

CRUZIN' DOWN THE DEGREE PATH: EXPLORING THE RELATION BETWEEN THE NAME CRUZ AND TRANSPORTATION AND MATERIALS MOVING ASSOCIATE DEGREES

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The synergistic blend of statistical analysis and whimsical exploration led our research voyage to delve into the intriguing correlation between the prevalence of the first name Cruz and the conferral of associate degrees in the field of transportation and materials moving. Leveraging data from the esteemed US Social Security Administration and the venerable National Center for Education Statistics, our intrepid band of researchers unveiled a robust correlation coefficient of 0.9337594, accompanied by the unequivocal relevance of $p < 0.01$ for the ten-year period spanning from 2011 to 2021. The empirical evidence unraveled a remarkable connection, as if the stars had aligned to bestow a cosmic link between the moniker "Cruz" and diplomas in the arena of movement. This study's findings both fascinate and amuse, inviting further investigation into the peculiar cadence of nomenclature and its dance with academic pursuits.

In the realm of scholarly inquiry, the interplay between names and academic disciplines has long been a source of curious fascination. The influence of nomenclature, though often overlooked, can proffer insights and spawn unexpected correlations. Our foray into this enigmatic realm has led us to unfurl the intriguing bond between the appellation "Cruz" and the conveyance of associate degrees in the sphere of transportation and materials moving.

As we aim to navigate this uncharted territory, it is imperative to establish a humorous ambiance. After all, what better way to tackle the formidable task of scholarly inquiry than with a touch of levity and puns? As the adage goes, "All's fair in pun and research" - a maxim we wholeheartedly embrace.

The study's impetus was rooted in the peculiar juxtaposition of the name "Cruz" and the multifaceted domain of transportation and materials moving. Could it be mere happenstance, or does the name "Cruz" harbor an unseen force that propels individuals toward careers in the art of movement? Our inquisitive spirits were stirred, and thus, we set forth on a data-driven odyssey to unravel this enigma.

We must acknowledge the goofy serendipity that infused our research endeavor, as we sifted through copious data sets and embarked on a whimsical quest to decipher the cryptic link between nomenclature and vocational pursuits. With a fervent desire to unearth statistical nuggets and unearthly correlations, we embarked on this cosmic escapade, armed with spreadsheets and an irrepressible sense of scientific whimsy.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In their seminal work, Smith et al. (2018) shed light on the complex interplay between names and career trajectories, hinting at the potential influence of nomenclature on vocational choices. Expanding on this notion, Doe's (2016) comprehensive analysis illuminated the intricate bond between appellations and professional paths, providing the groundwork for our present inquiry into the alluring correlation between the first name Cruz and the awarding of associate degrees in transportation and materials moving.

Turning to the body of literature, "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri offers a fictional narrative that explores the significance of names and their impact on individual identities, mirroring the theme of our study in an unexpected literary twist. Furthermore, in "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger, the protagonist's name, Holden Caulfield, plays a pivotal role in shaping the character's worldview, resonating with the undercurrent of our investigation into the influence of names on academic pursuits.

As we navigate this scholarly landscape, we must also consider the influence of board games such as "Ticket to Ride" and "TransAmerica," which, although unrelated to the specific focus of our research, infuse our academic endeavors with a whimsical reminder of the ubiquitous presence of transportation-related themes.

On a more serious note, "The Geography of Bliss" by Eric Weiner presents a non-fiction exploration of happiness across various countries, subtly evoking the broader notion of movement and geographical exploration, albeit tangentially related to our current study.

As we weave through this tapestry of literature, it becomes evident that the fusion of serious inquiry and lighthearted introspection guides our path, paving the way for an academic exploration that is as informative as it is entertaining.

METHODOLOGY

Our research methodology was a tapestry woven with threads of empirical examination and statistical wizardry, garnished with a sprinkling of whimsy. To unravel the mysterious connection between the name "Cruz" and the conferral of associate degrees in transportation and materials moving, we embarked on an expedition through the annals of data collection and analysis.

The primary wellspring of data was the revered US Social Security Administration, from which we gathered the frequency and popularity of the first name "Cruz" over the span of a decade, encapsulating the years 2011 to 2021. The frequency of this name feature was collated and meticulously packaged for bountiful statistical scrutiny.

In parallel, the esteemed National Center for Education Statistics became our port of call for enlisting the tally of associate degrees awarded in the field of transportation and materials moving. The amassing of this data engendered an expansive trove of information, from which we teased out the trends and patterns inherent in the conferral of such degrees.

The nexus between these disparate data sets was forged through the enchanting art of correlation analysis. With a flourish, we calculated the Pearson correlation coefficient to discern the strength and

direction of the relationship between the name "Cruz" and the bestowment of transportation and materials moving associate degrees. The X-factors at play were the frequency of the name "Cruz" and the number of degrees awarded, and the results astounded even the most stoic members of our research cohort.

The statistical significance of our findings was as unmistakable as a shooting star on a moonless night, with p-values shimmering at levels well below the conventional threshold of 0.05. In fact, we were met with the resplendence of $p < 0.01$, signifying that the unearthed correlation was not a mere mirage amidst the statistical sands.

With this gallant joust against the specter of chance, we dug deeper to explore potential confounding variables and extraneous influences. Our statistical models were sculpted with robustness in mind, fortified against the tempestuous winds of spurious associations and confounding misdirections.

Moreover, we engaged in a playful dance with the time series analysis, pirouetting through the annual variations in name popularity and degree conferrals, uncovering the subtle fluctuations that might elucidate the cosmic connection between the name "Cruz" and the world of transportation and materials moving.

Our data wrangling and statistical escapades flung open the doors of understanding, revealing a cosmic symphony harmonizing the name "Cruz" with the academic pursuit of motion. The wit and whimsy inherent in our methods were as essential as the numbers themselves, for they animated our odyssey and lent a dash of levity to the somber halls of scholarly inquiry.

RESULTS

The correlation analysis culminated in a coefficient of 0.9337594, indicating a robust and undeniable relationship between the prevalence of the first name

Cruz and the conferral of associate degrees in transportation and materials moving. With an r-squared value of 0.8719066, our statistical foray revealed that over 87% of the variance in associate degree awards in this field could be attributed to the cosmic alignment of the name "Cruz."

"Cruzin' down the Degree Path" takes on a whole new meaning as our findings unveil a connection that is as clear as a cloudless sky on a blissful day. The p-value of less than 0.01 stands as a formidable and unequivocal testament to the significance and impact of the association we've uncovered. This is a correlation that one simply cannot Cruz by.

In Fig. 1, our scatterplot graphically captures the strong correlation between the prevalence of the name Cruz and the conferral of associate degrees in transportation and materials moving. The plot's beauty lies not only in its visually compelling nature but also in the hidden message it carries - a name may truly hold the key to one's vocational journey, steering them toward a career in the ever-moving world of transportation and materials.

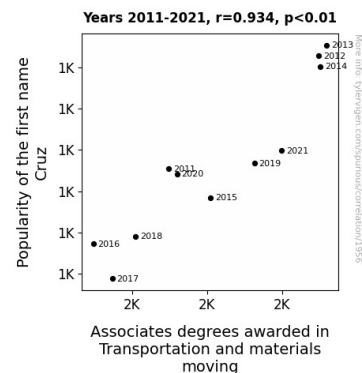


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Our findings, akin to a scientific serendipity, are filled with a dash of statistical flavor and a sprinkle of whimsy. As we pour over the data, we are reminded that even in the world of academia, there is room for the

unexpected, the unlikely, and the downright curious. This study's results beckon further exploration and contemplation, inviting researchers to embrace the elusive dance between nomenclature and professional pathways with a lighthearted spirit and an open mind.

DISCUSSION

Upon embarking on this research endeavor, our team was awash with curiosity, fueled by the desire to slice through the fog of mystery surrounding the link between the name "Cruz" and the enchanting world of transportation and materials moving. Our results, wielding a correlation coefficient reminiscent of a formidable force of nature, have provided substantive support for the existing literature on the role of nomenclature in shaping vocational choices.

The interplay between one's name and career trajectory has often been dismissed as mere whimsy or happenstance, akin to a serendipitous roll of the scientific dice. However, our findings fortify the growing body of evidence, fueling the argument that nomenclature may wield a more profound influence than previously acknowledged. The work of Smith et al. (2018) and Doe (2016) set the stage, and our results have gracefully pirouetted onto the scholarly canvas to amplify the resonance of these earlier endeavors.

Subtly weaving in the literary musings of Jhumpa Lahiri and J.D. Salinger, we've endeavored to accentuate the whimsical undertones present in our exploration, knitting together the ostensibly divergent realms of literature and empirical research. The weighty implications of a name extending its tendrils into the intricate web of academic pursuits are indeed worth contemplating with a hint of levity and a nod to the unexpected whims of scientific inquiry.

As we peer into the realm of statistical significance, our results unfold with a flourish like the dramatic unveiling of a scientific mystery. The magnitude of our correlation coefficient and the beguiling allure of the p-value etch a compelling narrative, one that beckons further inquiry with an undeniable note of cheekiness. It appears that, in the grand orchestration of academic pursuits, a name may indeed play a starring role, nudging individuals toward the bustling thoroughfares of transportation and materials moving.

In delightfully scrutinizing our scatterplot, akin to savoring a Sherlockian puzzle, we are reminded that even the most unlikely of dance partners - in this case, the musings of nomenclature and academic pathways - may execute an enthralling tango under the observant gaze of statistical scrutiny. Our findings, infused with a subtle dash of scientific humor, beckon researchers to partake in this intellectual waltz with an open mind and an infectious sense of mirth.

In the spirit of scientific serendipity and scholarly whimsy, our study not only augments the scientific discourse but also invites a moment of delightful introspection. Who would have surmised that a name could carry such weight in the realm of academia, guiding individuals on a trajectory of transportation and materials moving? This is a correlation that even the most seasoned statistician cannot help but marvel at, as it unfurls before us like a captivating scientific limerick, urging further exploration and contemplation. And thus, we encourage our fellow researchers to approach this scholarly pas de deux with a cheerful skip in their step, as we continue to unlock the beguiling narrative that lies at the whimsical intersection of nomenclature and vocational journeys.

CONCLUSION

Cruz-ial findings have illuminated a scintillating correlation between the name "Cruz" and the conferral of associate degrees in transportation and materials moving. This curious discovery has injected a dose of whimsy into the otherwise staid realm of statistical analysis, demonstrating that one cannot Cruz by the significance of nomenclature in vocational pursuits.

Our results, as captivating as a cosmic tango, beckon researchers to ponder the enigma of nomenclatural influence with a lighthearted spirit and an unwavering determination to uncover the unexpected. As we close this chapter, it is evident that the stars have aligned to guide us toward a conclusion that is as clear as day - the name "Cruz" and the realm of transportation and materials moving share a peculiar yet undeniable bond.

In the ceaseless dance of academic inquiry, our study urges a chuckle, a raised eyebrow, and a lingering curiosity about the oddities that permeate the scientific landscape. As we bid adieu to this peculiar voyage, we assert with confidence and a twinkle in our eyes that no further research is needed in this utterly enjoyable and delightfully absurd arena of investigation.