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
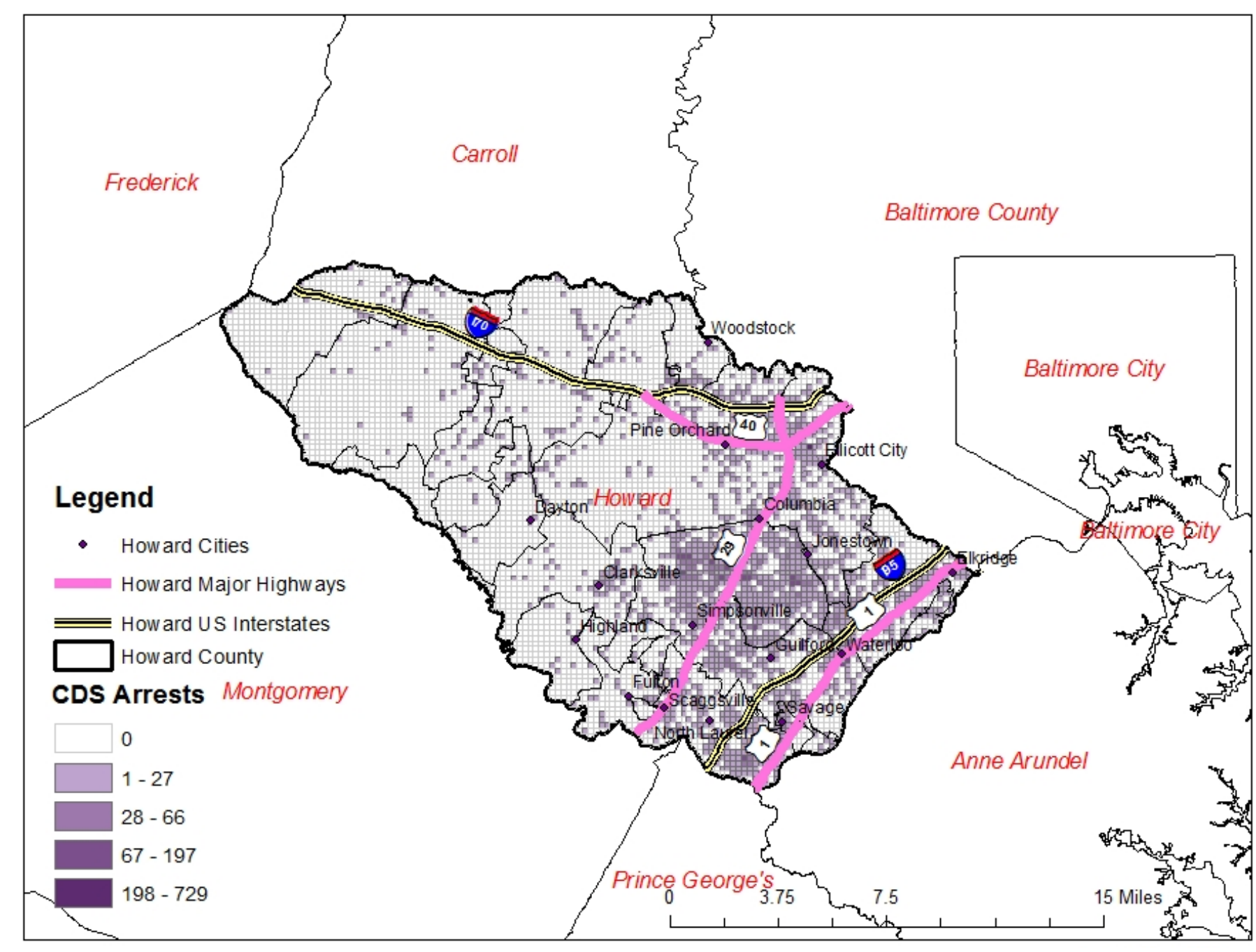
Howard County Demographics
Population Estimate (2015): 313,414
Owner-occupied housing unit rate (2010-2014): 73.3%
Median Income: $110,133
Persons in Poverty- 6.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 60.4%
Source: Howard County Census Data (2016)

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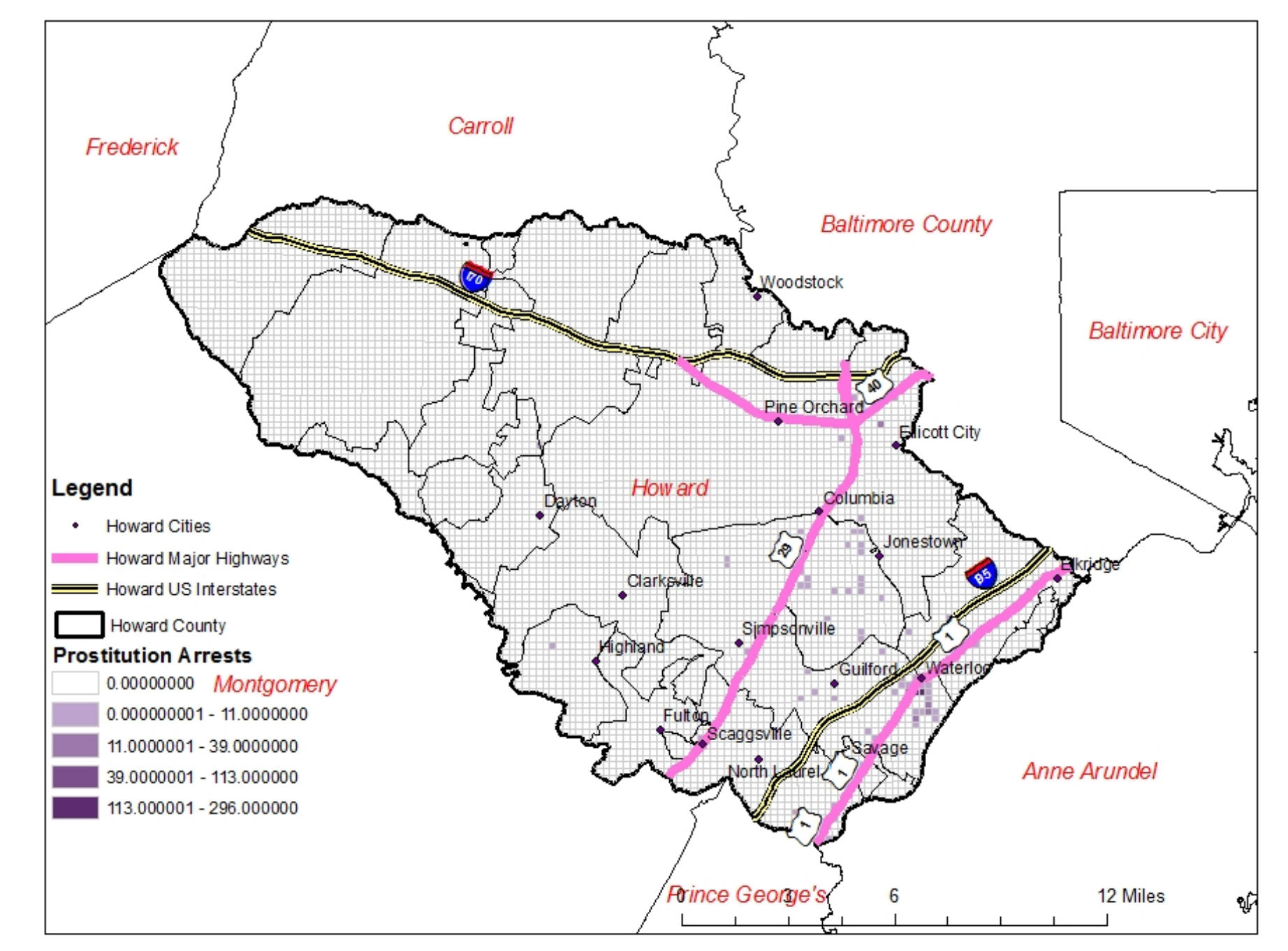There are factors that affect these crimes, including density of population, low income and % of population needing government assistance. More research is needed to determine the exact causes of the geographic distribution of these crimes in Howard County.

Teh, B. Do Liquor Stores Increase Crime and Urban Decay? Evidence from Los Angeles.
Wolfe, S. E., & Pyrooz, D. C. (2014). Rolling Back Prices and Raising Crime Rates? The Walmart Effect on Crime in the United States. British Journal of Criminology, 54(2), 199-221. doi:10.1093/bjc/azt071
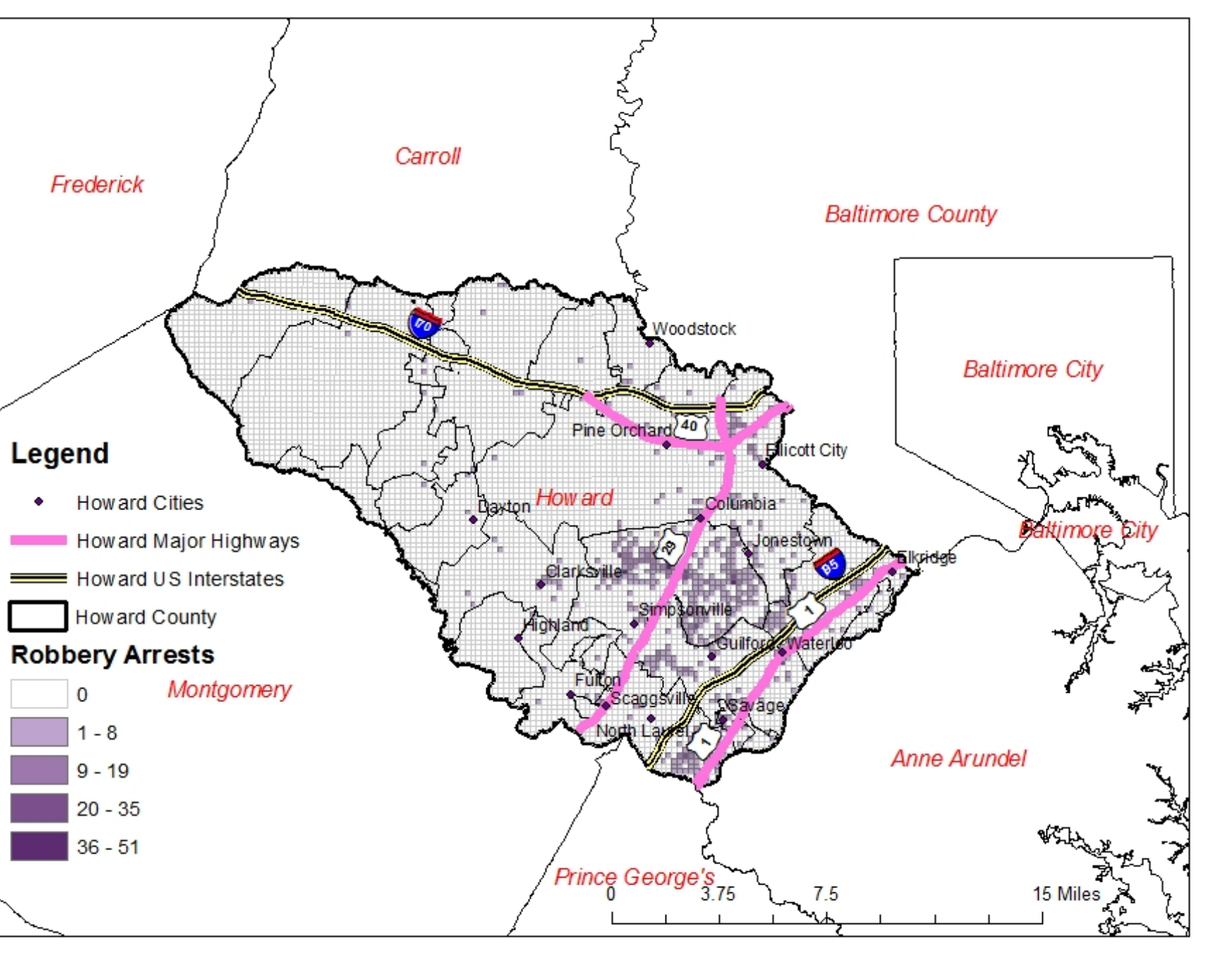Howard County Census Data. (2016). Retrieved April 27, 2016.

CHOROPLETH MAP: CDS ARRESTS IN HOWARD COUNTY, 2005-2015
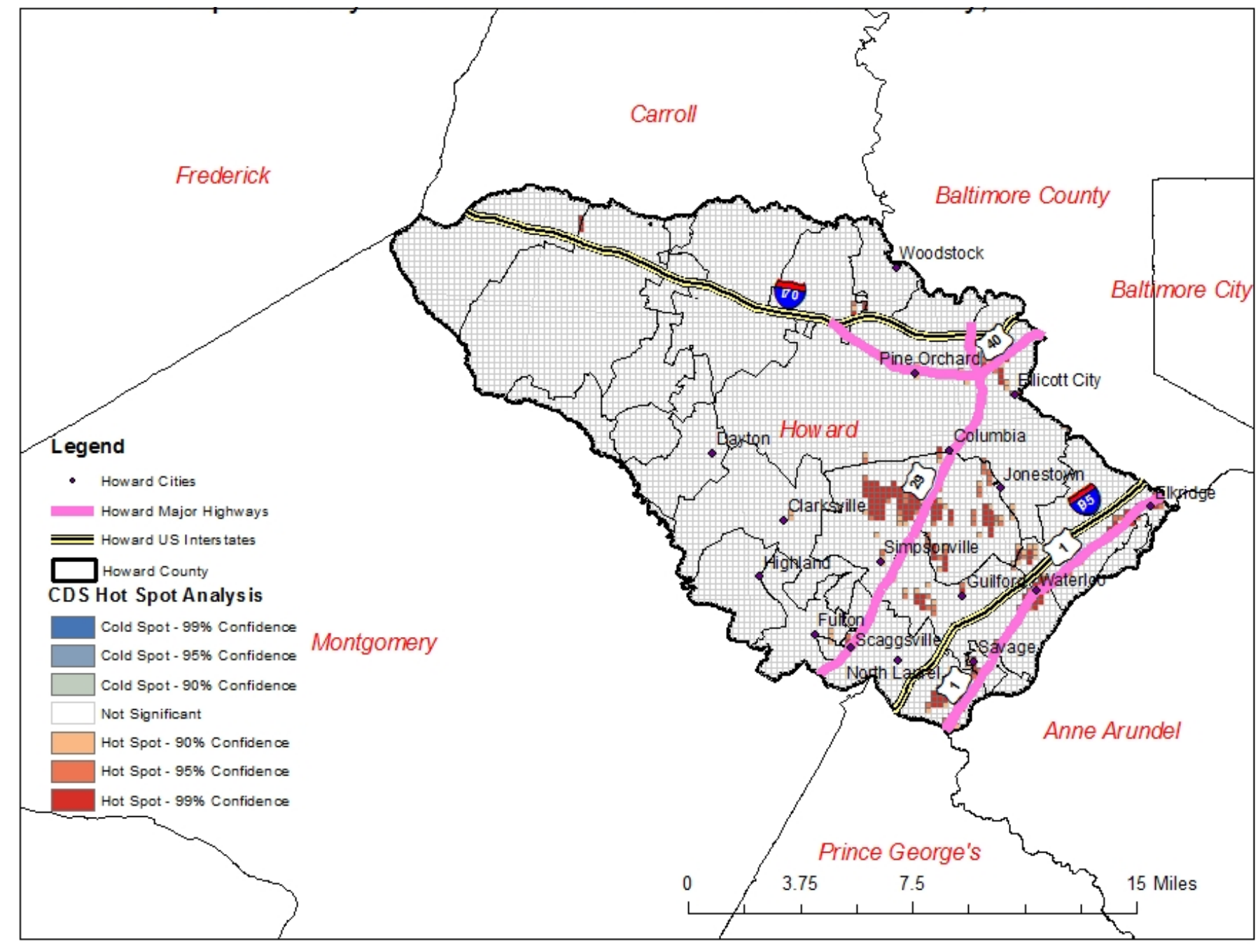

CHOROPLETH MAP: PROSTITUTION IN HOWARD COUNTY, 2005-2015
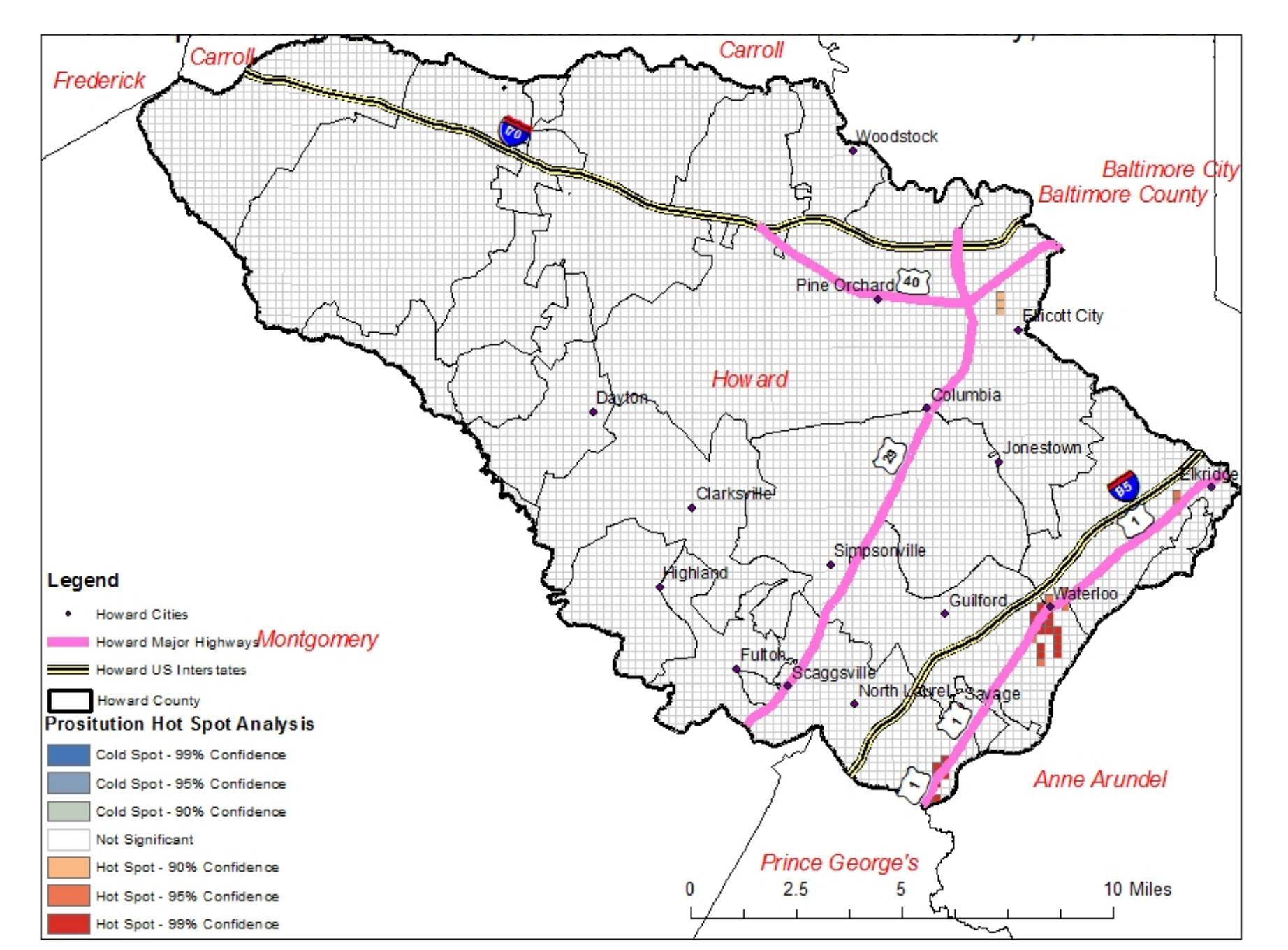

CHOROPLETH MAP: ROBBERY IN HOWARD COUNTY, 2005-2015

HOT SPOT ANALYSIS: CDS ARRESTS IN HOWARD COUNTY, 2005-2015

HOT SPOT ANALYSIS: PROSTITUTION IN HOWARD COUNTY, 2005-2015

HOT SPOT ANALYSIS: ROBBERY IN HOWARD COUNTY, 2005-2015

SPRING 2014

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