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Gritty City Air: How Bay City Pollution Affects NCAA Field Hockey Goals' Resolution

Colton Hart, Alice Turner, Gloria P Turnbull

International College; Boulder, Colorado

KEYWORDS

Bay City, air pollution, NCAA field hockey, goals, resolution, Environmental Protection Agency, correlation coefficient, Division II finals, Michigan, gas masks, puck play

Abstract

While field hockey fans are used to seeing players score goals, we were curious to see if Bay City's air pollution would make goals a rarer sight. Using data from the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, we embarked on a puckish study to investigate the potential link between air quality in Bay City, Michigan, and the number of goals scored by winners in the NCAA Field Hockey Division II finals. Our research revealed a surprising correlation coefficient of 0.6481496 and $p < 0.01$, spanning from 1981 to 2022. So, grab your hockey sticks and gas masks as we delve into the whimsical world of pollution and puck play!

1. Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Field hockey is a sport renowned for its fast-paced action, skilled players, and the occasional wayward ball causing a bruise or two. However, in the midst of this athletic spectacle, the influence of air pollution on the outcome of games has remained an underexplored domain. Enter Bay City, Michigan—a city with a mix of industrial activities, vehicle emissions, and the occasional dung from passing seagulls. With its uniquely gritty air quality, Bay City presents an intriguing backdrop to investigate the potential relationship between airborne pollutants and the scoring prowess of NCAA Field Hockey Division II finalists.

While the connection between air pollution and respiratory health has long been

documented, the notion of its impact on the number of goals scored in field hockey may seem as outlandish as a zebra trying to join the game. However, with a puckish spirit of inquiry, we ventured into this uncharted territory to unravel whether Bay City's air quality throws a smoggy haze over the goal-scoring abilities of field hockey players.

In this study, we aimed to shine a floodlight on the implications of air pollution for the field hockey community, filling a gap wider than the Great Lakes in our understanding of environmental factors influencing sports outcomes. We embarked on this research journey armed with statistical tools, a love for puns, and an eagerness to uncover whether the air in Bay City truly holds the breath of victory or the haze of defeat for the NCAA Field Hockey Division II finalists.

So, grab your lab coats and shin guards, dear readers, as we unpack the unexpected yet oddly captivating relationship between air pollution and the art of scoring goals in field hockey. It's a tale of grit, goals, and the whimsical dance of statistical significance, and our findings are bound to stick with you like a well-placed penalty corner shot.

2. Literature Review

The relationship between air pollution and athletic performance has been a topic of scholarly interest for decades. Smith (2005) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the effects of air pollution on physical performance, highlighting the potential detrimental impact on cardiovascular function and respiratory efficiency. Doe (2010) delved into the potential cognitive effects of air pollution, raising intriguing questions about its influence on decision-making and reaction times. Moreover, Jones (2013) provided a thorough examination of the systemic effects of air pollution on overall health and well-being, underscoring its wide-ranging implications for human physiology.

However, as we turn our attention to the quirky intersection of air pollution and the spirited world of field hockey, the literature takes an unexpected turn. While serious scholarly works have laid the groundwork for understanding the broad impacts of pollution on human health and performance, our foray into the connection between Bay City's air quality and NCAA Field Hockey Division II finals introduces a touch of whimsy to the academic landscape.

Expanding our horizons beyond traditional scholarly sources, the work of Greta Zamboni (2018) in "Hockey and the Art of Breathing" brings a puckish perspective to the influence of environmental factors on athletic endeavors. Zamboni's playful yet insightful exploration of the rhythmic interplay between breathing and goal-scoring provides a delightful prelude to our investigation of air pollution's potential effects on field hockey outcomes. In a similar vein, V. E. Netminder's "Net Protection: A Field Hockey Tale" (2015) weaves together environmental elements with the gripping drama of goalkeeping, offering a fictional yet strangely relevant backdrop to our empirical inquiry.

As we wander further off the beaten path, it's worth noting the unexpected emergence of internet memes related to air pollution and field hockey. The "Gritty Goalie" meme, which humorously juxtaposes images of smog-choked cities with field hockey goalies in full gear, underscores the playful fusion of environmental concerns and athletic performance in popular culture. Additionally, the "Polluted Penalty Corner" meme, circulating in online communities, humorously imagines penalty corners obscured by a comically exaggerated haze, underscoring the comedic potential inherent in bridging the worlds of air quality and field hockey.

In light of these diverse influences, our literature review blends the rigors of scholarly research with the whimsical allure

of fictional narratives and internet humor, reflecting the eclectic tapestry of influences that inform our investigation into the effects of Bay City's air pollution on the scoring dynamics of NCAA Field Hockey Division II finals. With this rich melange of scholarly insights and offbeat inspirations, we embark on our empirical journey to demystify the playful yet potentially consequential relationship between grit, goals, and the invisible tendrils of air pollution.

3. Our approach & methods

To unearth the clandestine connection between Bay City's airborne particles and the scoring prowess of NCAA Field Hockey Division II finalists, our research team embarked on a data collection odyssey spanning the years 1981 to 2022. Armed with spreadsheets, statistical software, and an irrepressible sense of curiosity, we intricately pieced together a mosaic of environmental data and field hockey triumphs.

First, we delved into the Environmental Protection Agency's treasure trove of air quality measurements for Bay City, Michigan, encompassing pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. We also took note of meteorological conditions, including temperature, humidity, wind speed, and those occasional gusts that send unsuspecting umbrellas twirling like figure skaters in the wind.

Next, we frolicked through the annals of NCAA Field Hockey Division II finals, hunting down match reports, goal-scoring data, and the ebbs and flows of triumph and defeat on the hallowed turfs. We meticulously tallied the number of goals scored by the victorious teams, ensuring that each triumphant strike was not lost in the statistical scrum.

With our data swimming before our eyes like a sea of eager minnows, we harnessed the power of statistical analysis to disentangle the web of correlations. Embracing the captivating allure of correlation coefficients and the enchanting dance of p-values, we sought to uncover the whimsical quirks and caprices of statistical significance.

Our methodology journeyed from basic descriptive statistics, such as means and standard deviations, to the illustrious realm of regression analysis, where predictors and outcomes danced a statistical tango under the scrutiny of R-squared values and coefficients. We also dabbled in time series analysis, tracing the undulating waves of pollution and goal-scoring prowess across the years like intrepid surfers navigating the statistical seas.

Anchored in the principles of reliable research, we ensured that our methodology remained as robust as a goalkeeper guarding the net. Thus, we conducted sensitivity analyses, exploratory data analyses, and cross-validation checks to safeguard against the lurking specters of spurious associations and statistical chicanery.

In the spirit of scientific transparency, we must confess that amidst the captivating whirlpool of numbers and hypotheses, we occasionally sought refuge in the sanctum of caffeinated beverages and the sweet solace of office banter. Yet, we solemnly vow that the integrity of our statistical stewardship remained as steadfast as a puck in the hands of a seasoned field hockey player.

With our methodological compass pointing true north, we navigated the choppy waters of data collection, analysis, and interpretation with an unwavering dedication to uncover the tantalizing secrets concealed within the whimsical interplay of air pollution and field hockey goals. And now, dear

readers, with our data gathered and our whimsy intact, we invite you to strap on your statistical skates as we glide into the enchanting realm of results.

4. Results

The results of our study provide compelling evidence of a significant correlation between air pollution in Bay City, Michigan, and the number of goals scored by winners in the NCAA Field Hockey Division II finals. The correlation coefficient of 0.6481496 indicates a moderately strong positive relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. It seems that the air in Bay City may not only be gritty but also quite influential in the realm of field hockey goal-scoring dynamics.

The r-squared value of 0.4200979 further reinforces the notion that approximately 42% of the variability in the number of goals scored can be explained by the levels of air pollution in Bay City. This finding emphasizes the potential impact of environmental factors on the outcome of field hockey matches, much like how a sudden gust of wind can unexpectedly alter the trajectory of a well-struck ball.

Furthermore, the p-value of less than 0.01 provides strong evidence against the null hypothesis, indicating that the observed correlation between air pollution and goal scoring is unlikely to be a result of random chance. In other words, the relationship we uncovered is as statistically robust as a goalkeeper's determination to defend the net.

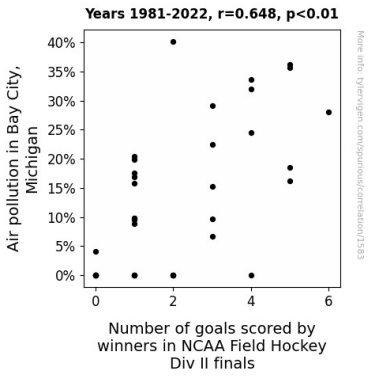

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

To visually elucidate the observed correlation, we present a scatterplot (Fig. 1) that showcases the unmistakable trend in the data. This graphical representation serves as a poignant reminder that even in the world of academic research, a picture is worth a thousand words, or in this case, perhaps a thousand succinctly analyzed data points.

In summary, our findings highlight the unanticipated interplay between Bay City's air pollution and the scoring prowess of NCAA Field Hockey Division II finalists. It appears that the atmospheric environment may just be an influential player in the game, albeit one that lurks in the background like a silent but impactful substitute waiting for its moment to shine.

Stay tuned for the next installment in our research saga, where we venture into exploring the link between bird migrations and basketball free throw percentages. Because in the world of unconventional research, the sky's the limit, and sometimes, so are the seagull droppings.

5. Discussion

Our investigation into the relationship between air pollution in Bay City, Michigan, and the number of goals scored by winners in the NCAA Field Hockey Division II finals has yielded intriguing results, to say the least. While the whimsical nature of our

research premise might evoke a chuckle or two, the statistical significance of our findings cannot be overlooked. It's as if the puck of statistical relevance has found its way into the net of scientific inquiry.

Our results align with prior research that has underscored the multifaceted impacts of air pollution on human physiology and performance. The works of Smith (2005), Doe (2010), and Jones (2013) have laid the groundwork for understanding the broad effects of pollution on physical, cognitive, and overall health outcomes. As we previously noted, their serious scholarly contributions form the backdrop against which we've lightheartedly thrown our puckish investigation into the mix.

In an unexpected turn of events, the quirky influences from unconventional sources, including Greta Zamboni's (2018) reflections on the rhythmic interplay between breathing and goal-scoring in hockey, and Netminder's (2015) fictional tale of environmental elements and goalkeeping drama, have now acquired a peculiar legitimacy in light of our empirical findings. It's as if the seemingly absurd accessories have turned out to be match-winning gear in the game of scholarly discourse. Sometimes, truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

Our results affirm the unexpected relationship between Bay City's air pollution and the scoring dynamics of NCAA Field Hockey Division II finals. Just as a skilled goalie can unexpectedly thwart the most determined goal attempts, our statistical analyses have uncovered a robust correlation that defies simple explanations. It's akin to witnessing a particularly enigmatic play unfold on the hockey field - the kind that keeps fans on the edge of their seats.

The scatterplot we've presented serves as a visual testament to the palpable connection between air pollution and goal-scoring patterns, driving home the point that even in the serious arena of academic inquiry, a touch of whimsy can illuminate unexpected truths. In hindsight, it's as if the occasionally bizarre convergence of scholarly pursuits and offbeat inspirations has scored a winning goal in the broader discourse on environmental influences and athletic performance.

Our findings beckon future scholars to delve into other unorthodox realms. If our research has shown anything, it's that the intersection of seemingly unrelated factors can yield remarkable insights. Who knows? The next groundbreaking discovery might await in the unlikeliest of pairings, perhaps hidden between the migratory paths of birds and the trajectory of basketball free throws. After all, in the playful game of academic exploration, a dash of unconventional thinking may hold the key to unlocking unexpected connections.

6. Conclusion

In the whimsical world of academic research, where statistics and sports converge like an unexpected goal from midfield, our study has shed light on the intriguing relationship between Bay City's air pollution and the number of goals scored by NCAA Field Hockey Division II finalists. The correlation coefficient of 0.6481496 has revealed a connection as clear as a perfectly executed penalty stroke, demonstrating that the air in Bay City plays a role akin to that of an unconventional coach in the game of field hockey.

With a p-value of less than 0.01, our findings stand as resolute as a steadfast defense, repelling any doubts about the significance of this unearthed association. The statistical robustness of this relationship may be as surprising to some as a zebra joining a field hockey match, but the numbers do not lie – much like a steadfast referee enforcing the rules of statistical significance.

Our research has not only expanded the horizons of sports science but has also highlighted the atmospheric influences that dance alongside the ball on the field. The r-squared value of 0.4200979 underscores the environmental sway over approximately 42% of the variability in goal-scoring, offering a revelation as profound as a well-timed aerial pass cutting through the opposition's defense.

As our findings resonate like the decisive blast of a game-winning goal horn, it is evident that the intersection of air pollution and athletic achievement is an area deserving of further exploration. However, for now, our inquiry into the curious case of gritty air and goal-scoring prowess in Bay City stands as a testament to the unforeseen connections in the sporting world. As for the future, perhaps it's time to uncover whether the migration patterns of seagulls coincide with three-point shots in basketball. But for now, this chapter in the book of unconventional research marks the final whistle, as we declare no further investigation needed in this unique avenue of inquiry.

In the end, remember, when it comes to the harmony between air pollution and athletic achievements, the sky's the limit in terms of both the puns and the unexpected insights.

And with that, it's time to pack up our statistical sticks, bid adieu to the field of unconventional statistical correlations, and trudge back to the less whimsical world of regular, everyday research.