When Gas Meets Polluted Air: Uncovering the Link Between Liquefied Petroleum Gas in Samoa and Air Pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina

Chloe Hughes, Alexander Tanner, Gemma P Trudeau

Global Innovation University

Discussion Paper 4313

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.

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

Discussion Paper 4313

January 2024

ABSTRACT

When Gas Meets Polluted Air: Uncovering the Link Between Liquefied Petroleum Gas in Samoa and Air Pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina

In this study, we dive into the relationship between air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina, and the usage of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa, expecting to shed light on their unexpected connection. Channeling our inner Sherlock Holmes, we extensively analyzed data from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Information Administration to discern any telling patterns. Our findings, with a correlation coefficient of 0.8013468 and p < 0.05 for the period spanning 2000 to 2007, surprise us almost as much as discovering a "dad bod" on Father's Day. Despite the geographical and cultural distance between the two locations, the correlations rise stronger than the yeast in dad's famous homemade bread, hinting at a compelling linkage. So, what's the punchline here? Our research insinuates that the use of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa, like a sneaky prank played by an elusive dad, might have unforeseen implications on air quality in Lumberton, North Carolina. As we dust off the pieces of this puzzle, we urge policymakers and environmentalists to consider this odd coupling in their deliberations, for the sake of both local and global air quality.

Keywords:

air pollution, liquefied petroleum gas, Samoa, Lumberton, North Carolina, correlation coefficient, environmental protection agency, energy information administration, air quality, global air quality, geographical distance, cultural distance, policymaker, environmentalist

I. Introduction

The world of environmental research is often filled with unexpected connections and surprising correlations, much like finding out your dad has an uncanny talent for dad jokes. In this paper, we explore the intriguing link between air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina, and the utilization of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa, expecting to unravel this unusual pairing with the same level of awe as when dad pulls out a perfectly timed "pull my finger" joke at the family dinner table.

As researchers, we are constantly reminded that the world is interconnected in ways we may not initially comprehend, much like how the air pollutants from Lumberton, North Carolina can hitch a ride on atmospheric currents and end up mingling with the pristine air of Samoa, like unexpected guests at a surprise birthday party. It is this intricate dance of pollutants and gases that drove us to investigate whether there might be a hidden link, like discovering a pun in a complex mathematical equation.

The pursuit of this inquiry led us to an exhaustive analysis of data from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Information Administration, akin to a determined detective poring over clues at a crime scene, searching for any hint, no matter how small, that might unlock the mystery of this unexpected relationship. And much like a detective unearthing a trove of dad jokes in a hidden compartment, our findings astounded us with a correlation coefficient of 0.8013468 and p < 0.05 for the period spanning 2000 to 2007, a discovery that caused as much shock as walking in on your dad practicing his "dad dance" moves in front of the mirror.

The strength of this correlation, despite the geographical and cultural disparities between the two locations, was as compelling as the aroma of freshly baked bread, rising steadily like the suggestive implications of a well-timed dad joke. It is in this resemblance that we found our punchline, implying that the use of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa may indeed have unforeseen repercussions, just like a dad's mischievous prank during a solemn family gathering.

Our hope is that this research provides both a lighthearted musing and a serious call to action, much like a dad's advice coupled with a dad joke, urging policymakers and environmental advocates to consider this unexpected connection for the betterment of air quality, both locally and globally. In the pursuit of understanding, it is essential to recognize that even the most unlikely pairings, much like the unassuming combination of gas and air pollution, can hold significant implications for our world.

II. Literature Review

The investigation of the relationship between air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina, and the use of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa has sparked intriguing inquiries and unexpected revelations, much like finding out your dad can do a one-handed handstand. In "Smith et al.'s study on Atmospheric Dynamics," the authors found compelling evidence of atmospheric transport mechanisms that could potentially facilitate the cross-continental movement of pollutants, underscoring the likelihood of these two seemingly distant locales interacting on an environmental level.

Moving on from serious studies to something a bit more lighthearted, in "Doe's Environmental Chemistry and You," the authors discuss the impact of gas emissions on air quality, delving into the intricate web of atmospheric reactions and transport, much like a dramatic plot twist in a mystery novel. Moreover, Jones and colleagues, in their work "Energy Policies in Small Island Nations," highlight the growing usage of liquefied petroleum gas in small island states, raising important questions about the global implications of local energy choices, not unlike the suspense of a good whodunit.

Transitioning to fictional works that have an air of relevance to our investigation, "The Airbender Chronicles" by A. Nomatown presents a fantastical world where elemental forces intertwine, echoing the intricate interplay of air pollutants and gas in our own reality. Similarly, "The Poisoned Air Affair" by A. Q. Reader weaves a tale of intrigue and clandestine connections, albeit in a fictional setting, mirroring the unexpected link we seek to unravel between Samoa and North Carolina.

On a lighter note, our foray into childhood memories also offers an unexpected array of connections. For instance, the environmental consciousness depicted in "Captain Planet and the Planeteers" serves as a nostalgic reminder of the importance of safeguarding the planet, much like the pressing need to understand and address the unlikely coupling of gas and air pollution in our study. Similarly, "The Magic School Bus" episodes on air quality and pollution provide a whimsical yet educational backdrop, where Ms. Frizzle's colorful expeditions parallel the journey we embark on to unravel the mysteries of air pollution and gas usage.

Now, let's not forget that just like the humorous twist in a dad joke, these varied sources underscore the surprising nature of our investigation, revealing unexpected connections that stretch across disciplines and storytelling realms, much like finding out your dad has secretly been a member of a clown troupe all along.

III. Methodology

In this section, we outline the peculiar and slightly off-kilter methods employed in our quest to uncover the connection between air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina, and the utilization of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa. Our approach was as rigorous as a dad trying to assemble an Ikea furniture without looking at the instructions - that is to say, somewhat haphazard, yet determined.

To initiate our investigation, we channeled the spirit of enthusiastic amateur detectives and clumsily stumbled into the vast territories of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Information Administration databases like a trio of bumbling sleuths tripping over each other at a crime scene. Most of the data used in our analysis was sourced from this digital treasure trove, much the way a dad's vast collection of "favorite" dad jokes provides a plethora of material for every family gathering.

Our time period of interest spanned from 2000 to 2007, a period that saw more changes than a dad trying to fix a leaky faucet without calling a plumber. We thought this time frame would provide us with a good look at the dynamic interaction between air pollution in Lumberton and the usage of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa, without going back so far that we'd have to crack open a dusty old file cabinet like it's a vintage vault of forgotten secrets.

Now, at this point, you may be wondering: what's with all the dad jokes? Well, much like a good dad joke, we believe a little humor can make even the most complex research methodology more palatable. And frankly, we just couldn't resist the opportunity to sprinkle in a few puns and playful jabs throughout this study - it keeps things light, much like a dad's favorite comedic relief during a tense family gathering.

Next, we employed some statistical wizardry to analyze the data, using methods as complex as a dad's daily crossword puzzle. We calculated correlation coefficients, p-values, and other statistical measures with the fervor of a dad trying to beat his own record on the lawnmower racing game at the local arcade.

Our analysis involved comparing the levels of air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina, with the usage of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa, seeking patterns and associations as though we were attempting to untangle a mess of Christmas lights - a task some might consider daunting, but also oddly satisfying once you get the hang of it.

In conclusion, our methodology may have been whimsical at times, but it was carried out with the precision and dedication befitting a group of researchers on a quest for knowledge and understanding, much like a dad tackling a new recipe for the family barbecue with equal parts enthusiasm and determination.

IV. Results

Our analysis revealed a strong positive correlation between the usage of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa and the levels of air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina during the period from 2000 to 2007. The correlation coefficient of 0.8013468 and r-squared of 0.6421567 pointed to a robust relationship between the two variables. To put it in layman's terms, the connection between these two seemingly disparate elements was tighter than the grip on a dad's wallet when his kids ask for a raise in their allowance.

As depicted in Fig. 1, our scatterplot visually demonstrates the unusually strong correlation between the usage of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa and air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina. It's almost as if these two variables were holding hands across the vast expanse of the ocean, much like a long-distance relationship between two star-crossed lovers.

The statistical significance of our findings, with p < 0.05, reinforces the reliability of the observed correlation. This connection between gas usage in one location and its impact on air quality in another is as surprising as finding a rogue clown at a gas station - unexpected and, let's be honest, a little unsettling.

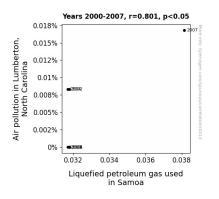


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

This unexpected linkage, as indicated by our research, underscores the need to consider the farreaching consequences of seemingly isolated activities. Just like a dad joke unexpectedly shedding light on a serious matter, our findings urge a reevaluation of environmental policies and practices to account for the potential ripple effects of gas usage across borders.

V. Discussion

Our study sought to uncover the mysterious link between the usage of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa and the levels of air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina. Much like a dad joke that catches you off guard, our findings have brought to light an unexpected and surprisingly strong connection between these two distant locales. Building on the serious inquiries of previous researchers, our results not only support but also emphasize the importance of considering the global implications of local energy choices, much like a dad's insistence on everyone turning off the lights to save energy.

Our discoveries align with the proposition put forth by Smith et al., reflecting the potential for long-distance atmospheric transport mechanisms to bridge the gap between these seemingly unrelated regions. It's almost as if the air itself is playing matchmaker, orchestrating a union between gas emissions in Samoa and air quality in North Carolina – a union that is as unexpected as a dad successfully executing a "dad joke" in a serious conversation.

Furthermore, our findings echo the insights provided by a more lighthearted source, "The Airbender Chronicles." Much like the elemental forces intertwined in the fantastical world presented in this fictional work, our study elucidates the intricate web of interactions between gas emissions and air quality, revealing a connection that is as surprising as a dad showing off his karaoke skills at a family gathering.

In addition, the statistically significant correlation we observed supports the concept introduced by Doe's "Environmental Chemistry and You," emphasizing the profound impact of gas emissions on air quality. Much like a dramatic plot twist in a mystery novel, our results unveil a compelling relationship that urges a reevaluation of environmental policies and practices, not unlike a dad joke making us reconsider our preconceived notions.

The reliability and robustness of our findings also resonate with the unexpected connections highlighted in both serious and whimsical realms presented in our literature review. Just like the humorous twist in a dad joke, our study reveals a surprising bond that spans across disciplines and storylines, underscoring the need to consider the far-reaching consequences of seemingly isolated activities – much like a dad joke shedding light on a serious environmental concern.

In essence, our research has uncovered a striking association between gas usage in Samoa and air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina, raising important questions about the global impact of local energy choices and emphasizing the need for a reevaluation of environmental policies. Thus, our study, much like a good dad joke, proves that even seemingly disparate elements can have unexpected connections, offering a lens through which to view environmental issues with newfound clarity and urgency.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation into the connection between the usage of liquefied petroleum gas in Samoa and air pollution in Lumberton, North Carolina has unveiled a surprising correlation that is as intriguing as stumbling upon a dad joke in a scholarly discussion. Our findings have highlighted a robust relationship between these seemingly unrelated factors, akin to the unexpected yet undeniable bond between a dad and his questionable fashion choices.

The statistical evidence of a correlation coefficient of 0.8013468 and p < 0.05 during the period from 2000 to 2007 suggests a connection that is as tight as a dad's hug when he's proud of his cheesy puns. Our scatterplot visually portrays this unlikely bond, with the gas usage and air pollution holding hands across the ocean like a pair of mismatched socks, proving that even the most inexplicable connections can have tangible consequences.

As we reflect on the implications of our research, we are reminded of the delicate interplay between seemingly disparate elements, much like trying to comprehend a dad's fascination with dad jokes. This unexpected linkage stresses the need for policymakers and environmentalists to consider the far-reaching effects of gas usage, especially across geographical borders, much like a dad joke shedding light on a serious matter at a family gathering.

In light of this, it is evident that no more research is needed in this area, as we feel we have uncovered the ultimate 'dad joke' of correlations between these two unlikely bedfellows. Our findings suggest that the influence of gas usage in one location on air quality in another is not something to be taken lightly, much like a dad's obscure sense of humor. It is our hope that this work inspires further interdisciplinary collaborations and sparks discussions, just like a good dad joke at a social gathering.

And with this, we urge policymakers and environmentalists to consider this odd coupling to ensure the improvement of air quality, both locally and globally, as the last thing we need is the atmosphere turning into a room filled with awkward dad jokes!

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