# Clearing the Air: The Bleach-iful Relationship Between Air Quality in Greenwood, South Carolina and Google Searches for 'Where to Buy Bleach'

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In this study, we investigate the intriguing connection between air quality in Greenwood, South Carolina and the frequency of Google searches for "where to buy bleach". Leveraging data from the Environmental Protection Agency and Google Trends, we uncover a striking correlation between these two seemingly unrelated phenomena. Our findings reveal a robust correlation coefficient of 0.9121192 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 during the period of 2004 to 2016. The implications of this association may not be as whitewashed as one might initially assume. While causation cannot be inferred from correlation alone, the results raise the question: are the residents of Greenwood turning to bleach in response to the air quality, or is the air quality itself a consequence of cleaning-related activities? This unexpected relationship leaves plenty of room for further speculation and, dare we say, cleaning up the conjecture.

Air quality, a topic often shrouded in haze and confusion, has long been a concern for both public health and environmental well-being. At the same time, the widespread availability and myriad uses of bleach have made it a staple in households and businesses alike. Indeed, the humble cleaning agent has a knack for brightening whites and disinfecting surfaces, but could it also hold clues about the air we breathe? The interplay between these two disparate entities presents an intriguing puzzle that warrants closer examination.

Despite the general tendency to overlook the prospect of airborne odyssey, the possibility of a connection between air quality and consumer behavior is an area ripe for investigation. Previous research has delved into the relationship between environmental factors and public health, as well as the impact of search engine queries on economic trends, but the intersection of these domains remains relatively unexplored. Enter Greenwood, South Carolina: a charming locale with a population not only known for its hospitality but potentially for their remarkable search habits as well.

Our study sets out to bridge this gap in the literature by scrutinizing the correlation between air quality in Greenwood and the frequency of Google searches for "where to buy bleach". Armed with data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Google Trends, we aim to shed light on this seemingly curious relationship and determine whether there exists a substantive tie between the state of the air and the quest for this ubiquitous cleaning agent. If nothing else, this project is poised to provide a breath of fresh air in a research landscape often clouded by convention.

The elucidation of this bleach-iful relationship not only holds promise for unveiling a potential causal link but also has broader implications for public health, consumer behavior, and environmental policy. As we embark on this journey of scientific inquiry, we invite readers to accompany us on this venture into the oft-overlooked intersection of air quality and online search behavior. After all, the scientific frontier, much like a fresh load of laundry, may yet yield unexpected and dazzling revelations.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

In their seminal work, Smith et al. (2012) undertook a comprehensive examination of air quality data in various regions of the United States, highlighting the potential impact of environmental factors on public health. Their findings underscore the critical interplay between atmospheric conditions and respiratory well-being, provoking a breath of fresh air in the field of public health research. Building on this foundation, Doe and Jones (2015) delved into the realm of online search behavior and its implications for consumer trends, offering a compelling glimpse into the link between virtual queries and real-world economic activities.

Turning to the realm of non-fiction literature, the book "Air Pollution and Health" by Black and Blue (2018) provides a thorough exploration of the complex relationship between atmospheric pollutants and human health, shedding light on the far-reaching implications of air quality on societal well-being. Similarly, "The Economics of Clean Air" by Green and White (2013) delves into the economic ramifications of environmental policies, presenting a comprehensive analysis of the costs and benefits associated with air quality regulations.

In the realm of fiction, novels such as "The Scent of Rain and Lightning" by Nancy Pickard and "The Dust That Falls from Dreams" by Louis de Bernieres offer intriguing musings on the ephemeral nature of environmental phenomena, hinting at the undercurrents of interconnectedness that pervade the natural world. However, the authors find it pertinent to note that their literature review did not stop at conventional sources. In a bid to uncover all possible leads, the researchers expanded their inquiry to less orthodox of knowledge. Among repositories these unconventional sources, one cannot overlook the countless moments spent perusing the backs of various household cleaning products, including but not limited to bottles of bleach and other agents. While the veracity disinfectant of information contained in these diverse sources may be subject to scrutiny, the levity and occasional quirkiness of such an endeavor provided a welcome respite from the otherwise arduous task of data synthesis.

With this eclectic array of sources at their disposal, the authors endeavored to cast a wide net in their pursuit of understanding the fascinating relationship between air quality in Greenwood, South Carolina and the frequency of Google searches for "where to buy bleach".

# METHODOLOGY

To investigate the intriguing relationship between air quality in Greenwood, South Carolina and Google searches for "where to buy bleach", an assortment of methodological concoctions and statistical alchemy was utilized. Firstly, hourly air quality data, including levels of nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, ozone, and sulfur dioxide, were obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These rigorous measurements served as the building blocks for assessing the atmospheric conditions within the Greenwood area.

Simultaneously, the frequency of searches related to the procurement of bleach was sourced from Google Trends, providing a digital glimpse into the consumer quest for this household staple. By capitalizing on this fountain of search query data, we were able to gauge the flux and flow of public interest in bleach acquisition, much like the ebb and flow of tide towards a freshly bleached shore. Utilizing this wealth of information, a correlation analysis akin to a molecular dance was performed, seeking to uncover any hidden bond between air quality and the quest for bleach. The Pearson correlation coefficient was employed to ascertain the strength and direction of the association, akin to deciphering whether two chemical elements are inclined to create a stable compound (if statistical significance permits). Additionally, a time-series analysis was invoked to discern any temporal patterns that might reveal the cyclical nuances of this air-quality-to-bleach-seeking dynamic.

Furthermore, to account for potential confounding variables, the methodology incorporated a spectral analysis of other cleaning-related queries, such as "best cleaning products" and "home disinfectants". This allowed us to ascertain whether the association with "where to buy bleach" held its ground in the face of alternative cleaning agents, not unlike determining the unique contribution of a specific reactant in a complex chemical reaction.

Finally, to ascertain the robustness of our findings, a series of sensitivity analyses were conducted, ensuring that the observed relationship between air quality and the bleach-related searches wasn't just a fleeting apparition in the statistical fog.

In summary, this fusion of data from the EPA and Google Trends allowed us to unravel the coiled mystery of air quality and bleach-seeking behavior with as much scientific rigor as a well-controlled lab experiment, ultimately unearthing a veritable mine of statistical gems and a wealth of empirical insight.

#### RESULTS

The investigation into the connection between air quality in Greenwood, South Carolina and Google searches for "where to buy bleach" yielded some remarkably illuminating results. We performed a thorough analysis of the data collected from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Google Trends, and the output certainly did not leave us feeling bleached of enthusiasm. The correlation coefficient between air quality and searches for bleach, as indicated by the Pearson correlation coefficient, was found to be 0.9121192. This suggests a strong positive relationship between the two variables. Additionally, the coefficient of determination (r-squared) was calculated to be 0.8319615, indicating that approximately 83.2% of the variability in the frequency of Google searches for bleach can be explained by changes in air quality. It is indeed rare to witness such a high degree of relationship between seemingly unrelated phenomena, but it appears that the air in Greenwood may not be as clear-cut as one might expect.

Furthermore, our findings were bolstered by a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01, suggesting that the observed correlation is not merely a result of chance. In other words, the likelihood of obtaining such a strong correlation purely by random fluctuation is about as likely as a pair of white socks emerging from the laundry entirely unscathed by a rogue red garment.



Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Moreover, as illustrated in Figure 1, the scatterplot vividly depicts the strong positive relationship between air quality and Google searches for "where to buy bleach". The data points seem to align as neatly as newly bleached linens, further emphasizing the robustness of the observed association.

While the conundrum of causation versus correlation remains unresolved, these findings may prompt further inquiries into the intricate dance between air quality and consumer behavior. The implications of this intriguing linkage may indeed open up a Pandora's box, or perhaps a Pandora bleach bottle, of thought-provoking questions.

In closing, the unexpected connection between air quality in Greenwood, South Carolina and the pursuit of bleach-laden solutions presents an engaging avenue for future exploration. Perhaps it's time to clear the air and peer into the unforeseen connections that permeate the scientific landscape, after all, the truth may just be hiding in the laundry hamper of curiosity.

# DISCUSSION

The results of our investigation into the correlation between air quality in Greenwood, South Carolina and Google searches for "where to buy bleach" have unveiled an intriguing relationship that is certainly nothing to sneeze at. Our findings have lent further credence to the notion that the air we breathe may indeed have a direct impact on our behavioral patterns, even if that behavior is as unconventional as seeking out copious quantities of bleach.

The strong positive correlation coefficient of 0.9121192 observed in our study aligns with prior research by Smith et al. (2012) and Doe and Jones (2015) which underscored the intricate interplay between environmental factors and consumer behavior. Indeed, it would seem that the residents of Greenwood are not merely engaging in virtual window shopping for bleach as an idle pastime, but rather, may be responding to the subtle cues emanating from their atmospheric surroundings. This uniquely "bleachy" response to air quality adds a new facet to the literature on environmental influences on consumer trends, akin to discovering an unexpected spot of mildew on otherwise pristine data.

The statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 serves as a firm confirmation of the robustness of the observed correlation. This finding echoes the resounding clarity of a freshly cleaned laboratory

beaker and underscores the unlikelihood of our results being a mere statistical fluke.

However, it is critical to exercise caution before jumping to conclusions about causation. While it may be tempting to surmise that poor air quality drives an upsurge in bleach-related inquiries, it is equally plausible that heightened consumer interest in bleach could influence subsequent air quality through increased usage. This nifty little chickenand-egg scenario reminds us that untangling the convoluted web of causation and correlation can be as knotty as a particularly stubborn knot in a string of cleaning supplies.

Nonetheless, the unexpected connection between air quality and the pursuit of bleach-laden solutions presents a fascinating avenue for future exploration. As we ponder the potential implications of our findings, it may be pertinent to adopt a proverbial "clean slate" approach to understanding the multifaceted relationship between environmental factors and consumer behavior. After all, the truth often has a way of weaving itself into unexpected corners of inquiry, much like that elusive pair of socks that always seems to vanish in the laundry.

In conclusion, the association between air quality in Greenwood, South Carolina and the proclivity for seeking out bleach may appear to be a somewhat unconventional avenue of scientific inquiry, but it is precisely this element of surprise that lends credence to the plenitude of possibilities lurking within the realm of research. It is in the unexpected intersections of seemingly disparate phenomena that the true richness of science and statistics comes to fruition, not unlike discovering a hidden gem in a pile of statistical rubble.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our investigation into the apparent affinity between air quality in Greenwood, South Carolina and Google searches for "where to buy bleach" has unearthed some fascinating correlations. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9121192 indicates a connection as strong as the

disinfecting power of bleach on a stubborn stain. It appears that the air quality in this charming locale may have prompted its inhabitants to embark on virtual quests for that trusty household cleaner.

While the pursuit of causation amidst this correlation remains akin to searching for a single speck of dust in a sunlit room, our findings undeniably pique curiosity. Whether the residents of Greenwood are donning their detective hats to seek out bleach due to air quality concerns or if the air itself is befouled by copious cleaning remains a mystery as enigmatic as a disappearing sock in the laundry.

Nonetheless, the statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 assures us that this relationship is as genuine as a clean slate. The scatterplot, akin to a meticulously folded load of laundry, vividly illustrates the alignment between air quality and the pursuit of bleach.

This unexpected nexus between air quality and the quest for bleach does indeed beckon further exploration, but at this juncture, we are inclined to assert that no further research is needed. For now, let us relish in the sheer hilarity of the unexpected connection between air quality and the pursuit of bleach and leave the statistical laundry to air out on its own.