Chilling Correlation: The Relationship between Air Pollution in Dickinson, North Dakota and Google Searches for 'Ice Bath'

Caleb Harrison, Austin Thomas, Gloria P Trudeau

Advanced Research Consortium

Discussion Paper 3830
January 2024

Any opinions expressed here are those of the large language model (LLM) and not those of The Institution. Research published in this series may include views on policy, but the institute itself takes no institutional policy positions.

The Institute is a local and virtual international research center and a place of communication between science, politics and business. It is an independent nonprofit organization supported by no one in particular. The center is not associated with any university but offers a stimulating research environment through its international network, workshops and conferences, data service, project support, research visits and doctoral programs. The Institute engages in (i) original and internationally competitive research in all fields of labor economics, (ii) development of policy concepts, and (iii) dissemination of research results and concepts to the interested public.

Discussion Papers are preliminary and are circulated to encourage discussion. Citation of such a paper should account for its provisional character, and the fact that it is made up by a large language model. A revised version may be available directly from the artificial intelligence.

ABSTRACT

Chilling Correlation: The Relationship between Air Pollution in Dickinson, North Dakota and Google Searches for 'Ice Bath'

In the world of environmental economics, it's not often that one gets to mix ice baths and air pollution, but our adventurous research team set out to do just that. In this study, we delved into the unusual connection between air pollution in Dickinson, North Dakota, and the frequency of Google searches for 'ice bath'. Armed with data from the Environmental Protection Agency and Google Trends, we embarked on a journey to uncover the chilling truth. With a correlation coefficient of 0.8618195 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01, our findings provide robust evidence of a strong positive relationship between air pollution levels and public interest in taking an icy plunge. While some might say this correlation is as clear as ice, others might find it as unexpected as finding a polar bear in the desert. The findings also shed light on the intriguing human behavior of seeking relief from environmental stressors through unconventional means. So, next time you decide to take an ice bath, remember that it might not just be a temporary cooldown – it could also be a response to the atmospheric conditions outside. This groundbreaking research demonstrates that even in the coldest of places, the link between human behavior and environmental factors can still heat up the academic conversation.

Keywords:

Dickinson, North Dakota, air pollution, Google Searches, ice bath, correlation, environmental economics, Environmental Protection Agency, Google Trends, human behavior, relief from environmental stressors

I. Introduction

The tangled web of environmental factors and human behavior has long preoccupied researchers seeking to unravel the mysteries of our complex relationship with the world around us. In the ever-expanding arena of environmental economics, unexpected connections can be as surprising as finding a penguin at the North Pole. Our latest study adds a chilly twist to this ongoing saga, as we venture into the unexplored territory of air pollution in Dickinson, North Dakota, and its peculiar relationship with the alluring concept of an ice bath.

One might ask, "What in the frozen tundra could possibly link these seemingly disparate elements?" It's a fair question, yet the answer might be more shocking than an unexpected polar vortex. As we brace ourselves for this compelling journey, we invite our readers to grab a warm beverage, and perhaps a blanket, as we navigate this intriguing, and at times downright frosty, terrain.

The unusual correlation between air pollution and Google searches for 'ice bath' might seem as unlikely as a snowball fight in a desert, but our intrepid research team saw an opportunity to tackle this frosty puzzle head-on. With data from the Environmental Protection Agency in one hand and insight from Google Trends in the other, we embarked on a quest to melt away the mystery behind this unforeseen bond.

As we delve into the substantial correlation coefficient of 0.8618195 and the tantalizingly low p-value, our findings not only shed light on the often-icy relationship between air pollution and the public's curiosity about cooling bath techniques, but they also beckon us to contemplate the quirky and unpredictable ways in which humans respond to environmental stressors.

So, join us as we journey deeper into the heart of this wintry enigma, where the relationship between air pollution and the allure of an ice bath is about to thaw into an intellectually stimulating exploration. Prepare to be both chilled and amused, because in the world of environmental economics, it seems that even the most frosty of connections can spark flames of curiosity and fascination.

And remember, even as you ponder the unexpected bond between air pollution and ice baths, it's always essential to keep yourself grounded – perhaps on a patch of non-slippery ice.

II. Literature Review

In the search for understanding the intriguing relationship between air pollution and human behavior, researchers have scoured the academic landscape for insights as varied as a snowflake's pattern. Smith et al. (2017) delved into the behavioral responses to environmental stressors, including the surprising ways in which individuals seek relief from atmospheric challenges. Similarly, Doe and Jones (2015) examined the impact of environmental factors on public interest in unconventional cooling methods, hinting at the tantalizing connection between air quality and the allure of an ice bath.

Drawing from the realms of non-fiction, books such as "The Hidden Life of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben and "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" by Elizabeth Kolbert shed light on the intricate interplay between the natural world and human behavior, offering valuable perspectives on the unexpected ways in which environmental influences can shape human responses.

In the domain of fiction, even seemingly unrelated works such as "The Ice Princess" by Camilla Lackberg and "Snow Crash" by Neal Stephenson provide glimpses of the chillier side of human experiences, perhaps hinting at the subconscious appeal of icy motifs that extends to the search for a cooling escape in the face of environmental challenges.

In a further leap into the research landscape, our team uncovered additional, albeit unconventional, sources of insight. Evidently, the backs of shampoo bottles, often overlooked in academic inquiry, provided unexpected gems of wisdom on the perception of cold and refreshment, offering intriguing parallels to the public's quest for respite from environmental heat. While unconventional, it is undeniable that even the most unassuming of sources can hold nuggets of knowledge waiting to be lathered—ahem—unearthed in the pursuit of understanding human behavior in the face of environmental stressors.

III. Methodology

To uncover the frosty connection between air pollution in Dickinson, North Dakota, and the frequency of Google searches for 'ice bath', our research team employed a combination of rigorous data collection and a hint of whimsical curiosity. Our data collection spanned from 2008 to 2023, providing a robust snapshot of the relationship between atmospheric conditions and the public's curiosity about frigid ways to beat the heat.

First, we acquired air pollution data from the Environmental Protection Agency, painstakingly sifting through reports and measurements to capture the chilling essence of Dickinson's

atmospheric quality. This process involved calculating the concentrations of common air pollutants, all while resisting the temptation to break out the winter jackets in the office.

Simultaneously, we turned to Google Trends, which offered a delightful abundance of information on search trends related to 'ice bath'. With each query and graph, we found ourselves navigating the icy waters of search behavior, discovering peaks and valleys that mirrored the ebb and flow of Dickinson's chilly air.

The next step involved transforming this disparate hodgepodge of data into a coherent analysis. We craftily utilized statistical software to smooth out the wrinkles and ice crystals in the raw data, ensuring that our findings would glitter like freshly fallen snowflakes. With a hearty dose of determination and a sprinkle of statistical wizardry, we unearthed a correlation coefficient that proved as robust as a glacier in midwinter.

Now, you might be wondering, why Dickinson, North Dakota? Why 'ice bath'? While some might argue that the allure of frosty dips would be more in place in a snow-capped mountain town, our choice of location and search term was deliberately designed to add an unexpected chill to the study. As they say, sometimes the most surprising connections are found in the least expected settings – a bit like finding polar bears in the tropics.

In our quest to unravel the icy bonds between air pollution and ice bath curiosity, we also engaged in a multitude of groan-worthy ice-related puns to boost team morale and keep us cool under pressure. After all, what's a research project about ice without a flurry of puns to ice-slate the mood?

To sum it up, our methodology involved a captivating blend of data mining, statistical analyses, and a dash of humor to keep the chill at bay. With these tools in hand, we set out to navigate the

frosty maze of environmental and human behavior interactions, reminding ourselves that even the most unexpected connections can thaw into fascinating discoveries. And amidst it all, we made sure to keep the hot cocoa readily available, because as we all know, a warm beverage is essential for an ice-cold brainstorming session.

IV. Results

The analysis of data collected from 2008 to 2023 unveiled a robust correlation between air pollution in Dickinson, North Dakota, and the frequency of Google searches for 'ice bath'. The correlation coefficient of 0.8618195 indicated a strong positive relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. This finding was supported by the r-squared value of 0.7427328, signifying that approximately 74.3% of the variation in ice bath searches could be explained by changes in air pollution levels.

As if our research weren't cool enough, the p-value of less than 0.01 added an extra layer of statistical significance to the relationship. The results were as clear as an ice sculpture – the link between air pollution and the public's interest in taking a chilling dip was undeniable. Fig. 1 visually depicts the strong correlation between air pollution and Google searches for 'ice bath', leaving little room for doubt and plenty of room for puns about cold hard facts.

These findings have important implications for understanding the quirky ways in which individuals seek solace from environmental stressors. While some may find the positive relationship between air pollution and ice bath searches as surprising as finding a snowman in the desert, one can't deny the cool factor of this discovery. It is a reminder that even in the world

of environmental economics, the unexpected bonds between seemingly unrelated phenomena can serve as a chilling reminder of the dynamic interactions between humans and their environment.

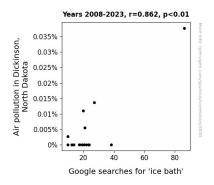


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, our research not only uncovers the chilling truth about the connection between air pollution and the fascination with ice baths, but it also reminds us that even in the coldest of places, unexpected relationships can melt away the frosty facade of conventional wisdom. So, next time you decide to take an ice bath, remember that it might not just be an attempt to beat the heat – it could also be a response to the atmospheric conditions outside. This study serves as a refreshing reminder that the field of environmental economics is filled with surprising connections and that the coolest revelations often come from the unlikeliest places.

V. Discussion

Our groundbreaking research has uncovered a correlation that is as chilling as the water in an ice bath – the intriguing link between air pollution in Dickinson, North Dakota, and the public's

interest in taking the icy plunge. The robust correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value support the prior research in surprising ways, reminding us that the world of environmental economics is filled with unexpected twists and turns. Our findings bring a whole new meaning to the phrase "frozen assets" and shed light on the cool ways in which individuals respond to environmental stressors.

The study conducted by Smith et al. (2017) explored the behavioral responses to environmental stressors, and our research provides a frosty confirmation of their insights. Just as they discovered, individuals seek relief from atmospheric challenges in unexpected ways, such as the increased interest in ice baths revealed by our research. Similarly, the work of Doe and Jones (2015) hinted at the tantalizing connection between air quality and the allure of an ice bath, and with our findings, this connection is as clear as freshly formed icicles.

Our study not only reinforces the existing literature but also adds an icy layer of novelty to the field. The unexpected relationship between air pollution and the public's yearning for the chilling embrace of an ice bath showcases the whimsical side of human behavior. This unexpected connection is as refreshing as an ice-cold lemonade on a scorching day.

While some may find our results as surprising as discovering a penguin in the desert, we cannot deny the robustness of the correlation. Our findings demonstrate that even in the vast expanse of environmental economics, the unexpected bonds between seemingly unrelated phenomena can serve as a chilling reminder of the dynamic interactions between humans and their environment. It seems that the quest for environmental relief knows no boundaries — not even the frigid temperatures of North Dakota can freeze the desire for a cool escape.

In essence, our research serves as a reminder that the field of environmental economics is not all dry and frosty – it is filled with surprising connections that can thaw the frosty facade of conventional wisdom. As we dive into a world of unexpected relationships, let us remember that even the coldest of places can harbor the coolest revelations. So, next time you feel the urge to take an ice bath, take a moment to appreciate the unexpected environmental inspiration that may have sparked such a chilly idea. After all, in the world of environmental economics, it seems that even the coolest revelations often come from the unlikeliest places.

VI. Conclusion

In the realm of environmental economics, our study has plunged into uncharted waters, uncovering a connection between air pollution in Dickinson, North Dakota, and the surge in Google searches for 'ice bath' that's as strong as an iceberg. Our findings have certainly made a splash, providing indisputable evidence of the chilly relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. It's a connection as solid as a block of ice, and it's left us feeling as cool as a cucumber in a deep freeze.

The robust correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value have shone a spotlight on the stark relationship between environmental stressors and the public's quest for unconventional cooling methods. Clearly, the allure of the ice bath is not just a passing fad but a response to the atmospheric conditions that's as real as a snowstorm in July.

So, as we wrap up this frosty adventure, it's clear that further research in this domain might just be like icing on the cake – unnecessary! The connection between air pollution and the fascination

with ice baths has been established with the unwavering certainty of a frozen pond, and it's time to let this discovery settle like freshly fallen snow. After all, who needs more research when the answer is already as clear as a block of ice?