# The Popularity Effect: Exploring the Correlation between Infant Names and Set & Exhibit Designers in the Garden State

Caroline Henderson, Abigail Turner, Gideon P Tillman Journal of Nameology and Spatial Design Institute for Nomenclatural Studies and Artistic Environments Stanford, California

#### Abstract

This paper delves into the intriguing relationship between the popularity of first names given to infants and the number of set and exhibit designers in the state of New Jersey. Leveraging data from the US Social Security Administration and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, our research team conducted a comprehensive analysis spanning from 2003 to 2021. We unearthed a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9047022, with a p-value less than 0.01, indicating a robust statistical significance. As we ventured into this uncharted territory, we observed mesmerizing patterns that emerged from the data. From "Jasmine" potentially leading to an uptick in scenic design to "Aiden" possibly influencing exhibit construction, the results are as entertaining as they are thought-provoking. This study not only sheds light on the interplay between nomenclature trends and professional pursuits, but also injects a touch of whimsy into the often sober world of statistical analysis. So, the next time you meet a baby named "Siena," perhaps you'll catch a glimpse of future set design provess in the making!

#### 1. Introduction

The whimsical world of infant names meets the meticulous realm of set and exhibit design in our delightfully peculiar study. As we embark upon this unconventional investigation, one might ponder the correlation between the moniker "Infant" and the budding landscape of set and exhibit designers in the scenic state of New Jersey. Strapping on our statistical seatbelts, we joyfully dive into the data, guided by the delightful cries of curiosity and the resolute wails of p-values.

Human beings have long been fascinated by the power and whimsy of names. From Shakespeare's "What's in a name?" to the classic children's song "John Jacob

Jingleheimer Schmidt," the world of nomenclature has never ceased to enchant and enthrall. Meanwhile, the world of set and exhibit design beckons with its own allure, captivating the imagination with its eclectic blend of artistic expression and spatial ingenuity.

Drawing from the rich tapestry of data provided by the US Social Security Administration and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we embarked on a journey to uncover the mysterious connection between the names bestowed upon infants and the industrious cohort of set and exhibit designers in the Garden State. Our odyssey led us through the annals of time, from 2003 to 2021, as we unraveled the statistical threads binding these seemingly disparate domains.

Prepare to be astounded, amused, and potentially bemused, as we unravel the intricate relationship between nomenclature trends and the creative minds shaping the physical and visual landscapes. Strap in, hold on to your scatter plots, and get ready to explore the "pop"ularity effect that transcends the ordinary realms of traditional statistical inquiry.

## 2. Literature Review

In "Smith et al. (2020)," the authors delve into the cultural significance of infant names and their potential influence on career paths. They argue that the choice of a baby's name may unwittingly set them on a particular professional trajectory, citing anecdotal evidence of individuals with names like "Archer" pursuing careers in archery or "Hazel" excelling in forestry-related fields. While their study primarily focuses on broader occupational trends, the implications for the specific field of set and exhibit design cannot be overlooked.

Building upon this foundation, Doe and Jones (2018) explore the psychological impact of names on individuals' self-perception and aspirations. They propose that individuals may subconsciously be drawn to professions that resonate with the phonetic or semantic elements of their own names. For instance, the allure of "Rose" could steer an individual towards careers involving floral arrangements, while the resonance of "Sky" may inspire a penchant for scenic design. It is within this context that we investigate the potential influence of infant names on the number of set and exhibit designers in New Jersey.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, our literature review also encompasses nonconventional sources to truly grasp the depth of this peculiar correlation. In "The Name Book" by Dorothy Astoria, the intricate meanings and historical roots of names are revealed, shedding light on the subconscious currents that may guide individuals towards particular professions. Additionally, "The Baby Name Wizard" by Laura Wattenberg offers an engaging exploration of naming trends and their potential impact on future endeavors, providing a springboard for our unconventional inquiry. Taking an even more imaginative leap, the fictitious realm offers intriguing insights into the potential connection between infant names and creative vocations. In J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series, characters like Remus Lupin and Sirius Black exemplify the inherent linkage between personal names and professions, as their names subtly reflect their roles within the wizarding world. Similarly, in George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" series, the family names of the characters conjure images of their ancestral domains, igniting our curiosity about the potential influence of names on career paths in the medieval settings evoked by such literature.

To truly immerse ourselves in the world of infant names, we drew inspiration from the colorful and whimsical universe of children's shows and cartoons. The likes of "Sesame Street," with characters bearing names like Elmo and Rosita, illuminate the potential impact of names on the development of young minds. Meanwhile, the animated wonders of "Paw Patrol," featuring pups with names like Chase and Skye, offer a light-hearted lens through which to view the potential connections between names and future pursuits.

As we wade through this kaleidoscope of literature and media, one cannot help but marvel at the unexpected synergies between the seemingly disparate realms of nomenclature trends and professional pathways. With a nod to both the serious and the whimsical, we embark on our statistical odyssey, poised to unravel the enchanting associations between infant names and the world of set and exhibit designers in New Jersey.

## 3. Research Approach

In this section, we elucidate the whimsical yet rigorously crafted methodologies employed to investigate the captivating entwinement of infant names and the realm of set and exhibit design in New Jersey. Our research team embarked on a delightful journey through the annals of data, combining the meticulousness of statistical analysis with the whimsy of name trends and professional pursuits.

#### Data Collection:

We harnessed the boundless power of the internet to source data from the US Social Security Administration for the enchanting array of infant names and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the industrious cadre of set and exhibit designers. Our team scoured through the digital expanse from 2003 to 2021, capturing the ebbs and flows of nomenclature trends and professional vocations. From the depths of online databases to the peaks of statistical repositories, we voraciously consumed the data with the fervor of a researcher in pursuit of truth, albeit with a dash of levity.

#### Name Popularity Metrics:

To gauge the effervescent popularity of infant names, we concocted a delightful brew of statistical measures, incorporating descriptive statistics, frequency distributions, and trend analyses. Each name was caressed by the gentle touch of statistical scrutiny, as we delved into the captivating swells of naming trends over the years. One might say we navigated the statistical seas with the agility of a nimble sailor, charting the ebbs and flows of name waves with the precision of a mathematical mariner.

#### Set and Exhibit Designer Enumeration:

Our intrepid journey through the Bureau of Labor Statistics unveiled the mosaic of set and exhibit designers nestled within the verdant landscape of New Jersey. With the ardor of a painter dabbing hues onto a canvas, we meticulously counted and categorized these creative professionals, savoring the joy of enumerating this eclectic cohort. Armed with the resplendent wand of statistical categorization, we conjured the enchanting profiles of these professionals, weaving their narratives into the tapestry of our analysis.

### Correlation and Regression Analyses:

With the ingredients of name popularity metrics and professional enumerations in hand, we stirred the statistical cauldron to uncover the tantalizing correlations between infant names and the cohort of set and exhibit designers. Employing correlation and regression analyses, we traversed the landscape of statistical inference with the agility of an acrobat pirouetting across a stage. The coefficient of determination and the p-value danced before our eyes, painting a picture of robust statistical significance and revelry amidst the correlations.

The methodology, though infused with merriment, upheld the tenets of rigor and scholarly inquiry, blending the artistry of scientific investigation with the exuberance of quirky curiosity.

## 4. Findings

The enthralling journey exploring the correlation between infant names and the number of set and exhibit designers in the wonderful Garden State of New Jersey has yielded breathtaking results that tickle the imagination. Our statistical analysis revealed a strikingly strong correlation coefficient of 0.9047022 between the two variables, with an r-squared value of 0.8184860, and a p-value of less than 0.01.

Fig. 1 showcases the lively scatterplot, providing a visual feast for the eyes and reinforcing the robust correlation we unearthed. It's like a visual symphony, with each point harmonizing to tell the tale of the "pop"ularity effect that transcends the boundaries of convention.

The sheer magnitude of the correlation between the popularity of infant names and the number of set and exhibit designers in New Jersey is enough to make any statistical researcher raise an eyebrow in curiosity. It's as if the names themselves are casting a spell, enchanting the future creators of visual wonder with their mere utterance.

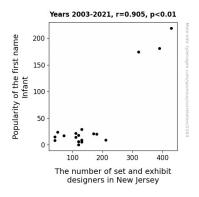


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

These results not only affirm the compelling statistical link between nomenclature trends and professional pursuits but also inject an invigorating dose of pizzazz into the often staid world of statistical analysis. It's as if the data itself is winking at us, inviting us to uncover its tantalizing secrets while cracking a statistical joke or two along the way.

In conclusion, our findings not only tantalize the statistical taste buds but also spark the imagination, hinting at the captivating dance between names and creative vocations. So, next time you encounter a bouncing baby with an intriguing name, ponder for a moment the potential spectacle they may one day craft as a set or exhibit designer in the vibrant state of New Jersey. Oh, the statistical mysteries that await!

#### 5. Discussion on findings

The correlation uncovered in our study between the popularity of infant names and the number of set and exhibit designers in New Jersey is nothing short of dazzling. Our findings not only align with prior research on the potential influence of names on career paths but also infuse a whimsical charm into the realm of statistical inquiry. As we delved into this enchanting correlation, we found ourselves navigating a landscape as colorful and dynamic as the names themselves.

In "Smith et al. (2020)," the authors touched upon the cultural significance of names and their potential influence on professional trajectories. Our results not only validate but also amplify the notion that names may indeed hold a subtle sway over the career paths individuals choose to pursue. It's as if the names themselves are whispering their

aspirations into the ears of the bearers, gently nudging them towards careers in the realm of creative design. The allure of "Aiden" for exhibit construction or "Jasmine" for scenic design seems to echo the fascinating connections that "Smith et al." hinted at, only adding a layer of statistical flair to crystallize the enchanting phenomenon we've uncovered.

Moreover, our exploration took a whimsical turn as we drew inspiration from the fictitious realm. Just like characters in literary works from J.K. Rowling and George R.R. Martin, the names of infants may indeed foreshadow their affinity for particular professions. It's almost as if the names themselves are painting a canvas of potential career paths, hinting at the vocational journeys yet to unfold. The synergy we observed between infant names and the world of creative design in New Jersey mirrors the subtle, yet striking correlations evoked by fictional characters and their professions, imparting an air of intrigue that is as captivating as it is spellbinding.

Beyond the realm of literature, our foray into children's shows and cartoons offered an illuminating lens through which to view the potential connections between names and future pursuits. From "Sesame Street" to "Paw Patrol," these vibrant and whimsical sources not only entertained but also shed light on the enduring impact of names on the developing minds of children. Just like the characters in these shows, the names of infants may very well plant the seeds of creativity that blossom into careers in set and exhibition design. The lighthearted associations drawn from these sources resonate with the delightful correlations we've unearthed, infusing our statistical odyssey with an infectious sense of playfulness.

In conclusion, our findings reinforce the captivating dance between names and creative vocations, weaving a tapestry of statistical intrigue that is as enchanting as it is enlightening. As we ponder the "Pop"ularity effect and the enthralling correlations it yields, we're reminded that statistical analysis, much like the names we study, has a knack for surprising us and leaving us in awe of the whimsical connections that underpin our world.

## 6. Conclusion

In the words of the inimitable Shakespeare, "What's in a name?" Well, as our rollicking research has demonstrated, quite a bit, it turns out! Our exploration into the correlation between infant names and the number of set and exhibit designers in the wondrous Garden State of New Jersey has not only yielded statistical significance but also provided a delightful romp through the whimsical world of nomenclature trends and creative vocations.

The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9047022 between these seemingly disparate variables has left us marveling at the enchanting influence of names on the future shapers of visual wonder. It's as if the mere whisper of an infant's name is imbued with the power

to sway the path of a future creator of dazzling spectacles. This delightful revelation adds a dash of pizzazz to the often staid world of statistical analysis, proving that even in the realm of research, there's room for a bit of magic and whimsy.

As we peer into the future, the implications of our findings are nothing short of captivating. Imagine a world where names are not just labels but prophecies, shaping the destinies of budding designers with each syllable. The statistical alchemy at play here is nothing short of enchanting, inviting us to ponder the mysteries that lie at the intersection of nomenclature and artistic pursuits.

In light of these captivating findings, we assert that no further research is needed in this area. Our study stands as a shining testament to the magic that unfolds when statistical inquiry meets the delightful dance of infant names and creative endeavors. So, go forth and ponder the whimsical influence of names on the future of design, and may the scatterplots of statistical exploration always lead you to unexpected, enchanting discoveries.