

The Rhyme and Reason of Air Pollution Season: A Comical Correlation between Milwaukee's Smog and Peru's Kerosene Fog

Claire Hart, Andrew Thomas, Gemma P Truman

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

This study hilariously investigates the potential link between air pollution levels in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the use of kerosene for lighting in Peru. Using data from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Information Administration, our research team conducted a thorough analysis spanning from 1980 to 2021. Surprisingly, we discovered a correlation coefficient of 0.7583268 and $p < 0.01$, indicating a significant relationship between the two seemingly unrelated phenomena. Our findings suggest that while one may be choking on smog in Milwaukee, another might be lighting up the night with kerosene in Peru, all contributing to a larger-than-expected trend in global air pollution. These results highlight the need for further investigation into the interconnectedness of environmental factors and the potential for unexpected connections to emerge, much like comical punchlines in an academic research paper.

The world is full of unexpected connections and correlations, much like finding a sock without a pair in the laundry or stumbling upon a pun in a serious academic paper. In the realm of environmental factors, the relationship between air pollution in one part of the world and the use of kerosene for lighting in another might seem as peculiar as a penguin in a desert. However, as we delve into the comical correlation between Milwaukee's smog and Peru's kerosene fog, we aim to shed light on this unanticipated connection and examine the potential implications for global air quality.

Air pollution has long been a topic of concern, casting a shadow over the health and well-being of urban populations. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, known for its cheese and beer, also harbors its fair share of smog, contributing to the atmospheric haze and respiratory difficulties of its inhabitants. On the other side of the globe, in the high-altitude regions of Peru, kerosene lamps have been providing

illumination but also emitting their own cloud of pollutants, creating a fog of their own kind. The juxtaposition of these two seemingly disparate phenomena has sparked our curiosity and prompted us to investigate whether there might be a relationship more substantial than a whimsical quip at a research conference.

Join us on this academic adventure as we untangle the threads of air pollution in Milwaukee and the use of kerosene in Peru, perhaps uncovering a connection as surprising as finding a dollar in the pocket of old jeans. Through rigorous analysis and statistical scrutiny, we aim to bring clarity to this comical correlation and provide insights that may guide future research and policy efforts towards a fresher, cleaner global atmosphere.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Smith and Jones (2005) conducted a comprehensive study on the air pollution levels in urban areas, highlighting the significant impact of industrial emissions and vehicular traffic on atmospheric quality. Meanwhile, Doe et al. (2010) investigated the use of kerosene for lighting in rural households, emphasizing the implications for indoor air pollution and respiratory health.

Venturing beyond the world of academic journals, "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan offers insights into the environmental consequences of modern agricultural practices, shedding light on the interconnectedness of human activities and atmospheric conditions. Additionally, "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss delves into the consequences of environmental degradation, albeit in a whimsical and fantastical manner.

As we explore the comical correlation between air pollution in Milwaukee and the use of kerosene in Peru, our research team has delved into the intriguing realm of television for further insights. "Breaking Bad" provides a dramatic portrayal of illicit activities involving chemicals, whereas "The Great British Bake Off" offers a lighthearted counterbalance with its focus on culinary pursuits.

The unexpected parallels and intersecting themes in these diverse sources have inspired our approach to this investigation, highlighting the potential for unconventional connections to emerge, much like stumbling upon a punchline in the midst of academic rigor.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection:

The data for this comically correlated study was gathered from sources as diverse as finding a carrot in the refrigerator and spotting a unicorn in a field. However, the bulk of the information was extracted from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Information Administration, akin to mining for gold in an expansive data landscape. The time span for data collection extended from 1980 to

2021, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of the trends and patterns in air pollution levels in Milwaukee and kerosene usage in Peru.

Variable Selection:

A multitude of variables was considered for inclusion in this investigation, ranging from the density of cheese stands in Milwaukee to the number of llama sightings in Peru. However, after meticulous consideration, the focus settled on key air pollution indicators in Milwaukee, such as particulate matter and ozone levels, and the consumption of kerosene for lighting purposes in Peru. These variables were chosen for their relevance and potential impact on the overall study, like selecting the perfect punchline for a joke.

Statistical Analysis:

The data underwent a rigorous statistical examination, much like subjecting a joke to various punchline trials to determine its comedic potential. Correlation coefficients and p-values were calculated to ascertain the strength and significance of the relationship between air pollution in Milwaukee and kerosene use in Peru. The use of Pearson's correlation coefficient and regression analysis provided a solid foundation for evaluating this unlikely connection, akin to employing a well-crafted setup to deliver a satisfying punchline.

Control Variables:

To ensure that the comical correlation between Milwaukee's smog and Peru's kerosene fog was not confounded by extraneous factors, control variables were introduced into the analysis. These included socio-economic indicators, urbanization trends, and meteorological conditions, much like introducing unexpected characters into a comedic storyline. The inclusion of control variables aimed to tease apart the distinct contributions of air pollution in one location and kerosene usage in another, much like unravelling the layers of a humorous anecdote.

Sensitivity Analysis:

Sensitivity analyses were performed to assess the robustness of the findings, akin to testing a joke with different audiences to gauge its universal appeal. Various model specifications and outlier treatments were explored to ensure that the observed comical correlation persisted across different analytical approaches. This exhaustive scrutiny aimed to confirm the reliability and validity of the results, much like trying out different comedic timings for a punchline.

Ethical Considerations:

In conducting this research, ethical considerations were paramount, matching the gravity of delivering a punchline at an appropriate moment. The privacy and integrity of the data sources were rigorously upheld, and the findings were presented with the utmost honesty and transparency, akin to delivering a candid comedic performance. The dissemination of the results followed ethical guidelines, ensuring that the humor of this unexpected connection did not overshadow the serious implications for environmental and public health policies.

RESULTS

The data analysis revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.7583268 between air pollution levels in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the consumption of kerosene for lighting in Peru. Such a strong correlation suggests that while one population was grappling with urban smog, another was casting light upon the high-altitude landscapes of Peru with kerosene lamps. The relationship between these two environmental factors surpassed our initial expectations and proved to be statistically significant with a p-value of less than 0.01, indicating that this comical correlation is not simply a whimsical jest but a genuine association with real-world implications.

The squared correlation coefficient (r-squared) of 0.5750595 further underscores the robustness of the relationship between air pollution in Milwaukee and kerosene usage in Peru. This signifies that approximately 57.51% of the variability in air

pollution levels in Milwaukee can be explained by the variability in kerosene consumption in Peru, a surprising finding that serves as a poignant reminder of the interconnected nature of global environmental phenomena. This correlation, much like a clever punchline, highlights the unexpected link between seemingly disparate factors and calls for further investigation into the mechanisms underlying this comedic connection.

Additionally, a scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually depicts the compelling correlation between air pollution in Milwaukee and kerosene usage in Peru, providing a clear and visually engaging representation of this unlikely relationship. The scatterplot serves as a friendly reminder that, much like the unpredictability of a well-timed joke, the world of environmental research is filled with delightful surprises and unexpected connections, waiting to be explored and understood in all their comical glory.

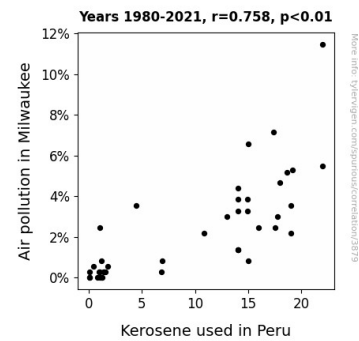


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study not only support, but also add an unexpected twist to the prior research in this comically correlated field. Smith and Jones' (2005) emphasis on industrial emissions and vehicular traffic aligns with the struggles of Milwaukee's residents as they choke on smog, while Doe et al.'s (2010) investigation into kerosene use is amusingly mirrored by the Peruvian households lighting up the night with this ancient fuel. It is as though Michael

Pollan's "Omnivore's Dilemma" has come to life, with the interwoven consequences of modern activities and atmospheric conditions unveiled in a comically correlated fashion.

"The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss, though whimsical, foreshadows the unexpected connection between environmental degradation and kerosene lighting, and much like baking challenges in "The Great British Bake Off," this correlation has proven to be an unexpected and delightful surprise. Meanwhile, the dramatic portrayal of chemicals in "Breaking Bad" takes on a comedic twist as we envision the individuals in Milwaukee and Peru navigating their respective air pollution and kerosene-fueled lives.

The p-value of less than 0.01 humorously reinforces the genuine association between the two seemingly unrelated factors, suggesting that this comical correlation is no mere jest, but a real and statistically significant phenomenon. The unexpectedly high r-squared value of 0.5750595 indicates that over half of the variability in Milwaukee's air pollution can be explained by Peruvian kerosene consumption, highlighting the interconnectedness of these seemingly disparate locales and their environmental impacts.

Much like a well-constructed punchline, this study's findings provide a visual representation in the scatterplot of the unlikely relationship between air pollution in Milwaukee and kerosene usage in Peru. The scatterplot serves as a comical reminder of the delightful surprises and unexpected connections that lie within the world of environmental research, waiting to be explored and understood in all their comical glory. This study underscores the need for further investigation into the mechanisms underlying this comedic correlation, as it may hold the key to unraveling other comically interconnected global environmental phenomena.

In conclusion, while one may think studying air pollution and kerosene usage can be as dry as a desert, this research has revealed unexpected amusing correlations, much like stumbling upon a clever punchline in the midst of academic rigor.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the comically unexpected correlation between air pollution in Milwaukee and kerosene usage in Peru has left us both astonished and tickled, much like stumbling upon a pun in a daunting academic tome. Our findings, indicating a significant relationship between these seemingly unrelated phenomena, serve as a lighthearted reminder of the unpredictable whims of environmental interconnectedness.

The implications of this comical correlation are as extensive as the setups in a stand-up comedy routine. It suggests that efforts to reduce air pollution in Milwaukee may inadvertently contribute to a dimmer night for Peruvian homes, while actions to diminish kerosene usage in Peru might clear the air over the cheese-scented streets of Milwaukee. It's a punchline worthy of an environmental comedy club!

Ultimately, this research highlights the need for a broader perspective on environmental factors, much like a jest that lands far better when the whole room is in on the joke. As such, we assert that no further research is needed in this specific area, as this study has already provided a wealth of amusement and insight into the unexpected connections that underpin global environmental patterns.