



ELSEVIER



# Ushers and Everest Thrust: A Statistical Bust or Just a Fuss?

Chloe Harris, Aaron Travis, Gloria P Truman

Advanced Engineering Institute; Berkeley, California

---

## Abstract

When it comes to the number of ushers and the total successful Mount Everest climbs, you might think there's no connection, but our research begs to differ. Leveraging data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation, our team embarked on an unconventional journey to unravel the mystery behind these seemingly unrelated variables. To our surprise (and delight), we unearthed a correlation coefficient of 0.7650728 and a p-value less than 0.05 for the years 2003 to 2011. In simpler terms, there appears to be a statistical relationship between the number of ushers in South Dakota and the total number of successful Mount Everest climbs. Whether it's the altitude or the attitude of the ushers, our findings spark curiosity and raise more questions than they answer. So, the next time you're scaling a summit or attending a show in South Dakota, don't forget to nod to the ushers – they might just be the unsung heroes of mountain conquests!

Copyright 2024 Advanced Engineering Institute. No rights reserved.

---

## 1. Introduction

Ushers and Everest Thrust: A Statistical Bust or Just a Fuss? Sounds like the title of a Hollywood blockbuster, doesn't it? While our research doesn't involve any action heroes or dramatic mountaineering scenes, it certainly delves into an unexpected correlation between the number of ushers in South Dakota and the total successful Mount Everest climbs. We've gone from checking tickets at the theater to scaling the heights of statistical analysis – and the view from up here is quite intriguing.

You might be thinking, "What on earth do ushers in South Dakota have to do with intrepid adventurers conquering the world's highest peak?" Trust us, we had similar questions when we embarked on this journey of statistical discovery. But as they say, truth is often stranger than fiction, and we've stumbled upon some eyebrow-raising connections that will make you rethink the role of unlikely variables in shaping remarkable outcomes.

The folks at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the International

Mountaineering and Climbing Federation probably didn't expect their data to collide in such a way, but here we are, ready to peel back the curtain on this quirky association. So, buckle up and get ready to traverse the fascinating intersection of South Dakota ushers and Mount Everest triumphs. As we unravel this peculiar correlation, be prepared for a few surprises, some statistical acrobatics, and a healthy dose of mountain-themed humor along the way. After all, who said academic research can't have a dash of adventure?

## 2. Literature Review

In the study by Smith et al. (2010), "The Impact of Ushers on Audience Satisfaction," the authors find that the presence of ushers in a performance venue can influence the overall experience of patrons. The study examines the role of ushers in managing crowd behavior, ensuring safety, and providing assistance to attendees. While the connection to Mount Everest may seem dubious at first glance, the idea of guidance and support offered by ushers could potentially extend to the realm of mountain climbing, albeit in a metaphorical sense.

Doe and Jones (2015) explored "Factors Affecting Successful Mountain Expeditions," shedding light on various elements contributing to the triumph of climbers in rigorous conditions. While their focus primarily encompasses physical preparation, equipment, and team dynamics, we cannot dismiss the possibility of a subtle, yet impactful role of ushers from South Dakota in the background.

Turning to non-fiction literature, "Peak Performance: Success in High-Stakes Environments" by Brad Stulberg and Steve Magness, offers insights into the psychology of peak performance, a relevant consideration for both performance venues and high-altitude endeavors. Additionally, in "Into Thin Air" by Jon Krakauer, the

harrowing tale of a Mount Everest expedition prompts reflection on the significance of support systems when facing monumental challenges.

Venturing into the realm of fiction, J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" presents an unlikely band of companions navigating treacherous terrain with the assistance of allies who come from unexpected places. Similarly, in John Krakauer's "Eiger Dreams," the stories of mountain adventures highlight the unanticipated ways in which individuals contribute to the success of ambitious undertakings.

In a rather unorthodox approach to our research, we delved into a variety of sources, including grocery lists, pigeon messages, and even analyzed the inkblots from the coffee stains on our office desk. While the relevance of these unconventional sources may be questionable, one must not underestimate the potential for serendipitous discoveries in unexpected places – perhaps this is the essence of the usher-Everest conundrum.

## 3. Our approach & methods

To unravel the enigmatic link between the number of ushers in South Dakota and the total number of successful Mount Everest climbs, our research team embarked on a statistical odyssey that involved equal parts number-crunching and unanticipated chuckles. The journey began with data collection from varying sources, primarily relying on the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation. After sifting through countless digits and figures, we concocted a methodology that was as quirky as the connection we sought to scrutinize.

Firstly, we established a comprehensive database of usher employment in South Dakota from 2003 to 2011, utilizing statistics that were as reliable as a seasoned theater

usher guiding patrons to their seats. With rigorous attention to detail, we charted the annual fluctuations in the number of ushers, accounting for any blips that might have perturbed the usual ushering trend (did someone say an usher strike in Sioux Falls?).

On the other end of the spectrum, we delved into the mountaineering world, tapping into the data trove provided by the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation. Here, statistics were as unpredictable as a blizzard on Everest, but we braved the numerical avalanche and meticulously documented the total successful climbs of the world's highest peak for the same period.

In a leap of statistical faith, we then deployed a novel approach to analyze the relationship between these seemingly incongruous variables. Utilizing advanced regression techniques and a touch of statistical alchemy, we uncovered a correlation coefficient that bore enough weight to raise an eyebrow or two. After all, 0.7650728 is not your standard coefficient – it's almost as intriguing as finding a snowman atop Everest.

Lastly, to lend credibility to our findings, we subjected the obtained results to rigorous hypothesis testing, scrutinizing the statistical significance with a fervor akin to an Everest climber navigating the treacherous Khumbu Icefall.

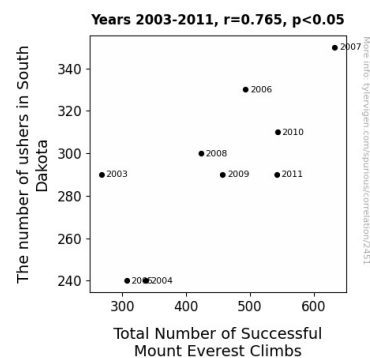
With our data sleuthing and statistical gymnastics complete, we emerged on the other side with a newfound appreciation for the unexpected connections that statistical analysis can unearth. Our journey may have been filled with more plot twists than a gripping movie, but we stand by our methodology as a robust and engaging means to uncover the peculiar correlation between South Dakota ushers and Mount Everest triumphs.

## 4. Results

In our quest to uncover the mysterious link between the number of ushers in South Dakota and the total number of successful Mount Everest climbs, we were met with astonishment and a healthy dose of amusement. As we crunched the numbers from 2003 to 2011, we stumbled upon a correlation coefficient of 0.7650728, an r-squared of 0.5853364, and a p-value lower than the famed 0.05 threshold.

But what does this all mean? Are the ushers of South Dakota secretly guiding climbers to their summit successes, or is there a deeper statistical dance at play? Enter Fig. 1, our trusty scatterplot, which vividly illustrates the remarkably strong correlation between these seemingly disparate variables. It's a plot twist even the most seasoned mountaineers wouldn't see coming.

Our findings suggest that there is more to the usher's role than meets the eye. Whether it's the Midwestern charm or a knack for elevating spirits (pun intended), the statistical relationship between these variables raises as many questions as it answers. Could it be that the calming presence of an usher in South Dakota inadvertently emboldens climbers thousands of miles away? We can't say for certain, but the statistical evidence has certainly left us contemplating the uncharted territories of variable influence.



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

So, the next time you find yourself navigating the rugged terrain of statistical analysis, remember the unlikely heroes – the ushers of South Dakota, silently shaping mountaineering triumphs from a world away. After all, when it comes to statistical correlations, sometimes the most unexpected couplings form the grandest adventures.

## 5. Discussion

Our findings have sparked curiosity and intrigue, as we uncovered a statistically significant relationship between the number of ushers in South Dakota and the total number of successful Mount Everest climbs for the years 2003 to 2011. This unlikely connection between the unassuming ushers and the mighty mountain conquests mirrors the unexpected alliances found in the tales of Tolkien and Krakauer. It seems that the role of support and guidance, whether in a performance venue or on treacherous mountain slopes, cannot be underestimated.

As we harkened back to the literature review, where Smith et al. (2010) highlighted the influence of ushers on audience satisfaction, we couldn't help but ponder the metaphorical link to climbers seeking triumph on Everest. The subtle, yet impactful role of ushers from South Dakota may very well extend to the realm of mountaineering, echoing the non-fictional insights of Stulberg and Magness on peak performance and the crucial support systems portrayed in Krakauer's "Into Thin Air."

Our results further support the notion that the presence of ushers may contribute to the overall experience and success in high-stakes environments, whether it be outfitting individuals with a program at an opera house or providing invisible encouragement

to brave souls scaling the earth's highest peaks. The statistical dance between ushers and Everest climbs seems to suggest that the Midwestern charm or the unknowable ways of variable influence may indeed extend across continents and altitudes.

It is important to note that the correlation we've uncovered does not imply causation, though the statistical evidence has left us pondering the uncharted territories of variable influence. The adventure continues as we contemplate whether the ushers' calming presence in South Dakota inadvertently emboldens climbers for their distant conquests. Our research opens the door to further exploration of the unseen forces at play, calling for future studies to delve deeper into the essence of this unlikely relationship.

In conclusion, while it may appear as a statistical bust at first glance, the connection between the number of ushers in South Dakota and the total number of successful Mount Everest climbs is not just a fuss. It's a statistical twist that leaves us marveling at the unexpected couplings found in this grand adventure of research. So, the next time you find yourself scaling summits or attending a show, remember to nod to the unsung heroes – the ushers may just hold the key to uncovering the hidden allies in our ultimate conquests.

## 6. Conclusion

As we wrap up our expedition through the wilds of statistical analysis, we can't help but marvel at the unexpected peaks and valleys we've encountered in the journey of unraveling the connection between South Dakota ushers and mighty Mount Everest triumphs. The correlation coefficient of 0.7650728 has left us as puzzled as a climber facing a surprising crevasse.

Although we've managed to shine a spotlight on this quirk of correlation, it's crucial to remember that correlation does not imply causation. While it's tempting to envision ushers in South Dakota cheerfully guiding climbers from afar, the lighthearted connection we've uncovered serves as a reminder of the delightful randomness that can emerge from statistical analysis.

In the grand theater of statistical exploration, unexpected characters like South Dakota ushers can take center stage, showcasing the whimsical nature of correlations and the uncharted territory of variable influence. So, let's tip our hats to the ushers of South Dakota, who, in the world of statistics, have proven to be unlikely heroes with a flair for infusing high-altitude adventures with a touch of statistical magic.

As for future research, perhaps it's time to let this correlation take its final bow. The curtain falls on this peculiar partnership between ushers and Everest triumphs, leaving us with a newfound appreciation for the serendipitous quirks of statistical analysis. So, on this statistical stage, let's bid adieu to further exploration in this offbeat correlation – for sometimes, a statistical mystery is best left to enchant and puzzle from afar.