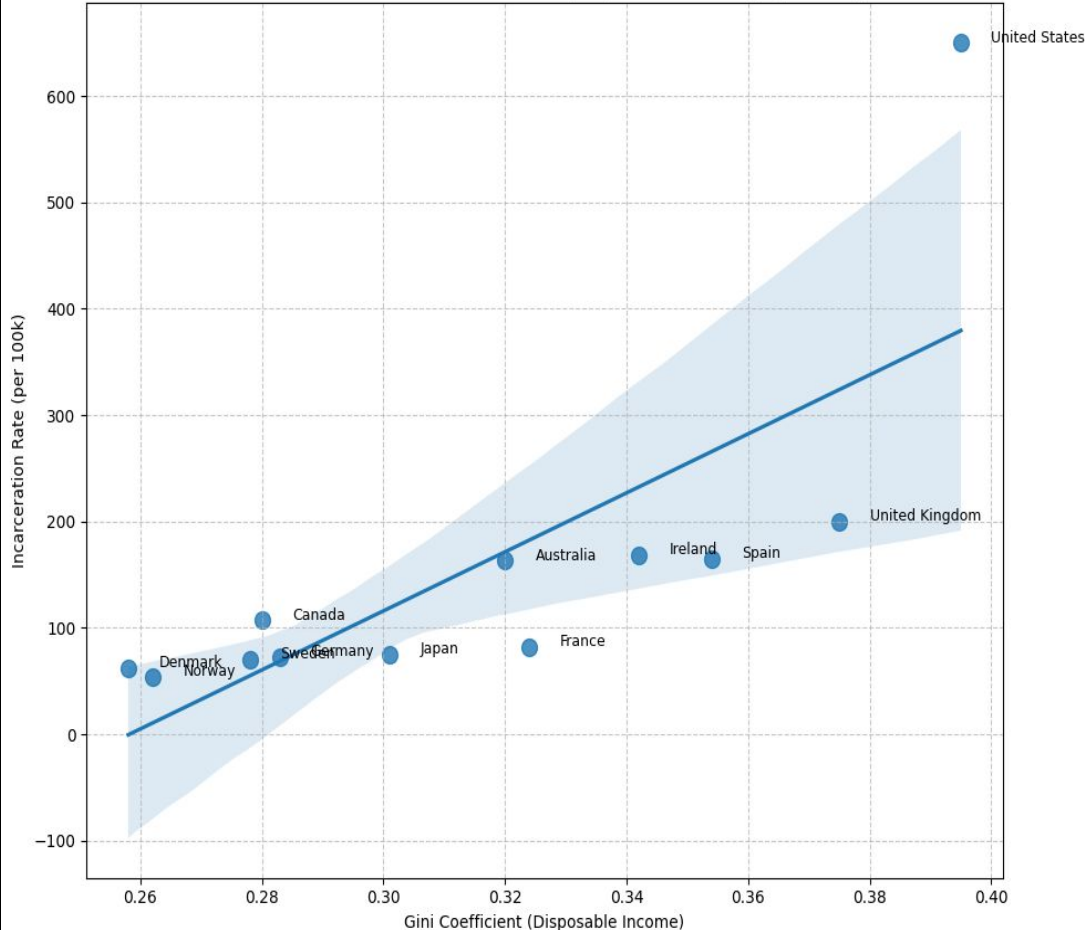Dependant: Incarceration rate per 100,000

Key Findings:

Hiigher inequality, higher incarceration: Countries with greater income gaps tend to have markedly higher incarceration rates, suggesting a strong social link between economic disparity and the justice system.

Statistical support: The positive relationship between the Gini coefficient and incarceration is significant ($p = 0.004$), meaning the association is unlikely due to chance.

Atrocious America: Not only does America easily have the highest income inequality in my study, but its incarceration rates are triple those of the next highest nation, Great Britain, making it a statistical outlier.

Incarceration Rate vs Gini Coefficient (Disposable Income) by Country

Conclusion:
- Only 12 applicable nations had the needed data from the same year
- Income Inequality (Gini coefficient) is a strong predictor of incarceration rates per 100,000 among wealthy nations, although more data is needed.
- Perhaps we should address inequality issues instead of increasing criminalization