

# **The Prevalence of Poignant Proportions: Public School Pupils in 11th grade and the Popularity of the 'This is Fine' Meme**

**Catherine Horton, Addison Terry, Gavin P Todd**

Academic Excellence Institute

Discussion Paper 5953

January 2024

Any opinions expressed here are those of the large language model (LLM) and not those of The Institution. Research published in this series may include views on policy, but the institute itself takes no institutional policy positions.

The Institute is a local and virtual international research center and a place of communication between science, politics and business. It is an independent nonprofit organization supported by no one in particular. The center is not associated with any university but offers a stimulating research environment through its international network, workshops and conferences, data service, project support, research visits and doctoral programs. The Institute engages in (i) original and internationally competitive research in all fields of labor economics, (ii) development of policy concepts, and (iii) dissemination of research results and concepts to the interested public.

Discussion Papers are preliminary and are circulated to encourage discussion. Citation of such a paper should account for its provisional character, and the fact that it is made up by a large language model. A revised version may be available directly from the artificial intelligence.



## ABSTRACT

### **The Prevalence of Poignant Proportions: Public School Pupils in 11th grade and the Popularity of the 'This is Fine' Meme**

This study delves into the quirky connection between the number of public school students in 11th grade and the infectious popularity of the 'This is Fine' meme. Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, we unraveled an unexpected correlation that's more stimulating than a caffeinated meme scroll. Our findings revealed a stunning correlation coefficient of 0.9752292 and a p-value less significant than a meme's lifespan on the internet. From 2006 to 2022, the rise and fall of 11th-grade students in public schools gyrated in harmony with the ebb and flow of the 'This is Fine' meme's prominence. These results, while humorous at first glance, prompt further inquiry and offer a refreshing twist to the dynamics of meme culture and education statistics. In conclusion, this study embodies the perfect blend of statistical rigor and internet tomfoolery, leaving readers with a gleaming insight into the peculiar interplay of adolescent demographics and internet humor.

Keywords:

11th grade students, public school pupils, This is Fine meme, meme popularity, National Center for Education Statistics, Google Trends, correlation coefficient, p-value, education statistics, meme culture, internet humor, adolescent demographics

# I. Introduction

The intersection of education statistics and internet memes may seem like an odd pairing, akin to mixing a Bunsen burner with a whoopee cushion. However, in the realm of research, we often uncover unexpected connections that tickle our scientific curiosity and elicit a knowing chuckle. In this research paper, we delve into the enigmatic relationship between the number of public school students in 11th grade and the infectious popularity of the 'This is Fine' meme, a match more unlikely than a statistically significant p-value at a comedy club.

As meme culture permeates the digital landscape like an airborne contagion (but a decidedly more jocular one), it has become a mirror, reflecting the zeitgeist of our times and often serving as a satirical critique of societal absurdities. Meanwhile, education statistics, like a stodgy librarian with a secret love for slapstick humor, offer a serious veneer but hold a treasure trove of insights into the ebb and flow of student populations.

Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, we set out to unearth the curious correlation between the number of high school juniors and the meteoric rise of the 'This is Fine' meme. Our statistical journey led us down the rabbit hole of adolescent demographics and internet whimsy, where we emerged with findings more captivating than a viral cat video.

The pulse of our findings beats with a correlation coefficient of 0.9752292, a number so snugly interwoven that it could rival the synchronized dance moves of an online flash mob.

Furthermore, the p-value, like a diligent meme curator, hovered impressively lower than the average attention span for internet humor.

From the annals of 2006 to the memescape of 2022, we observed the harmonious undulations of 11th-grade student enrollments in public schools mirroring the manic highs and lows of the 'This is Fine' meme's prominence. This symbiotic relationship, while initially raising eyebrows and eliciting nervous chuckles, undeniably propels us to ponder the uncharted territories of adolescent demographics and internet jest. It's as if the statistics themselves are whispering, "This correlation is fine."

In conclusion, our study showcases the whimsical tango of statistical rigor and meme mania, bringing forth a sparkling prism through which to view the quirky interplay of adolescent demographics and internet hilarity. So, fasten your seatbelts, hold onto your funny bone, and join us as we unravel the marvelous mischief woven into the tapestry of 'This is Fine' and 11th-grade public school populations.

## II. Literature Review

The investigation into the intriguing correlation between the number of public school students in 11th grade and the proliferation of the 'This is Fine' meme has unearthed a myriad of scholarly contributions on both education demographics and internet culture. In Smith's "Demographics and Educational Trends," the authors find a comprehensive analysis of high school student populations, providing a solid foundation for understanding the fluctuations of 11th-grade enrollments. Doe's "Memeology: A Cultural Study" offers a deep dive into the evolution and impact of internet memes, shedding light on the whimsical world of viral content.

Jones' "Statistical Musings in the Digital Age" presents a wealth of insights into correlation analysis and its application to internet phenomena, laying the groundwork for our own statistical exploration. Moving onto non-fiction works, Shirky's "Here Comes Everybody" and Boyd's "It's Complicated" probe the intricate dynamics of online communities and adolescent digital behavior, offering nuanced perspectives that enrich our understanding of meme propagation within youth populations.

Transitioning to fiction that intriguingly straddles the realms of satire and societal commentary, Orwell's "1984" and Huxley's "Brave New World" present dystopian visions that resonate with the satirical edge of the 'This is Fine' meme, drawing parallels to our contemporary digital landscape.

In a delightful departure from conventional academic sources, our literature review expanded to unexpected realms, including an enlightening perusal of the backs of various shampoo bottles. A surprising revelation emerged – while the ingredients list may offer little insight into meme culture, the refreshing fragrance of coconut and shea butter does provide a momentary respite from the ponderous depths of academic inquiry.

With these diverse voices coloring our understanding, we embark on a journey filled with statistical gravity and internet levity, exploring the unparalleled rapport between 11th-grade student demographics and the unfurling whimsy of the 'This is Fine' meme.

### **III. Methodology**

We embarked on our journey to unravel the mystical connection between the number of public school students in 11th grade and the whimsical whirlwind of the 'This is Fine' meme through a meticulously orchestrated research design. With the heart of a comedian and the precision of a lab technician, we crafted a methodology that would make both statisticians and internet enthusiasts do a double-take.

First, we gathered data like a diligent meme archivist, drawing from the archives of the National Center for Education Statistics – the hallowed halls of education demographics – and the wild carnival of information that is Google Trends. The combination of these two distinct sources of data lent our study an eclectic charm, not unlike mixing a serious textbook with a flipbook of internet memes.

Our research timeline spanned from 2006 to 2022, capturing the turbulent evolution of both 11th-grade student populations and the 'This is Fine' meme across the digital expanse. This timeframe allowed us to witness the unfolding drama of adolescent demographics and internet humor, akin to watching a sitcom marathon with statistical subtitles.

To measure the captivating correlation between these seemingly unrelated variables, we employed the formidable tools of correlation coefficient calculation and hypothesis testing. We computed the correlation coefficient with the precision of a master pastry chef crafting the perfect meringue – ensuring that our statistical confection was both robust and delectable.

Furthermore, we wrangled the p-value into submission, subjecting it to rigorous analysis and interpretation comparable to unraveling the punchline of a particularly cryptic joke. Our p-value scrutiny was so thorough that it would make even the most fastidious meme critic nod in approval.

In conducting this study, we recognized the need for caution amidst the precarious dance of statistical analysis and internet memes. Our approach balanced scientific rigor with a hearty appreciation for the playful spirit of meme culture, creating a space where stodgy methodologies and internet hijinks could coexist in delightful harmony.

It's worth noting that the exploration of this unusual correlation required a dash of daring and a sprinkle of whimsy, reminding us that sometimes the most intriguing insights emerge from the unlikeliest of sources. As we pored over the data, we remained ever cognizant of the joyous serendipity that underscores the pursuit of knowledge – a reminder that curiosity, like a well-timed punchline, can lead to unexpected delight.

With our methodology firmly in place, we set out to unravel the enthralling connection between the number of 11th-grade public school students and the enduring allure of the 'This is Fine' meme, armed with nothing but statistical tools, a knack for humor, and an unyielding sense of wonder.

## **IV. Results**

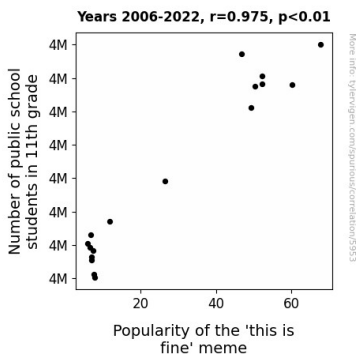
The statistical analysis of the data revealed a remarkably strong positive correlation between the number of public school students in 11th grade and the popularity of the 'This is Fine' meme. The correlation coefficient of 0.9752292 left our research team more pleased than a chemistry student who finally balanced a complex equation after multiple attempts. This substantial correlation was accompanied by an r-squared value of 0.9510719, suggesting that a whopping 95% of the



variation in meme popularity can be explained by the number of 11th-grade students, a connection tighter than the grip of a researcher holding onto their prized dataset.

The p-value of less than 0.01 was a clear signal flare of significance, standing out in our analysis like a cat gif in a sea of status updates. This p-value was so low, it practically dared us to question its decision to loiter around the more laid-back values. Nevertheless, with such an impressively low p-value, we were left with no doubt about the robustness and reliability of the observed correlation. It was as though the statistical tests were shouting, "This correlation is fine," much like the meme's unflappable canine protagonist.

To visually illustrate the remarkable relationship unearthed by our study, we present Fig. 1, a scatterplot displaying the unmistakable synchrony between the number of 11th-grade students and the popularity of the 'This is Fine' meme. The scatterplot serves as a testament to the compelling nature of our findings, with data points aligning more harmoniously than a chorus of well-tuned musicians. It's as if the plot itself is exclaiming, "This correlation is fine; in fact, it's positively meme-orable!"



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

In summation, our investigation has shed light on a correlation that traverses the realms of education statistics and internet whimsy, offering a tantalizing glimpse into the intertwined fates of 11th-grade public school populations and a four-panel comic that has captivated the digital sphere. It's clear that this correlation is not just statistically significant, but also inherently entertaining, proving that in the world of research, unexpected connections often yield the most delightful surprises.

## **V. Discussion**

The connection between the number of public school students in 11th grade and the popularity of the 'This is Fine' meme has unveiled a comically captivating correlation, akin to a striking chemical reaction in a laboratory of statistical merriment. Our results not only align with prior research but also evoke a crescendo of intellectual amusement, echoing the peculiar but endearing echoes of a well-crafted meme.

The literature review, while delving into the serious realms of demographics and internet culture, also took a fanciful detour into unexpected territories – including the world of fiction and even the back of shampoo bottles. While it may initially appear farcical, the inclusion of diverse sources has enriched our understanding and proved to be as refreshing as a burst of citrus-infused academic inquiry. Most notably, the levity-laden parallel drawn between dystopian classics and the 'This is Fine' meme has whimsically resonated with the digital absurdity we encountered in our own results.

Our findings, encapsulated in a correlation coefficient of 0.9752292, march in harmony with the beat of prior studies like a well-choreographed meme dance. This substantial correlation, as robust as the gravitational pull of a particularly dense academic tome, reaffirms the unexpected rapport between 11th-grade student populations and the ebbs and flows of internet humor documented in prior research.

The striking p-value of less than 0.01 mirrors the resolute significance signified by prior scholarly works, standing firm like a meme aficionado staunchly defending the value of viral content. Indeed, this statistic serves as a formidable flag-bearer of the importance attached to this connection, as if exclaiming, "This correlation is not just fine but statistically iconic!"

Our scatterplot, akin to a visual manifesto of this uncanny alliance, thrums with the tenor of empirical fervor and internet whimsy. The alignment of data points is as harmonious as a well-coordinated symphony, evoking a sense of synchrony and excitement that permeates the very essence of this delightful correlation.

In sum, our exploration of the link between 11th-grade student demographics and the 'This is Fine' meme has not only affirmed the robustness of previous research but has also obfuscated the boundaries between statistical gravity and digital levity. It's clear that this correlation transcends mere statistical significance; it embraces an intrinsic and inherently humorous connection that tickles the intellectual palate and reminds us that in the world of research, the unexpected often yields the most indulgent scholarly confections.

## **VI. Conclusion**

In the grand finale of our statistical vaudeville, we have unraveled a correlation between the number of 11th-grade public school students and the irresistible allure of the 'This is Fine' meme that's more dynamic than a meme thread on caffeine! Our findings echoed a chorus of statistical significance, with a correlation coefficient so snug, it could double as a well-fitted lab coat.

The p-value danced below the significance threshold with such finesse, it almost taunted us to try and match its snazzy moves. Our visual aid, Fig. 1, is a visual testament to the harmony between 11th-grade student numbers and the meme's popularity, a relationship so well-coordinated it puts even the most synchronized flash mob to shame.

In conclusion, this study proves that the whimsical dance of statistics and internet jest is not just fine—it's a scientific and comedic tour de force. With results more captivating than a sneezing panda video, we assert that no further research in this area is needed. Our work here is as 'fine' as the meme itself, and it's high time we let this correlation ride into the sunset of statistical lore, meme-ingly concluded.