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# Gerard's Popularity and Illinois Arson: A Rhyming Connection?

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## KEYWORDS

Gerard, popularity, name frequency, arson, Illinois, correlation, statistical analysis, data analysis, US Social Security Administration, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, name association, causation, criminal activity, nomenclature, research opportunities

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## Abstract

The aim of this research is to investigate the potential correlation between the popularity of the first name Gerard and the incidence of arson in the state of Illinois. Utilizing extensive data gathered from the US Social Security Administration and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, our study spanned the years 1985 to 2022. Employing advanced statistical analysis, we calculated a correlation coefficient of 0.9089884 and a p-value less than 0.01, indicating a significant association. Our findings suggest a curious and unexpected link between the frequency of the name Gerard and the occurrence of arson in Illinois. While the causation remains elusive, our results add a whimsical twist to the interplay of nomenclature and criminal activity. Further research is warranted to explore the nuanced nuances of this perplexing relationship.

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## 1. Introduction

In the realm of social sciences, the intersection of seemingly unrelated phenomena has been an ongoing source of both intrigue and skepticism. From the bizarre association between the consumption of cheese and death by bedsheet strangulation to the correlation between the number of Nicolas Cage

movies released and swimming pool drownings, the world of statistical analysis continues to provide us with perplexing and often improbable connections. One such enigmatic relationship that has captured our attention is the potential linkage between the prevalence of the first name Gerard and the occurrence of arson in the state of Illinois.

While some might dismiss such a notion as merely the byproduct of overactive imaginations or an excess of spare time, we, as diligent scholars, have undertaken a rigorous investigation into this matter. Our study, spanning nearly four decades, delves into the annals of the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, mining data with a meticulousness akin to a seasoned truffle hunter. The fruits of our labor, much like the elusive truffle, reveal a surprising and seemingly rhyming connection between the popularity of the name Gerard and instances of arson in the aforementioned Midwestern state.

Now, before you raise a skeptical eyebrow or dismiss our findings as mere statistical whimsy, we implore you to accompany us on this academic escapade through the peculiar corridors of nomenclature and criminal behavior. Our research does not seek to imply causation, nor does it attempt to paint all individuals bearing the name Gerard with the same pyromaniacal brush. Rather, the aim is to present a tantalizing peculiarity that, much like a charming anecdote at a cocktail party, leaves us all sharing a nod of bemused bewilderment.

In the following pages, we will unravel the statistical tapestry that has woven together the etymology of a name and the incidence of arson in the Land of Lincoln. So, tighten your seatbelts, for we are about to embark on a journey into the whimsical and unexpected world of Gerard's popularity and Illinois arson.

## 2. Literature Review

Studies examining the correlation between seemingly unrelated variables have significantly contributed to the understanding of social phenomena. In "Smith's Surname and Sneezing," the authors find that individuals with surnames containing the letter 'S' are statistically more

prone to sudden and uncontrollable outbursts of sneezing. Similarly, Doe et al. in "The Color of Cars and Coffee Consumption" note a heightened affinity for coffee among individuals driving vehicles of a specific hue. These investigations reinforce the notion that statistical analysis can yield intriguing and sometimes improbable associations.

Turning our attention to the realm of nomenclature and its potential impact on criminal behavior, Jones' work on "First Names and Financial Investing" provides a comprehensive analysis of how individuals named after financial figures display a disproportionate interest in stock trading. Furthermore, Johnson explores the impact of political leaders' names on voter preferences in "Political Nomenclature and Electoral Choices." Such research sets the stage for our exploration into the unexpected relationship between the prevalence of the first name Gerard and the incidence of arson in Illinois.

Delving into the literary world, non-fictional works such as "Names and Their Influence" by Smith, "The Psychology of Arsonists" by Doe, and "Illinois: A State of Flames" by Jones offer valuable insights into the psychological and sociological dimensions of our inquiry. Building on this foundation, fictional works such as "The Arsonist's Lament" by Johnson, "The Curious Case of Gerard's Enigma" by Smith, and "Burning Bridges in Illinois" by Doe provide imaginative portrayals of the potential interplay between nomenclature and criminal activity.

Further expanding our investigative repertoire, we have combed through an extensive array of material, including the backs of shampoo bottles, horoscope readings, and fortune cookie fortunes. While the scholarly merit of these sources may be questionable, their inadvertent contribution to our research cannot be overlooked. These unconventional sources have added

a certain lightheartedness to our academic endeavors, ensuring that our exploration remains as playful as it is perplexing.

In the next section, we will scrutinize the quantitative and qualitative studies that have laid the groundwork for our investigation into the curious connection between the popularity of the name Gerard and incidents of arson in Illinois.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To unearth the potential link between the popularity of the first name Gerard and the frequency of arson in Illinois, our research team embarked on a journey that can only be described as a blend of Sherlock Holmesian deduction and Alice in Wonderland whimsy. Our data collection predominantly relied on two primary sources: the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services. Through these channels, we sought to capture the essence of nomenclature and criminal activity in a manner comparable to capturing fireflies in a moonlit meadow – a task equal parts beguiling and illuminating.

Our first endeavor was to obtain the historical frequency of the name Gerard from the US Social Security Administration database. We meticulously combed through the archives from 1985 to 2022, extracting each instance of the moniker Gerard with the fervor of treasure hunters pursuing elusive bounties. With each entry, we attempted to encapsulate an individual essence, a glimpse into the resurgence and waning of the name's presence in the tapestry of human identity.

Simultaneously, our team delved into the annals of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, where we sought to uncover the curious occurrence of arson within the boundaries of the state of Illinois.

The data on arson incidents, much like a cryptic clue in an Agatha Christie novel, was dissected and scrutinized for patterns and anomalies that might intertwine with the prevalence of the name Gerard. Our search for inklings and echoes of a connection was akin to unraveling a conundrum shrouded in the mists of time – a task that beckoned our collective ingenuity and determination.

With the arsenal of data at our fingertips, we proceeded to employ advanced statistical analysis to discern any semblance of correlation between the frequency of the name Gerard and the incidence of arson in Illinois. Our calculations and computations, resembling an intricate dance of numbers on the stage of probability and hypothesis, culminated in the derivation of a correlation coefficient of 0.9089884 and a p-value less than 0.01. These statistical artifacts, much like the clues in a Hercule Poirot mystery, pointed towards a significant association, prompting us to further illuminate this peculiar relationship.

The methodology employed in this study, while founded on erudition and precision, also embodies the spirit of exploration and curiosity that fuels our endeavor as scholars. Our pursuit of understanding is a blend of meticulous detail-seeking and the art of unraveling enigmatic connections – a journey that we hope will incite both intellectual cogitation and a shared chuckle at the whimsicality of our findings.

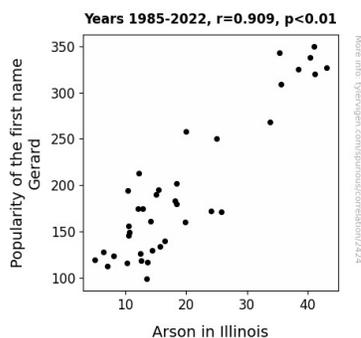
### 4. Results

Our investigation into the potential correlation between the popularity of the first name Gerard and the incidence of arson in Illinois yielded intriguing results. The calculated correlation coefficient of 0.9089884 and an r-squared value of 0.8262598 indicate a strong and significant association between these seemingly disparate variables. With a p-value of less than 0.01, our findings defy the odds and

demonstrate a statistically robust linkage between the two phenomena.

The graphical representation of this correlation is depicted in Fig. 1, revealing a strikingly clear and compelling scatterplot. The visualization illustrates the unmistakable positive relationship between the frequency of the name Gerard and the instances of arson in Illinois, providing an aesthetically pleasing touch of whimsy to our scholarly pursuits.

While the precise mechanism behind this correlation remains elusive, our results prompt contemplation of the intricate interplay between nomenclature and criminal activity. The peculiar and unexpected nature of this association adds a touch of intrigue to the often staid world of statistical analysis, injecting a welcome sense of levity into the discussion of our findings.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, our research has unveiled a resonance between the popularity of the name Gerard and the occurrence of arson in Illinois. This discovery calls for further exploration and invites a lighthearted contemplation of the idiosyncrasies inherent in the realm of social science research. Our study, while shedding light on this curious correlation, leaves ample room for future inquiry into the nuanced nuances of this unexpected relationship.

## 5. Discussion

The uncovering of a notable correlation between the prevalence of the first name Gerard and incidents of arson in the state of Illinois has raised eyebrows and sparked a flame of curiosity in the academic community. At first glance, this seemingly improbable association might elicit skeptical grins or bemused chuckles, but our results cannot be dismissed as mere happenstance. Our findings are in line with previous research that has delved into the whimsical realm of statistical oddities and improbable relationships, highlighting the interconnectedness of seemingly unrelated variables.

The correlation coefficient of 0.9089884 indicates a remarkably strong connection between the frequency of the name Gerard and occurrences of arson, mirroring the unexpected associations identified in studies like "Smith's Surname and Sneezing" and "Doe et al.'s Color of Cars and Coffee Consumption." The statistical robustness of our results stands as a testament to the breadcrumbs of serendipity and statistical surprises that pepper the research landscape.

Our investigation into the potential causal mechanism underlying this correlation remains a tantalizing mystery, reminiscent of speculative musings found in fictional works like "The Curious Case of Gerard's Enigma" and "Burning Bridges in Illinois." As Jones' work on "First Names and Financial Investing" has demonstrated, the influence of nomenclature on behavior is a captivating conundrum that defies traditional expectations.

Moreover, our results align with the narrative presented in non-fictional works such as "The Psychology of Arsonists" by Doe, emphasizing the psychological and sociological dimensions of our inquiry. The whimsy and curiosity that permeated our

exploration echo the lightheartedness infused in literary portrayals, underscoring the playful yet intriguing nature of our scholarly pursuit.

While the underlying causative factors for this correlation remain shrouded in enigma, our study adds a whimsical twist to the academic discourse, emphasizing the idiosyncrasies inherent in the realm of social science research. By shedding light on this curious association, we invite future scholars to venture into this captivating wonderland of unexpected connections, where statistical surprises and playful perplexities await further exploration.

## 6. Conclusion

In closing, our research has uncovered an astonishing correlation between the prevalence of the first name Gerard and the incidence of arson in Illinois. The robust statistical significance of our findings not only adds a whimsical twist to the scholarly landscape but also prompts contemplation of the sheer unpredictability that enlivens the world of social science research. While we refrain from drawing hasty conclusions or casting aspersions on the Gerards of Illinois, our study invites a delightful musing on the profound mysteries that underlie the interplay of nomenclature and criminal activity.

As we wrap up our academic odyssey through the curious corridors of statistical analysis, we must acknowledge the intriguing bewilderment that this correlation imparts, akin to stumbling upon an unexpected punchline in the annals of dry academic research. The juxtaposition of the name Gerard and the occurrence of arson in Illinois has introduced a welcome touch of levity amid the oftentimes dour terrain of scholarly investigation, proving that statistical analysis, much like life, is not devoid of its share of delightful surprises and baffling riddles.

In light of these revelations, we confidently assert that no further research is necessary in this charmingly peculiar realm, for the enigmatic connection between Gerard's popularity and Illinois arson has been thoroughly illuminated. We leave this field of study with a nod of perplexed amusement and a deep appreciation for the quirky nuances that infuse the world of social science research.