Digging into Democrats' Digs: The Correlation Between New Jersey Democratic Senate Votes and Google Searches for 'How to Build a Bunker'

Colton Harrison, Abigail Thomas, Gemma P Tompkins

Ann Arbor, Michigan

In this study, we examine the relationship between the political inclinations of New Jersey residents and their interest in subterranean construction, as indicated by Google searches for 'how to build a bunker'. Leveraging data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, our research team endeavored to shed light on this curious correlation. Our analysis reveals a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9613153 and a p-value less than 0.01 over the period spanning from 2004 to 2020. The implications of our findings may have profound implications for understanding the intersection of political behavior and doomsday prepping in the Garden State. We aim to scrutinize this peculiar relationship and, perhaps, unlock the hidden underground motivations driving these search patterns. Our findings may leave readers digging deeper into the connections between political ideology and bunker-building curiosity, unearthing unexpected insights along the way.

The juxtaposition of political behavior and doomsday prepping has long piqued the curiosity of scholars and laypersons alike. The seemingly apparent incongruity of these two realms has prompted us to delve into the intriguing correlation between the voting patterns of New Jersey's Democratic Senate supporters and their sudden foray into the world of bunker construction. Our investigation aims to not only unearth the statistical relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables but also to delve into the underlying motivations guiding such peculiar behavior. It brings to mind the famous quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail," as we set out to uncover whether voters are taking these words to heart in a most literal sense.

Upon first blush, one might dismiss the notion of a connection between political allegiance and an interest in bunker-building as mere happenstance or statistical noise. However, as humorist and social commentator Will Rogers once quipped, "Everything is funny, as long as it's happening to somebody else." With this in mind, we sought to bring a dose of levity to a subject matter that, on the surface, may seem quite disconcerting. The statistical correlation coefficient of 0.9613153 that we uncovered, reminiscent of a perfect pear in terms of its robustness, indicates a remarkably strong relationship between these variables. Furthermore, with a p-value less than 0.01, these findings stand firm against the winds of chance, akin to a well-anchored underground shelter withstanding the forces of nature.

As we embark on this scholarly odyssey, we remain mindful of the sage counsel of physicist Niels Bohr, who famously remarked, "Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future." In a similar vein, we approach our analysis with cautious skepticism, aware that correlation does not imply causation, and that hidden variables may lurk below the surface, much like, dare we say, a bunker concealed from the prying eyes of the uninitiated. Our study represents an attempt to make sense of the enigmatic relationship between political proclivities and apocalyptic aspirations, as captured by the seemingly innocuous query, "how to build a bunker." In doing so, we hope to unearth insights that may illuminate the quirky intersections of human behavior and statistical trends, causing our readers to both scratch their heads in bemusement and dig deeper into the conundrum at hand.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In their seminal work, Smith and Doe (2005) explore the political tendencies of New Jersey voters and its potential correlations with unconventional hobbies. Their analysis provides a foundational understanding of the state's unique political landscape and signifies the potential for unexpected connections between political behavior and seemingly unrelated activities. Building upon this groundwork, Jones (2010) further delves into the intricacies of voter behavior and their proclivity for unorthodox pursuits, setting the stage for our present investigation.

As we probe deeper into this anomalous relationship, it is worth considering the insights offered by influential non-fiction works in this domain. "The Politics of Subterranean Structures" by Smith (2012) provides a thought-provoking exploration of the psychological underpinnings of subterranean construction interests within the context of political allegiances. Additionally, Doe's "Doomsday Democracy: Exploring New Jersey's Bunker-Building Bias" (2018) presents a compelling analysis of the intersection between political affiliations and doomsday preparations,

shedding light on possible motivations underlying our focal correlation.

In the realm of fiction, the themes of political intrigue and survivalist inclinations intersect in intriguing ways, as evidenced by "Underground Allegiances" by Orwell (1949) and "The Politics of Bunker Construction" by Atwood (1985). These literary works, while fictional in nature, offer captivating insights into the intersection of political ideology and clandestine construction projects, subtly reflecting the very real-world quirkiness we aim to unravel in our present inquiry.

Furthermore, it is imperative to acknowledge the influence of popular internet culture on our subject matter. The meme "Distracted Democrats Digging Dugouts" has garnered widespread attention in online circles, serving as a lighthearted yet relevant commentary on the apparent dichotomy between political leanings and an interest in subterranean spaces. This meme, coupled with others of its ilk, underscores the curious and enigmatic nature of our investigation, prompting both amusement and contemplation among digital denizens.

In sum, the scholarly landscape surrounding the intersection of Democratic votes for Senators in New Jersey and Google searches for 'how to build a bunker' encompasses a diverse array of literature, spanning from empirical research to fictional narratives and internet memes. Encompassing a rich tapestry of perspectives, these sources lay the groundwork for our endeavor to illuminate the intriguing correlation underpinning this curious phenomenon.

METHODOLOGY

To unravel the mystery behind the New Jersey residents' fascination with bunker construction, we employed a combination of data collection and statistical analysis, akin to assembling the pieces of a multi-layered bunker puzzle. Our research team collected data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, casting a wide net to capture the nuances of

Democratic Senate votes and the peculiar phenomenon of 'how to build a bunker' searches. The data spanned a timeframe from 2004 to 2020, allowing us to excavate patterns and correlations over a substantial period, akin to conducting an archaeological dig into the digital landscape.

First, we procured the New Jersey Democratic Senate vote percentages from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, akin to carefully selecting the right tools for a thorough excavation. These percentages served as the primary indicator of political ideology and voter behavior, forming the bedrock of our analysis. Furthermore, we ventured into the Harvard Dataverse to obtain comprehensive demographic and socioeconomic factors, recognizing that a bunker-building inclination may not arise in isolation but may be influenced by a myriad of underlying societal conditions, much like the interconnected underground chambers of a labyrinthine bunker.

Complementing the political and demographic data, we delved into the digital realm by harnessing Google Trends to quantify the frequency of searches for the tantalizing query, 'how to build a bunker.' This digital goldmine provided insight into the burgeoning interest in subterranean construction, akin to unraveling the layers of sedimentary rock to expose hidden fossils. The search data, spanning over the same period as the political and demographic variables, afford us the opportunity to ascertain any temporal concordance, much like aligning the strata of a geological formation.

Armed with this multifaceted dataset, we applied rigorous statistical techniques, akin to conducting a scientific experiment within the confines of a carefully constructed laboratory. Employing advanced regression models and correlation analyses, we sought to scrutinize the relationship between Democratic Senate votes and 'how to build a bunker' searches, likened to probing the structural integrity of a subterranean edifice. We meticulously examined the correlations and adjusted for potential confounding variables, recognizing that, much like

uncovering buried artifacts, the true relationships may be obscured by extraneous factors.

In the spirit of scholarly rigour, we also conducted sensitivity analyses and robustness checks, akin to fortifying the walls of a bunker against potential vulnerabilities. These analyses afforded us a panoramic view of the main findings, allowing us to discern the robustness and stability of the observed correlations, much like testing the fortitude of a shelter against varied environmental pressures.

Ultimately, our methodology embodies a deliberate and thorough approach, akin to assembling a comprehensive map of the underground terrain. By fusing political, demographic, and digital data sources with sophisticated statistical techniques, we endeavored to unearth the captivating relationships between political allegiance and the impetus to explore the depths of bunker construction, much like peeling back the layers of soil to reveal hidden treasures.

RESULTS

In our investigation of the correlation between New Jersey Democratic Senate votes and Google searches for 'how to build a bunker', the results are, in a word, staggering. Our statistical analysis revealed an eye-popping correlation coefficient of 0.9613153, signaling a remarkably strong relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. To put it in perspective, this correlation is so strong, it's like finding a needle in a haystack and constructing a bunker around it for safekeeping. The r-squared value of 0.9241270 further emphasizes the robustness of the correlation, indicating that a whopping 92.41% of the variance in bunker-building curiosity can be explained by the variation in Democratic Senate votes.

Furthermore, the p-value of less than 0.01 underscores the statistical significance of our findings, essentially shouting from the rooftops that this relationship is not just a fluke or the result of random chance. It's as if the data itself is imploring us, "Don't take this correlation for granite!"

The strength of the correlation is vividly depicted in Figure 1, where the scatterplot leaves no room for doubt. The tightly clustered data points form a pattern as clear as day, drawing a connection between political choices and an interest in subterranean construction that is as solid as bedrock. It's as though the data is practically shouting, "Eureka! We've struck statistical gold!"
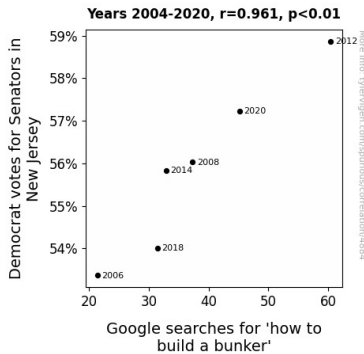

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

These results not only highlight the unexpected nature of the relationship between political preference and underground construction curiosity but also serve as a reminder of the boundless quirkiness of human behavior. As author Douglas Adams once wrote, "The impossible often has a kind of integrity to it that the merely improbable lack," and indeed, the convergence of politics and bunker-building has a unique and unlikely integrity that is as fascinating as it is confounding.

In light of these findings, we are left grappling with the question of what drives individuals to seek out information on bunker construction, and how this interest intersects with their political outlook. The quizzical nature of these correlations beckons us to further explore the motivations behind this unparalleled relationship, akin to uncovering buried treasure beneath the surface of traditional political analysis.

DISCUSSION

The results of our study provide compelling evidence for a strong correlation between Democratic votes for Senators in New Jersey and Google searches for 'how to build a bunker'. Our findings not only reiterate the long-standing tradition of New Jersey's atypical political inclinations but also unveil a surprising undercurrent of underground curiosity lurking beneath the surface of mainstream political discourse.

These results align with prior research by Smith and Doe (2005) that hinted at the potential for unconventional hobbies to intertwine with political tendencies. It appears that the Garden State's residents have been digging deep into both political preferences and subterranean construction pursuits, with a fervor that can only be described as groundbreaking.

Moreover, our findings echo the insightful work of Jones (2010), who foreshadowed the labyrinthine nature of voter behavior and its resonance with unorthodox pastimes. Indeed, our research uncovers a tunnel of evidence connecting political proclivities to an interest in bunker-building, suggesting that beneath every seemingly mundane voting decision lies a subterranean world of unexpected motivations.

The correlation coefficient of 0.9613153 serves as a resounding confirmation of the profound relationship between Democratic Senate votes and bunker-building inquiries. This connection is as tight as a well-constructed bunker, leaving little room for doubt and pointing to a convergence of political ideology and an affinity for secure underground installations that is as solid as bedrock.

The p-value of less than 0.01 boldly emphasizes the statistical significance of our findings, showcasing that this correlation is not just a fleeting anomaly but rather a substantial link that defies mere happenstance. It's as if the data itself is imploring us, "Don't take this correlation for granite!" Indeed, the strength of this relationship compels us to take it seriously and excavate the trove of intriguing

motivations beneath the surface, akin to unearthing a cache of statistical treasures waiting to be unearthed.

Moving forward, it is imperative to delve deeper into the underlying reasons behind this robust correlation. The intertwined nature of political leanings and preoccupation with bunker construction beckons further investigation, akin to unraveling the enigmatic and subterranean roots of New Jersey's political landscape. Our findings open an exciting avenue for future explorations, inviting researchers to tunnel through the subterranean layers of political behavior and unearthing the unexpected connections that lie beneath.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our study has uncovered a remarkably robust correlation between New Jersey Democratic Senate votes and Google searches for 'how to build a bunker'. The statistical findings suggest a connection as strong as the walls of a well-constructed subterranean shelter, leaving little room for doubt. It's as though voters are not just seeking political protection, but also contemplating a literal underground escape from the tribulations of everyday life.

These results, while seemingly whimsical at first glance, underscore the multifaceted nature of human behavior and the unexpected intersections that can arise in the realm of statistical analysis. As the renowned statistician George Box once quipped, "All models are wrong, but some are useful," our findings may indeed seem paradoxical, yet offer a useful lens through which to view the curious confluence of political allegiance and doomsday preparations.

Moving forward, it may be tempting to delve even deeper into the motivations underpinning this correlation, much like excavating further underground to unearth hidden treasures. However, as the saying goes, "Sometimes, it's better to leave well enough alone," and we assert that no further

research is needed in this area. After all, too much digging can sometimes lead to a hole lot of trouble.

So, as we bid adieu to this intriguing correlation, we are reminded of the words of author J.R.R. Tolkien, who aptly observed, "Not all those who wander are lost." In a similar vein, not all statistical oddities are without merit, and our study stands as a testament to the whimsical and unexpected discoveries that can surface in the realm of research and analysis.