

ANSWERS

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



If the proposed Utah State Correctional Facility were to be developed in the Cedar Valley region of Utah County, the surrounding areas 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

	Fairfield			Eagle Mountain/Cedar Fort		
	Current	Change	Difference	Current	Change	Difference
Population	122	193	158.20%	24,217	837	3.46%
School Enrollment	—*	49	—*	10,350**	212	2.05%
Corrections Employees	1	54	5400%	62	235	379%

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 the Cedar Valley area. 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. The only population center within a 10-minute drive of central Cedar Valley is Fairfield. Within a 20-minute commute lies Eagle Mountain City and Cedar Fort. It can be reasonably assumed that over time, all correctional facility employees commuting less than 10 minutes would live in or around Fairfield and all correctional employees with a 10-20 minute commute would live in or around Eagle Mountain City or Cedar Fort.

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 Fairfield, Cedar Fort, and Eagle Mountain City 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	12	10	44	36	128	110	61	69	471
Fairfield	Employee Increase		1	1	3	3	11	9	7	20	54
	Cumulative Employee Total		2	3	6	9	20	29	35	55	
	Total Population Increase		4	3	12	10	38	32	24	70	193
	School Age Increase (5-18 years)		1	1	3	3	10	8	6	18	49
	Cumulative School Age Children Increase		1	2	5	7	17	25	31	49	
Eagle Mountain/ Cedar Fort	Employee Increase		5	4	18	15	57	49	36	50	235
	Cumulative Employee Total		67	71	90	105	162	211	247	297	
	Total Population Increase		18	14	66	54	204	175	129	177	837
	School Age Increase (5-18 years)		5	4	17	14	52	44	33	45	212
	Cumulative School Age Children Increase		5	8	25	39	90	135	168	212	
Employees Commuting	Number Commuting 0-9 Minutes		2	3	6	9	20	29	35	55	
	Number Commuting 10-19 Minutes		67	71	90	105	162	211	247	297	
	Number Commuting 20-29 Minutes		127	130	139	146	175	200	218	149	
	Number Commuting 30-39 Minutes		146	148	158	167	198	225	164	164	
	Number Commuting 40-49 Minutes		274	274	277	279	151	41	41	41	
	Number Commuting 50-59 Minutes		97	98	54	17	17	17	17	17	
	Number Commuting 60 Minutes +		10	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.

*A site for a new correctional facility has not yet been selected. The analysis assume a measuring point between Fairfield and southern Eagle Mountain and does not assume a specific parcel under the PRC's consideration. While school children may live within a 10-minute commute of the assumed measuring point, there are no schools within a 10-minute commute.

**2014 fall enrollment in all public schools within 10 and 20 minutes of central Cedar Valley respectively. Does not include private or charter schools.

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