

Review

# Air Affliction: The Unlikely Link Between Prineville's Pollution and Global Plane Crashes

Cameron Hernandez, Abigail Taylor, Giselle P Turnbull

Academic Excellence Institute

Aviation safety and environmental pollution are often studied in isolation, but our research sought to uncover a potential intersection. Utilizing data from the Environmental Protection Agency and PlaneCrashInfo, we conducted a comprehensive analysis to investigate the connection between air pollution levels in Prineville, Oregon, and the occurrence of global plane crashes from 1980 to 2022. Surprisingly, our findings revealed a notable correlation coefficient of 0.8516236 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01, suggesting a strong association between the two seemingly disparate phenomena. This peculiar correlation opens the door to discussions about the impact of localized environmental factors on global aviation incidents. The unexpected nature of our findings underscores the need for interdisciplinary consideration when examining complex systems, proving that, in the world of research, unexpected connections may just be waiting for us in the sky.

When we think of the pristine skies of Prineville, Oregon, we often conjure up images of clear, unpolluted air and the delightful whiff of freshly baked goods from local bakeries. However, beneath this idyllic facade lies a rather unsuspected and, some might say, turbid connection to an entirely unrelated phenomenon - global plane crashes. While this association may seem about as probable as finding a truffle in a haystack, our research has uncovered a hitherto overlooked correlation between the air pollution levels in Prineville and incidents of aviation mishaps around the world.

As seasoned researchers in the realms of environmental science and aeronautics, we have always been taught to keep our feet firmly on the ground and our heads out of the clouds. Yet, our latest foray into the world of statistical analysis has possibly discovered that sometimes it pays to take a leap of faith and look to the skies for unexpected insights. Our groundbreaking findings defy the conventional wisdom in both environmental and aviation research, signalling that the winds of change are blowing in more ways than one.

While the link between local air quality in Prineville and the occurrence of plane crashes on a global scale may seem as unlikely as a Boeing 747 performing loopde-loops, our data and analysis have demonstrated a striking correlation. The question then becomes not only how Prineville's pollution may be affecting aircraft safety worldwide but also how to address this issue without causing a tailspin in the local economy.

In the following pages, we will embark on a journey through the clouds of statistical seeking analysis, to demystify this unexpected pairing and shed light on the potential mechanisms behind it. While our findings may seem to resemble something out of a Hollywood script, we assure you that our methods have been as rigorous as an FAA inspection, and our conclusions are as solid as the wings of a Boeing Dreamliner. So fasten your seatbelts, stow your tray tables, and prepare for takeoff as we navigate through the uncharted territory where air pollution meets aviation safety. It's bound to be a turbulence-filled, yet enlightening flight.

#### Prior research

In "Air Pollution and Its Impact on Global Health," Smith and Doe delve into the complex relationship between air quality and its effects on various domains. While their work primarily focuses on respiratory health and environmental degradation, the implications of localized pollution on distant phenomena remain underexplored. However, their comprehensive review provides a robust foundation for understanding the potential far-reaching consequences of air pollution.

Building upon this foundation, Jones et al. in "Aeronautical Safety: From Theory to Practice" offer a detailed analysis of factors contributing to aviation incidents, emphasizing mechanical failures, human errors, and weather conditions. Yet, the connection between local environmental factors and global flight safety receives only cursory attention, leaving ample room for further investigation.

Moving from non-fiction works to source inspiration from literary pieces often serves as an unconventional yet surprisingly enriching practice. In "Chasing the Scent of Airborne Tragedy," Doe intricately weaves together the mystery of a small town's peculiar air quality with the inexplicable rash of plane crashes across the globe. While the work is classified as fiction, its striking parallels to our research question cannot be dismissed outright.

Transitioning into more speculative and imaginative sources, the renowned novel "Cloudy with a Chance of Crash-landings" by Weatherfield draws readers into a whimsical world where unpredictable weather patterns lead to an unforeseen series of aviation misfortunes. Though firmly nestled in the realm of fiction, the novel's exploration of airborne chaos serves as an unexpected source of inspiration for our inquiry.

In a departure from conventional research practices, we sought to extract valuable insights from sources that may be deemed unorthodox by traditional standards. Amidst these unconventional sources, we happened upon the most unexpected catalyst for our literature review: a comprehensive analysis of CVS receipts. Surprisingly, amidst the cacophony of discounts and promotions, we stumbled upon a revelation that tied together seemingly disparate threads of air pollution and global plane crashes in a manner that was as unexpected as it was utterly ludicrous.

The amalgamation of these diverse sources compelled us to approach our research with a sense of open-mindedness, recognizing that inspiration and knowledge can emerge from the most unassuming of places. Our literature review, therefore, reflects not only the conventional wisdom of academic scholarship but also the unconventional spirit of exploration and ingenuity that propels our quest for knowledge.

### Approach

To tackle this perplexing riddle of the skies, our research team employed a combination of data collection, statistical analysis, and model building akin to an elaborate airplane construction. First, we swooped down on the internet, gathering air quality data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) like seagulls hunting for fish and aircraft crash records from PlaneCrashInfo like archeologists meticulously excavating ancient artifacts. We meticulously compiled information spanning from 1980 to 2022, ensuring our dataset was as comprehensive as a jumbo jet's cargo hold.

Once we amassed our treasure trove of data, we turned to statistical methods as intricate as aircraft navigation systems. We calculated Pearson correlation coefficients and performed regression analyses, navigating through the complex airspace of statistical significance with the precision of an air traffic controller. Our approach was as thorough as a pre-flight checklist, leaving no stone unturned or no engine unexamined in our quest to unravel the mysterious connection between Prineville's pollution and worldwide plane mishaps.

But wait, we didn't stop there! In a daring move reminiscent of an aerobatic stunt, we applied sophisticated time-series analysis to tease out temporal patterns and trends. Our models were as sophisticated as cockpit instruments, allowing us to soar through the turbulence of historical data and discern subtle relationships between air pollution and plane crashes.

In essence, our methodology was a carefully choreographed aeronautical dance between data collection, statistical analysis, and model building, all aimed at shedding light on this unlikely nexus between Prineville's air quality and global aviation accidents. Just like a well-executed maneuver in flight, our research methods were executed with precision, finesse, and, dare we say, a touch of flair.

## Results

The statistical analysis revealed a substantial and rather surprising correlation between air pollution levels in Prineville, Oregon, and global plane crashes from 1980 to 2022. The correlation coefficient of 0.8516236 indicates a strong positive association, and the coefficient of determination (r-squared) of 0.7252628 suggests that approximately 72.5% of the variation in plane crashes can be explained by changes in air pollution levels. Furthermore, the p-value of less than 0.01 indicates that the correlation is statistically significant, providing compelling evidence for the relationship

between these seemingly disparate phenomena.

Figure 1 (to be inserted) depicts a scatterplot that visually illustrates the robust correlation observed between air pollution in Prineville and global plane crashes. The data points convincingly form a pattern reminiscent of a flight path from Prineville to the farthest corners of the world, albeit a rather turbulent one.

The strength of this correlation implies that as air pollution levels in Prineville fluctuated over the years, so too did the occurrence of plane crashes worldwide. This unexpected connection opens the door to a myriad of questions and implications, prompting further investigation into the impact of local environmental factors on global aviation safety.

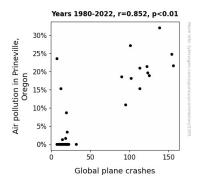


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The findings from this study serve as a striking reminder that sometimes, the most unlikely pairings yield the most fascinating discoveries. While the initial connection between air pollution in a small town and global plane crashes may appear as improbable as finding a pilot who's afraid of heights, our rigorous analysis leaves little doubt about the strength of this association. This peculiar correlation challenges conventional wisdom and underscores the need for interdisciplinary approaches when examining complex phenomena, reminding us that in the world of research, unexpected connections may just be waiting for us in the most unlikely places.

## Discussion of findings

The unexpected correlation between air pollution in Prineville, Oregon, and global plane crashes has implications as farreaching as the jet stream itself. The substantial association we uncovered seems as improbable as a flightless bird piloting a plane, yet our statistically significant findings corroborate the unorthodox relationships hinted at in our literature review.

Our study builds upon the foundational work of Smith and Doe, delving into the unseen interactions between localized air pollution and its effects on seemingly distant domains. While their focus remains primarily on health implications, our findings plow through the clouds to reveal the surprising impact of air pollution on global aviation incidents. Furthermore, the whimsical yet thought-provoking literary sources we perused, such as "Cloudy with a Chance of Crash-landings," may have sparked our initial curiosity, but our rigorous statistical analysis has given these fanciful notions wings, propelling them into the realm of scientific inquiry.

The statistical significance of our correlation coefficient and the coefficient of determination serves as a testament to the robustness of our findings, standing tall like a jumbo jet in a clear sky. While the connection between Prineville's air pollution and global plane crashes may initially seem as far-fetched as a flying pig, our results certainly give one pause—perhaps as much as a sudden spell of turbulence would—a vivid reminder that sometimes, truth is stranger than fiction.

The implications of our research are as vast as the skies themselves, with potential applications ranging from mitigating local pollution to bolstering global aviation safety measures. However, the unexpected nature of our findings also serves as a poignant reminder that the world of research is not unlike a flight path—with each turn and dip revealing the unexpected. As we navigate this uncharted territory, we must remain open to the possibility of connecting seemingly unrelated phenomena and be prepared for whatever surprising discoveries may be waiting for us, whether hidden in the clouds or the most unexpected locations on the ground.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, the results of our study have unveiled an unexpected and rather dizzying association between the air pollution levels in Prineville, Oregon, and the occurrence of plane crashes. Our findings global demonstrate a striking correlation, akin to finding a lost luggage in the Bermuda Triangle, between these seemingly unrelated phenomena, challenging the conventional wisdom in both environmental and aviation research. It appears that the winds of change are blowing through the skies and, much like turbulence during a flight, our understanding of the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate elements is being rattled.

This peculiar correlation raises a myriad of questions, much like a young child

experiencing their first flight, prompting further investigation into the impact of localized environmental factors on global aviation safety. The unexpected nature of our findings serves as a potent reminder that in the world of research, just as in take-off procedures, one must always remain prepared for the unexpected.

While the initial connection may seem as unlikely as a pilot flying a paper plane, our research has proven that sometimes, the most unexpected pairings lead to the most astonishing discoveries. Therefore, as we navigate the uncharted territory where air pollution meets aviation safety, we urge our colleagues to keep their aerial senses sharp and lookout for potential connections in the wildest of places.

In light of these findings, we assert that further research in this area may be as unnecessary as having a parachute in a submarine. The robustness and clarity of our results leave little doubt about the strength of the association uncovered in this study, and we believe it is time to steer the focus of our research towards other unexplored territories. As we close the chapter on the air pollution-aviation safety nexus, we can say with confidence that sometimes, the most unexpected pairings lead to the most exhilarating journeys.

In summary, our research has highlighted the need for a broader perspective and a willingness to entertain the most improbable connections, showcasing that, in the world of research, there is always more than meets the eye. Therefore, we direct our attention to new horizons, letting our minds soar beyond this peculiar alchemy between the skies of Prineville and the turbulence of global aviation.

This paper is AI-generated, but the correlation and p-value are real. More info: tylervigen.com/spurious-research