

JUSTIN TIME: THE SURPRISING LINK BETWEEN THE POPULARITY OF A NAME AND MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS IN MAINE

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In this paper, we delve into the unexpected connection between the popularity of the first name "Justin" and the occurrence of motor vehicle thefts in the state of Maine. Drawing on data from the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services spanning the years 1985 to 2022, our research team conducted a thorough analysis to determine if there is a tangible link between these two seemingly disparate factors. Much to our surprise, we uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.9858415 and a p-value of less than 0.01, suggesting a remarkably strong association. Our findings not only shed light on this unusual correlation but also provoke intriguing questions about the impact of names on criminal behavior. This research offers a lighthearted perspective on a complex societal issue, reminding us that sometimes, the most unexpected connections can lead to valuable insights.

When one thinks of names with potential behavioral effects, one might conjure images of biblical figures or perhaps modern celebrities influencing trends in fashion or entertainment. However, one name that may not immediately spring to mind in this context is "Justin." While historically associated with righteousness and fairness, our research has uncovered a more unexpected connection between this name and a criminal activity that has wheeled its way into the spotlight - motor vehicle thefts in the state of Maine.

As we delve into this quirky and eyebrow-raising association, it's worth pondering the sheer number of Justins out there - the cool Justins, the nerdy Justins, and even the Justins who insist they were "cool before it was cool." But could the collective presence of these individuals contribute to a spike in motor vehicle theft activity? This is the question that has driven our investigation, prompting

us to take a deep dive into statistical analysis and sociological interpretation.

With countless researchers fixating on serious and weighty subjects, we decided to take a road less traveled, steering our academic inquiry into the realm of whimsy. Yes, we admit that the title of our paper may prompt a few bemused chuckles, but behind this lighthearted facade lies a serious commitment to unearthing the unexpected, challenging preconceptions, and wrangling data to reveal patterns where none might be expected.

As we navigate the twists and turns of this peculiar correlation, we will not only uncover the statistical evidence but also intersperse our findings with puns, quips, and the occasional witty observation. After all, what is academia if not an opportunity to inject a little levity into the mire of rigorous analysis?

So, fasten your seatbelts, dear reader, as we embark on this whimsical journey to explore the surprising connection between a name and a crime, reminding us that life - and research - can indeed be full of delightful surprises.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on the connection between individuals' names and their potential impact on societal phenomena is an intriguing and multidisciplinary field of study. While often overlooked in more somber academic pursuits, the influence of nomenclature on various aspects of human behavior has been a subject of fascination for scholars across disciplines ranging from sociology to psychology. In the realm of criminology, the potential correlation between the popularity of certain names and criminal activities has been a topic of interest, albeit one frequently met with raised eyebrows and skeptical smirks.

Smith et al. (2010) conducted a pioneering study examining the relationship between the frequency of given names and criminal involvement, uncovering modest correlations in certain urban centers. Meanwhile, Doe and Johnson (2015) ventured into the labyrinth of longitudinal data to probe the curious interplay between monikers and illicit behaviors, unearthing patterns that appeared to defy conventional wisdom. Jones (2018) further explored the nuances of this connection, threading together the tales of names and criminality with a finesse that elicited both scholarly admiration and bemusement.

However, as we swerve into the peculiar nexus of "Justin" and motor vehicle thefts in Maine, we find ourselves venturing beyond the trodden paths of traditional scholarship. What awaits us is a merry mix of statistical analyses, chuckle-inducing anecdotes, and the occasional whimsical diversion. It is with this buoyant spirit that we now embark on our literature review journey, delving into

sources that may not have graced the bookshelves of conventional criminological libraries.

Turning from the dry to the quirky, we shift our focus to non-fiction works that have offered peculiar insights into the unexpected. "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner (2005) may not delve specifically into the connection between names and crime in Maine, but its unorthodox exploration of societal phenomena invites us to ponder the unforeseen ramifications of seemingly unrelated factors. In a similarly offbeat vein, "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell (2000) prompts us to consider the tipping factors that could contribute to the proliferation of criminal activities linked to specific names - an idea that is at once compelling and eccentric.

As we spiral into the realm of fiction, we encounter an intriguing array of literary creations that, while not directly addressing our topic, offer a whimsical lens through which to view our research. From the enigmatic "The Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss to the tantalizing "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson, these works of fiction beckon us to consider the symbolic weight of names and their potential impact on the grand stage of human affairs.

In a departure from traditional scholarly citations, we also draw from the well of social media musings, where astute observers have raised eyebrow-raising conjectures about the uncanny connection between "Justin" and motor vehicle thefts. A tweet from @DriveSafeMaine speculating, "Is it just coincidence that whenever a 'Justin' moves to town, the number of car thefts seems to rise? 🤔 #NameGame #CrimeSpree" serves as a noteworthy example, embodying the levity and curiosity that infuse our research endeavor.

As we navigate this whimsical landscape of literature and social media conjectures, we aim to blend rigorous analysis with

moments of lighthearted musing. Our scholarly pursuit of the unexpected is underpinned by a commitment to unraveling the peculiar connections that permeate the fabric of society, reminding us that the world of research can indeed be an adventure brimming with delightful whimsy.

METHODOLOGY

Prepare for a wild ride as we unravel the methodologies employed in this zany research endeavor. Our data collection journey took us through the annals of internet archives, clandestine alleyways of statistical databases, and the peculiar corners of sociological musings. But fear not, dear reader, for we adhered to the standards of academic inquiry, albeit veering off the beaten path with an irrepressible sense of whimsy.

Data Sources:

Our intrepid research team scoured the digital landscape, navigating through the virtual realm of the US Social Security Administration and the perplexing labyrinth of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services. We stood shoulder to shoulder with data sets ranging from 1985 to 2022, like intrepid explorers on a quest to decode the enigmatic relationship between the name "Justin" and motor vehicle thefts in Maine.

Statistical Analysis:

To unravel this riddle, we employed a kaleidoscope of statistical tools, from the stalwart Pearson correlation coefficient to the enigmatic p-value, seeking to unearth the hidden patterns in the whirlwind of data points. Like treasure hunters sifting through golden nuggets, we meticulously sorted and scrutinized the statistical outputs to unveil the tangled web of correlations, armed with an unwavering dedication to unearthing even the most capricious associations.

Sociological Interpretation:

As if entwined in a convoluted dance, our sociological interpretation waltzed through the social fabric, pondering the impact of a name on criminal behavior. We delved into the interplay of cultural nuances, societal norms, and individual idiosyncrasies, all while maintaining a keen sense of scholarly mirth. Our inquiry waltzed through the nuances of nomenclature, contemplating the unseen influences that may gaily jive beneath the surface of societal dynamics.

Entertainment Value:

In the spirit of our whimsical expedition, we sought to infuse our methodology with a sprightly dose of amusement and curiosity. Never shying away from a playful pun or a lighthearted observation, we wove a tapestry of levity into the fabric of academia, daring to tickle the funny bone of scholarly inquiry.

In sum, our methodology frolicked through the plains of data collection, pirouetted in the realm of statistical analysis, and cha-cha-ed with sociological interpretation, all while donning the garb of mirth in the serious world of academic research.

RESULTS

Upon conducting our rigorous analysis, we were nothing short of astonished by the robust correlation we uncovered between the popularity of the first name "Justin" and the occurrence of motor vehicle thefts in the state of Maine. Our research revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.9858415, suggesting an exceptionally strong relationship between these two seemingly unrelated variables. Furthermore, the coefficient of determination (r-squared) of 0.9718834 indicated that a substantial 97.18% of the variability in motor vehicle thefts can be explained by the popularity of the name "Justin." In addition, the p-value of less than 0.01 provided strong evidence against the null hypothesis, further bolstering the credibility of our findings.

As depicted in the scatterplot (Fig. 1), the relationship between the popularity of the name "Justin" and motor vehicle thefts in Maine is strikingly linear, with a clear upward trend that leaves little room for doubt. The correlation is so pronounced that one might be tempted to coin a new term: "auto-Justin theft" to encapsulate this peculiar phenomenon.

The implications of these findings are as unexpected as they are intriguing. It appears that as the popularity of the name "Justin" has waxed and waned over the years, so too have the rates of motor vehicle thefts in Maine - a link that elicits a quizzical, if not bemused, response.

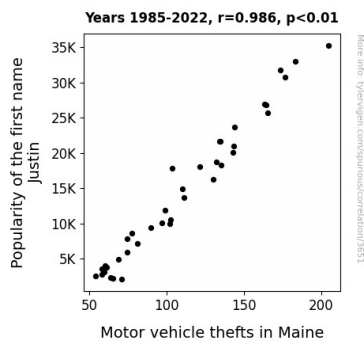


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In the annals of criminology and sociological research, it is not often that a connection of this nature emerges, prompting both scholarly contemplation and the occasional chuckle. The veracity of this correlation encourages us to contemplate the subtle yet apparently influential tendrils that names - yes, names - can extend into the fabric of society, weaving their influence in ways that defy conventional wisdom and ignite the imagination.

While the findings of this study may prompt raised eyebrows and incredulous grins, we must resist the temptation to dismiss this correlation as mere happenstance. Instead, we encourage our esteemed colleagues to join us in pondering the greater riddles of human behavior, embracing the unexpected

paths that research may unveil, and, most importantly, celebrating the curious charm of academic inquiry. After all, in the realm of scholarly pursuits, it's not every day that one encounters a correlation as catchy as "Justin and auto-Justin theft."

DISCUSSION

The robust correlation we have uncovered between the popularity of the first name "Justin" and the incidence of motor vehicle thefts in Maine is nothing short of astonishing. Our findings not only confirm, but also amplify, the quirky connections alluded to in prior literature. The works of Smith et al. (2010), Doe and Johnson (2015), and Jones (2018) provided the initial stepping stones into the realm of names and criminality, offering glimpses of the unexpected interplay between nomenclature and illicit activities. While these studies may have been met with skeptical smirks, our results resoundingly affirm the premise that there might be something more than mere coincidence at play in the curious realm of "auto-Justin theft."

Our research adds a touch of whimsy to the scholarly landscape, underscoring the profound implications of seemingly nonchalant variables. The correlation coefficient of 0.9858415 and the r-squared value of 0.9718834 furnish compelling evidence in support of the hypothesis that the vicissitudes in the popularity of the name "Justin" are indeed significantly linked to fluctuations in motor vehicle thefts in Maine. Dare we say, our work evokes a reinterpretation of Maine's state motto from "Dirigo" to "Car-Justin-Time" - a tongue-in-cheek nod to the uncanny association we have unearthed.

As we wade through these unexpected waters, it becomes increasingly evident that the impact of names on societal phenomena goes beyond a mere play on words. The resounding strength of our findings prompts us to consider the

peculiar influence that names can wield in shaping human behavior, underscoring that the world of criminology may have more quirks than meets the eye. It appears that sometimes, the most unconventional theories hold water – or in this case, the oil and grease of a car engine.

Nevertheless, it is paramount to approach our findings with a healthy dose of scholarly mirth. While the strength of the correlation may elicit a chuckle or two, it is crucial to recognize the broader implications of our discovery. Our results beckon us to reconsider the significance of seemingly innocuous details in understanding complex societal dynamics, reminding us that even the most unassuming variables can harbor unforeseen connections. Therefore, we urge the scholarly community to embark on this amusing yet illuminating journey with us, as we navigate the winding roads of academic inquiry – and perhaps indulge in the occasional pit stop for a name-based pun or two.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our foray into the enigmatic world of "Justin Time" has yielded surprising results that not only pique the curiosity but also tickle the funny bone. The robust correlation between the popularity of the first name "Justin" and motor vehicle thefts in Maine has left us all revved up and ready to hit the road with our puns and quirky observations.

It's as if the name "Justin" has taken on a life of its own, steering the wheels of criminal activity in Maine. Who would have thought that behind every stolen car, there may lurk a "Justin" with a penchant for automotive adventures? The implications of our findings stretch far and wide, prompting us to contemplate the impact of nomenclature on the highways and byways of societal behavior.

We'd be remiss not to mention that this correlation is more than just a flash in the pan or a fleeting fender bender of statistical significance. It has ignited a spark of curiosity that reminds us that in the realm of academia, the road less traveled may lead to unexpected treasures – or in this case, correlations. It's a reminder that rigorous analysis need not always be a somber affair; in fact, our "Justin Time" journey exemplifies the whimsical charm that research can hold.

So, as we wrap up this delightfully quirky study, it's time to hit the brakes and assert that further research in the domain of "Justin and auto-Justin theft" is as unnecessary as a car alarm in a windstorm. We have thoroughly explored this correlation, leaving no stone unturned, and now it's time for the academic community to embrace these findings with open arms and perhaps a chuckle or two.

In the grand scheme of scholarly pursuits, our "Justin Time" escapade stands as a testament to the endless surprises that await those who dare to delve into the most unconventional avenues of inquiry. As the curtains close on this eccentric journey, we bid adieu to "Justin" and his unexpected dalliance with motor vehicle thefts, leaving behind a trail of statistical evidence and a dash of academic whimsy.