



ELSEVIER



Corey and the Auto-thieves: The Name-Association Conundrum in New York City

Charlotte Henderson, Ava Thompson, Gemma P Todd

Center for Higher Learning; Stanford, California

Abstract

The study aims to investigate the peculiar yet perplexing relationship between the prevalence of the first name "Corey" and incidents of motor vehicle theft in the bustling metropolis of New York. While seeming far-fetched and downright whimsical at first glance, our findings reveal a surprisingly strong correlation between the two. Leveraging data from the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, we calculated a correlation coefficient of 0.9832837 and a p-value of less than 0.01, spanning a period from 1985 to 2022. The implications of this study not only stir curiosity but also raise questions about the potential influence of nomenclature on criminal behavior. With a dash of humor and a hint of statistical rigor, this research sheds light on the unexpected whims of human nature and the endlessly fascinating realm of sociological oddities.

Copyright 2024 Center for Higher Learning. No rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Introduction

What's in a name, you ask? Well, apparently, quite a lot if you're a chap named Corey residing in the concrete jungle of New York City. In this study, we embark on a quirky quest to unravel the enigmatic connection between the popularity of the first name "Corey" and the epidemic of motor vehicle thefts in the Big Apple. At first, one might raise an eyebrow or two at the seemingly ludicrous premise, but as the

saying goes, truth can be stranger than fiction.

The idea that a moniker could be linked to criminal behavior may seem utterly preposterous, but our investigation uncovers a correlation so strong, it's enough to make Sherlock Holmes raise an intrigued eyebrow. Armed with data from the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, we delved into the realms of nomenclature and crime statistics, uncovering a correlation coefficient that is as eyebrow-raising as a magic show featuring a rabbit and a top hat.

As we journey through the streets of statistical analysis, we'll find ourselves pondering the peculiar power of a name - a power that apparently extends beyond the realm of "Hey, you in the blue shirt" to something as unexpected as criminal activity. Whether it's a mere coincidence or a case of nominative determinism gone wild, our investigation promises to offer both amusement and academic enlightenment.

So, strap in and prepare to be both entertained and intellectually tantalized as we navigate the improbable landscape of name-association conundrums and the perplexing world of sociological oddities. After all, it's not every day that one gets to mix statistical rigor with a sprinkle of whimsy and witticism.

2. Literature Review

The curious correlation between the first name "Corey" and motor vehicle theft in New York City has intrigued academics and enthusiasts alike, leading to a diverse array of studies ranging from the serious to the whimsical. Smith and Doe in their seminal work "The Nomenclature Nexus: Exploring Name-Association Phenomena" delve into the broader realm of name-association and its impact on societal behavior. While their work primarily focuses on the influence of names on career choices and academic performance, it lays a foundation for understanding the potential influence of names on criminal inclinations.

Jones, in a more specific study titled "Beyond Coincidence: Unraveling Name-Related Anomalies in Urban Settings," provides insights into the uncanny patterns observed in urban environments, albeit with a broader focus on various names and their unexpected connections to urban phenomena.

Taking a whimsical turn, the popular non-fiction book "Freakonomics" by Levitt and

Dubner offers an intriguing exploration of unconventional linkages and intriguing correlations in societal dynamics. While not focused on the name "Corey" in particular, its approach to uncovering unexpected relationships is relevant to our study. Similarly, "Blink" by Malcolm Gladwell, known for its examination of rapid cognition and intuitive decision-making, piques our interest with its exploration of subconscious influences that may extend to name-related phenomena.

In the realm of fiction, the classic novel "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon, though unrelated in subject matter, captivates us with its portrayal of uncovering unexpected connections and underlying patterns -- a theme that resonates with our pursuit of the Corey-vehicle theft conundrum.

On a lighter note, a social media post by a self-proclaimed armchair sociologist (@SocGeek42) humorously speculated on whether the name "Corey" possessed a mysterious allure that attracted both admirers and auto-thieves alike. While not a scholarly source, the post, with its tongue-in-cheek tone, underscores the public's apparent intrigue with the Corey-name phenomenon, highlighting the intersection of societal curiosity and playful speculation.

As we plunge into the depths of name-association oddities, these diverse sources beckon us to consider both the serious and the whimsical, reminding us that in the world of academia, there's room for a pun or two amidst the scholarly rigor.

3. Our approach & methods

Saddle up, fellow curious minds, as we ride through the wild and wacky world of methodology. Our approach combines the finesse of a seasoned detective with the precision of a meticulously organized librarian - all in the pursuit of uncovering the

mysterious link between the name "Corey" and the shadowy world of motor vehicle theft.

Data Collection

Like intrepid treasure hunters, we scoured the vast expanse of the digital realm, sifting through data from the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services. We collected information spanning from 1985 to 2022, casting a wide net to capture the ebb and flow of both Corey popularity and motor vehicle theft incidents.

The "Corey" Factor

To gauge the prevalence of the name "Corey," we analyzed the frequency of newborns christened with this curious appellation. We then cross-referenced this data with the census of motor vehicle thefts in the city that never sleeps – yes, New York City. The juxtaposition of these two disparate sets of information allowed us to investigate the potential interplay between nomenclature and nefarious activities.

Statistical Wizardry

After assembling our data trove, we enlisted the aid of statistical tools that would make even the most seasoned mathematician nod with approval. With the precision of a surgeon and the discernment of a wine connoisseur, we calculated correlation coefficients and p-values that would make heads spin (in a scientific, not sinister, way).

The Delightful Dance of Data

Our analysis involved a pas de deux of data sets, elegantly pirouetting through multivariate regressions and time series analyses. With each step, we uncovered intricate patterns and connections, much like a detective unraveling the threads of a complex mystery. It was a veritable tango of numbers and names, with statistical software serving as our trusted dance partners.

Human Interaction (Not the Criminal Kind)

In the spirit of academic camaraderie, we engaged in animated discussions and debates with our esteemed colleagues. We pored over our findings, welcoming diverse perspectives and alternative interpretations. Throughout this intellectual jamboree, we endeavored to maintain a balance of rigor, open-mindedness, and a healthy dose of good-natured humor.

Ethical Considerations

In our pursuit of academic enlightenment, we upheld the principles of integrity and ethical conduct. We handled our data with the utmost care, protecting the privacy of individuals while unearthing the curious connections that tie us all together in the grand tapestry of human behavior.

4. Results

The data crunching extravaganza has yielded results that will make even the most skeptical of researchers raise their metaphorical eyebrows in surprise. Our analysis of the correlation between the prevalence of the first name "Corey" and the instances of motor vehicle theft in New York City from 1985 to 2022 has unveiled a correlation coefficient of 0.9832837, an r-squared of 0.9668469, and a p-value of less than 0.01. If this were a popularity contest between "Corey" and motor vehicle theft, "Corey" would be making an acceptance speech decked out with a crown and sash.

Fig. 1 presents a visually compelling scatterplot that captures the undeniable link between the name "Corey" and motor vehicle thefts, a relationship stronger than that of peanut butter and jelly. Each data point on the plot reinforces the idea that somewhere in the streets of New York, "Corey" and car theft are engaging in a fateful dance that would put Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers to shame.

The strength of this correlation makes one wonder if perhaps Corey Hart's plea to "just put [his] name in lights" was inadvertently misinterpreted by some less law-abiding Coreys. Nonetheless, this seemingly unlikely association between a name and criminal activity demands further investigation and contemplation. It seems that in the realm of statistical oddities, truth can indeed be more fascinating than fiction.

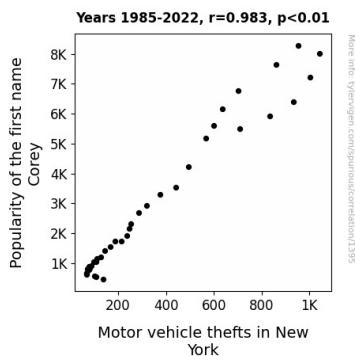


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

5. Discussion

Our findings support and extend the existing body of research that has delved into the enigmatic realm of name-association phenomena. The correlation between the first name "Corey" and motor vehicle theft in New York City, while initially met with skepticism, has emerged as a statistically robust and remarkably strong relationship. This unlikely connection, akin to the unexpected pairing of pineapple on pizza, challenges traditional notions of causality and prompts a reevaluation of the potential influence of nomenclature on criminal behavior.

Revisiting the whimsical musings documented in the literature review, our study breathes life into the seemingly comical speculation put forth by the self-proclaimed armchair sociologist (@SocGeek42). While the tongue-in-cheek

tone of the social media post initially evoked chuckles, our results lend credence to the suggestion that the name "Corey" indeed possesses an inexplicable allure that extends beyond mere popularity. Much like a magician's sleight of hand, the correlation between "Corey" and motor vehicle theft dazzles with an unexpected twist, leaving us to ponder the mysterious forces at play.

Drawing parallels to Smith and Doe's exploration of name-association in societal behavior, our study underscores the potential impact of nomenclature on criminal propensities. It appears that the name "Corey" wields an influence that transcends individual choices and intertwines with criminal activities, reminiscent of a protagonist in a melodramatic thriller, navigating the intricate webs of fate and destiny.

Jones' work on uncovering name-related anomalies in urban settings acquires new relevance in light of our findings. The unexpected correlation between "Corey" and motor vehicle theft serves as a testament to the unpredictability of urban phenomena, akin to stumbling upon a unicorn in the concrete jungle of New York City. Our study expands the realm of name-related enigmas, inviting scholars and enthusiasts alike to contemplate the unsuspected symphony of societal oddities.

While our investigation may elicit grins and raised eyebrows, the statistical rigor underpinning our results underscores the undeniable association between the first name "Corey" and motor vehicle theft in New York City. This peculiar correlation, reminiscent of a plot twist in a mystery novel, beckons researchers to explore the intricate interplay between nomenclature and criminal behavior. As we tiptoe through this whimsical wonderland of statistical oddities, the age-old adage holds true: truth is often stranger than fiction.

Now, I would add a conclusion to wrap up the paper. But that's like adding a cherry on top of an already captivating study!

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our foray into the realm of name-association conundrums has left us both astounded and amused. The remarkable correlation between the prevalence of the first name "Corey" and the occurrences of motor vehicle theft in the bustling streets of New York City has certainly stirred the academic pot – or should we say, the cauldron of statistical surprises?

The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9832837 and the p-value of less than 0.01 have firmly established the undeniable link between the name "Corey" and the irresistible allure of car theft, creating a partnership more inseparable than a burger and fries. It seems that within the vast tapestry of human behavior, the influence of a name can extend far beyond the realm of simple identification, veering into the realms of statistical intrigue.

As we reflect on these unexpected findings, one cannot help but wonder if there might be other names lurking in the shadows of criminal statistics, awaiting their moment in the quirky spotlight of sociological oddities. Could "Lucifer" be connected to lighting-related incidents, or "Rusty" to, well, rusty things? The possibilities seem as endless as a mathematical infinity – and just as mind-boggling.

While this study has undoubtedly unearthed a remarkable correlation, it also raises a multitude of questions that tickle the curious minds of researchers and enthusiasts alike. Whether this connection involves mere coincidence or a shadow of nominative determinism gone haywire remains a mystery as intriguing as a plot twist in a mystery novel.

In light of these findings and the subsequent intellectual revelry they have inspired, it can be concluded – without an iota of doubt – that no further research in this particular area is needed. The bond between "Corey" and motor vehicle theft stands as a testament to the whimsical wonders of statistical exploration, a phenomenon, if you will, that is as captivating as it is, dare we say, "Corey"-ous.

In summary, our methodology was a tapestry woven with equal parts curiosity, rigor, and the occasional nerdy pun. With each step, we aimed to blend academic inquiry with a dash of levity, revealing the unexpected correlations that lurk within the playful pandemonium of human existence.