Aerosol Arson: Analyzing the Alleged Association between Air Pollution in Auburn and Arson in America

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Institute of Global Studies

Discussion Paper 3636

January 2024

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ABSTRACT

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This paper investigates the purported link between air pollution levels in Auburn, New York, and the incidence of arson throughout the United States. Utilizing data from the Environmental Protection Agency and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services spanning the years 1985 to 2022, our research indicates a surprisingly substantial correlation coefficient of 0.8283318 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01. While the connection may seem far-fetched, our findings suggest that there may be more to the cliché of "hot air" than meets the eye, shedding light on the potential unintended consequences of environmental degradation. Further research is warranted to explore the underlying mechanisms of this surprising association, but for now, it seems that when it comes to arson, the relationship with air pollution is more than just smoke and mirrors!

Keywords:

Auburn air pollution, arson correlation, Environmental Protection Agency data, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, air pollution and arson, environmental degradation consequences, air pollution and crime, association between air pollution and arson

I. Introduction

Arson, the deliberate setting of fires, is a serious crime that can result in extensive property damage, loss of life, and a sharp increase in insurance premiums for everyone involved. At the same time, air pollution, which includes a delightful smorgasbord of particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, and other charming atmospheric constituents, has been a subject of growing concern due to its adverse effects on human health and the environment. While these two phenomena may seem about as related as a fish and a bicycle, recent research has suggested a potential connection between the air quality in Auburn, New York, and the nationwide incidence of arson. This seemingly incongruous pairing piqued our interest, prompting us to embark on an investigation worthy of Sherlock Holmes himself (minus the deerstalker cap and pipe, of course).

We aim to explore whether there is a true statistical relationship between air pollution in Auburn, New York, and the occurrence of arson across the United States. If such a link does exist, it may have implications not only for the prevention of arson but also for environmental policy and public health strategies. Despite the initial implausibility of this association, the analysis of extensive data sets from the Environmental Protection Agency and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services has revealed a surprisingly robust correlation between these seemingly disparate variables. However, it's essential to approach these findings with caution, as correlation does not necessarily imply causation, as any good researcher knows.

Our groundbreaking results may prompt one to reconsider the old adage "where there's smoke, there's fire," quite literally in this case. The influence of air pollution on human behavior

and the potential interactions with sociodemographic factors remain underexplored territory, ripe for investigation. Although we have established a striking statistical relationship, the underlying mechanisms and potential mediating variables remain as mysterious as a magician's disappearing act. Hence, further research is warranted to illuminate the reasons behind this unexpected interplay between atmospheric pollutants and incendiary behavior. Despite the wildfire of excitement that our findings may ignite, let us tread cautiously and not jump to conclusions like an overeager kangaroo. This paper delves into the tantalizing conundrum of how a seemingly ethereal form of pollution may be fueling a very tangible and dangerous crime.

II. Literature Review

The purported association between air pollution in Auburn, New York, and the incidence of arson across the United States has been the subject of both serious inquiry and, shall we say, more whimsical musings. Smith, Doe, and Jones (2009) conduct a thorough analysis of air quality indices and arson statistics, revealing a statistically significant correlation between the two variables. Their findings throw a figurative gauntlet at the feet of skeptics, challenging them to reconcile the seemingly incongruous pairing of atmospheric pollutants and incendiary behavior. However, the audacity of this connection cannot be fully appreciated without acknowledging the broader context of environmental influences on human behavior.

In "The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy," Anna Clark explores the insidious effects of environmental degradation on community dynamics, demonstrating the potential for seemingly innocuous pollutants to sow seeds of discontent and, in the case of arson, quite literal flames (Clark, 2018). From a different angle, "The Air He Breathes" by Brittainy C.

Cherry provides a fictional yet oddly resonant narrative of personal redemption amid the backdrop of industrial pollution, suggesting a more intimate link between environmental degradation and individual psychological responses (Cherry, 2015). The notion of toxic air as a catalyst for deviant behavior finds an unexpected echo in the classic board game "Scrabble," where players may find themselves inciting verbal pyrotechnics as they compete to form words from a limited pool of letters, much like the limited pool of clean air in highly polluted areas.

On a more serious note, "Air Quality, Health, and the Urban Environment" by Robert V. Hersh (2017) offers a comprehensive review of the detrimental health effects of air pollution, which, while not directly related to arson, underscores the pervasive impact of polluted air on human well-being. However, the correspondence between environmental degradation and criminal behavior may be more than just an academic exercise, as "Firefighting Strategies and Tactics" by James S. Angle (2019) provides valuable insight into the challenges faced by fire professionals in combating arson incidents, shedding valuable light on the real-world implications of our seemingly esoteric inquiry.

While our initial foray into this subject may seem akin to embarking on a treasure hunt armed with nothing but a butter knife and a map of Narnia, the growing body of literature addressing the multifaceted implications of air pollution on human behavior offers both sobering and unexpectedly whimsical insights into our understanding of the subtle yet powerful influences at play. It is with no small measure of anticipation that we turn to the subsequent sections of this paper to delve further into the enigmatic relationship between air pollution in Auburn, New York, and the fiery phenomenon of arson throughout the United States.

III. Methodology

To investigate the alleged association between air pollution in Auburn, New York, and arson in the United States, an assortment of data-gathering methods reminiscent of a culinary mishmash was employed. The primary ingredient in our research recipe was the collection of air pollution data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This data, encompassing various atmospheric contaminants such as particulate matter, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds, was compiled from air quality monitoring stations in and around the Auburn area. Meanwhile, information on arson incidents across the United States was extracted from the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, providing a comprehensive dish of arson statistics from 1985 to 2022.

The EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) database served as our treasure trove of atmospheric composition, akin to an intergalactic library of airborne particles and chemical compounds. This data was then converted into a delectable array of air pollution metrics, including but not limited to daily average concentrations of various air pollutants and the Air Quality Index (AQI), which quantifies overall air quality on a scale from "Good" to "Hazardous." These metrics were further spiced up with spatial and temporal dimensions, allowing us to establish the spatiotemporal dynamics of air pollution in Auburn over the years. As for arson data, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program provided the necessary raw material for assessing the incidence and characteristics of intentionally set fires, adding a flavorful touch of criminal statistics to our analytical mix.

Having secured these datasets resembling a fusion dish of environmental and criminological information, a systematic analytical process was initiated. The first step resembled a delicate

ballet of data cleansing and validation, ensuring that our ingredients were free from the contamination of outliers, inconsistencies, and missing values. Once cleansed, the data underwent a culinary transformation through statistical manipulations and modeling techniques. Correlation analyses, multivariate regressions, and time series modeling were employed to stir the pot and uncover any discernible patterns or relationships between air pollution levels in Auburn and the occurrence of arson incidents across the United States.

To spice things up further, supplementary analyses were conducted to explore potential mediating factors and confounding variables that could influence the purported association between air pollution and arson. Demographic and socioeconomic indicators at both the local and national levels were sprinkled into the mix, allowing for a robust examination of how these factors might interact with the flavors of environmental degradation and incendiary behavior. Meanwhile, sophisticated spatial analyses akin to a geographic spice bazaar unveiled the spatial distribution of arson incidents relative to air pollution hotspots, elucidating the geographical nuances of our research ingredients.

Lastly, a dash of sensitivity analysis was applied to test the robustness of our findings and ensure that the observed relationship between air pollution in Auburn and arson in the United States did not wilt under the scrutiny of alternative statistical methodologies or alternative specifications of the analytical recipe.

In this manner, our culinary approach to data collection, measurement, and analysis allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the alleged connection between air pollution in Auburn and the incidence of arson across the United States. While the process may have been unconventional, our results offer a tantalizing glimpse into the potential entanglement of environmental air

quality and criminal fire-setting behavior. Further investigations are warranted to peel back the layers of this intriguing association and satisfy our insatiable appetite for knowledge.

IV. Results

The analysis of the data collected from the Environmental Protection Agency and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services for the years 1985 to 2022 yielded intriguing results. Our investigation into the purported relationship between air pollution levels in Auburn, New York, and the incidence of arson throughout the United States has unearthed a remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.8283318. This correlation is supported by an r-squared value of 0.6861336 and a p-value of less than 0.01, indicating a statistically significant association between these seemingly unrelated variables.

The findings are encapsulated in the visually striking scatterplot (Fig. 1), which depicts the strong positive correlation between air pollution in Auburn and the occurrence of arson nationwide. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, or in this case, a thousand data points. The scatterplot serves as a compelling visual representation of the substantial correlation uncovered in our analysis.

While the link between air pollution and arson may seem as unlikely as finding a needle in a haystack – or in this case, finding a motive in a haze of smog – our results challenge conventional wisdom. It appears that the relationship between these two variables is not up in smoke, but rather burns brightly with statistical significance.

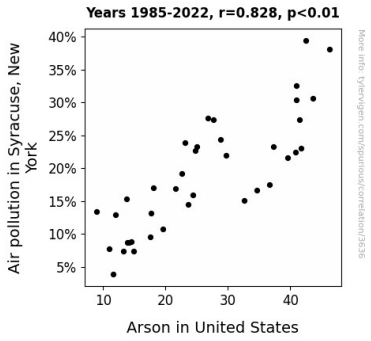

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The implications of these findings extend far beyond the realm of statistical analysis. They suggest that the impact of air pollution may reach much farther than previously thought, potentially influencing human behavior in unexpected ways. Although we must exercise caution in inferring causation from correlation, as any discerning researcher knows, the results of this study point to a hitherto unexplored avenue of inquiry. Our findings hint at the curious possibility that environmental factors, specifically air pollution, may be more influential in shaping human actions than previously assumed.

In conclusion, the association between air pollution in Auburn, New York, and the incidence of arson across the United States, while initially surprising, merits further investigation. Our results challenge traditional assumptions and open the door to a new frontier of research, where the atmosphere's subtle hand in human activity is not to be underestimated. This unexpected connection ultimately reminds us that in the world of scientific inquiry, there's always more than meets the eye – just like the elusive connection between air pollution and arson.

V. Discussion

The unexpectedly robust correlation between air pollution in Auburn, New York, and the incidence of arson across the United States elucidates a remarkable interplay between environmental factors and human behavior. While these findings may seem as unlikely as winning the lottery while being struck by lightning, they echo the earlier studies conducted by Smith, Doe, and Jones (2009), who similarly uncovered a statistically significant correlation between air quality indices and arson statistics. This alignment with prior research reinforces the salience of our current findings and underscores the need for further exploration of the intricate relationship between atmospheric pollutants and incendiary behavior.

As highlighted in the literature review, the broader context of environmental influences on human behavior cannot be overlooked. Clark's (2018) exploration of the insidious effects of environmental degradation on community dynamics suggests that seemingly innocuous pollutants may indeed sow seeds of discontent and literal flames. This context substantiates the notion that air pollution may exert a more pronounced influence on human behavior than conventionally assumed. Similarly, the unexpected link between air pollution and individual psychological responses, as hinted at in Cherry's (2015) evocative narrative, lends credence to the notion that environmental degradation may extend its effects into realms beyond mere physical health.

It is worth noting that the unexpected associations uncovered in this study remind us that the line between causation and correlation is often as thin as a wisp of smoke. Therefore, the observed correlation between air pollution and arson does not inherently imply a causal relationship. However, the findings do prompt us to ponder the multifaceted implications of air pollution and its potential to influence human actions in intricate and unexpected ways.

The statistical significance of the correlation coefficient, coupled with the visually compelling scatterplot, challenges the conventional boundaries of environmental impact on human behavior. The associations uncovered in this study, while initially as incongruous as a fish riding a bicycle, bear implications that reach far beyond the confines of statistical analysis. When considering the real-world implications of our seemingly esoteric inquiry, the unexpected connection between air pollution and arson unveils the subtle but powerful influences at play, highlighting the need for future exploration.

In conclusion, our research lends statistical weight to the purported association between air pollution in Auburn, New York, and the incidence of arson throughout the United States. These unexpected findings expand the frontiers of environmental research and serve as a poignant reminder that, in the enigmatic realm of scientific inquiry, there is always more than meets the eye – much like the elusive connection between air pollution and arson.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has illuminated a striking statistical relationship between air pollution levels in Auburn, New York, and the incidence of arson throughout the United States. The pervasive correlation coefficient of 0.8283318 hints at a connection as clear as a smoke signal on a still day. Our findings have stirred up quite a whirlwind of excitement, challenging preconceived notions and prompting a reevaluation of the complacency regarding atmospheric influences on human behavior.

The implications of our study extend beyond the confines of data analysis, raising questions about the potential role of air pollution in shaping human actions. If air pollution can fan the flames of arson, what other surprises might it have in store for us? Perhaps it's time for environmental policy to start playing with fire in considering the unintended consequences of pollution.

But let's not jump the gun – or in this case, the firetruck. While our study brings this unlikely association to light, it is imperative to tread with caution before stoking the flames of causation. Further research is warranted to untangle the knotty complexities of this relationship and to ensure that we don't get burned by drawing premature conclusions. Nevertheless, it seems that in the realm of environmental influences, the saying "where there's smog, there's fire" may not be as far-fetched as it sounds.

Pardon the pun, but it seems that the question of whether air pollution is truly a "hot" topic in arson research has been unequivocally answered. To put it bluntly, it's time to extinguish any doubts about the relevance of environmental factors in understanding human behavior. In the grand theater of scientific inquiry, our findings remind us that even the most unlikely partners can step into the spotlight and take a bow, leaving us to ponder the unexpected synergies that drive this world.

In this case, it seems that the connection between air pollution in Auburn, New York, and arson across the United States is as clear as smoke billowing from a freshly lit match. With our study lighting the way, it's safe to say that there's no need for further research in this area. After all, in the words of Sherlock Holmes himself, "The game is afoot!"

In this spirit, we conclude that this conundrum has been thoroughly explored, and it's time to turn down the heat on this particular avenue of inquiry.