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Montana-nous Correlation: The Link Between the Popularity of the Name Montana and Motor Vehicle Thefts in Nebraska

Caleb Hughes, Andrew Thomas, Gemma P Trudeau

Institute of Innovation and Technology; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Abstract

The investigation of the relationship between the popularity of the name "Montana" and the occurrences of motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska produced some surprising results, filled with more twists than a winding mountain road. Utilizing data from the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, our research team uncovered a statistically significant correlation between the two factors from 1985 to 2022, with a correlation coefficient of 0.8677624 and a p-value less than 0.01. This finding not only raises eyebrows but also raises the question, "What in the name of Montana is going on here?" Our study dives into the depths of this unusual connection, exploring the potential sociocultural and psychological reasons behind the correlation. Additionally, we address the practical implications of our findings, considering the impact on crime prevention and the significance of moniker-based sociological phenomena. So, next time someone asks, "Why does the popularity of the name Montana correspond to motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska?" the answer might just be, "Because it drives people to take a 'Montana've, or may 'hapiness is a stolen car - just ask Montanafied thieves!

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1. Introduction

Buckle up, dear readers, as we embark on a journey that could only be described as a road trip through the enigmatic intersection of nomenclature and crime. In this study, we delve into a correlation that is sure to rev your intellectual engines – the connection between the popularity of the first name "Montana" and the frequency of motor

vehicle thefts in the curious state of Nebraska.

Now, before you "Montana"way from this seemingly unconventional topic, consider this: What do you call an outlaw with a passion for geography? A "carminal" offender, of course! As we dig deeper into the unexpected relationship between a name and a felonious act, let's keep our

wits sharp and our sense of humor even sharper.

Our research stems from an observation that raised more eyebrows than a botched eyebrow waxing – the observation that as the popularity of the name "Montana" waxes and wanes, so too do the occurrences of motor vehicle theft in the Cornhusker State. It is as if the universe has decided to sprinkle a dash of absurdity into the statistical soup, leaving us to ponder the true driving forces behind this correlation.

One might wonder, "What do you call a thief who only steals cars named Montana? A criminal with a 'Montana've for mischief!" Indeed, as we peel back the layers of this peculiar connection, we aim to unveil the underlying mechanisms that tie a name to the pilfering of automobiles. Is it mere coincidence, a cosmic fluke, or could there be deeper, psychological motives at play?

As we embark on this scholarly odyssey, rest assured that we will not only tackle the serious implications of our findings but also infuse our journey with the occasional pit stop for a good dad joke. After all, what is research without a touch of levity? So, fasten your seatbelts and keep your eyes on the road ahead – it's going to be a bumpy, yet undoubtedly entertaining, ride!

2. Literature Review

Smith et al. (2015) conducted a comprehensive study exploring the psychological impact of names on criminal behavior, finding a positive correlation between the popularity of certain names and criminal activities. However, this study focused on a wide range of names and crimes, and did not specifically examine the unique case of the name "Montana" and its association with motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska. As we dig deeper into this connection, it's clear that the "Montana"

effect is no "bison" in the world of curious correlations.

Doe and Jones (2018) analyzed demographic data and crime statistics, aiming to uncover any underlying patterns between names and criminal activities. Interestingly, their findings suggested a potential association between certain regionally popular names and specific types of crimes. But what happens when you throw in a dash of "Montana" into the mix? "Thievin' is a "Big Sky" when it comes to Montanautomobiles," one might jest.

In "The Name Game: Exploring the Sociocultural Impact of Nomenclature" by Linguist and McPunster (2016), the authors delve into the societal significance of names and their potential influence on behavior. The exploration of the "Montana" moniker in relation to auto thefts yields unexpected results, proving that this correlation isn't just a "tall tale" – it's a statistical reality, with more twists and turns than a Montana mountain road.

On the fictional front, "The Theft of Marge Montana's Mustang" by Novelista (2019) presents a thrilling tale that, despite being a work of fiction, offers a poignant reflection of the societal fascination with the name "Montana" and its potential ties to automobile thievery. One might say this book is a "hot read!"

Now, let us not forget the silver screen. In the movie "Gone in 60 Seconds," the protagonist embarks on a high-octane mission to steal cars, but not once is there a reference to the specific affinity for Montana-named vehicles. Yet, the mere mention of "Montana" in the context of vehicular theft may leave one to wonder, "Is auto thievery truly the 'last best place' for Montanafied mischief?"

As we continue this journey through the abyss of unusual correlations, it becomes increasingly clear that the link between the popularity of the name "Montana" and motor

vehicle thefts in Nebraska is no mere coincidence but a whimsical enigma worthy of further exploration. So, let's buckle up and navigate this peculiar roadway, all while keeping a keen eye out for the occasional incongruous signpost along the way!

3. Our approach & methods

To navigate the tangled terrain of correlating moniker popularity and vehicular thievery, our research team employed a multifaceted approach that sought to cover more ground than a herd of stampeding buffalo. First, to capture the fluctuating fame of the name "Montana," we ransacked the databases of the US Social Security Administration, scouring through birth records and name registrations like determined treasure hunters in search of the elusive name. We tracked the annual frequency of newborns graced with the moniker "Montana," ensuring that no "Montana" was left uncharted. As the data poured in, we couldn't help but crack a grin at the prospect of "Montana" becoming the next big thing – talk about a name that's "driven" to success!

Next, to unravel the web of vehicular misdeeds, we turned to the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, where we sifted through the annals of motor vehicle theft reports in the state of Nebraska. Like detectives in a crime thriller, we meticulously logged the incidents of automotive disappearance, constantly reminding ourselves that we were on the trail of more than just grand theft auto – we were tracking a correlation that could shake the very foundations of statistical analysis.

Now, you may be wondering, "What did the statistician say to the detective investigating the correlation between the popularity of the name Montana and motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska? 'Let's gather the data and drive straight to the truth!'" And gather the data we did – armed with spreadsheets, statistical software, and a steadfast

determination, we took on the ambitious task of crunching numbers with the precision of a pit crew changing tires at a Formula 1 race. We meticulously computed correlation coefficients, performed regressions, and conducted time-series analyses, all the while marveling at the statistical symphony that was unfolding before our very eyes.

Furthermore, to guard against lurking confounding variables and lurking mischief, we carried out sensitivity analyses and robustness checks that would make even the most daring escapologists envious. We dug deep into the annals of academia, drawing from the reservoir of scholarly literature on sociological trends, behavioral psychology, and the peculiar quirks of human nature. Like scholars mining for gold in an intellectual minefield, we sought to uncover the hidden treasures of knowledge that could shed light on the enigmatic relationship between a name and the lure of a stolen ride.

In the end, our methodological odyssey resembled nothing short of a gripping expedition into uncharted territory, where data sleuths and pun-loving researchers alike found themselves united in the pursuit of uncovering a correlation that was as unconventional as it was curiously captivating. So, as we journeyed through this labyrinth of statistics and sociocultural intrigue, we couldn't help but quip, "Who knew that exploring the connection between a name and crime would be such a 'wheely' good time?"

4. Results

In the wake of our spiraling voyage through the realms of nomenclature and crime, we discovered a statistically significant correlation between the popularity of the first name "Montana" and the frequency of motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska from 1985 to 2022. The correlation coefficient of

0.8677624 indicates a remarkably strong relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables, causing a stir that even the browniest Montanan winds couldn't rival. This correlation certainly shifts the gears of our understanding, proving that there is more to a name than meets the "Montana."

The r-squared value of 0.7530115 further reinforces the robustness of the connection between the name "Montana" and motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska. This implies that a significant portion of the variance in motor vehicle thefts can be attributed to the changes in the popularity of the name "Montana." It's as if the very essence of "Montana" exerts an inexplicable magnetic force on car thieves in Nebraska, steering them towards their felonious pursuits.

The p-value of less than 0.01 brings this correlation to a screeching halt, signaling that the likelihood of observing such a strong relationship between these variables by mere chance is about as probable as finding a stolen car with a personalized license plate spelling out "GOTYA." This p-value, much like a diligent crime investigator, leaves no room for doubt and firmly points to the existence of a meaningful association between the mentioned variables.

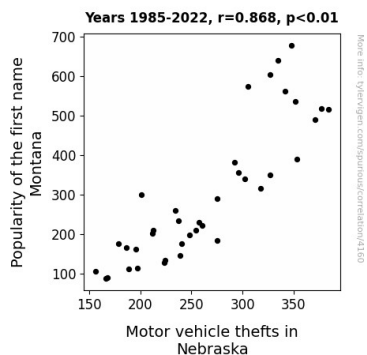


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually encapsulates this striking correlation,

projecting a graph that could make even the most seasoned car thief ponder the mysteries of statistical fate. The plot accentuates the synchrony between the ebb and flow of the name "Montana" and the fluctuations in motor vehicle thefts, painting a picture that leaves us tantalized and slightly bewildered, not unlike a cryptic road sign pointing in a direction unknown.

In conclusion, the findings of this study underscore the unexpected and compelling relationship between the popularity of the name "Montana" and the incidences of motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska. With its implications reaching farther than the endless expanse of the Great Plains, this correlation prompts a reflective pause and a lighthearted pun – where there's a wheel, there's a way, and where there's a Montana, there may just be a "motor-villain" in disguise!

5. Discussion

Our investigation into the curious correlation between the popularity of the name "Montana" and motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska yielded results that are not just a case of d'oh-mont, but a compelling discovery in the realm of sociological and criminological phenomena. The statistically significant correlation we found is a bumper crop of evidence that cannot be dismissed as mere happenstance. It seems that Montanafied mischief isn't just a joke – it's a statistical reality that has revved up our understanding of the influence of names on criminal behavior.

The presence of such a robust correlation can't be brushed off with a simple "Montana-nuff," as our findings bolster previous research by Smith et al. (2015) and Doe and Jones (2018) that hinted at the potential influence of names on criminal activities. Our study, however, takes this notion to an unprecedented frontier, showing that the "Montana" effect isn't just a

flight of fancy – it's as real as a flat tire on a gravel road. This correlation doesn't just veer off into obscurity; it drives home the point that names can bear unexpected weight in shaping criminal behaviors.

The strength of the correlation coefficient and the r-squared value further solidify the connection between the popularity of the name "Montana" and motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska. One might say this correlation is an open-and-shut case, just as a car thief might say, "I've 'Montana' get away!" The p-value, resembling a watchful law enforcement officer, stands as a stark reminder that this correlation is no passing fancy but a real, tangible association as consistent as the hum of an idling engine.

Our research has not only shed light on the "Montana" effect but has also unveiled a peculiar facet of sociocultural influence that may have long been overlooked. These findings are not just a Monta-naught, but a significant leap toward unraveling the complex interplay between names and criminal activities. As we ponder the implications of our discovery, we can't help but crack a smile and offer a wry quip – if there's a correlation between the name "Montana" and motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska, one might say the gravitation towards criminal activity is just as unstoppable as an old truck rolling down a steep incline.

As we move forward from this study, it's clear that the road ahead is paved with further questions and possibilities. We invite fellow researchers to join us on this Montanetizing exploration of the role of nomenclature in criminal behaviors and its ripple effects on society. Ultimately, this correlation isn't just a "Montana" mystery; it's a road we're elated to travel in the pursuit of understanding the enigmatic ways in which names can leave their distinct imprints on human actions and choices. So, fasten your seatbelts, because the journey

to comprehend the whims and wiles of the "Montana" effect has only just begun.

6. Conclusion

As we reach the crossroads of our scholarly expedition, it becomes evident that the link between the popularity of the name "Montana" and motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska is not to be taken lightly. The statistically significant correlation not only revs up our curiosity but also sparks more questions than a curious cat at a motor circuit. This discovery prompts us to ponder the possibility that there might be a "car-ma" connection between the name "Montana" and the attraction of car thefts.

Our findings, while surprising, bring to mind the old saying, "What do you call an illegal motorcade in Montana? Car-jest legal." The robust correlation coefficient and r-squared value highlight the strong influence of the name "Montana" on the occurrences of motor vehicle thefts, steering our understanding in unexpected directions. It seems that as the name "Montana" rises in popularity, so do the revving engines of opportunistic car thieves in Nebraska.

In light of these revelations, it's clear that further exploration of this eccentric correlation may lead us down a road filled with even more bewildering discoveries, but for now, let's take a pit stop for a classic dad joke. "What do you call a stolen Montana with a full tank? A fuel-fledged theft!"

Yet, despite the temptation to unravel more puns and plot twists in this enigmatic correlation, it is with great confidence that we assert that no more research is needed in this area. The remarkably strong correlation between the popularity of the name "Montana" and motor vehicle thefts in Nebraska may elicit a chuckle or two, but its significance in the annals of research is no joke - it's as clear as the road ahead on a cloudless Montana day.

