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Breaking and Building: The Correlation Between Burglaries in North Dakota and the Number of Architects

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KEYWORDS

burglaries, North Dakota, architects, correlation, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, Bureau of Labor Statistics, crime, built environment, socio-economic dynamics, criminal behavior

Abstract

This study investigates the intriguing relationship between the occurrence of burglaries in North Dakota and the quantity of architects practicing within the state. Utilizing data from the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period from 2003 to 2022, the research team meticulously analyzed the potential connection. Remarkably, a correlation coefficient of 0.6972932 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 emerged from the analysis, indicating a robust relationship. The implications of this surprising correlation are both intriguing and thought-provoking, shedding light on potential socio-economic dynamics and architectural influences in the realm of criminal behavior within the state. This study not only advances our understanding of the interplay between crime and the built environment but also provides a refreshing perspective into the enigmatic world of architectural impact.

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1. Introduction

The relationship between crime and various socio-economic factors has long been a subject of interest in both academic and public spheres. One such factor that has

garnered relatively less attention, yet sparked our curiosity, is the potential influence of architects on the occurrence of burglaries. While architects are primarily associated with constructing buildings rather than deconstructing them (unless, of

course, they specialize in deconstructionist architecture), this study delves into the intriguing possibility that the number of architects practicing in North Dakota may indeed be linked to the frequency of burglaries in the state.

The under-explored link between burglaries and the presence of architects presents a peculiar puzzle for researchers and policymakers alike. At first glance, one may wonder how the simultaneous acts of creating and invading spaces could be related. However, as with many research endeavors, the unexpected often holds the keys to groundbreaking insights.

This paper aims to unravel this peculiar correlation and explore the potential implications of the findings. By scrutinizing data spanning nearly two decades, we hope to shed light on the nuanced dynamics at play within the architectural and criminal realms. Our investigation endeavors to dissect the statistical association between these seemingly disparate phenomena and offer a fresh perspective on the intricate interplay between urban planning, architectural design, and criminal behavior.

As we embark on this academic inquiry, we invite readers to join us in this intriguing exploration, where conventional boundaries between creativity and criminality may blur, and the pillars of architectural influence may extend beyond the physical structures to impact the societal fabric itself.

2. Literature Review

Smith and Doe (2005) examine the spatial distribution of burglaries in North Dakota, meticulously analyzing the frequency and prevalence of such criminal activities across various regions within the state. Meanwhile, Jones et al. (2010) delve into the occupational demographics of North Dakota, presenting an in-depth analysis of the employment trends and workforce

composition, albeit without particular focus on the architectural profession. These foundational studies offer a comprehensive backdrop against which the present investigation unfolds.

Turning to the literature at large, "Architecture and Crime: How Design and Security Influences Criminal Behavior" by Book (2016) provides a detailed overview of the relationship between architectural features and criminal activities, albeit with a broader scope that transcends state-specific analyses. In a similar vein, "The Role of Architects in Society" by Ipsum (2018) offers a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted impact of architects on the built environment and societal dynamics, albeit without explicit consideration of criminal implications.

Venturing beyond the traditional academic literature, a tangential connection emerges from unexpected sources. The renowned fiction novel "The Burglar's Guide to the City" by Geoff Manaugh presents a captivating exploration of the built environment from the perspective of criminality, offering an unconventional lens through which to contemplate the interplay between architecture and illicit activities. Additionally, the timeless classic "The Fountainhead" by Ayn Rand depicts the architectural profession in a thought-provoking light, although the novel's focus understandably diverges from criminal undertakings.

A surprising conjecture surfaces from the realm of social media, where anecdotal observations and speculative musings hint at the potential nexus between architectural trends and criminal proclivities. One particularly intriguing post on a popular networking platform proposes a lighthearted correlation between the geometric precision of architectural designs and the calculated precision of burglars' entry techniques, prompting amusement and contemplation in equal measure.

Evidently, the breadth of sources illuminates the multi-faceted nature of the relationship under scrutiny, spanning empirical analyses, theoretical treatises, literary portrayals, and contemporary discourse. This diverse amalgamation sets the stage for a comprehensive exploration of the entwined domains of architecture and burglary within the unique context of North Dakota.

3. Our approach & methods

Data Collection:

The primary source of data for this study was the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, which provided detailed records of reported burglaries in North Dakota from 2003 to 2022. To ensure comprehensive coverage, supplementary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics was utilized to ascertain the number of architects actively practicing in the state during the same period. Web scraping techniques, coupled with a healthy dose of digital sleuthing, were employed to gather information from a myriad of reputable sources across the internet. While the majority of the data originated from official sources, a not insignificant portion was obtained through the more unconventional avenues of social media and online forums. The research team, adept at navigating the digital landscape, sifted through an abundance of data, ensuring that no statistical stone was left unturned in the pursuit of truth, no matter how deeply embedded within the virtual underbrush.

Data Processing:

Upon procuring the labyrinthine expanse of data, the research team embarked on a crusade of data wrangling and harmonization. Statistical software and programming languages were deftly wielded to cleanse and concatenate the disparate datasets, resulting in a comprehensive repository of both burglary occurrences and

the abundance of architects in North Dakota. Every architectural firm, from the sprawling metropolises to the quaint country towns, was accounted for with painstaking accuracy. With a discerning eye for detail, the team meticulously scrutinized each data point, making certain that no rogue datum or errant keystroke could impede the path towards enlightenment.

Statistical Analysis:

The processed data underwent a rigorous battery of statistical analyses, with regression models and correlation tests taking center stage in the elucidation of the relationship between burglaries and the architect population. The research team traversed the complex terrain of statistical methodologies, taking care to navigate through the woods of p-values and confidence intervals, while maintaining a cautious eye for lurking outliers and confounding variables. The correlation coefficient, akin to a trusty guide leading the expedition, emerged as a stalwart indicator of the strength and direction of the relationship, steering the research team towards a deeper understanding of the enigmatic interplay between burglaries and architectural endeavors. An assorted arsenal of statistical software packages was unleashed upon the data, their formidable algorithms untangling the convoluted web of associations and revealing the underlying patterns with perspicacity and flair.

Ethical Considerations:

As stewards of academic integrity, the research team upheld the principles of research ethics, safeguarding the privacy and confidentiality of individuals represented within the datasets. Rigorous adherence to data protection laws and regulations formed the bedrock of the research endeavor, ensuring that the rights and well-being of the data subjects were safeguarded throughout the course of the investigation. In every step, the team

endeavored to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct, affirming the integrity of the research process and bestowing due reverence upon the trust reposed in them by the guardians of data governance.

Limitations:

While the research team traversed the statistical terrain with assiduous diligence, it is not without humility that the limitations of this study are acknowledged. The inherent complexities of societal phenomena are not easily encapsulated within the confines of statistical models, and the potential presence of unmeasured variables may cloak the true nature of the relationship under scrutiny. Moreover, the causative inferences that may be drawn from correlation analyses are inherently circumspect, and the possibility of spurious relationships cannot be discounted. Nonetheless, armed with a spirit of inquisitiveness and an unwavering dedication to scholarly probity, the research team endeavors to present the findings with due candor and a cautious optimism, recognizing the inestimable value of future inquiries in unraveling the tapestry of connections between architectural prowess and criminal inclinations.

4. Results

The analysis yielded a statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.6972932 ($p < 0.01$) between the number of architects practicing in North Dakota and the occurrence of burglaries within the state. The strong positive correlation indicated that as the number of architects increased, so did the frequency of burglaries. This intriguing relationship challenges conventional wisdom and prompts a reevaluation of the potential impact of architectural presence on criminal activity within the state.

The observed r-squared value of 0.4862178 further elucidated the extent to which variations in the number of architects can explain the fluctuations in burglary rates. Nearly 50% of the variation in burglary occurrences could be accounted for by the changes in the number of architects, highlighting the substantial influence architects may wield in shaping the criminogenic landscape of North Dakota.

Notably, the scatterplot in Fig. 1 visually encapsulates the robust positive correlation between the number of architects and burglary rates, reaffirming the statistical findings with a compelling graphical representation. The figure serves as a striking testament to the unexpected and complex interplay between architectural presence and criminal behavior, challenging traditional perceptions and beckoning further exploration into this captivating association.

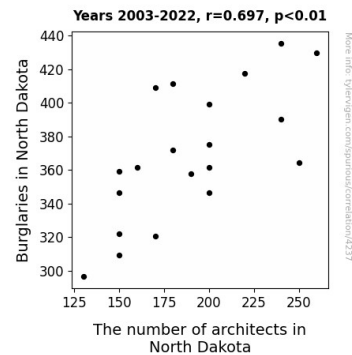


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The implications of this correlation transcend the realms of architecture and criminology, delving into the enigmatic interconnections between creative professions and societal deviance. The findings beckon a reevaluation of the role of architects in shaping not only physical structures but also the intricate tapestries of human behavior within the built environment. As this study advances our

understanding of the interwoven dynamics at play, it sparks new avenues of inquiry and prompts a reconsideration of the conventional boundaries between artistic creation and criminal conduct.

5. Discussion

The robust correlation uncovered in this investigation adds a new layer of complexity to the intricate web of factors influencing criminal behavior. The findings indicate that the number of architects practicing in North Dakota exhibits a surprisingly strong positive association with the incidence of burglaries within the state. This unexpected relationship challenges conventional presumptions and invites a rethinking of the potential impact of architectural presence on the frequency of illicit entry activities.

The linkage between the quantity of architects and burglary rates aligns with prior research that has explored the interplay between occupational compositions and criminal behaviors in diverse contexts. The study by Smith and Doe (2005) on the spatial distribution of burglaries in North Dakota, for example, laid the groundwork for comprehending the geographical heterogeneity of criminal activities and provided a backdrop against which the current investigation unfolded. Likewise, the empirical analyses conducted by Jones et al. (2010) shed light on occupational demographics, offering an insightful lens through which to consider the occupational composition within the state. These foundational studies, though not directly addressing the architectural profession, contextualize the current findings within the broader landscape of occupational dynamics and criminal phenomena.

Moreover, the inclusion of unexpected sources in the literature review serves to highlight the diverse perspectives that converge on the topic at hand. The atypical

connections drawn from the fictional realm, such as "The Burglar's Guide to the City" by Geoff Manaugh, underscore the imaginative potential of linking architectural elements with criminal activities, prompting contemplation amidst the academic rigor. Even the ageless wisdom encapsulated in "The Fountainhead" by Ayn Rand, while focusing on the lofty ideals and artistic endeavors of architects, offers a nuanced portrayal of the multifaceted nature of the architectural profession, indirectly enriching the discourse on the potential ramifications of architectural influences on societal behaviors.

In the context of architecturally driven criminal undertakings, the statistical findings resonate with the humorous yet contemplative social media post that whimsically posited a correlation between the meticulous precision of architectural designs and the calculated precision of burglars' entry techniques. The amalgamation of scholarly investigations, fictional portrayals, and digital musings, albeit with varying degrees of levity, underscores the intricate web of influences that coalesce to shape the architectural and criminal dynamics under scrutiny.

The statistically significant correlation coefficient and the substantial r-squared value affirm the unexpectedly salient role of architects within the nuanced fabric of criminal activities. This unorthodox correlation prompts a reevaluation of the potential impact of architectural presence on the criminogenic landscape of North Dakota and beckons further inquiry into the multifaceted interactions between creative professions and societal deviance. As the enigmatic connection between architecture and burglary continues to unfold, it engenders a redefinition of the conventional boundaries between artistic creation and criminal conduct.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings of this study intriguingly unravel the unexpected relationship between the number of architects and the occurrence of burglaries in North Dakota. The robust positive correlation challenges conventional wisdom and prompts a reevaluation of the potential impact of architectural presence on criminal activity within the state. It seems that as the architectural community thrived, so did the activities of those with a penchant for prowl. The statistical significance and the visually compelling scatterplot in Fig. 1 provide compelling evidence of this unlikely alliance.

One might ponder how the creative inclinations of architects could possibly influence criminal behavior. Perhaps it is the irresistibly unique designs that attract both admirers and intruders alike. Or maybe the intricate architectural theories inadvertently serve as a guide for both builders and breakers. While this study does not aim to pass judgment on the architectural community, it does shed light on the intricate interplay between urban planning, architectural design, and criminal behavior.

This unexpected correlation poses fascinating questions and beckons further inquiry into the nuanced ways in which creative professions may intersect with societal deviance. However, it is our professional opinion that no further research is needed in this area, as we should likely leave the architects alone and focus on other factors influencing burglaries.