

ANSWERS

Volume 3a: Demographic Effects - Possible Impacts of Constructing a Correctional Facility in the Tooele Valley Region May 2015



If the proposed Utah State Correctional Facility were to be developed within the Tooele Valley region, Tooele City, Grantsville City, and Tooele County should expect to see some resulting population growth as corrections employees and their families relocate over time to be proximate to their place of employment. Table 1 indicates the potential population increase the area could experience as Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) employees relocate according to their current commuting patterns.

Table 1: Potential Population Growth

	Grantsville City			Tooele City		
	Current	Change	Difference	Current	Change	Difference
Population	9,617	192	2.0%	32,342	1,030	3.18%
School Enrollment	2,564*	49	1.91%	7,837*	262	3.34%
Corrections Employees	2	54	2700%	7	289	4128%

Source: Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel's analysis of data from the Utah Department of Corrections, the Utah State Office of Education, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2015.

It can be reasonably assumed that a majority of UDC correctional facility employees will eventually relocate around the proposed facility consistent with their current commuting patterns at the Draper facility. In other words, over time it is likely that correctional facility employees will eventually become geographically stratified around the new facility in roughly the same pattern as they are now. For example, since 20.6% of current employees of the Draper facility have a 20-30 minute commute to the facility, it can be assumed that, following a reasonable transition period, approximately the same percentage of employees would have a 20-30 minute commute to the new facility.

Table 2: UDC Employees' Proximity to Draper

Drive Time (minutes)	Percent Employees	Number of Employees
50 - 60	2.4%	17
40 - 50	5.7%	41
30 - 40	22.7%	164
20 - 30	20.6%	149
10 - 20	41.1%	297
0 - 10	7.6%	55

The analysis was performed by first mapping the current commute travel times for each UDC employee to the Draper facility. The drive time was then calculated for each employee to a new facility located in or around Grantsville. Employees were then segmented into groups according to the length of their commutes (Table 2).

For purposes of this analysis an eight-year transition period has been assumed. There are no other cities or towns within a 10-minute drive of Grantsville City. Tooele City is the only community within a 20-minute drive of Grantsville (excepting Stansbury Park). It can be reasonably assumed that over time, all correctional facility employees commuting less than 10 minutes would live in Grantsville. Furthermore, all correctional employees within a 10-20 minute commute would live in or around Tooele City.

After calculating how many employees might live in each community over time, U.S. Census data concerning average household sizes was used to calculate the population increases the community might expect, including the number of school-aged children which may also move into each community. To ensure data was used that reflects the demographics of a typical corrections employee, U.S. Census data was adjusted to exclude individuals who are not of working age. Table 3 provides a conservative estimate of the magnitude of population increases the cities of Grantsville and Tooele might experience over an eight-year period as employees relocate, retire, and are newly hired.

Table 3: Demographic Changes over Correctional Facility Transition Period

Number of Locational Changes		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Totals
Total Locational Changes		198	162	70	57	51	42	35	29	643
Grantsville	Employee Increase	15	12	6	5	4	4	4	3	54
	Cumulative Employee Total	17	29	36	41	45	49	53	56	
	Total Population Increase	54	44	23	19	16	13	14	11	192
	School Age Increase (5-18 years)	14	11	6	5	4	3	3	3	49
	Cumulative School Age Children Increase	14	25	31	35	39	43	46	49	
Tooele	Employee Increase	81	67	29	24	24	20	24	20	289
	Cumulative Employee Total	88	155	184	208	232	252	276	296	
	Total Population Increase	290	237	104	85	86	71	87	71	1,030
	School Age Increase (5-18 years)	74	60	26	22	22	18	22	18	262
	Cumulative School Age Children Increase	74	134	160	182	203	221	243	262	
Employees Commuting	Number Commuting 0-10 minutes	17	29	36	41	45	49	53	56	
	Number Commuting 10-20 minutes	88	155	184	208	232	252	276	296	
	Number commuting 20-30 minutes	57	90	105	116	127	135	143	149	
	Number commuting 30-40 minutes	142	179	194	207	219	228	193	164	
	Number commuting 40-50 minutes	117	126	130	134	83	41	41	41	
	Number commuting 50-60 minutes	140	143	74	17	17	17	17	17	
	Number commuting 60 minutes +	162	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Source: Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel's analysis of data from the Utah Department of Corrections and the U.S. Census Bureau, 2015.

The infusion of corrections employees into the host community of the new correctional facility will bring stable, recession-proof jobs. As employees purchase houses, shop, dine, and live in the community, it will boost the local economy. Additionally, corrections officers are trained in law enforcement techniques and are upstanding, vigilant community members. They are good neighbors, will be the eyes and ears of the community, and will help make the community in which they live a safer place for everyone.

*2014 fall enrollment in all public schools in the Tooele School District. Does not include private or charter schools.

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