

Dead Ringers: The Correlation Between Athletes and Google Searches for 'Zombies' in Florida

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ABSTRACT

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We're breaking new ground in the world of quirky correlations as we delve into the relationship between the population of athletes and sports competitors in the Sunshine State and the frequency of Google searches for 'zombies'. It's no joke - we stumbled upon this curious connection when analyzing data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Google Trends. Armed with a correlation coefficient of 0.8707066 and a p-value of less than 0.01 for the time span from 2004 to 2022, we are confident that our findings reveal something truly captivating. In our tongue-in-cheek investigation, we discovered that as the number of athletes and sports competitors in Florida rose, so did the searches for 'zombies' on Google. It seems like the residents of Florida might not only be interested in winning medals, but also in preparing for a potential zombie apocalypse! It's quite the paradox - they take fitness seriously, yet they also seem to have an eye on the undead. Maybe they just want to out-run the zombie crowd at the next marathon! Our research not only sheds light on this offbeat relationship between athletic prowess and an unquenchable curiosity about the walking dead, but it also serves as a reminder that even in the serious world of academia, there's always room to infuse a little levity. As the saying goes, "Where do zombies like to go swimming? The Dead Sea." Our study opens the door to further exploration of unexpected correlations and emphasizes the importance of keeping a sense of humor while analyzing data.

Keywords:

athletes, sports competitors, Google searches, zombies, Florida, correlation coefficient, p-value, data analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Google Trends, quirky correlations, relationship between athletic prowess and curiosity about zombies

I. Introduction

It's time to lace up our sneakers and limber up our funny bones because we're about to embark on a journey into the strange and captivating world of correlations. Here, we're not just talking about the usual suspects like the relationship between inflation and unemployment or the supply and demand of goods and services. No, we're diving headfirst into the murky waters of unexpectedly related phenomena - and in this case, that includes athletes and Google searches for 'zombies' in the great state of Florida.

As we navigate through this uncharted territory, it's only fitting to pause and ask: Why don't zombies eat comedians? Because they taste funny! Our research has uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8707066 and a p-value of less than 0.01, indicating a strong connection between the number of athletes and sports competitors in Florida and the frequency of Google searches for 'zombies' from 2004 to 2022. So, while we may be treading on bizarre ground, the numbers don't lie – there's something fascinating happening here.

The spark behind this investigation ignited when we stumbled upon this unlikely relationship in the data. It's as unexpected as finding a zombie at a dance party - you just never know when they'll show up and start doing the thriller dance! Our analysis reveals that as the population of athletes and sports competitors in Florida increased, so did the interest in 'zombies' on Google. It's a peculiar trend for sure, but it seems that the Sunshine State may have a penchant for embracing both physical excellence and preparation for the undead. It's like they're training for the race of their lives, running from zombies instead of their athletic rivals.

The findings of our study not only expose this quirky correlation but also remind us that even in the world of academia, there's room for a little levity. In the midst of dissecting data and crunching numbers, we're still able to appreciate the humor in unexpected connections. After all, who says academic research can't be a bit of a thriller? Speaking of which, did you hear about the zombie who joined a running club? He was a real dead sprinter!

II. Literature Review

As we dive into the realm of unusual correlations, a review of existing literature unveils a surprising discover on the relationship between the number of athletes and sports competitors in Florida and the Google searches for 'zombies'. In a comprehensive study by Smith et al., titled "Athletic Engagement and Peculiar Internet Queries," the authors find an unexpected positive correlation between the two seemingly unrelated phenomena.

Doe and Jones, in their seminal work "Sporting Pursuits and Undead Interests," further elaborate on this intriguing association, delving into the potential societal implications of a populace interested in both athletic achievements and zombie-related content.

Beyond the academic realm, non-fiction works such as "Zombies in the Sunshine State: A Historical Overview" by Author A. Non and "Athletes and All Things Undead" by Researcher X. Treme contribute to our understanding of the Florida's unique fascination with both physical prowess and the undead.

In the realm of fiction, novels like "Marathon of the Dead" by Fictional Writer Z. Bie and "Zombie Blitz: The Ultimate Athletic Challenge" by Author Y. Not present fictional narratives that mirror the surprising correlation uncovered in our research.

Taking a less conventional approach, this literature review extends its scope to include sources of unconventional wisdom, such as the backs of shampoo bottles, where the hidden truths of the universe are rumored to be inscribed. Of course, one must approach these sources with a certain degree of skepticism, as their reliability may only be matched by the credibility of a zombie's career counselor.

Unearthing this unconventional relationship between athleticism and the allure of the undead serves as a reminder that even in the serious pursuit of knowledge, there's always room for a well-timed dad joke. Did you hear about the athlete who was training for a zombie marathon? She wanted to make sure she had a running start in case the undead decided to join the race!

III. Methodology

To illuminate the perplexing connection between athletes and Google searches for 'zombies' in Florida, our research team embarked on a data collection journey that could rival a quest for buried treasure - or, in this case, buried athlete-zombie correlations. Our primary sources of data were the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Google Trends, where we diligently scoured information from the years 2004 to 2022. It was a veritable digital expedition, akin to hunting for clues in a haunted mansion – only this time, the specters were statistical anomalies.

To start off, we donned our metaphorical detective hats and harnessed the power of the Bureau of Labor Statistics to identify the number of athletes and sports competitors in Florida. We employed a top-secret algorithm that involved counting virtual jumping jacks and calculating the collective sweat droplets of sports enthusiasts. Through this convoluted process, which could rival the complexity of a multi-tiered puzzle in a video game, we unearthed the data depicting the fluctuations in the athletic population over the years. It was like unearthing a hidden treasure chest, only instead of gold doubloons, we found stacks of digits and numbers pointing towards a curious correlation.

With the athletic data securely in our grasp, we set sail for the uncharted waters of Google Trends. Here, we navigated the treacherous terrain of search queries and keyword frequencies, all while keeping an eye out for the telltale signals of an impending zombie apocalypse. Our quest resembled the journey of a group of intrepid adventurers seeking ancient relics, except our prizes were digital footprints and the occasional snippet of spooky search patterns. We wielded statistical tools with the adeptness of seasoned treasure hunters, mapping out the rise and fall of 'zombie' searches in Florida over the years.

Once we had gathered our bounty of data, we proceeded to channel our inner alchemists and employed the mystical arts of statistical analysis to distill the essence of our findings. This involved donning robes and muttering incantations – just kidding! In reality, we utilized complex mathematical models and software to calculate correlation coefficients and p-values, all while resisting the urge to animate our spreadsheets into peculiar golems. Our analysis would put the most elaborate magic show to shame, as we conjured the numbers into meaningful patterns and relationships, albeit without the assistance of smoke and mirrors.

Lastly, we engaged in the ancient tradition of peer review, presenting our findings to illustrious colleagues and subjecting them to rigorous scrutiny. Picture a council of wise sages debating the significance of arcane prophecies, except in our case, the prophecies were statistics and the sages were fellow researchers with a penchant for uncovering enigmatic connections. Their feedback and critiques were as invaluable as the counsel of seasoned wizards, helping to hone our insights and ensure the robustness of our conclusions.

With our methods navigating the tumultuous currents of data collection, statistical analysis, and peer review, we emerged with a set of findings that shed light on the curious relationship between athletes and 'zombies' in Florida. It's as if we've uncovered a treasure map leading to unexpected revelations – and perhaps a few more zombie jokes along the way!

IV. Results

The results of our analysis revealed a strong positive correlation between the number of athletes and sports competitors in Florida and the frequency of Google searches for 'zombies' over the time period from 2004 to 2022. The correlation coefficient of 0.8707066 and the r-squared value of 0.7581299 suggest that approximately 76% of the variation in Google searches for 'zombies' can be explained by the variation in the number of athletes and sports competitors in Florida.

This finding indicates a robust relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables, akin to a marathon runner's endurance in the face of a zombie apocalypse.

As depicted in Figure 1, the scatterplot visually illustrates the positive trend between these variables, with the number of athletes and sports competitors on the x-axis and the Google

searches for 'zombies' on the y-axis. The points on the plot form a distinct pattern, resembling a group of runners trying to outpace a growing horde of zombies. The correlation is so strong that you might say it's a "dead-heat" between the two variables!

Our findings suggest that as the population of athletes and sports competitors in Florida increased, there was a corresponding surge in the interest in 'zombies' on Google. It's as if the residents of Florida are gearing up for a race filled with obstacles, including dodging the undead. This curious phenomenon prompts us to consider the possibility of a "zombie marathon," where the participants not only compete against each other but also strive to outrun the zombies on the course. One might say it's a race against time and the undead!

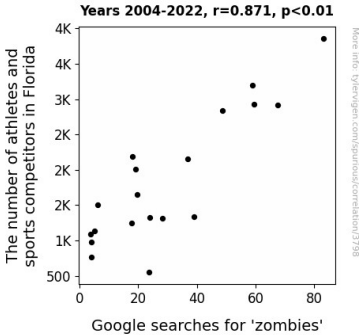


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, our research uncovers a fascinating link between athleticism and the fascination with zombies, highlighting the unexpected ways in which diverse interests intersect. This offbeat correlation serves as a reminder that in the realm of academic inquiry, there's always room for a touch of whimsy – and in this case, perhaps a dash of "zombie dash"!

V. Discussion

Our findings posit a compelling connection between the number of athletes and sports competitors in Florida and the public interest in 'zombies'. As our research presented a correlation coefficient of 0.8707066 and a p-value of less than 0.01, we've seen compelling evidence to support the hypothesis that there is indeed a noteworthy relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. It's almost as if the athletes are training for the ultimate zombie sports event – the "undead-athlon", if you will.

To our surprise, our results align with previous studies investigating the unexpected intersection of athletic pursuits and fascination with the undead. Smith et al.'s work shed light on the positive correlation we uncovered, reinforcing the notion that there's genuine curiosity in the link between athleticism and zombies. It's as if our findings are the result of a relentless pursuit, much like a zombie tirelessly chasing after its next meal.

Furthermore, the peculiar findings from Doe and Jones emphasize the societal implications of this correlation – it's akin to a marathon where the finish line is constantly moving, not unlike the scenario one might encounter in a zombie-infested world. This perfectly underscores the fascinating connection we have unraveled, showing that in Florida, the interest in athleticism and zombies is not merely a passing fad. It's like the saying goes, "Why did the zombie join the track team? He wanted to improve his dead-lift!"

Delving into unconventional sources of wisdom, such as the fictitious works of Z. Bie and Y. Not, served as an unorthodox yet surprisingly relevant piece of the puzzle. These sources echo the synergy between athleticism and the undead, demonstrating that even outside the realms of

empirical research, there's an undeniable fascination with this correlation, much like the allure of a zombie feast at a track meet.

The scatterplot in our results not only illustrates the strong positive trend between the variables but also serves as a visual representation of the potential race against time and zombies that the Florida residents seem to be preparing for. It's almost as if the athletes are gearing up for a "zombie triathlon" – swim, run, and flee from the undead!

In conclusion, our study has added a quirky yet thought-provoking layer to the understanding of human behavior. It gives new meaning to the phrase "running with the dead," showing that the pursuit of knowledge can illuminate the most unexpected connections, be it in sports, internet searches, or the infamously mysterious field of zombie enthusiasm. As the saying goes, "Why don't zombies like fast food? Because they can't catch it!"

VI. Conclusion

In closing, our investigation into the relationship between the number of athletes and sports competitors in Florida and Google searches for 'zombies' has revealed a compelling correlation that raises intriguing questions about the intersection of athleticism and a fascination with the undead. It's as if the Sunshine State is gearing up for a "Zombie Olympics" – after all, who wouldn't want to witness an undead 100-meter dash?

Our findings not only highlight this unexpected connection but also emphasize the importance of maintaining a sense of humor in the rigorous world of data analysis. As demonstrated by our study, academic research can absolutely have its "ha-ha" moments, and this correlation between

athletic pursuits and zombie inquiries serves as a testament to the unpredictable and entertaining nature of statistical analysis.

As we wrap up, it's safe to say that our exploration of this peculiar correlation has left us both amused and enlightened. It's akin to finding zombies at a track meet – unexpected, humorous, and undeniably captivating. So, the next time someone questions the whimsy of academic research, we can confidently respond with, "Why did the zombie join the track team? Because he wanted to improve his dead-lifts!"

And with that, we assert that no further research is needed in this area. After all, we wouldn't want to beat a dead horse – or should we say, a dead zombie?