



Income Distribution Along Fifth Avenue In New York City



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Abstract

This study analyzes the relationship between key socioeconomic variables and distance along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. My hypothesis is that there is an inverse relationship between distance from key nodes, such as Central Park and variables such as income. Commercial activities may have a direct impact on socioeconomic conditions. Analysis involved six steps: 1) attribute data development in the form of socioeconomic data for block groups; 2) acquiring shape files for block groups along Fifth Avenue; 3) attribute and spatial data joins for geospatial analysis; 4) mapping for visualizing spatial patterns; 5) graphical and statistical analysis; and 6) the evaluation of results. Attribute data used were obtained in electronic form from ESRI Business Analyst. I did some preliminary analysis before going into the field. Field work in New York (March 13-20, 2008) allowed me to: 1) acquire additional "on-the-ground" data and understanding of the problem; 2) personally observe the dynamics of the process under consideration; 3) take photographs to add an additional visual element to my analysis; and 4) interview and thank data sources in the city. Final results will be presented as cartographic, graphical, and statistical outcomes providing a basis for accepting (or rejecting) my hypothesis.



Start



End

Conclusions:

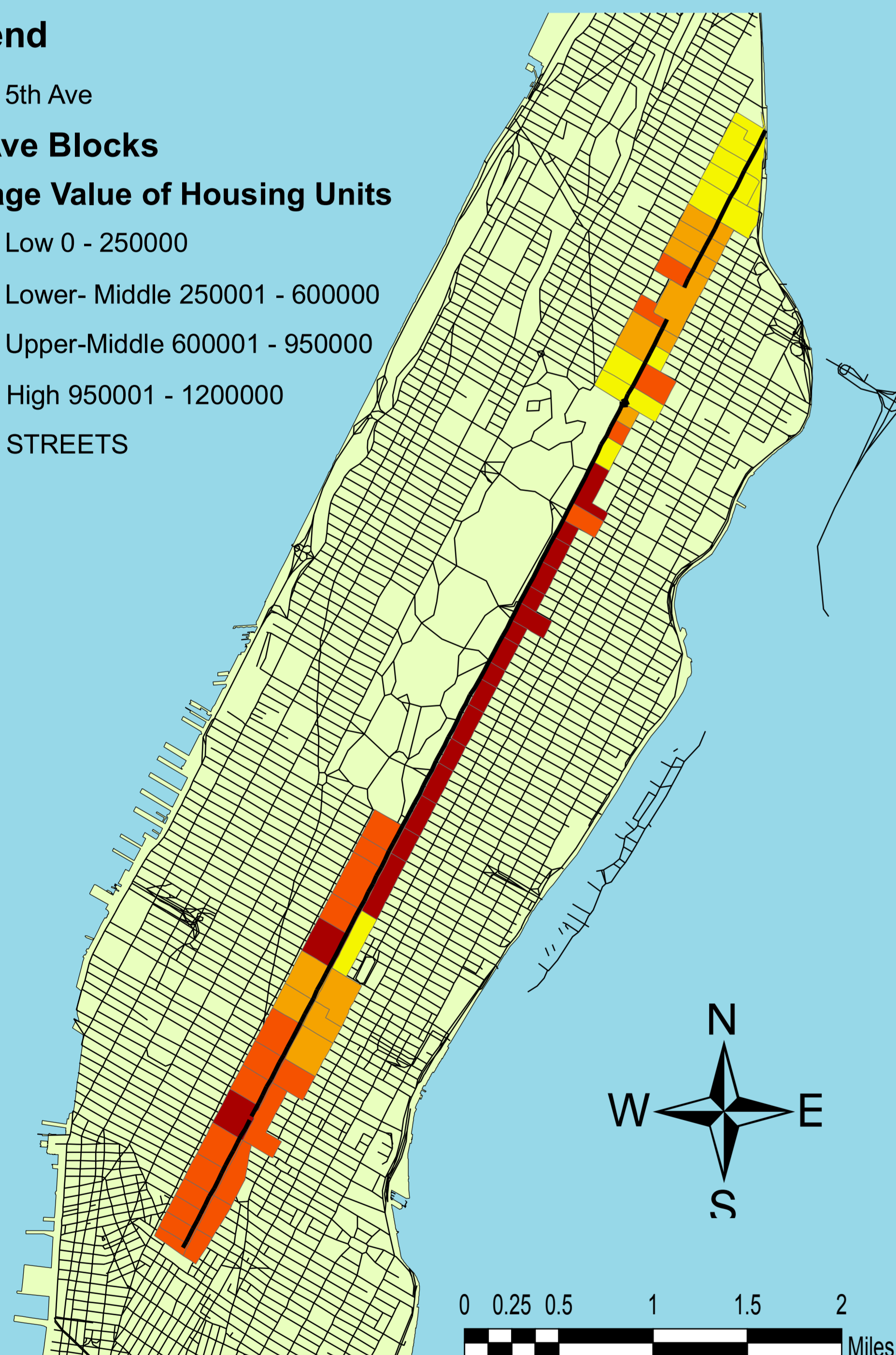
My hypothesis is correct; there is an inverse relationship between the distance from Central Park and the amount of income per capita. By Central Park is the highest Income levels averaging between \$120,001 and \$350,000. These high incomes are associated with an older population around Central Park, meaning that this is "old money" or high overall wealth areas. As you drift away from Central Park going north into Harlem the income levels drop dramatically into less than \$40,000 per capita. Higher household size and lower median age combined with low income per capita equals lower overall living situations. This explains why Harlem is a low income area and has poor housing values. As you go south from Central Park you drop into the Lower-Middle to the Upper Middle income brackets. This area is shown as more of the business residential area, meaning high income with low household size. This is the group that will move into the Central Park area when they accumulate more wealth. Central Park proves to be where everyone wants to be, and many will pay what it takes to live there.

Acknowledgements:

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Legend

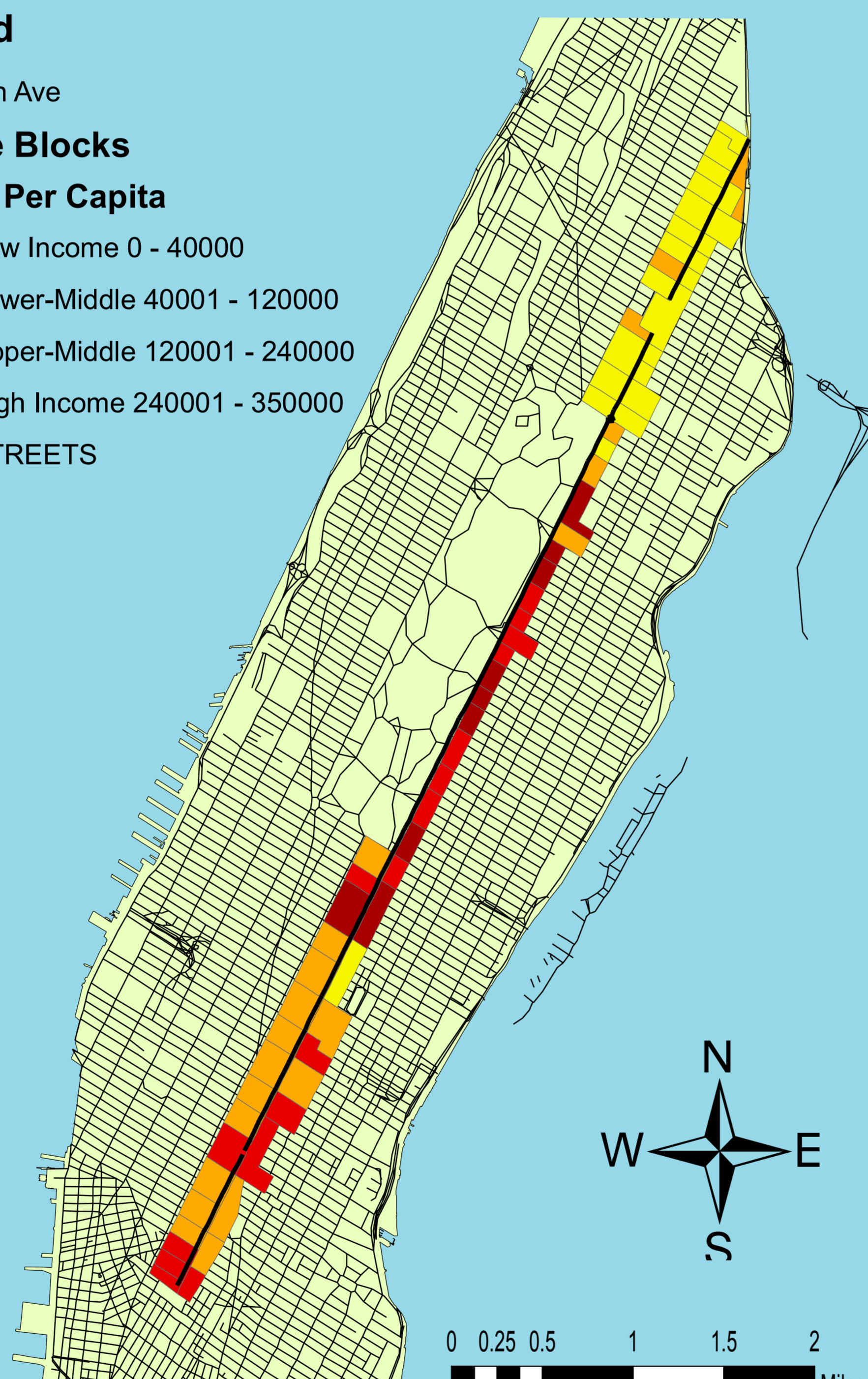
- 5th Ave
- 5th Ave Blocks**
- Average Value of Housing Units**
- Low 0 - 250000
- Lower-Middle 250001 - 600000
- Upper-Middle 600001 - 950000
- High 950001 - 1200000
- STREETS



Average Value of Housing Values

Legend

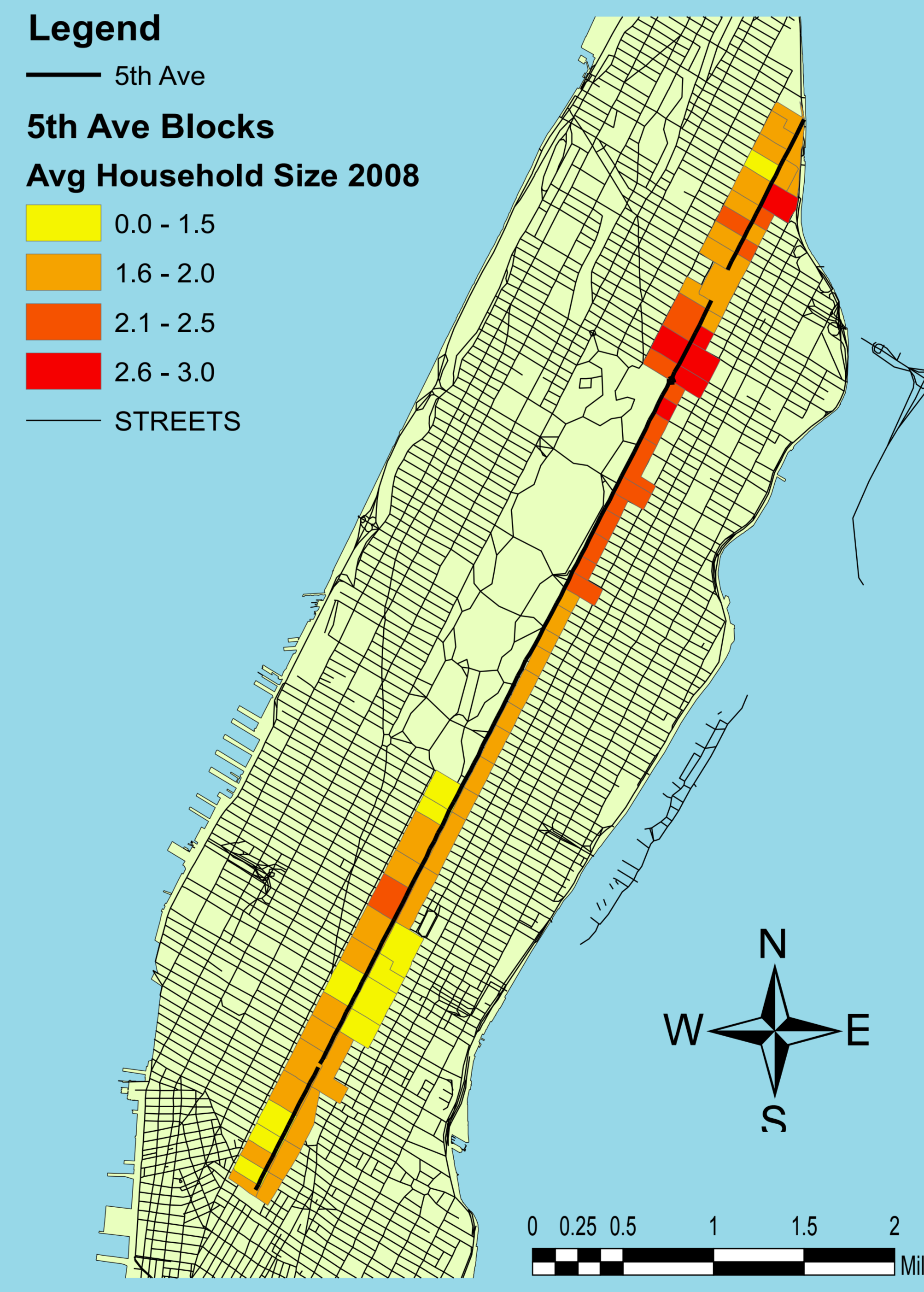
- 5th Ave
- 5th Ave Blocks**
- Income Per Capita**
- Low Income 0 - 40000
- Lower-Middle 40001 - 120000
- Upper-Middle 120001 - 240000
- High Income 240001 - 350000
- STREETS



Income Per Capita

Legend

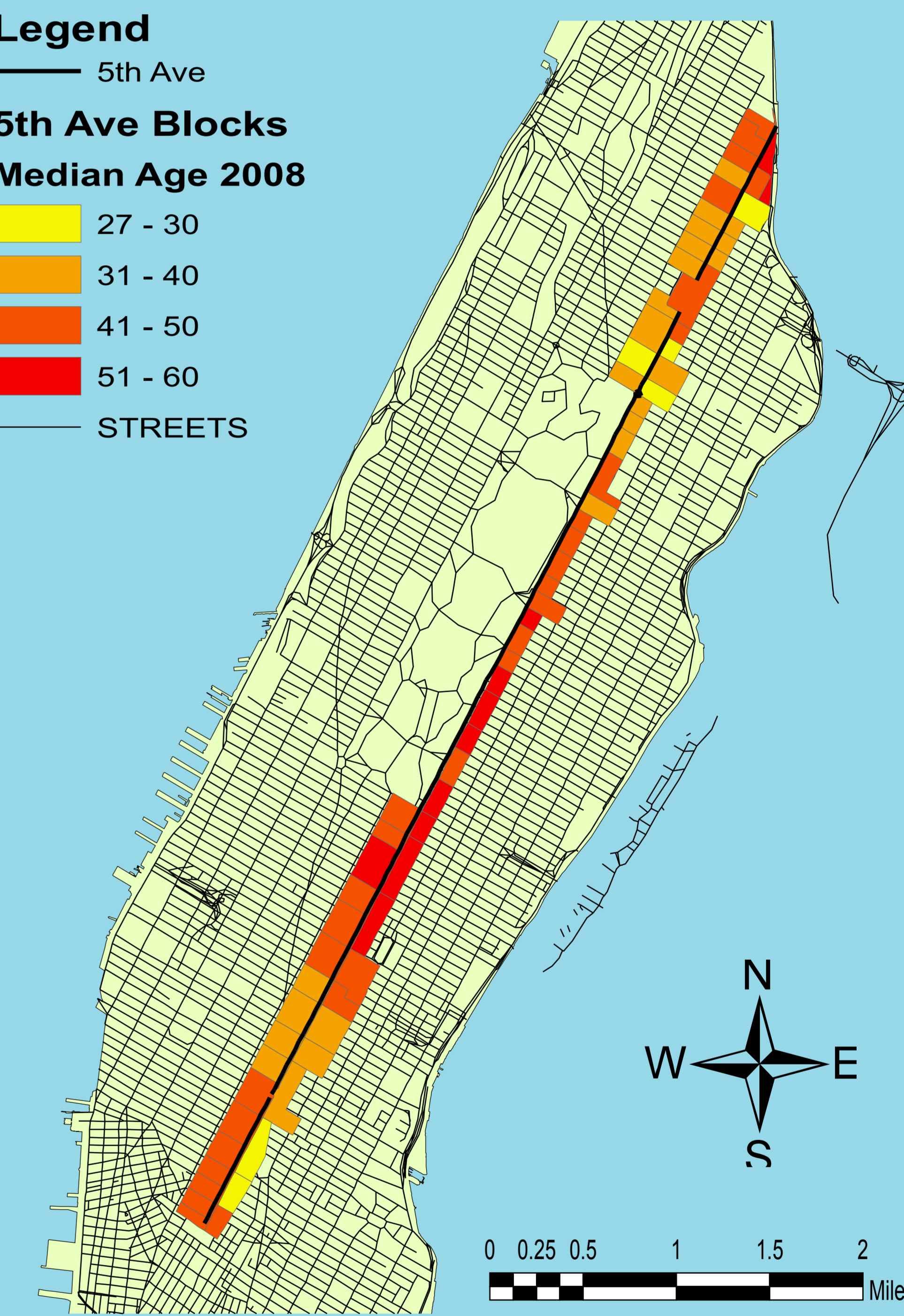
- 5th Ave
- 5th Ave Blocks**
- Avg Household Size 2008**
- 0.0 - 1.5
- 1.6 - 2.0
- 2.1 - 2.5
- 2.6 - 3.0
- STREETS



Average Household Size per Block

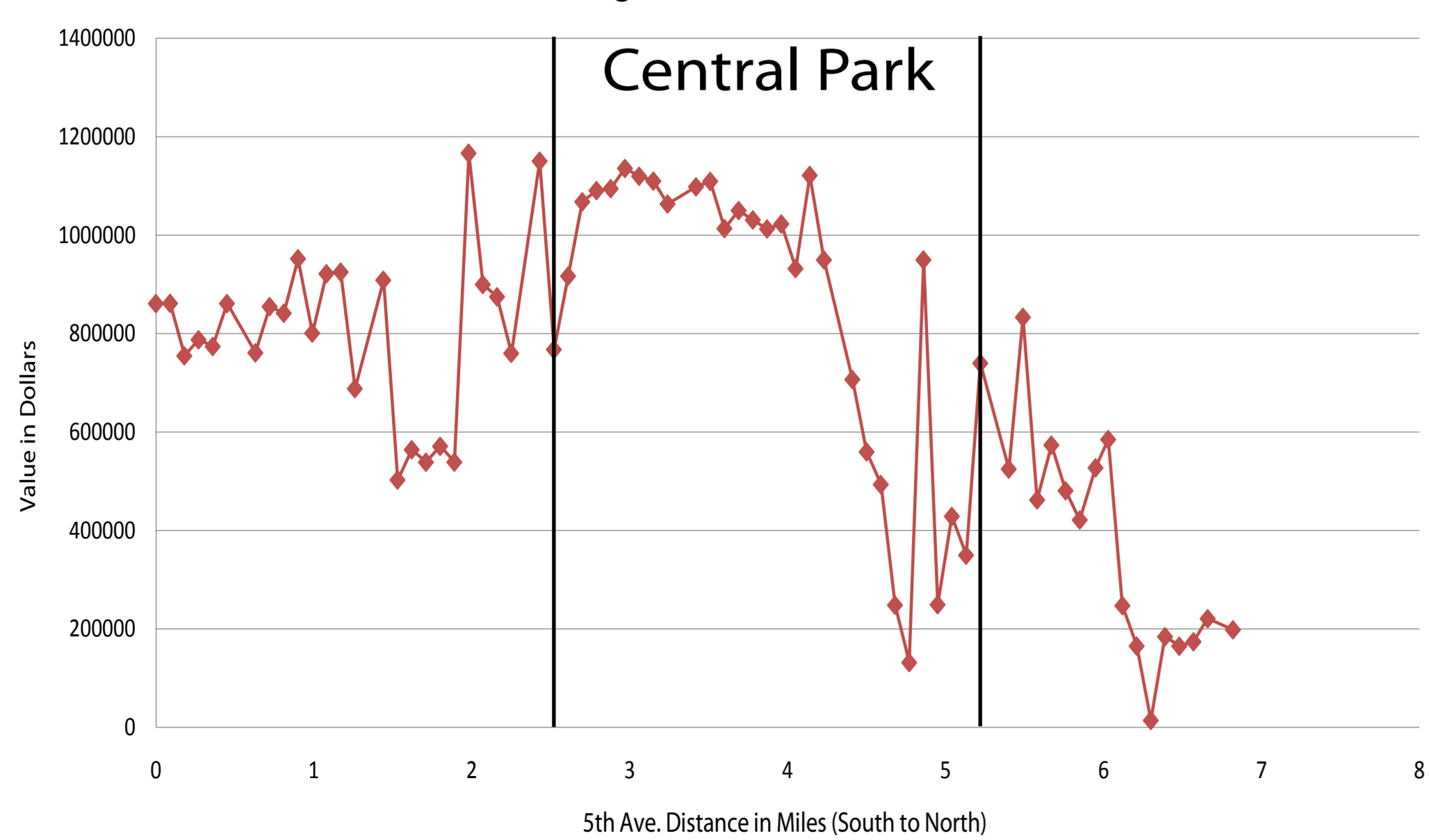
Legend

- 5th Ave
- 5th Ave Blocks**
- Median Age 2008**
- 27 - 30
- 31 - 40
- 41 - 50
- 51 - 60
- STREETS

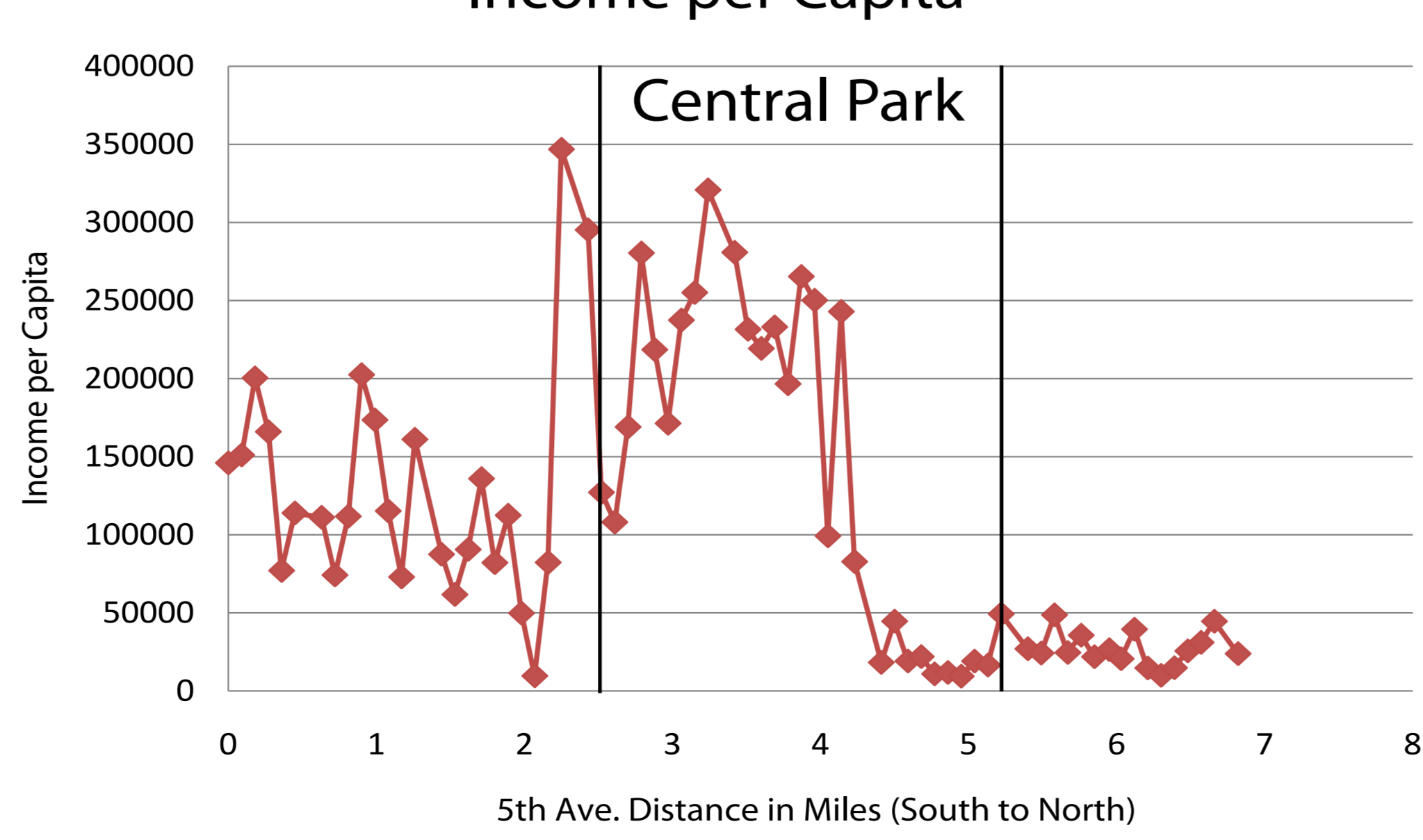


Median Age per Block

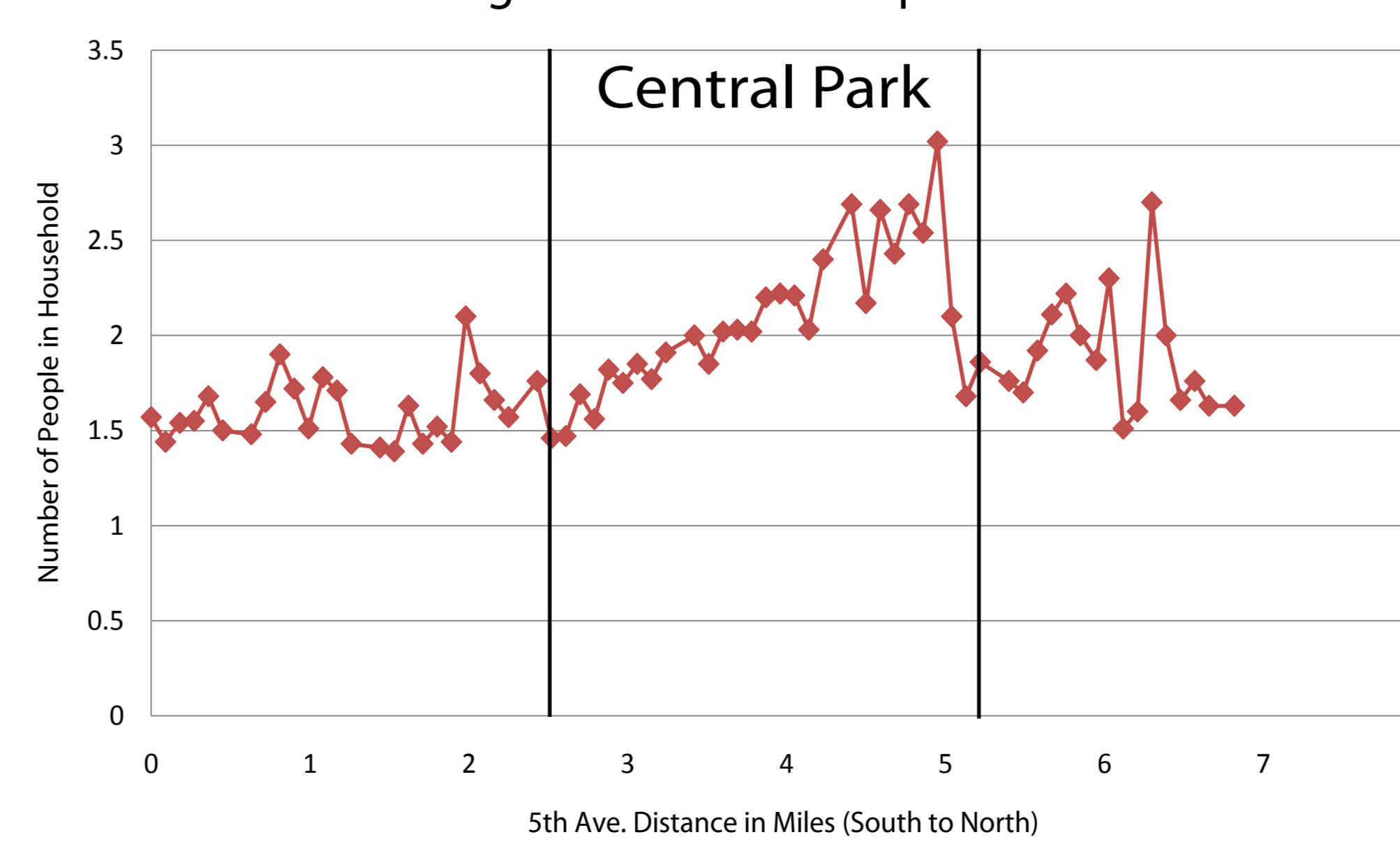
Average Value of Homes



Income per Capita



Average Household Size per Block



Median Age per Block

