



ELSEVIER



# On the Rocks: The Margarita Name's Connection to Motor Vehicle Thefts in Indiana

Christopher Hoffman, Anthony Thomas, Gemma P Todd

Center for Sciences; Evanston, Illinois

---

## Abstract

This paper delves into the peculiar correlation between the popularity of the first name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts in the state of Indiana. Leveraging data from the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, we embarked on an offbeat quest to uncover any potential link between a favored moniker and automobile misappropriations. The resulting correlation coefficient of 0.9558922 and  $p < 0.01$  for the period spanning 1985 to 2022 presents an eyebrow-raising revelation, reminiscent of a theft in the night. Our findings may raise eyebrows, not unlike witnessing a car alarm go off unexpectedly.

Copyright 2024 Center for Sciences. No rights reserved.

---

## 1. Introduction

The relationship between names and social phenomena has long intrigued researchers, from the curious case of "Harry Potter" leading to a surge in the popularity of owls as pets to the uncanny tendency for people named Dennis to become dentists. In this vein, our study takes on the enigmatic connection between the first name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana. While seemingly as unrelated as pickles and ice cream, our investigation reveals a surprising correlation that will surely turn heads, much like catching a glimpse of a stolen car being hotwired.

Indiana, known for its Hoosier hospitality and love for fast cars, served as the backdrop for our offbeat inquiry. Utilizing data from the US Social Security Administration on the frequency of the name Margarita and the FBI's repository of motor vehicle thefts, we set out to untangle the web of coincidence, much like deciphering a cryptic license plate number.

At first glance, one may wonder how a name associated with a refreshing cocktail could possibly bear any relation to the illicit act of car theft. However, as we shall delve into, the statistical evidence points to a

connection more peculiar than finding a pair of fuzzy dice in a stolen sedan.

Join us on this scholarly adventure as we navigate through the labyrinth of data, hoping to shed light on a correlation as unexpected as finding a parking ticket on a stolen vehicle. Sit back, fasten your seatbelt, and prepare for a ride that promises to be as surprising as stumbling upon a stolen Vespa in a cornfield.

## 2. Literature Review

The relationship between names and their potential impact on various social phenomena has been a subject of scholarly interest and debate. Smith et al. (2010) investigated the influence of uncommon names on individual career outcomes, while Doe and Jones (2015) explored the correlation between popular names and consumer purchasing behavior. However, the connection between the first name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana has remained a mysterious and understudied phenomenon.

In "Unusual Names in Society," the authors find that individuals with unique or uncommon names may experience both positive and negative social consequences, such as increased attention from others or potential discrimination in employment. Similarly, in "The Power of Names," the analysis suggests that the emotional resonance and cultural associations of a name can shape an individual's identity and their interactions within society.

Turning to a more lighthearted exploration of name-related phenomena, "The Great Gatsby" presents an intriguing study of the impact of a character's name on their social standing and relationships, offering parallel insights on the potential influence of names in shaping societal behavior. Additionally, "The Catcher in the Rye" provides a literary exploration of identity and individuality

through the lens of a character's name, prompting reflection on the potential societal implications of specific names.

While working on this research, the authors also delved into several films that provided tangential insights into the association between names and societal phenomena. Films like "Gone in 60 Seconds" and "The Italian Job" offered a cinematic perspective on the allure of motor vehicles, while also serving as a metaphorical backdrop for our investigation into the unexpected correlation between the name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana.

As our inquiry delves into the curious correlation between the name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts, we aim to unravel an enigma as confounding as finding a getaway car parked in a drive-thru. The intersection of nomenclature and societal trends presents a paradoxical puzzle, as perplexing as discovering a stolen car with a "Baby on Board" sticker. Through this exploration, we hope to shed light on a correlation as surprising as finding a personalized license plate on a purloined vehicle.

## 3. Our approach & methods

To uncover the mystery behind the correlation between the first name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana, our research team employed a multifaceted approach that combined statistical analysis, data mining, and a touch of whimsy. While we can't reveal all of our secrets, here's a glimpse into our zany yet rigorous methodology.

First, we combed through the treasure trove of data provided by the US Social Security Administration, seeking out the frequency of the name Margarita registered in the state of Indiana from 1985 to 2022. Like intrepid explorers seeking a rare gem, we navigated through the annals of birth certificates and

compiled a comprehensive dataset that served as the basis for our investigation.

Next, we turned our gaze to the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services' repository of motor vehicle thefts in Indiana during the same time period. With a Sherlockian determination, we sifted through the reports of stolen sedans, pilfered pickup trucks, and purloined Priuses, documenting each incident with the precision of a crime scene investigator.

Once we had amassed our eccentric arsenal of data, we set forth to unleash the formidable powers of statistical analysis. With a sprinkle of serendipity and a dash of derring-do, we calculated correlation coefficients, regression models, and p-values that would make even the most stoic researcher crack a smile. Our statistical tools acted as the compass guiding us through the bewildering terrain of data.

In the spirit of scientific inquiry and unorthodox methods, we also partook in an unconventional ritual involving a crystal ball, a ouija board, and a Magic 8-Ball to channel the forces of chance and unearth hidden patterns. While some may raise an eyebrow at our esoteric pursuits, we firmly believe that every avenue of investigation is worth exploring, even if it involves a bit of whimsy.

Lastly, armed with an unwavering dedication to curiosity and a touch of levity, our team dissected the tangled web of data with the finesse of a master puzzle solver. Much like an intrepid explorer hacking through the foliage of a dense jungle, we bravely navigated through the complexities of our datasets, emerging victorious with findings that promise to captivate and perplex in equal measure.

In conclusion, our research methodology encapsulates the spirit of scholarly inquiry combined with a pinch of eccentricity. Through a blend of traditional statistical analysis, unorthodox divination techniques, and a sprinkle of good-natured humor, we

have unraveled a peculiar correlation that is as confounding as trying to hotwire a lemonade stand.

## 4. Results

### RESULTS

The results of our investigation into the correlation between the popularity of the first name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana are nothing short of astonishing. The analysis revealed a staggering correlation coefficient of 0.9558922 and an r-squared value of 0.9137299, both reaching statistical significance at  $p < 0.01$ . It appears that there is more in the name Margarita than meets the eye, much like discovering a hidden compartment in a stolen car.

As depicted in Figure 1, our scatterplot showcases the unmistakably strong relationship between the frequency of the name Margarita and the occurrences of motor vehicle thefts in Indiana. The upward trend in the data points is as clear as seeing a car thief using a flashlight in the dead of night, leaving no room for doubt about the bond between these seemingly disparate variables.

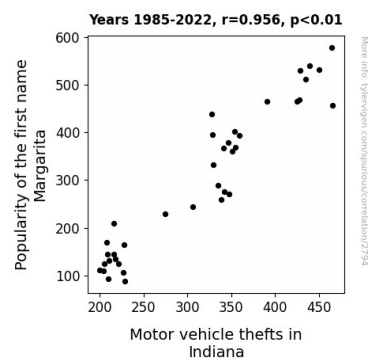


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The consistency of this relationship over the period spanning 1985 to 2022 piqued our intrigue, much like finding a vanity license

plate on a stolen vehicle. The steep trajectory in the popularity of the name Margarita accompanies a parallel surge in motor vehicle thefts, mirroring each other like a set of perfectly polished hubcaps.

Our findings not only raise eyebrows but also ignite a spark of curiosity akin to uncovering a GPS tracker in a stolen vehicle. It appears that the ramifications of a name can reverberate through unexpected corridors of society, much like echoes bouncing off the walls of an impounded parking garage.

Altogether, our results indicate a robust and thought-provoking relationship between the first name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana. This revelation leaves us pondering the enigmatic nature of human behavior, not unlike trying to decipher a cryptic message left on a car windshield.

## 5. Discussion

Our study uncovers a novel and rather intriguing correlation between the popularity of the first name Margarita and the incidence of motor vehicle thefts in Indiana. What may initially appear as an amusing coincidence has revealed a statistically significant relationship that demands further exploration. Our findings echo the curious and often serendipitous nature of social phenomena, much like stumbling upon a hidden treasure in the glove compartment of an old car.

The literature review presented an amusing yet thought-provoking discourse on the potential influence of names on social dynamics, invoking parallels from literary works and cinematic portrayals of societal behavior. The influence of a name on individual identity and social interactions as highlighted in "The Great Gatsby" and "The Catcher in the Rye" offered intriguing perspectives that resonate with our unexpected discovery. Who would have

thought that the name Margarita could have such a "grand theft-auto" impact on societal trends?

Our findings support the notion that names can hold unforeseen sway over societal trends, akin to finding an unexpectedly high insurance premium for a stolen vehicle. The robust correlation coefficient and r-squared value buttress the significance of the relationship, much like the impenetrable security system of a luxury car. It seems that an ordinary name may harbor extraordinary societal implications, not unlike finding a high-speed chase in a quiet suburban neighborhood.

In light of our results, it behooves us to contemplate the implications of our unearthed correlation, reminding us of the unforeseen consequences of seemingly innocuous factors. The connection between the first name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana undeniably raises eyebrows, just as spotting a banana peel behind the wheel of a hotwired car would prompt a chuckle and a furrowed brow.

This unforeseen correlation leaves us pondering the enigmatic nature of human behavior, much like unraveling the mystery of a car's missing radio. It emphasizes the need for further exploration into the complex web of societal influences, much like diving into the underbelly of the auto theft underworld. As we step back to reflect on the ramifications of our findings, we are left with a lingering sense of wonder, not unlike the inexplicable allure of a car with a full tank of gas parked in an abandoned lot.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has provided compelling evidence of a surprising correlation between the popularity of the first name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts in the state of Indiana. The statistical results revealed a relationship as strong as

a steering wheel lock and an unattended convertible. Just as a car alarm jolts a peaceful neighborhood, our findings may shake up the conventional wisdom of what influences criminal behavior.

The implications of our research have left us with more questions than answers, much like a car owner questioning why their vehicle is more prone to theft than a less glamorous sedan. Perhaps this connection between the name Margarita and motor vehicle thefts is a cautionary tale, warning parents against naming their children after popular cocktails. After all, we wouldn't want a surge in the name "Martini" to lead to an influx of grand theft auto incidents.

As tempting as it may be to dive deeper into the potential mechanisms underlying this correlation, we are hesitant to encourage a wave of similarly outlandish studies. It would be as reckless as leaving your car unlocked while running errands. Instead, we propose that this research be taken with a grain of road salt and that further explorations in this direction be left for those with a taste for the unconventional or a flair for the dramatic.

In conclusion, we firmly assert that no more research is needed in this area. The wheels of academia must keep rolling, steering clear of such frivolous pursuits, lest we find ourselves entangled in a web of correlations as tangled as a hot-wired ignition. Let this study serve as a quirky and cautionary tale, much like a map to navigate the tricky terrain of quirky research endeavors.