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# Twelfth Graders and Legal Crusaders: A Quantitative Examination of the Relationship Between Public School Students in the 12th Grade and the Number of Lawyers in the United States 

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## KEYWORDS

Twelfth graders, public school students, United States, lawyers, legal practitioners, National Center for Education Statistics, American Bar Association, quantitative examination, correlation coefficient, p-value, 12th-grade students, seniors in public schools, lawyers in the United States, educational landscape, legal landscape


#### Abstract

This study delves into the tantalizing conundrum of whether there is a link between the number of young scholars reaching the end of their high school journey and the burgeoning population of legal practitioners in the United States. Leveraging data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the American Bar Association, our research team employed a quantitative approach to explore this perplexing question. Our findings revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9815955 , indicating a confluence between these seemingly unrelated cohorts. With a p-value of less than 0.01 for the years spanning from 1990 to 2022, the evidence suggests that the quantity of 12th-grade students and the quantity of lawyers in the United States are tightly intertwined. It seems that as the number of seniors in public schools grows, so too does the legion of legal eagles soaring through the nation's courtrooms. This unexpected association prompts further inquiry into the mechanisms behind this peculiar correlation and the potential implications for both the educational and legal landscapes.


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## 1. Introduction

The intersection of education and law has always been a fascinating arena, much like
a legal case set in a high school cafeteria. The relationship between the number of 12th-grade students in public schools and
the quantity of lawyers in the United States is an unexpected and enigmatic connection, akin to finding a law book in a student's backpack. This study seeks to unravel this curious correlation, shedding light on the potential implications for both the educational and legal domains.

As we embark on this academic adventure, it is essential to ponder the juxtaposition of these two seemingly disparate cohorts. One may wonder if there is a "senior"ity complex at play, where the surge in 12th-grade students propels a corresponding surge in the legal profession, much like a simultaneous double-booking of the school prom and a court trial. However, such speculation warrants a more rigorous investigation through quantitative analysis, as the potential linkages between these cohorts may not be as straightforward as first assumed.

It is vital to note that this research takes a quantitative approach, much like measuring the precise angle of a lawyer's argument or the statistical probability of a student's excuse for skipping class. Leveraging data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the American Bar Association, our study delves into the realm of numbers and figures to uncover the underlying patterns in the relationship between 12thgrade students and lawyers. This quantitative lens allows for a detailed examination of the trends over time, providing insight into how these cohorts have coalesced and evolved.

Intriguingly, the preliminary findings indicate a remarkably high correlation coefficient, akin to a compelling legal precedent, suggesting a confluence between these seemingly incongruous groups. With a pvalue of less than 0.01 for the years spanning from 1990 to 2022, the evidence compellingly points towards a tight intertwining of the quantity of 12th-grade students and the quantity of lawyers in the United States. It seems that as the number
of seniors in public schools blossoms, so too does the legion of legal eagles soaring through the nation's courtrooms, much like a synchronized dance between education and jurisprudence.

As we delve further into this unexpected association, it becomes evident that this peculiar correlation prompts further inquiry, akin to a lawyer's relentless pursuit of disputing evidence. The mechanisms behind this connection beckon elucidation, and the potential implications for both the educational and legal landscapes demand exploration. Thus, this research sets the stage for a deeper understanding of the interplay between these cohorts, unfurling the mystery behind the relationship between 12th-grade students and lawyers in the United States.

## 2. Literature Review

The connection between the number of twelfth-grade students in public schools and the quantity of legal practitioners in the United States has intrigued researchers for decades. Smith and Doe (2005) conducted a seminal study on this perplexing phenomenon, presenting data that hinted at a potential correlation between these seemingly unrelated cohorts. Building upon their work, Jones (2010) delved into the historical trends of high school graduation rates and the influx of individuals into the legal profession, offering intriguing insights that prompted further inquiry. However, it is essential to note that while these early investigations laid the groundwork for understanding the relationship between 12th-grade students and lawyers, the findings remained inconclusive and left room for continued exploration.

Moving beyond the traditional academic literature, a variety of non-fiction books have touched upon the intersection of education and law, albeit from different angles. In "The School to Prison Pipeline: Education,

Discipline, and Racialized Double Standards" (Johnson, 2019), the author explores the profound implications of the educational system on the legal outcomes for marginalized youth. Taking a more quantitative approach, "Numbers and Justice: A Statistical Examination of Legal Demographics" (Brown, 2017) delves into the numerical underpinnings of the legal profession, providing a unique perspective on the potential linkages with educational trends.

Transitioning into the realm of fiction, the influence of high school experiences on legal careers has been depicted in various literary works. In "To Kill a Mockingbird" (Lee, 1960), the protagonist's formative years in a small town set the stage for a career in law, offering a narrative that intertwines the worlds of education and legal advocacy. Similarly, "The Catcher in the Rye" (Salinger, 1951) presents a coming-of-age story that hints at the unforeseen trajectories that may lead individuals to pursue legal professions, albeit in a more indirect and introspective manner.

In the animated realm, several children's shows have touched upon legal themes, albeit in a lighthearted and whimsical fashion. "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle" featured the quirky duo navigating comical legal predicaments, providing a playful introduction to legal concepts for younger audiences. Additionally, "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!" showcased a group of youthful detectives unraveling mysteries, inadvertently demonstrating the problem-solving skills that may lay the groundwork for future legal endeavors.

This diverse array of sources reflects the multifaceted dimensions of the connection between 12th-grade students and lawyers, offering a rich tapestry of perspectives that inspire further exploration into this uncanny correlation.

## 3. Our approach \& methods

To investigate the perplexing correlation between the number of public school students in 12th grade and the number of lawyers in the United States, our research team employed a blend of data collection methods that could be likened to a legal team assembling evidence for a case.

First, we scoured the vast expanse of the internet, much like legal scholars pouring over centuries-old case law, to gather data on the number of 12th-grade students in public schools across the United States. This information was predominantly sourced from the National Center for Education Statistics, ensuring a comprehensive representation of the educational landscape.

For the population of legal practitioners, we turned to the American Bar Association's data, harnessing their records from 1990 to 2022 as our primary source. This allowed us to capture the ebbs and flows of the legal profession over the years, akin to tracing the evolution of legal doctrines and precedents.

Once the data was assembled, we conducted a rigorous quantitative analysis to unveil the hidden patterns underlying these seemingly disparate cohorts. Utilizing statistical tools such as correlation analysis and regression modeling, we sought to illuminate the extent of the relationship between the number of 12th-grade students and the number of lawyers in the United States.

Our approach was akin to crafting a compelling legal argument, wherein we meticulously marshaled the evidence to discern any significant associations between these divergent groups. By subjecting the data to various statistical tests, we aimed to unravel the mystery
behind this unexpected correlation and shed light on its potential implications.

Furthermore, we undertook a comprehensive review of existing literature, much like a seasoned attorney poring over legal precedents, to contextualize our findings within the broader landscape of educational and legal research. This allowed us to situate our results within the existing body of knowledge and identify any novel contributions our study could offer to this intriguing intersection of education and law.

In summary, our methodology encompassed a methodical data collection process, rigorous quantitative analysis, and a comprehensive review of relevant literature, resembling a robust legal investigation into the entwined fates of 12thgrade students and lawyers in the United States. Through this multi-faceted approach, we endeavored to unravel the enigmatic relationship between these cohorts and present our findings to the scholarly community for further deliberation and discourse.

## 4. Results

The analysis of the data revealed a strikingly high correlation coefficient of 0.9815955 between the number of 12thgrade students in public schools and the quantity of lawyers in the United States. This correlation coefficient is as strong as an argument made by a seasoned attorney, leaving little room for doubt about the connection between these two groups.

The coefficient of determination (r-squared) of 0.9635297 further solidifies this relationship, indicating that a significant proportion of the variation in the number of lawyers can be explained by the number of 12th-grade students. It's as if the number of 12th-grade students holds the legal key to
understanding a considerable portion of the lawyer population.

The $p$-value of less than 0.01 for the years spanning from 1990 to 2022 provides robust evidence of the statistical significance of this relationship. In other words, the probability of observing such a strong correlation by random chance is slim to none, much like finding a law book in a school library.


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year
Figure 1 displays a scatterplot illustrating the resolute correlation between the number of 12th-grade students and the quantity of lawyers in the United States. This visual representation portrays a nearly linear relationship, reinforcing the robust statistical findings. It's like the perfect closing statement in a courtroom drama, leaving the audience - or in this case, the research community - in awe of this unexpected linkage.

In summary, the evidence from this study unequivocally supports the presence of a compelling relationship between the quantity of 12th-grade students in public schools and the number of lawyers in the United States. This unexpected association between education and jurisprudence calls for further exploration into its underlying mechanisms and potential implications for both realms.

## 5. Discussion

The results of this study provide compelling evidence of a surprisingly strong association between the number of 12th-grade students in public schools and the quantity of lawyers in the United States. These findings bolster and extend previous scholarly inquiries into a connection that, at first glance, seems as unlikely as finding a tortoise in a hare race.

The literature review presented a diverse array of sources that hinted at the potential interplay between educational experiences and legal careers. The historical trends explored by Jones (2010) and the statistical insights from "Numbers and Justice" (Brown, 2017) set the stage for our current investigation. Despite the playful introductions to legal concepts in children's shows such as "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle," the empirical exploration in our study underscores the significance of this linkage. While it may seem as improbable as a law book in a school library, our analysis affirms the unexpected correlation between the number of 12thgrade students and the quantity of lawyers.

Our findings align with the notion that formative educational experiences may contribute to an individual's eventual career trajectory. The strong correlation coefficient and coefficient of determination point to a relationship that is as sturdy as a wellconstructed legal argument. It seems that as the number of 12th-grade students grows, so too does the legion of legal practitioners, much like the crescendo of a courtroom drama building to an unexpected revelation.

The statistical significance of the relationship, as evidenced by the $p$-value of less than 0.01, dismisses any lingering doubts about the authenticity of this connection. It is as improbable as finding a needle in a haystack to disregard the compelling evidence that the quantity of 12th-grade students holds a key to
understanding a considerable proportion of the lawyer population.

While the mechanisms behind this association remain a puzzle, our findings pique further curiosity and highlight the need for continued exploration. The unexpected intertwining of education and law presents intriguing implications for both realms, akin to the suspenseful plot twist at the heart of a legal thriller.

In conclusion, this study sheds light on a curious correlation between seemingly disparate domains. The unexpected nature of this relationship prompts contemplation and calls for additional research to unravel the enigmatic ties between the number of public school students in 12th grade and the number of lawyers in the United States.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has definitively established a strikingly high correlation between the number of 12th-grade students in public schools and the quantity of lawyers in the United States, akin to discovering a legal loophole in the education system. This unexpected connection between academia and jurisprudence is as puzzling as finding a gavel in a school supply closet. The correlation coefficient of 0.9815955 indicates a tight intertwining of these seemingly disparate cohorts, serving as an eloquent opening statement for further inquiry.

The coefficient of determination further accentuates this interplay, suggesting that a considerable portion of the lawyer population can be elucidated by the flux of 12th-grade students. It's almost as if these seniors hold the key to understanding a significant proportion of the legal profession, much like a graduating class conferring honorary degrees in law.

The robust statistical significance of this relationship, with a p-value of less than
0.01, dismisses any notion of chance association, leaving no room for objection, much like a well-crafted legal argument. The scatterplot visually encapsulates this strong correlation, resembling a compelling courtroom exhibit that leaves the jury - or in this case, the research community - in awe of this unexpected linkage.

While the exact mechanisms behind this connection remain shrouded in mystery, our findings warrant a call to action for further exploration, much like an unresolved case demanding a reexamination of evidence. However, given the resolute nature of our results, it seems that no further research is needed in this area. It might just be that as the number of 12th-grade students flourishes, so does the legion of legal eagles, leaving us with a conundrum more perplexing than a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

