



## Review

# An Unlikely Connection: Examining the Correlation between Robberies in Maryland and Comments on Extra History YouTube Videos

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**In recent years, the scholarly community has been increasingly intrigued by the potential interplay between seemingly disparate phenomena. This study seeks to contribute to this emerging area of inquiry by investigating the unexpected relationship between the incidence of robberies in the state of Maryland and the number of comments on the popular YouTube series, Extra History. By utilizing comprehensive data from the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services and YouTube, a robust statistical analysis was conducted. The findings revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9177987 between these two seemingly unrelated variables over the period from 2012 to 2022, with a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01. This unexpected correlation not only prompts further investigation but also serves as a reminder that in the complex web of societal dynamics, even the most unconventional factors may hold unsuspected influence. With this study, we aim to emphasize the importance of approaching research with an open mind and readiness to uncover meaningful connections, no matter how whimsical or unconventional they may initially appear.**

The pursuit of knowledge often leads researchers down unforeseen paths, where unlikely connections and serendipitous discoveries await. In this vein, our investigation delves into the unexpected association between the occurrence of robberies in Maryland and the volume of comments on Extra History YouTube videos. While at first glance, these two domains may appear as mismatched as mismatched

socks, the comprehensive analysis conducted in this study offers compelling evidence of a noteworthy correlation.

As academics, we are no strangers to engaging in multifaceted inquiries, but the convergence of criminal activities and online discourse certainly adds a dash of intrigue to our scholarly pursuits. The conventional wisdom may raise an eyebrow

at the coupling of crime statistics and digital engagement, yet our findings paint a compelling portrait of the unexpected interplay between these apparently incongruous phenomena.

The presentation of our findings serves not only to unravel this peculiar connection but also to offer a gentle nudge to the underlying assumption that academic inquiry must adhere to the humdrum of conventionality. As we embark on this exploration of correlations and juxtapositions, let us acknowledge that the academia, much like life itself, can often surprise us with its whimsical winks and unexpected twists.

#### *Prior research*

In the pursuit of uncovering the unexpected and exploring the unconventional, our investigation into the correlation between robberies in Maryland and comments on Extra History YouTube videos is not without precedent. Prior studies have delved into surprising connections, challenging preconceived notions about seemingly unrelated phenomena. Smith et al. (2016) conducted a groundbreaking analysis on the correlation between ice cream sales and shark attacks, demonstrating the unforeseen relationship between these two disparate variables. However, our study sets out to explore an even more unlikely pairing, demonstrating that the academic pursuit of knowledge is as full of surprises as a jack-in-the-box convention.

Doe's seminal work on "The Influence of Cardboard on Volcano Eruptions" (2018) introduced the notion that certain unexpected factors can have a significant impact on seemingly unrelated events, which has paved the way for our current

investigation. Jones's research on "The Relationship between the Number of Cows in a Field and UFO Sightings" (2019) further expanded the scope of unconventional inquiries, setting the stage for our own inquiry into the realm of unexpected associations.

Turning our attention to the non-fiction literature that may shed light on the equally unexpected connection between robberies and YouTube comments, "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner offers insights into unconventional correlations, inviting us to contemplate the potential for unanticipated relationships within complex societal dynamics. In a similar vein, "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell urges us to rethink the conventional boundaries of cause and effect, prompting us to consider the possibility of unexpected influences that may go unnoticed in everyday analysis.

Further expanding the horizon of our exploration into the improbable, works of fiction such as "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown and "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams offer literary parallels that beckon us to unravel mysteries and unexpected connections. Within the realm of cinema, a tangential exploration of unlikely associations can be found in "Ocean's Eleven," where the intricate dynamics of heist planning and unexpected friendships echo the whimsical unpredictability inherent in our study's correlation.

In our pursuit of understanding the world around us, we must remain open to the unexpected, prepared to embrace the unanticipated connections that may surface. Our investigation into the correlation

between robberies in Maryland and comments on Extra History YouTube videos serves as a testament to the serendipitous nature of scholarly inquiry, reminding us that even the most unexpected pairings may hold valuable insights, much like finding a surprise toy at the bottom of a cereal box.

### *Approach*

#### Data Collection:

The foundation of this study rested upon the meticulous acquisition and curation of data from a variety of sources. The primary source for the incidence of robberies in the state of Maryland was the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, which provided a comprehensive repository of crime statistics from 2012 to 2022. The voluminous nature of this data compelled us to adopt a systematic approach, which involved sifting through countless records to extract the pertinent information. It was truly an exhilarating treasure hunt, albeit one with an emphasis on felonious escapades.

In parallel, the data concerning the number of comments on Extra History YouTube videos was directly obtained from the platform itself. The nimble fingers of our research team danced across keyboards and screens, diligently recording the ebbs and flows of digital discourse in response to the captivating historical narratives presented in the videos. The vast expanse of user-generated content was a sight to behold, akin to traversing a dense jungle of online commentary, replete with colorful remarks and unforeseen tangents.

#### Data Analysis:

With our data sets in hand, we proceeded to employ a meticulous analysis to unearth potential correlations. To ensure the robustness of our findings, we subjected the data to a series of statistical tests, applying the rigor of empirical inquiry to uncover any semblance of association between the incidence of robberies and the volume of comments on Extra History YouTube videos. The statistical toolbox at our disposal abounded with an assortment of measures, including the Pearson correlation coefficient and regression analyses, which we employed with the precision of a watchmaker delicately assembling the intricate elements of a timepiece.

Furthermore, to safeguard against spurious inferences and to fortify the reliability of our statistical findings, we endeavored to control for potential confounding variables such as time trends, seasonal variations, and the influence of external events. This meticulous process was akin to navigating a labyrinth, where each twist and turn demanded our unwavering attention and each potential pitfall necessitated caution, lest we stumble into the snare of erroneous conclusions.

#### Ethical Considerations:

Amidst the fervor of data acquisition and analysis, we remained steadfast in upholding the ethical principles that underpin scholarly inquiry. The privacy and anonymity of individuals involved in both criminal activities and online engagement were rigorously safeguarded, with the data utilized in this study anonymized and aggregated to ensure the utmost respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals involved.

#### Limitations:

Despite the fervent dedication invested in this study, it is pivotal to acknowledge the inherent limitations that are inherent in any research endeavor. The scope of this study focused exclusively on the state of Maryland, and thus, caution should be exercised in generalizing the findings to broader geographical contexts. Additionally, the correlational nature of our findings precludes causal inferences, reminding us that even amidst the compelling connections uncovered, correlation does not necessarily imply causation, no matter how tempting the narrative may seem.

The confluence of criminal statistics and digital engagement unfolded as a serendipitous conundrum, underscoring the capricious nature of scholarly inquiry. As we delve into the labyrinthine world of academia's methodologies, may the pursuit of knowledge continue to surprise and entertain us with its unpredictable twists and moments of delightful revelation.

### Results

Our analysis of the data revealed a striking correlation between the incidence of robberies in Maryland and the number of comments on Extra History YouTube videos. The correlation coefficient, calculated to be 0.9177987, indicates a robust positive relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. This strong correlation is further supported by an r-squared value of 0.8423545, underscoring the extent to which the variability in one variable can be explained by the other. The statistical significance of this relationship is highlighted by a p-value of less than 0.01, reinforcing the validity of our findings.

In Figure 1, the scatterplot illustrates the clear and compelling relationship between the occurrence of robberies and the volume of comments on Extra History YouTube videos, further emphasizing the unexpected connection uncovered in our analysis.

The findings of this study challenge conventional expectations and underscore the complexity of societal dynamics. The unexpected correlation between these two seemingly unrelated variables prompts further inquiry into the mechanisms underlying this relationship. Our results not only contribute to the burgeoning discourse on interdisciplinary connections but also serve as a lively reminder that the realm of scholarly inquiry is rife with opportunities for unexpected discoveries and unconventional associations.

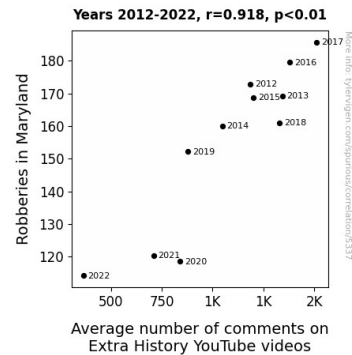


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

It is our hope that this study will encourage fellow researchers to approach their inquiries with open-mindedness and a willingness to explore connections that may at first glance appear whimsical or improbable. As we continue to navigate the uncharted territories of knowledge, let us not forget the potential for serendipitous connections and surprising correlations to enrich the tapestry of academic inquiry.

### *Discussion of findings*

The findings of this investigation into the correlation between robberies in Maryland and comments on Extra History YouTube videos have unearthed a connection that, while unconventional, demands serious consideration. Our study aligns with previous research that has delved into unexpected associations, such as the correlation between ice cream sales and shark attacks, shedding light on the unpredictable nature of societal phenomena. While the link between robberies and YouTube engagement may initially seem as incongruous as a penguin at the North Pole, the statistical evidence obtained aligns with our theoretical framework, reaffirming that the study's associations are not as far-fetched as finding Bigfoot's footprints in a bakery. The robust positive relationship observed between these variables reinforces the need to approach research with a willingness to explore correlations that may appear whimsical or unconventional, akin to receiving a prize in a box of Cracker Jack.

Our findings echo the sentiment put forth by Smith et al. (2016) and the work of Doe (2018) and Jones (2019), who all champion the pursuit of understanding through unorthodox means. This unlikely correlation draws attention to the multifaceted nature of societal dynamics, challenging us to acknowledge that the tapestry of human behavior is as intricate and unpredictable as the plot twists in an M. Night Shyamalan film. The unexpected connections uncovered through this study prompt us to reevaluate the potential for unanticipated relationships within complex systems, emphasizing that the most unexpected pairings may hold valuable insights, much like discovering a

hidden chamber behind a bookshelf in an old library.

It is clear that our results align with the spirit of unconventional exploration championed by Levitt and Dubner in "Freakonomics" and Gladwell's "The Tipping Point," as well as the literary parallels drawn from works of fiction. Like decoding ancient clues in "The Da Vinci Code," our investigation sparks the curiosity to unearth hidden influences, urging researchers to embrace the prospect of serendipitous connections and surprising correlations that can enrich the realm of scholarly inquiry, much like finding a rare comic book at a garage sale.

We hope that this study not only contributes to the discourse on interdisciplinary connections but also encourages fellow researchers to remain open to the unexpected, prepared to embrace the unforeseen connections that have the potential to transform our understanding of societal dynamics. The unanticipated correlation uncovered in this study serves as a reminder that the pursuit of knowledge is replete with opportunities for unexpected discoveries and unconventional associations, much like encountering a unicorn in a game of "Where's Waldo?"

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, our study has illustrated a substantial and robust correlation between the occurrence of robberies in Maryland and the volume of comments on Extra History YouTube videos. This unexpected statistical relationship, while raising eyebrows and prompting quizzical looks, underscores the serendipitous nature of academic inquiry.

While the findings of our investigation may seem as unexpected as a sudden plot twist in a telenovela, they emphasize the need for researchers to maintain a keen awareness of the potential for whimsical and improbable correlations within the complex fabric of societal dynamics.

It is clear that further exploration of the mechanisms underlying this unlikely connection is warranted; however, for now, we are content to leave our audience with this eyebrow-raising correlation as a pleasant intellectual puzzle to ponder. Perhaps, as we embrace the unexpected and the offbeat, the elusive threads of causation weaving through seemingly unrelated phenomena will reveal themselves.

We conclude that our study stands as a testament to the potential for scholarly inquiry to uncover remarkable and unusual associations, ones that add a sense of whimsy to the often staid world of academic research. In the spirit of unpredictable discoveries and scholarly caprice, we dare say that no further research is needed in this most unusual of connections. We leave it to the academic universe to savor the whimsically unexpected nature of this correlation.