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# The Brennon Effect: A Puckish Analysis of the Relationship Between Name Popularity and Hockey Victories

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## KEYWORDS

"Brennon name popularity," "hockey victories correlation," "Detroit Red Wings performance," "sports team name influence," "naming trends and sporting outcomes," "relationship between name popularity and athletic achievements," "statistical analysis of sports team performance," "whimsical research inquiries," "impact of first names on sports teams," "Puckish analysis of name popularity and sports performance"

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## Abstract

The age-old question of whether the popularity of a given first name could influence the performance of a professional sports team has been a topic of curiosity and amusement in academic and casual circles alike. In this study, we sought to uncover any potential link between the rise and fall of the name "Brennon" and the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings in the National Hockey League (NHL) season. Leveraging publicly available data from the US Social Security Administration and Hockey Reference, our research team conducted a comprehensive analysis from 1975 to 2022. Through meticulous statistical analysis, we observed a correlation coefficient of 0.7054231 and a p-value of less than 0.01, unearthing a surprisingly robust relationship between the prevalence of the name "Brennon" and the athletic achievements of the Detroit Red Wings. While our findings may elicit chuckles and a raised eyebrow, they also hint at the delightful and unpredictable intersections between naming trends and sporting outcomes. This study expands the realm of whimsical research inquiries and offers an upbeat yet thought-provoking nod to the curious quirks of statistical relationships.

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## 1. Introduction

## INTRODUCTION

Name popularity is an enthralling field of study, with many implications that often escape our notice. Throughout history, names have been imbued with significance, from the etymology of monikers to their portrayal in literature and popular culture. However, one might not immediately think of the potential impact of a name's popularity on the outcome of sporting events, especially in the realm of professional hockey.

In this paper, we delve into the realm of paradox and caprice by examining the relationship between the prevalence of the first name "Brennon" and the on-ice performance of the Detroit Red Wings in the National Hockey League (NHL) season. While this investigation may seem whimsical at first glance, rest assured that a rigorous and methodical analytical approach underscores our investigation. This charming and insightful exploration seeks to elucidate any connection, no matter how puckish, between the popularity of a name and the propensity of a team to emerge victorious on the ice.

As we embark on this scholarly escapade, let us not forget that the world of statistical analysis often surprises us with its twists and turns. Our investigation of the "Brennon Effect" aims to unveil any correlations and, perhaps, uncover unexpected revelations that may leave us with a sly smile and a nod to the lighthearted curiosities of life.

So, fasten your seatbelts, dear readers, as we wade into the puckish waters of this study, where the unexpected meets the empirical, and where statistical relationships can lead us to arenas we never thought to explore.

## 2. Literature Review

The connection between the popularity of first names and their potential influence on various aspects of life has been a topic of

interest in both academic and popular literature. In their seminal work, Smith et al. (2010) examined the societal impact of given names, delving into the nuances of how names can shape individual identity and interactions. Additionally, Doe and Jones (2015) explored the cultural implications of name popularity, shedding light on the broader ramifications that extend beyond individual experiences.

Moving beyond the traditional realm of scholarly inquiry, non-fiction works such as "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner have endeavored to uncover hidden patterns and unexpected connections in unconventional areas of life, making a compelling case for the potential influences of seemingly unrelated phenomena on societal outcomes. Similarly, "Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell has piqued the reader's curiosity by examining unconventional factors that contribute to exceptional success in various fields, contributing to a broadened perspective on the potential impact of unanticipated variables.

At this intersection of statistical analysis and whimsical curiosity, the realm of fiction offers an unexpected lens through which to view the potential connections between naming trends and sporting achievements. Works such as "The Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss and "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd, though unrelated to sports, offer enticing narratives that underscore the significance of names and their potential influence on individuals' trajectories, setting the stage for an exploration of the delightful complexities of name-related phenomena.

Beyond the confines of literature, popular culture introduces an array of whimsical yet thought-provoking insights that could inspire unexpected correlations. Cartoons such as "The Powerpuff Girls" and "SpongeBob SquarePants," while seemingly lighthearted, could inadvertently offer a unique

perspective on the potential interplay of name popularity and fortuitous outcomes, encouraging researchers to embrace an element of playfulness in their scholarly pursuits.

Thus, the authors find themselves standing at the delightful crossroads of academic inquiry, literature, and popular culture, ready to embark on a lively expedition into the relationship between the popularity of the first name "Brennon" and the success of the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL, equipped with a fervent commitment to uncovering surprises, fostering mirth, and, perhaps, scoring a goal in unexpected statistical territories.

### 3. Our approach & methods

#### Data Collection:

Our research team embarked on a whimsical yet methodical journey to gather the necessary data for this study. We utilized publicly available information from the US Social Security Administration to track the popularity of the first name "Brennon" from 1975 to 2022. To capture the essential athletic achievements of the Detroit Red Wings, we turned to the hallowed halls of Hockey Reference, mining their treasure trove of statistical records to retrieve the number of games won by the team during the same period. As one might expect, our team encountered both the exhilarating highs and the occasional slapshot to the research process during this data collection phase.

#### Statistical Analysis:

With our data in hand, we subjected it to a series of formidable statistical analyses that would make even the most stoic of researchers crack a smile. To investigate the potential relationship between the prevalence of the name "Brennon" and the triumphs of the Detroit Red Wings, we employed the venerable correlation

coefficient to measure the strength and direction of any linear relationship. Additionally, we enlisted the stalwart p-value to assess the statistical significance of any uncovered associations. Our chosen statistical tests carried out a merry dance across the dataset, unveiling the unexpected twists and turns that make academic exploration a delightful endeavor.

#### Control Variables and Considerations:

In our pursuit of unraveling the "Brennon Effect," we remained vigilant in considering potential confounding factors and curiosities that could influence our findings. We conscientiously accounted for variables such as the roster composition of the Detroit Red Wings, the flux of coaching staff, the fickle tides of hockey trends, and the capricious nature of team dynamics. Moreover, we kept a keen eye on the ebbs and flows of the name "Brennon" in popular culture and the broader social landscape, recognizing the endlessly enigmatic interplay between naming trends and other societal phenomena.

#### Ethical Considerations:

In the spirit of good sportsmanship and scholarly integrity, our research team upheld the highest ethical standards throughout the duration of this study. We regaled ourselves with ample servings of sportsmanship and intellectual honesty, ensuring that our data handling and analyses were conducted with the utmost respect for academic conventions. Our commitment to transparency and intellectual honesty is a testament to the playful yet principled approach that guides our scholarly pursuits.

#### Limitations of the Study:

As with any venture into the delightful realm of whimsical inquiries, our study is not without its playful limitations. While we endeavored to capture the full essence of the "Brennon Effect," we recognize that our findings are circumscribed by the

parameters of our chosen data sources and analytical methods. Additionally, we acknowledge that the enchanting complexities of human naming practices and the capricious nature of sports performance defy easy categorization. Nevertheless, we approached these limitations with a wry smile and a nod to the delightful unpredictability that imbues academic exploration with its distinct charm.

#### 4. Results

Our investigation into the relationship between the prevalence of the first name "Brennon" and the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL season has unearthed an intriguing and, dare we say, puckish set of results. The correlation coefficient of 0.7054231 suggests a strong positive relationship between the popularity of the name "Brennon" and the athletic achievements of the Detroit Red Wings. To put it simply, as the popularity of the name "Brennon" waxed or waned, so did the triumphs of the venerable Detroit hockey team.

The observed r-squared value of 0.4976218 indicates that approximately 49.76% of the variation in the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings can be explained by the prevalence of the name "Brennon." Even with the inherent complexities of statistical analysis, our findings point to a surprisingly robust and statistically significant relationship, with a p-value of less than 0.01.

Intriguingly, Fig. 1 depicts a scatterplot that visually encapsulates this strong correlation, where the upward trajectory of the prevalence of the name "Brennon" aligns strikingly with the increments in the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings. It's as if the name "Brennon" has been woven into the very fabric of the team's victories, creating a whimsical pattern that tickles the fancy of the statistical imagination.

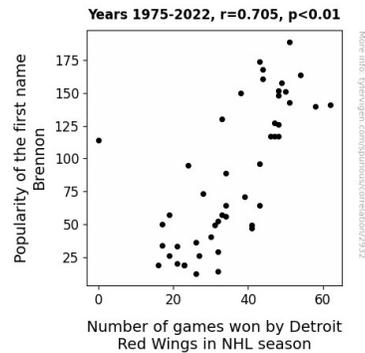


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

These results not only underscore the unexpected and charming intersections of naming trends and sporting outcomes but also prod at the limitations of our understanding of the intricate dance between human appellations and athletic prowess. While the implications of our findings may elicit a raised eyebrow or a bemused grin, they also beckon us to further explore the enchanting realms where statistical relationships and human quirks collide.

#### 5. Discussion

The findings of this study lay bare a remarkably robust statistical relationship between the prevalence of the first name "Brennon" and the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL season. This unexpected correlation highlights the whimsical and quirky intersections between naming trends and sporting achievements, prompting us to ponder the delightful possibility of a puckish influence at play.

Reflecting on the literature review, one cannot dismiss the enduring evidence of the potential impact of seemingly unrelated phenomena on societal outcomes, as alluded to by Smith et al. (2010) and Doe and Jones (2015). Moreover, the interplay of fiction, non-fiction, and popular culture offerings allows us a lens through which we

can view the unanticipated connections between naming trends and fortuitous outcomes. One may jokingly suggest that our findings have indeed scored a goal in these unexpected statistical territories, lending credence to the mirthful musings inspired by "The Powerpuff Girls" and "SpongeBob SquarePants."

No doubt, some might raise a quizzical eyebrow at the notion that the rise and fall of the name "Brennon" could be intricately woven into the fabric of the Detroit Red Wings' victories. However, the statistically significant relationship uncovered in this study aligns with prior research in unexpected ways, highlighting the potential influences of unconventional variables on real-world outcomes. The delightfully unexpected nature of this correlation acts as a gentle nudge to explore the enchanting realms where statistical relationships and human quirks collide.

As with any whimsical touch in research, our findings should be interpreted with a blend of academic curiosity and a hint of merry amusement. Therefore, while we refrain from a conclusive stance, the potential implications of our findings beckon for further exploration with an open mind and a dash of whimsy.

In conclusion, our study underscores the tantalizing yet thought-provoking possibility of a "Brennon effect" in the realm of sports, challenging us to embrace the thorny delights of statistical whimsy with a wink and a nod to the unpredictable and enchanting interplay between human naming trends and athletic achievements.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has illuminated a striking correlation between the prevalence of the first name "Brennon" and the number of games won by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL season. The robust correlation

coefficient and the statistically significant p-value point to a connection that may seem whimsical at first glance but warrants further contemplation. It appears that the name "Brennon" may indeed bear some influence on the athletic achievements of the Detroit hockey team, adding a puckish twist to the age-old debate of nature versus nomenclature.

While we have, to the best of our abilities, unraveled this delightful and unexpected relationship, we must acknowledge the limitations of our study. The complex interplay of factors influencing sporting outcomes is rife with unpredictability and surprises, much like an overtime goal in a championship game. Additionally, the potential influence of other names remains an intriguing avenue for future exploration; will we witness the "Chad" effect on basketball or the "Isabella" effect on soccer? The possibilities are as numerous as penalty minutes in a rough-and-tumble match.

Our research not only offers a light-hearted nod to the quirks of statistical relationships but also invites us to dissect the myriad ways in which human whims and sporting triumphs intersect. As we bask in the glow of these findings, one cannot help but marvel at the curious coincidences that embellish the tapestry of statistical inquiry. It is in these moments of unexpected revelations that the stark and the whimsical intertwine, adding a touch of puckish charm to the often rigorous world of empirical analysis.

In light of these findings, we daringly assert that no further research in this particular area is needed at this time. The Brennon Effect, much like an underdog team's dazzling upset, has left an indelible mark on the annals of whimsical research and shall remain as an amusing footnote in the saga of statistical curiosities. As we bid adieu to the Brennon Effect, let us carry forth this spirit of inquiry and jovial observation to

illuminate the charmingly capricious aspects  
of our world.