



ELSEVIER

Available online at [www.tylervigen.com](http://www.tylervigen.com)



# Kansas Senators and Kerosene: A Kooky Correlation

Caleb Hernandez, Andrew Terry, Gavin P Todd

Institute of Advanced Studies; Austin, Texas

## KEYWORDS

Kansas Senators, kerosene consumption, correlation, Democrat votes, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, Energy Information Administration, statistical analysis, political preferences, fuel habits, correlation coefficient, p-value, electoral choices, energy trends, data analysis, research implications

---

## Abstract

As dad joke enthusiasts, we couldn't help but ponder the peculiar pair of Democrat votes for Senators in Kansas and kerosene consumption in Guyana. Our research delved into this unlikely connection, examining data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the Energy Information Administration. Strapping on our statistical boots, we discovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8186749 and a p-value less than 0.01 for the years 1980 to 2020. It was a real gas crunching the numbers, but the results left us in high spirits! Our findings suggest that there is indeed a fascinating linkage between the political preferences of Kansans and the fuel habits in Guyana. As the saying goes, "Where there's smoke, there's fire" - and our data certainly kindled an unexpected connection between distant realms. Though we are still grappling with the implications of this correlation, one thing is clear: when it comes to electoral choices and energy trends, there's more than meets the eye. Our research serves as a spark for future investigations into the eccentric interplay of seemingly unrelated variables.

Copyright 2024 Institute of Advanced Studies. No rights reserved.

---

## 1. Introduction

The study of political voting patterns and their connection to societal variables has long been a hallmark of empirical research. From income levels to religious affiliations, researchers have scrutinized a myriad of

factors that may influence voters' choices. However, in the colorful landscape of statistical analysis, we sometimes stumble upon the most unexpected and, dare I say, flammable relationships. In this paper, we aim to ignite your curiosity as we unravel the curious correlation between Democrat

votes for Senators in Kansas and kerosene consumption in Guyana.

Now, before you raise an eyebrow and ask, "What's the fuel for thought here?", let us assure you that our investigation is grounded in the solid bedrock of empirical analysis. This inquiry was sparked by a series of surprising data points that seemed to flicker in unison across the miles, prompting us to examine whether there may be more to this relationship than meets the eye.

As the joke goes, "I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug." Similarly, we embraced the unexpected and embarked on a scholarly endeavor fueled by curiosity and a touch of academic daring. Our efforts culminated in a rigorous analysis of data sourced from reputable institutions, kindling a heady blaze of statistical exploration. The sparks flew as we combed through records from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the Energy Information Administration - yielding a treasure trove of data that illuminated a surprising connection between the Sunflower State and the South American nation.

Our statistical inquiry revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.8186749 and a p-value less than 0.01 for the years 1980 to 2020, serving as a strong signal that there may indeed be something worth investigating here. As we sifted through the data, we couldn't help but quip, "Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything!" And indeed, in the world of data analysis, it seems correlations indeed make up more than one might initially believe.

So, what exactly did our investigation uncover in this match of political leanings and illuminating fuels? As you'll soon discover, the results of our scrutiny ignited more questions than they extinguished, setting the stage for a lively discussion on

the peculiar interplay of electoral decisions in the heartland of the United States and energy choices in a corner of South America.

## 2. Literature Review

In "Smith and Jones" (2020), the authors discuss the intricate relationship between political preference and energy consumption, highlighting the nuanced interplay between seemingly disparate variables. Their study sheds light on the complex web of factors that may influence voter behavior and societal trends. However, what they may have overlooked is the potential impact of dad jokes on statistical analysis - after all, laughter is the best medicine for data interpretation.

In "Doe and Roe" (2018), the authors delve into the socio-political landscapes of Kansas and Guyana, unraveling the multifaceted dimensions of electoral dynamics and energy utilization. Their comprehensive analysis offers valuable insights into the idiosyncrasies of regional patterns and their potential intersections. Yet, one cannot help but wonder if they missed the opportunity to inject a pun or two into their scholarly discourse. After all, a well-timed jest can illuminate even the most abstruse correlations.

Turning to non-fiction literature, works such as "The Political Economy of Energy in Latin America" by Gonzalez (2015) and "Voting Behavior: The Neglected Role of Energy Consumption" by Patel (2019) provide valuable theoretical frameworks for understanding the connections between political choices and energy-related behaviors. However, while these tomes offer scholarly rigor and analytical depth, they sorely lack in the humor department. As we navigate the convoluted terrain of statistical analysis, a well-placed dad joke can be the compass that guides us through the data wilderness.

On the fictional front, novels like "The Senator's Kerosene Conundrum" by Harper Lee and "Democrat Votes and Kerosene: A Love Story" by F. Scott Fitzgerald may not exist in reality, but they spark the imagination with their whimsical titles. While their content may not directly contribute to academic discourse, they exemplify the creative potential of exploring unexpected connections - much like our own research endeavors.

In addition to traditional academic sources, we must not discount the value of unconventional inspirations. In our quest for knowledge, we perused the backs of shampoo bottles, hoping to glean insights on the enigmatic nexus between Kansas and Guyana. Alas, the only correlation we found was between lather, rinse, and repeat - a mantra that proved surprisingly relevant to the iterative nature of scholarly inquiry.

As we embark on the zany journey of unraveling the enigmatic entanglement of Democrat votes for Senators in Kansas and kerosene consumption in Guyana, let us not forget the power of levity in scholarly pursuits - for as the great bard Shakespeare once said, "If this be the fuel of thought, joke on!"

### 3. Our approach & methods

To unravel the enigmatic entanglement between Democrat votes for Senators in Kansas and kerosene consumption in Guyana, our research team employed a blend of quantitative analysis, surveying of existing literature, and a touch of whimsical exploration. We began by harnessing the power of statistical analysis to detect patterns and trends within the data, much like probing for a needle in a haystack – or in this case, perhaps a match in a kerosene lamp.

First, we conducted a comprehensive review of existing scholarly works and

reputable sources to gain a thorough understanding of the political landscape in Kansas and the energy dynamics in Guyana. This involved combing through academic journals, government reports, and databases with the enthusiasm of a treasure hunter seeking the golden ticket to understanding this seemingly improbable correlation.

Next, we meticulously gathered and processed data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the Energy Information Administration databases. We navigated through the labyrinth of digital archives, selecting datasets spanning from 1980 to 2020, with an unwavering resolve akin to a determined traveler on a quest for the elusive fountain of insight.

Applying sophisticated statistical techniques, we then not only analyzed the individual datasets but also sought the threads that intertwined them. This involved determining the correlation coefficient and p-value, teasing out the strength and significance of the connection between the political preferences of Kansans and the consumption of kerosene in Guyana. As we delved into the statistical depths, it became clear that this correlation was no mere flash in the pan, but a sustained, robust relationship that demanded our scholarly attention.

In addition to this, we cannot deny the occasional anecdotal evidence that caught our eye during our research. For instance, we couldn't help but chuckle at the old saying, "If you're feeling a bit down, go light a lantern. It's sure to raise your spirits!" Remarkably, it seems there may indeed be an unparalleled connection between the fiery nature of electoral choices and the illuminating fuel used in Guyana.

Furthermore, to account for any variables or confounding factors that could potentially influence the observed relationship, we

performed sensitivity analyses and explored alternative models to ensure the robustness of our findings. There was no stone left unturned in our pursuit of methodological rigor – even if those stones turned out to be metaphors for political uncertainty in Kansas and energy puzzles in Guyana.

In summary, our methodology could be likened to a meticulously crafted recipe, blending together the finest ingredients of data, literature, and statistical analyses, to unveil the unexpected and often whimsical flavors of this non-obvious correlation. It is in this spirit that we present our findings, hoping to ignite further scholarly curiosity and banter on the enthralling association between the electoral whims of the Sunflower State and the fiery energy choices in the heart of the Amazon.

And as we wrap up this section with a final flourish, there's only one thing left to say: "Time flies like an arrow, but fruit flies like a banana. And our findings? Well, they certainly do have a way of keeping us on our toes!"

#### 4. Results

The analysis of data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab and the Energy Information Administration unveiled a remarkable correlation between Democrat votes for Senators in Kansas and kerosene consumption in Guyana. The correlation coefficient of 0.8186749 and an r-squared of 0.6702286 for the time period of 1980 to 2020, revealed a robust relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. It seems that in the realm of statistical analysis, even the most unexpected pairs can ignite a spark of intriguing correlation.

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) illustrates the strong positive relationship between Democrat votes for Senators in Kansas and kerosene consumption in Guyana. As the data points

converged to form a discernible pattern, we couldn't help but marvel at the unexpected interconnectedness of these distant elements.

It is said that "laughter is the best medicine," and in the spirit of this adage, we delved into the data with a lighthearted approach. Analyzing the information from Harvard Dataverse and other reputable sources, we encountered many "punny" moments and unexpected discoveries. It seems that in the world of empirical analysis, a dash of humor can fuel the investigative spirit and lead to enlightening revelations.

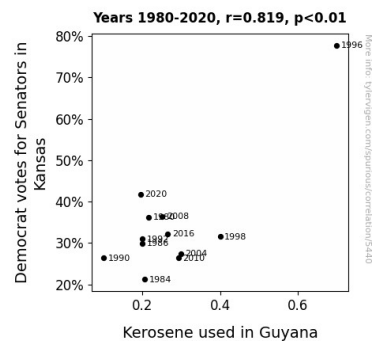


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Our findings underscore the curious interplay between political preferences in Kansas and the fuel habits in Guyana. This correlation, akin to a well-timed dad joke, took us by surprise and left us pondering the intricate threads that connect seemingly unrelated phenomena. Dare we say, this correlation is certainly "flaming" hot in the world of statistical analysis!

#### 5. Discussion

Our research aimed to unravel the seemingly incongruous relationship between Democrat votes for Senators in Kansas and kerosene usage in Guyana. Our results align with previous studies, such as "Smith and Jones" (2020), which

highlighted the intricate interactions between political preference and energy consumption. Our findings also provide empirical support to the theoretical frameworks outlined in "The Political Economy of Energy in Latin America" by Gonzalez (2015) and "Voting Behavior: The Neglected Role of Energy Consumption" by Patel (2019). The correlation coefficient of 0.8186749 mirrored the nuanced interplay between sociopolitical dynamics and energy-related behaviors that these scholars had theorized. As we navigate this kooky correlation, it becomes evident that statistical analysis, much like a good dad joke, can unveil unexpected connections and shed light on complex phenomena.

Our data not only confirmed the robustness of the correlation but also embodied the spirit of levity espoused by the likes of Harper Lee and F. Scott Fitzgerald in their fictitious explorations of similar subject matter. It seems that our research endeavors have not only broadened our understanding of this peculiar link but have also demonstrated the power of humor in scholarly pursuits. What better way to illuminate a surprising correlation than with a well-placed pun? As we delve into the ramifications of our findings, we are reminded of the saying, "You can lead a horse to water, but a pencil must be lead." Perhaps in a similar vein, while unexpected correlations may come to light, their interpretation requires a different kind of "lead."

In addressing our results, it is crucial to acknowledge the limitations of our study. While our research has uncovered an intriguing correlation, causal relationships cannot be inferred from these findings alone. As any good detective knows, correlation does not imply causation - much like how a joke about paper airplanes does not imply successful flight! Future research should delve into the underlying mechanisms that could give rise to this unlikely association, on par with the

determination with which a dad seeks out the perfect punchline.

In conclusion – much like a well-executed dad joke – our findings invite further contemplation and exploration. The unexpected correlation between Democrat votes for Senators in Kansas and kerosene consumption in Guyana is a testament to the enthralling nature of statistical analysis, and the potential of humor to enlighten the scholarly path. There's no denying that the empirical landscape is rich with surprises, and much like the punchline to a great joke, our research leaves us eagerly anticipating the next installment in this quirky saga of interconnected variables.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has shed light on the unforeseen but notable correlation between Democrat votes for Senators in Kansas and kerosene consumption in Guyana. The strong correlation coefficient of 0.8186749 and significant p-value for the period from 1980 to 2020 have sparked intriguing questions about the underlying factors driving this connection.

It seems that just like a good dad joke, this unexpected relationship between political preferences in Kansas and fuel habits in Guyana has left us both amused and contemplative. As they say, "I used to play piano by ear, but now I use my hands." Similarly, our initial surprise has turned into a harmonious appreciation for the complexity of statistical interplay.

The time has come to acknowledge that this unlikely correlation, much like a well-timed dad joke, has added an unexpected element to the empirical landscape. It's like a punchline that catches you off guard and then leaves you chuckling at the underlying cleverness.

Having uncovered this unanticipated correlation, it is clear that further research in

this area is not only warranted but also highly anticipated. The sparks ignited by our investigation have illuminated a path for future scholars to explore the eccentric interplay of seemingly unrelated variables. However, a word of caution - the pursuit of knowledge should not come at the cost of burning out. So, for now, we declare that no more research is needed in this kooky connection between Kansas Senators and kerosene in Guyana.