## Review

# The Lawyer Load: A Correlation Between 12th Grade Students and Legal Eagles in the United States 

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#### Abstract

This study illuminates the uncanny connection between the number of public school students in 12th grade and the number of lawyers in the United States. Leveraging data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the American Bar Association, a robust correlation coefficient of 0.9815955 and a statistically significant $p$-value of less than 0.01 were revealed for the period spanning 1990 to 2022. The implications of this striking correlation warrant further investigation and offer a fresh perspective on the interplay between education and the legal profession.


The intersection of education and the legal field has long been a subject of interest and speculation. While it may seem that these two realms exist in separate spheres, the possibility of a hidden link between the number of public school students in 12th grade and the number of lawyers in the United States has piqued our curiosity. Could there be an underlying connection, or is this merely a serendipitous correlation? In this study, we delve into the quantitative analysis of these seemingly disparate variables to shed light on any potential relationship, no matter how esoteric or unforeseen.

The legal landscape in the United States is perpetually evolving, with lawyers
populating every nook and cranny of the professional domain. Whether they are advocating for justice, drafting contracts, or gracing the courtroom with their oratory prowess, the legal eagles are indeed a formidable force to reckon with. Meanwhile, the wide-eyed 12th grade students are preparing to spread their wings and soar into the world, armed with knowledge and aspirations. One cannot help but wonder if there exists a subtle yet palpable thread that binds these aspiring scholars and the legal luminaries.

We take a moment to consider the sheer enormity of the legal profession, with its labyrinthine statutes, precedents, and colorful characters. From the hallowed halls
of the Supreme Court to the bustling law firms nestled in metropolitan corridors, the legal ecosystem harbors a multitude of dedicated minds. At the same time, the hallowed halls of public high schools resonate with the laughter and chatter of adolescents eagerly embracing their final year of secondary education. It is within this dichotomy that we aim to uncover any underlying association that may be lurking beneath the surface.

On the surface, the notion of a connection between 12th grade students and lawyers may appear far-fetched, akin to an unexpected plot twist in a legal drama. However, the allure of statistical analysis beckons us to explore the possibility with an open mind. As we embark on this empirical journey, it is imperative to apply the tools of rigorous research to objectively discern any patterns or correlations that may emerge from the data. We must heed the call of empirical evidence, even if it leads us down unexpected alleys and through uncharted territories.

In this study, we draw upon data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the American Bar Association, spanning a period from 1990 to 2022. By subjecting these datasets to rigorous statistical analysis, we aim to unearth any latent relationships that may exist between the number of 12th grade students and the legion of legal practitioners. As we unravel the numerical tapestry, we remain cognizant of the significance of discerning causation from mere correlation, for in the realm of statistics, all that glitters is not causality.

In the hallowed halls of academia, where erudite minds converge to unravel the mysteries of the world, it is not unusual to
stumble upon unusual pairings and curious connections. With the spirit of inquiry as our guiding beacon, we shall delve into the heart of this enigmatic correlation, with the hope that our findings will catalyze further contemplation and discourse in the academic and professional spheres alike.

## Prior research

The connection between the quantity of public school students in 12th grade and the number of lawyers in the United States has been the subject of scholarly investigation and speculation. Smith et al. (2010) conducted a comprehensive analysis of educational demographics and legal professionals, revealing initial indications of a potential correlation. Doe and Jones (2015) further expounded upon this nascent correlation, setting the stage for subsequent exploration.

Moving beyond the confines of quantitative studies, "The Legal Landscape: An In-Depth Examination of the American Bar" delves into the intricacies of the legal profession, offering a panoramic view of its evolution over the years. Additionally, "Education in the 21st Century: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities" sheds light on the transforming landscape of secondary education, providing a contextual backdrop for the current inquiry.

In the realm of fiction, John Grisham's legal thrillers exemplify the captivating allure of the legal world, drawing readers into the high-stakes drama of courtroom battles and legal machinations. Moreover, the dystopian novel "1984" by George Orwell offers a thought-provoking exploration of societal control and enforcement, albeit in a context far removed from the legal milieu.

On a tangentially related note, the strategic board game "Lawyer's Gambit" offers an amusing simulation of legal maneuvering and tactical decision-making, albeit in a lighthearted and exaggerated manner. While not directly germane to empirical research, these diverse sources provide a multifaceted lens through which to contemplate the interplay of 12th grade students and the legal profession.

As the discussion veers into the realm of literary and recreational pursuits, the gravity of our inquiry remains undiminished. The convergence of education and legal advocacy demands continued scrutiny, albeit with a sprinkling of levity and cultural resonance.

## Approach

In pursuit of unraveling the enigmatic nexus between the number of public school students in 12th grade and the number of lawyers in the United States, a rigorous and systematic methodology was employed. Leveraging data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the American Bar Association, we embarked on a quantitative odyssey spanning the years 1990 to 2022. The confluence of these disparate datasets beckoned us to navigate the turbulent waters of statistical analysis, with the hope of illuminating any potential correlations that may lay dormant within.

To commence this empirical journey, we engaged in an exhaustive data collection exercise, scouring various online repositories and clearinghouses for pertinent statistics pertaining to the number of 12th grade students and the burgeoning cohort of legal professionals. While the labyrinthine corridors of the internet yielded a profusion
of information, our unwavering focus led us to harvest the choicest fruits from the orchards of the National Center for Education Statistics. Similarly, the American Bar Association proved to be a venerable font of data, allowing us to glean insights into the ebbs and flows of the legal landscape over the decades.

With these datasets in hand, we weathered the tempest of data preprocessing and cleansing, expunging any anomalies or outliers that dared to sow discord within our numerical tapestry. Our toolkit included robust algorithms and methodologies designed to fortify the structural integrity of our data, ensuring that the edifice of our analysis stood tall and unwavering against the winds of statistical turbulence.

Following this rigorous data refinement, we embarked on the exhilarating terrain of correlation analysis. Employing advanced statistical techniques, such as Pearson's correlation coefficient and regression analysis, we endeavored to tease out any semblance of association between the number of 12th grade students and the legion of legal eagles. The pursuit of correlation, however, demanded a judicious and meticulous approach, steering clear of spurious relationships and false causation that may lurk within the hypostases of our datasets.

Furthermore, in our quest for statistical enlightenment, we heeded the clarion call of significance testing. As we confronted the infinite possibilities encapsulated within our data, we invoked the formidable power of pvalues to gauge the veracity of our findings. By subjecting our hypotheses to the crucible of statistical significance, we delineated the boundary between random variation and true
correlation, ensuring that our conclusions were not mere chimeras spawned by statistical happenstance.

In summary, our research methodology stood as a steadfast bulwark against the tides of randomness, guiding us through the labyrinth of empirical inquiry with a blend of precision, rigor, and, dare I say, a hint of statistical whimsy. The tools of statistical analysis served as our trusty compass, directing us towards the elusive nexus that binds the educational aspirations of 12th grade students with the legal tapestry woven by practitioners across the United States.

## Results

The analysis of the data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the American Bar Association yielded a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9815955 between the number of public school students in 12th grade and the number of lawyers in the United States over the period of 1990 to 2022. This finding suggests a strong linear relationship between the two variables. Additionally, the coefficient of determination (R-squared) of 0.9635297 indicates that approximately $96.35 \%$ of the variability in the number of lawyers can be explained by the number of 12th grade students.

The statistical significance of this correlation is underscored by a p-value of less than 0.01 , lending credence to the notion that this relationship is unlikely to have occurred by mere chance. The strength and significance of the correlation prompt further contemplation regarding the potential causal mechanisms or shared underlying factors that may link the number of 12th
grade students to the presence of lawyers in the United States.

Furthermore, Fig. 1 depicts a scatterplot illustrating the robust correlation between the number of 12th grade students and the number of lawyers. The graph showcases the striking coherence between these seemingly incongruous variables, emphasizing the pronounced association uncovered by our analysis.


United States

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year
The implications of this unexpected correlation, while intriguing, beckon for more in-depth exploration and scrutiny. The unanticipated convergence of these variables elicits a sense of wonder and curiosity, akin to stumbling upon a hidden treasure in the labyrinthine world of statistical analysis. Further investigation into the potential mechanisms underlying this relationship is warranted, as it raises thought-provoking questions about the interplay between educational trajectories and career pathways in the legal profession.

In conclusion, the findings of this study unravel a noteworthy association between the number of 12th grade students and the cohort of lawyers in the United States, debunking the notion that these domains
exist in isolation. This serendipitous correlation between the realm of education and the legal landscape invites a fresh perspective on the intricate interconnections that underpin societal dynamics. As we delve into the implications of this unexpected correlation, we are reminded that in the vast tapestry of human endeavors, even the most unassuming variables may be intertwined in unforeseen ways.

## Discussion of findings

The results of the present study provide compelling evidence in support of the previously proposed connection between the number of public school students in 12th grade and the number of lawyers in the United States. Our findings substantiate the initial indications of a potential correlation put forth by Smith et al. (2010) and further expounded upon by Doe and Jones (2015), echoing the sentiments of the literature review.

The strikingly high correlation coefficient of 0.9815955 and the statistically significant pvalue of less than 0.01 advocate for a genuine association between these seemingly disparate variables. This fortuitous discovery aligns with the scholarly discourse surrounding the interplay of educational demographics and the legal profession, validating the prescient insights of prior researchers with a nudge and a wink.

The weight of the correlation coefficient, akin to the heft of a gavel striking down on a decisive judgment, underscores the robustness of this unexpected association. The coefficient of determination (R-squared) of 0.9635297 further bolsters the argument, shedding light on the remarkable degree of
variability in the number of lawyers that can be explicated by the number of 12th grade students. This statistical gravitas is reminiscent of the legal tomes that fill the shelves of law libraries, compelling in its authority and resonance.

The scatterplot presented in Fig. 1 visually encapsulates the potency of the correlation, akin to a panoramic view of a legal battlefield where the amassed forces of 12th grade students and lawyers stand in remarkable alignment. The visual representation of this alignment serves as a potent allegory, illustrating the unexpected confluence of these two domains and adding a spark of levity to the otherwise austere world of statistical analysis.

The implications of this correlation, though unexpected, do not exist in a vacuum. The potential causal mechanisms or shared underlying factors that may link the number of 12th grade students to the presence of lawyers beckon for further investigation, promising to unravel a narrative akin to a thrilling courtroom drama. This unanticipated convergence, much like an unforeseen plot twist in a legal thriller, evokes a sense of intrigue and demands a deeper probing into the enigmatic nexus between educational pathways and legal vocations.

In summary, the findings of this study lend credence to the notion that even the most unexpected correlations may hold profound implications, challenging preconceived notions and beckoning for a nuanced understanding of the intricate, interconnected fabric of societal dynamics. As we entertain the implications of this correlation, we are reminded that in the labyrinthine landscape of statistical analysis,
serendipitous discoveries may prove to be the unsung heroes of scientific inquiry.

## Conclusion

In scrutinizing the seemingly disparate realms of 12th grade education and the legal profession, our findings reveal a remarkable correlation between the number of public school students in 12th grade and the number of lawyers in the United States. A correlation coefficient of 0.9815955 and a pvalue of less than 0.01 speak to the compelling nature of this relationship, prompting contemplation of the underlying mechanisms at play.

The robustness of this correlation, akin to unexpectedly finding a forgotten snack stashed away in a desk drawer, underscores the need for further research to unravel the enigmatic connection between these variables. One cannot help but marvel at the unsuspected thread that binds the bustling corridors of high schools to the hallowed chambers of the legal domain.

As we contemplate the serendipitous nature of this correlation, it beckons for a nuanced exploration of the potential causal pathways and shared factors that may underlie this intricate relationship. The pursuit of understanding the interplay between education and career trajectories in the legal arena holds the promise of uncovering hidden dynamics, much like discovering a concealed gem in an academic labyrinth.

Our investigation sheds light on the salient association between the number of 12th grade students and the legion of legal practitioners, challenging preconceived notions and inviting a fresh outlook on the interconnectedness of societal constructs.

The unexpected nexus between education and the legal landscape evokes a sense of scholarly adventure, reminiscent of stumbling upon an ancient artifact in a dusty library archive.

With these revelatory findings, we assert that no more research is needed in this area.

