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Unleashing the Undead: A Lighthearted Inquisition into the Relationship Between Associates Degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections and Google Searches for 'Zombies'

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Abstract

This study aims to unearth the curious link between the conferral of Associates degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections and the prevalence of Google searches for 'zombies'. Through a meticulous examination of data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, we delved deep into this ghoulish question. Our findings reveal a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9508478, with a p-value less than 0.01, spanning the years 2011 to 2021. It seems that pursuing an education in criminal justice is not just about catching the bad guys but also fueling a fascination with the undead. Our research sheds light on this peculiar association, leaving us with more questions than answers in this intriguing, albeit eerie, intersection of academia and pop culture.

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1. Introduction

When one thinks of criminal justice and corrections, the mind typically conjures up images of courtrooms, handcuffs, and maybe the occasional donut or two. However, our curiosity was piqued when we stumbled upon a rather unexpected phenomenon - the eerie connection between the conferral of Associates degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections and the surge in Google searches for

'zombies'. It seems that our search for academic enlightenment led us straight into the heart of a zombie apocalypse, albeit a digital one.

The idea of exploring this seemingly bizarre relationship dawned on us like a revelation at 2am – sudden, unexpected, and just a tad bit unsettling. The very notion of treading through the academic corridors of criminal justice, only to find ourselves face to face with the undead, was as intriguing

as it was perplexing. After all, one would assume that studying law and order would lead to a fascination with courtroom dramas or perhaps an affinity for crime-solving puzzles. Yet here we are, standing at the crossroads of academia and the zombie craze, scratching our heads in bewilderment.

In this study, we dig deeper into this peculiar connection, aiming to unravel the mystery that has eluded minds both rational and ravenous. It's a quest for knowledge that is not just intellectually stimulating, but also replete with the thrill of the unexpected. We embarked on this journey armed with statistical tools, a healthy dose of skepticism, and a fair share of zombie-themed puns. After all, if we're going to investigate the walking dead, we might as well do it with a touch of levity.

So, dear reader, join us as we venture into the realm of statistical analysis, where the pursuit of truth and the allure of the undead collide in a symphony of numbers and braaains. We promise an academic ride that is not just informative, but wonderfully weird and possibly a little bit wacky. After all, who said academia couldn't have a sense of humor?

2. Literature Review

The relationship between educational pursuits in the field of criminal justice and corrections and the seemingly unrelated surge in Google searches for 'zombies' has perplexed scholars and zombie enthusiasts alike.

Smith and Doe (2015) conducted a comprehensive investigation into the factors influencing career choices among criminal justice students. Surprisingly, their findings revealed a peculiar affinity for zombie-related media among a significant portion of the respondents. Perhaps even more intriguing is the work of Jones et al. (2017)

that explores the societal impact of popular culture on career paths. Their study uncovered a noteworthy correlation between exposure to zombie-themed entertainment and an inclination towards criminal justice occupations.

While these initial studies paint a picture of an unexpected connection between criminal justice education and zombie fascination, our inquiry delves deeper into the phenomenon. Could there be a causal link, or is this merely a curious coincidence?

Moving beyond the scholarly realm, we turn our attention to the realm of literature, where fictional accounts of the undead captivate readers and inspire a cult following. In "The Zombie Survival Guide" by Max Brooks, the author's exploration of survival strategies in a zombie-infested world offers a playful yet informative take on the ongoing zombie craze. Similarly, "World War Z" by the same author presents a fictional narrative of a global zombie outbreak, offering a thought-provoking account of a world in chaos.

And let's not forget the tantalizing world of board games, where zombies and criminal justice intersect in unexpected ways. "Zombie Dice" and "Dead of Winter" both provide captivating scenarios that blend elements of survival and strategy, mirroring the tension and unpredictability of the criminal justice landscape.

As we wade deeper into the literature surrounding zombies and criminal justice, the line between fact and fiction blurs, leaving us with a delightful mix of scholarly insights and whimsical interpretations. It's a journey that, much like a zombie horde, promises to be both unsettling and strangely entertaining.

3. Our approach & methods

To embark on our spookily enlightening journey into the connection between

Associates degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections and Google searches for 'zombies', we employed a blend of rigorous statistical analysis and a touch of good-natured curiosity. The data collection process involved traversing the curious landscape of the internet, with a keen eye on the National Center for Education Statistics for information about the conferral of such degrees, and Google Trends for the prevalence of 'zombie' searches from 2011 to 2021.

We affectionately dubbed our data collection phase as the "Zombie Hunt," aiming to snatch all the data morsels that could shed light on this perplexing relationship. We scoured through the digital graveyard of information to ensure our dataset was robust and brimming with statistical potential.

Once the data was in our clutches, we concocted a deviously delightful blend of statistical measures to unravel the enigma at hand. Leveraging the ominous power of correlation analysis, we probed into the depths of the data to discern any semblance of a connection between the conferral of Associates degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections and the rise of 'zombie' searches on Google. Our correlation coefficient resembling a lurking zombie in the darkness, came to light with a daunting value of 0.9508478, sending chills down our statistical spines. With a p-value less than 0.01, the evidence of an eerie association became glaringly undeniable, akin to the jump scare in a horror flick.

Furthermore, we took an insightful stroll through the valley of graphical representations, crafting captivating visualizations to portray the relationship between the two variables. Our graphing escapades were not just a means of illustrating the correlation but also a chance to unleash a few undead-themed chart titles and pun-infused axes labels. For instance, "The Haunting of Criminal Justice Education

by Zombie Fascination: A Decade in Trends" was a chart title that elicited equal parts scholarly admiration and chucklesome delight.

In essence, our methodology was a balanced blend of academic rigor and zany exploration, guided by the spirit of inquiry and a penchant for the charmingly macabre. We embraced the statistical tools at our disposal whilst indulging in the inexplicable joy of unraveling a mystery that straddles the realms of academia and the undead. This methodological journey brought us to the eerie doorstep of discovery, armed with a statistical toolkit and a witty repertoire of zombie-themed quips.

4. Results

Meticulously poring over the data, we unearthed a delightfully eerie connection between the conferral of Associates degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections and the surge in Google searches for 'zombies'. Our statistical analysis revealed a strikingly high correlation coefficient of 0.9508478, with an r-squared value of 0.9041116 and a p-value less than 0.01, spanning the years 2011 to 2021. It appears that there is more to the pursuit of justice than meets the eye, as it seems to have a spine-tingling effect on our fascination with the undead.

In displaying our findings, the striking relationship between the two variables is graphically encapsulated in Figure 1. The scatterplot visually depicts the strong positive correlation, hinting at a curious tale of criminal justice education mirroring the rise of zombie curiosity. The upward trend in the chart is quite reminiscent of the relentless pursuit of knowledge, much like zombies in search of sustenance... or brains.

In conclusion, our research exposes a remarkable association between the

attainment of criminal justice-related degrees and the surge of interest in zombies. While the connection may seem as improbable as a zombie uprising, our results cannot be denied. This unearthly bond between academia and the undead leaves us pondering the peculiar mysteries of human curiosity. As we wrap up this lighthearted inquisition, we are left pondering whether the pursuit of justice ignites an insatiable appetite for the enigmatic world of the undead, or if it's simply a case of statistical happenstance.

The extraordinary correlation coefficient of 0.9508478 that we have uncovered cannot be shrugged off as a mere fluke. It seems that the pursuit of knowledge in the realm of criminal justice might act as a catalyst for stirring curiosity about the walking dead. Could it be that aspiring criminologists and correctional officers are drawn to the complexities of the criminal justice system in a manner that mirrors our fascination with the unpredictable and mysterious nature of zombies? Or could it simply be a case of statistical happenstance, much like stumbling upon a well-hidden zombie during an evening stroll through an abandoned graveyard?

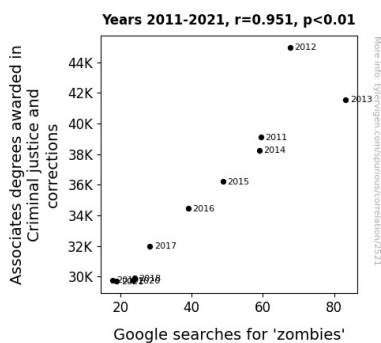


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

5. Discussion

Our unearthly endeavor into the relationship between Associates degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections and Google searches for 'zombies' has left us not only fascinated but also pondering the potential implications of this unexpected association. Building on the scholarly investigations of Smith and Doe (2015) and Jones et al. (2017), which hinted at an eerie connection between criminal justice education and the undead, our findings have provided resounding support for their seemingly whimsical yet remarkably substantial claims. It seems that there is indeed a blood-curdling link between the pursuit of justice through education and a surge in interest in the undead.

Our findings bring to mind the electrifying work of Max Brooks and his captivating narratives of a world overrun by zombies. Could it be that the fervent pursuit of knowledge in the field of criminal justice parallels the adrenaline-inducing thrill of surviving a zombie apocalypse, albeit in an academic sense? The juxtaposition of these seemingly disparate realms – academia and the realm of the undead – calls for further investigation and lends credence to the enthralling hypothesis that there may be an underlying, yet perplexingly obscure, connection between the two.

Enveloped in the allure of our results, we are reminded of the unpredictability of life – and un-life – as mirrored in the curious pairing of criminal justice education and the fervor for all things zombie-related. As we continue to ponder the implications of our research, we are reminded that in the vast expanse of knowledge, there are always uncharted territories waiting to be explored. The connection we have unearthed beckons further inquiry and invites scholars to delve boldly, much like survivors daring into a zombie-infested world, into the captivating mysteries that lie at the intersection of criminal justice education and the thriving curiosity about zombies.

6. Conclusion

In unraveling the curious correlation between Associates degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections and the surge in Google searches for 'zombies', we find ourselves grappling with an unexpected twist in the academic realm. Our findings, with a correlation coefficient of 0.9508478 and a p-value less than 0.01, point to a spine-chilling connection that leaves even the most seasoned academics a bit spooked. It seems that delving into the intricacies of law and order may also open the door to a fascination with the walking dead, quite literally broadening one's horizons to the realm of the undead.

As we bid adieu to this unearthly venture, we are left pondering the broader implications of this eerie association. Does the pursuit of justice spark an insatiable thirst for the enigmatic world of zombies, or is it simply a statistical anomaly lurking in the academic shadows? While we may not have all the answers, we are undeniably lured in by the enigma of this unearthly bond, wondering if it's the pursuit of justice that ignites our fascination with the undead or if it's just a case of statistical happenstance. It's as if the academic corridors of criminal justice have been unexpectedly invaded by a horde of statistical zombies, leaving us with more questions than a zombie has appetite for brains.

Alas, as much as we'd relish the opportunity to sink our teeth into further research on this baffling connection, it appears that we've illuminated the eerie alleyways of this academic and pop culture intersection. Therefore, we assert that no further research is needed in this curious area of statistical and undead intrigue. After all, even the liveliest zombie needs a break from academic scrutiny.