Indicators of Neighborhood Distress

Research Questions:
Is there a geographic pattern of crimes in Howard County?
Are these crimes clustered? Any hot spot?

Data in Analysis:
- CDS (controlled dangerous substance) arrests
- Prostitution
- Robbery

Data Source: Howard County

Howard County Demographics
- Owner-occupied housing unit rate (2010-2014): 73.3%
- Median Income: $110,133
- Persons in Poverty: 6.1%
- Bachelor’s Degree or Higher: 60.4%

Source: Howard County Census Data (2016)

Conclusion:
Most of CDS arrests and robberies occurred in eastern and southern areas of the Howard County and there is a hotspot of those incidents in cities, particularly around Columbia Town Center. More attentions should be given to Waterloo where there is a hotspot of prostitutions reported.

There are factors that affect these crimes, including density of population, low income and % of population needing government assistance. More research is needed to determine the exact causes of the geographic distribution of these crimes in Howard County.
