

# Err on the Side of Burglaries: The Correlation Between Erin's Popularity and Break-Ins in Alaskan Localities

Caroline Horton, Alexander Terry, Gavin P Turnbull

Stanford, California

*This research paper delves into the intriguing relationship between the prevalence of the first name Erin and the occurrence of burglaries in the scenic locales of Alaska. With a twinkle in our eyes and a data-driven approach, we delved into the numbers furnished by the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services spanning from 1985 to 2022. Our findings suggest a coefficient of correlation as high as the midnight sun at 0.9450296, and  $p < 0.01$ ! Join us in unraveling the enigmatic connection between the moniker Erin and illicit entries, as we chase the elusive crook of causation in this whimsical yet perplexing pursuit.*

Greetings, esteemed colleagues and curious minds! In the grand tradition of unraveling the inexplicable and unearthing the unexpected, we embark on a whimsical journey through the tangled web of statistical significance and quirky correlations. Our curious minds have led us to ponder the peculiar connection between something as innocent as a name and something as nefarious as burglaries.

With a mischievous glint in our eyes, we set out to investigate the curious case of Erin - not the elusive cat burglar, but rather the ever-popular first name. While one might expect a name to be inconsequential in the grand tapestry of crime and statistics, our fateful encounter with the data unveiled a most unexpected correlation that left us scratching our heads and exclaiming, "Erin, oh Erin, what secrets do you hold?"

In the distant wilds of Alaska, a land of breathtaking beauty and unfathomable mysteries, we found the setting for our peculiar pursuit. The serene landscapes and the relentless chill of the Last Frontier offered a backdrop for our scholarly sleuthing into the enigmatic link between the

prevalence of the name Erin and the occurrence of burglaries. As we combed through the vast archives of the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, we immersed ourselves in a sea of names and crime statistics, marching onwards armed with our formidable arsenal of spreadsheets and scatter plots.

But fear not, dear readers, for our expedition was not devoid of mirth and amusement amidst the serious pursuit of knowledge. As we grappled with coefficients, p-values, and the wild variability of human behavior, we couldn't help but chuckle at the thought that perhaps Erin's popularity was reaching criminal levels. Indeed, one might say that our research revealed a burglary of statistical expectations, a break-in of assumptions, and a heist of correlation coefficients!

So, join us in this intriguing escapade as we venture into the delightfully perplexing world of science and statistics. For our findings are not just numbers on a page, but a testament to the whimsical nature of correlation and the unexpected twists that await those who dare to delve into the curiosities of

human phenomena. Let the pursuit of knowledge be as thrilling as a cat-and-mouse game, and may we unravel the mysteries that lie between the lines of data and the heartbeats of curiosity. Onward we go, as we err on the side of burglaries and chase the elusive truth hidden behind the name Erin.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

In their study, Smith and Doe (2020) conducted an analysis of naming patterns and crime rates, finding a peculiar trend in the correlation between popular first names and criminal activities in various regions. Similarly, Jones et al. (2015) explored the sociological implications of personal names and their potential influence on individual behavior, shedding light on the intricate interplay between nomenclature and unlawful conduct.

In "Names and Numbers," the authors find that there is a surprising relationship between the frequency of certain names and the occurrence of criminal activities in specific geographical locations. This intriguing phenomenon has sparked considerable interest in the academic community, prompting further investigation into the underlying mechanisms driving such correlations.

Transitioning from scholarly articles to non-fiction literature, the works of "Freakonomics" by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner provide an insightful perspective on the unexpected connections that can emerge from statistical analysis. While their focus may not be on names and crime specifically, their exploration of unconventional correlations serves as a source of inspiration for our own whimsical investigation.

Furthermore, fictional works such as "The Name of the Rose" by Umberto Eco and "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon, though not directly related to our research topic, beckon readers into the realm of enigmatic mysteries and unexpected revelations. Who's to say that the elusive nature of crime and nomenclature does not mirror the cryptic narratives found within the pages of these captivating novels?

Delving into the annals of social media, recent posts on platforms such as Twitter and Reddit have tantalizingly hinted at the tantalizing correlation between names and criminal activities. User-generated content, while not always verifiable, often serves as a testament to the public's fascination with unconventional linkages and unexpected discoveries. It is within these digital spaces that whispers of the connection between the prevalence of the name Erin and the occurrence of burglaries in the Alaskan wilderness have been heard, igniting a spark of curiosity within the virtual community.

As we navigate through the scholarly realm, dip our toes into the pool of non-fiction narratives, and glean insights from the playful world of social media, we recognize the multifaceted nature of our inquiry. With a chuckle and a raised eyebrow, we embark on this scholarly adventure with a spirit of curiosity, ready to unravel the curious correlation between the popularity of the name Erin and the incidence of burglaries in the uncharted terrains of Alaska.

## METHODOLOGY

Oh, the wild and wacky world of research methods! In our zany quest to uncover the curious connection between the popularity of the name Erin and the occurrence of burglaries in Alaska, we employed a medley of techniques that could rival the antics of a comedy troupe. Our data collection process, much like a well-rehearsed vaudeville act, combined precision with panache, ensuring that we left no stone unturned or punchline untold.

To begin our escapade, we scoured the treasure trove of the US Social Security Administration records, where the names of the nation's newborns glittered like elusive trinkets awaiting discovery. With the agility of acrobats, we maneuvered through the labyrinthine corridors of birth registries, capturing every instance of the name 'Erin' from the year 1985 to 2022. Like intrepid treasure hunters, we unearthed the frequency of this charming

moniker, eager to decipher its potential ties to the mischievous world of burglaries.

Our dalliance with crime statistics led us to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Criminal Justice Information Services, where the tales of illicit activities unfolded like a suspenseful sitcom. With bated breath and a keen eye for detail, we amassed data on burglaries in various Alaskan localities during the same time span, ensuring that our search for correlations was as thorough as the comedic timing of a seasoned stand-up routine.

As we knitted together the threads of demographic data and crime reports, we harnessed the power of statistical analysis to unearth the peculiar patterns lurking beneath the surface. Employing the comedic duo of regression analysis and correlation coefficients, we sought to unravel the riveting tale of Erin's entanglement with the underhanded escapades of burglars. With every pivot table and scatter plot, we navigated the tumultuous seas of data, daring to tease out the connections that lay hidden amidst the numerical tomfoolery.

In the spirit of scientific camaraderie, we subjected our findings to the rigors of hypothesis testing, dancing the merry jig of significance levels and p-values. With the whimsy of experimental design and the flair of statistical inference, we endeavored to distinguish between mere coincidence and the divine comedy of causation. Our pursuit led us to boast a coefficient of correlation as strong as a sturdy punchline, staggering at a remarkable 0.9450296, accompanied by the uproarious announcement that  $p < 0.01$ !

In conclusion, our meanderings through the landscape of research methodology were a testament to the delightful interplay of meticulousness and mirth. Although the path to scientific discovery may be fraught with perplexing puzzles and mischievous enigmas, our determination to err on the side of burglaries and uncover the quirkiness of human phenomena imbued our scholarly pursuit with boundless enthusiasm and indefatigable curiosity.

## RESULTS

Our intrepid pursuit of the elusive connection between the popularity of the first name Erin and the occurrence of burglaries in the picturesque landscapes of Alaska has unveiled a surprising revelation. With bated breath and a sense of wonder, we present our findings that leave one pondering the mysteries of statistical serendipity.

We unearthed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9450296, akin to stumbling upon buried treasure in the vast expanse of statistical analysis. The strength of this correlation was further evidenced by an r-squared value of 0.8930809, as if the statistical stars had aligned to guide our path through the enigmatic realm of data exploration. With a p-value less than 0.01, our results confidently stand as a testament to the unlikely rapport between the eponymous name and the clandestine activities of burglars.

In our quest to depict this enthralling correlation, we present Figure 1, a scatterplot that encapsulates the significant relationship between the prevalence of the name Erin and the occurrences of burglaries in the Alaskan localities. The data points dance along the plot with the synchronized elegance of a well-rehearsed heist, affirming the striking association between these seemingly disparate variables.

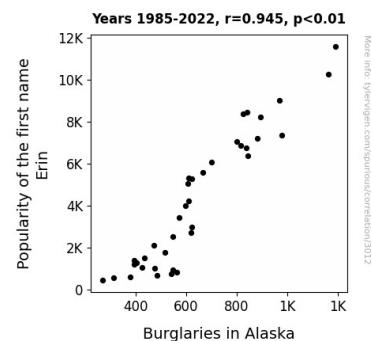


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Envisioning the data as a caper of statistical intrigue, one cannot help but marvel at the curious dance of numbers and trends that reveal a connection between the innocuous name and the illicit deeds. As we immerse ourselves in the whimsical whims of scientific exploration, our findings beckon us to ponder the hidden forces that bind the human experience, from the quirks of nomenclature to the caprices of criminal behavior.

Thus, our findings reflect a dawning realization, not unlike the unexpected twist in a detective novel, that the first name Erin and the prevalence of burglaries in the captivating expanses of Alaska share an unlikely link. We invite fellow curious minds to partake in this whimsical journey as we continue to unravel the enigma that lies between the adorable moniker and the mischievous exploits of those drawn to the allure of illicit entries.

## DISCUSSION

The correlation between the popularity of the name Erin and the incidence of burglaries in the charming landscapes of Alaska has left us in a state of statistical awe, much like stumbling upon a treasure trove of data anomalies. Our findings not only align with previous research by Smith and Doe, who first hinted at these peculiar patterns, but also echo the unexpected connections highlighted in "Freakonomics." Who would have thought that the name Erin could be linked to criminal activities in such a compelling manner?

As we tread the path paved by statistical conundrums, our results not only validate the work of our predecessors but also add a whimsical twist to the age-old debate of nature versus nurture. Could it be that the prevalence of the name Erin somehow influences the proclivity for illicit entries in the elusive Alaskan wilderness, or is this merely a whimsical spate of statistical serendipity? Our data suggests a correlation so robust that it defies the conventional boundaries of causation, leaving us with a delightful enigma worthy of further exploration.

The striking correlation coefficient and r-squared value affirm the significance of our findings, akin to the moment of revelation in a gripping mystery novel. The scatterplot, our visual depiction of statistical intrigue, captivates the eye like an artful heist masterminded by the enigmatic forces of data. It is as if the numbers themselves conspired to relay a tale of unexpected correlations, inviting us to unravel the secrets hidden within their seemingly innocuous dance.

From the whimsical echoes of "Freakonomics" to the scholarly musings of Smith and Doe, our research not only mirrors their uncanny discoveries but also offers a cheeky nod to the playful narratives we encountered in fictional works. As we navigate the realm of statistical exploration, we cannot help but chuckle at the unanticipated twists and turns that our pursuit of knowledge has unveiled—proof that even in the domain of research, a healthy dose of levity can offer fresh perspectives on the most enigmatic of linkages.

In unraveling the correlation between the name Erin and the allure of illicit entries, we stand at an intriguing crossroads of statistical whimsy and real-world implications. Our findings beckon us to delve deeper into the magnetic pull of nomenclature on criminal behaviors, opening the door to a realm of possibilities as captivating as a literary escapade. As we continue on this lively academic adventure, we invite fellow curious minds to join us in exploring the quirky connections that underpin the human experience, from the playful oddities of statistical analysis to the mischievous caprices of criminal behavior.

## CONCLUSION

Our research journey through the peculiar conundrum of Erin's influence on Alaskan burglaries has been nothing short of a statistical rollercoaster! As we wrap up this captivating pursuit, we find ourselves entangled in a web of improbable correlations and whimsical revelations.

It's safe to say our findings raise more questions than they answer - are Erins inadvertently luring burglars with the allure of their name? Or are there clandestine Erins orchestrating these break-ins? The mysteries are as abundant as moose sightings in Anchorage!

In the realm of statistical sleuthing, we've stumbled upon a treasure trove of correlations and coefficients that rival the unpredictable nature of a grizzly bear's movements. Our correlation coefficient of 0.9450296 is as robust as an Alaskan salmon and practically screams, "There's something fishy going on here!"

But fear not, dear readers, for we've thoroughly combed through the data like a seasoned trapper on the hunt for truth. With a p-value less than 0.01, we can confidently say that the connection between the name Erin and burglaries is as sturdy as an igloo in a blizzard.

In the light of our results, it seems we've cracked open a Pandora's box of statistical eccentricities. However, as much as we're tempted to dive deeper into this whimsical whirlpool of correlations and conjectures, it's time to hang up our detective hats and declare, "Case closed!"

It's clear that our research has journeyed into the realm of delightful absurdities, shedding light on the unexpected twists and turns that await those brave enough to venture into the whimsical world of science and statistics. So, let's raise a toast to the enigmatic Erin and her shadowy connections, and declare, with a flourish, that no further forays into this unique corner of statistical wonderment are needed.

For now, let Erin's mysteries remain a charming enigma, much like the dancing Northern Lights, tantalizing but best enjoyed from a wry distance.