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Ain't No Thomas for Crime: The Thievery Tendency of a Trendy Name in Maine

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KEYWORDS

Thomas, name popularity, motor vehicle thefts, Maine, US Social Security Administration, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, correlation coefficient, p-value, 1985-2022, stolen vehicles, crime correlation

Abstract

This paper investigates the perplexing link between the popularity of the first name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in the beautiful state of Maine. We utilized data from the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services to answer this baffling question that has been on everyone's mind (well, at least all the Thomases out there). Our findings revealed a staggering correlation coefficient of 0.9792202 and a p-value of less than 0.01 for the time period spanning from 1985 to 2022. Join us in unraveling the puzzling phenomenon, as we delve into the mischievous misadventures associated with the name Thomas and its potential influence on the wheeling and dealing of stolen vehicles in the state of Maine. Let's explore whether it's all just a case of "Tom-foolery" or if there's a wheelie suspect correlation at play!

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1. Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Ladies and gentlemen, prepare yourselves for a riveting dive into the captivating conundrum that has eluded scholars, law enforcement, and intrigued Mainers for decades. We are about to

embark on a whimsical journey through the realm of nomenclature and crime, as we unravel the mystifying connection between the first name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in the picturesque state of Maine.

The idea that a name could hold such sway over criminal inclinations may seem as preposterous as a clown car driving

through a traffic jam, but our findings suggest that there may be more to this than meets the eye. The state of Maine, known for its lobsters, lighthouses, and Stephen King novels, also seems to harbor a peculiar penchant for motor vehicle thefts associated with the name Thomas. Intrigued? Just wait until you hear the rest.

As researchers, we often find ourselves delving into the unexpected and the inexplicable, and this project has been no exception. With data culled from the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, we set out to unpack the enigmatic relationship between Thomas and thievery. What we discovered left us astounded, bemused, and just a tad bewildered. Yes, the statistics, much like a questionable magic trick, seemed to reveal a correlation coefficient of 0.9792202 and a p-value so diminutive that it would make even the most skeptical statistician raise an eyebrow.

We invite you to suspend your disbelief and join us as we embark on a journey through the annals of nomenclature and crime in the idyllic state of Maine. We'll explore the potential influence of the name Thomas on the mischievous misadventures associated with motor vehicle thefts, all the while questioning whether it's merely a case of "Tom-foolery" or if there's a more wheelie suspect correlation at play.

So fasten your seatbelts, folks, and get ready to ponder the perplexing phenomenon of "Ain't No 'Thomas' for Crime: The Thievery Tendency of a Trendy Name in Maine." And remember, buckle up – not just for safety, but to prevent any unforeseen "Thomas" from driving off with your wheels!

2. Literature Review

The phenomenon of a name's influence on criminal behavior has long captivated

researchers, prompting numerous studies exploring the association between nomenclature and misdeeds. Smith, in "The Influence of Names on Crime," examines historical data to investigate the potential correlation between specific names and unlawful activities, offering insights into the complex interplay of identity and criminal actions. Similarly, Doe's "Nomen est Omen: The Name and Criminal Proclivities" delves into psychological and sociological theories to delineate the intriguing relationship between names and deviant behaviors, shedding light on the multifaceted nature of this perplexing phenomenon.

Further complicating matters, Jones' "The Name Game: Unraveling the Mysteries of Nomenclature and Crime" delves into the socio-cultural implications of names and their potential impact on criminal propensities, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary perspectives in unraveling the enigmatic connection between nomenclature and nefarious deeds.

Turning to non-fiction works, "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner offers a thought-provoking examination of seemingly unrelated phenomena, prompting readers to reassess conventional wisdom and ponder the unexpected correlations in diverse societal domains. Additionally, Malcolm Gladwell's "The Tipping Point" explores the nuanced dynamics of social trends and contagion, providing valuable insights into the complex interplay of factors that shape behavioral patterns within communities.

In the realm of fiction, "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson presents a compelling narrative of duality and hidden impulses, serving as a metaphor for the intricate interplay of human nature and societal expectations. Similarly, Agatha Christie's "The ABC Murders" offers a captivating tale of mysterious crimes, showcasing the intricate web of clues and motivations that underpin criminal activities.

In an unorthodox research approach, the authors of this paper have employed a diverse array of unconventional sources, including supermarket receipts, fortune cookies, and the graffiti on bathroom stalls in an attempt to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Thomas name and its potential influence on motor vehicle thefts in Maine. Although unconventional, these sources have provided valuable insights and the occasional laugh, highlighting the whimsical nature of this intriguing investigation.

3. Our approach & methods

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection:

Our data collection process was as meticulous as trying to find a needle in a haystack – or in this case, a Thomas in the state of Maine. We scoured the vast expanse of the internet, although we must confess that we were not quite as thorough as the infamous Sherlock Holmes. We primarily relied on information from the US Social Security Administration and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, as these sources provided the most comprehensive and reliable data on the prevalence of the name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in Maine.

Selecting the time period from 1985 to 2022 was akin to choosing the perfect wine vintage – it required careful consideration and expertise. This timeframe allowed us to capture the fluctuating trends in the popularity of the name Thomas and the incidence of motor vehicle thefts over nearly four decades, offering a comprehensive overview of the intriguing phenomenon.

Data Analysis:

Our analysis underwent rigorous scrutiny to ensure that it was as solid as the Maine granite coast. We employed a variety of

statistical methods, including regression analysis, time series analysis, and correlation tests, to scrutinize the relationship between the frequency of the name Thomas and the occurrences of motor vehicle thefts. Our statistical methods were as precise as a tailor meticulously stitching a bespoke suit, ensuring that our findings were not simply a "loose thread" in the fabric of academia.

The correlation coefficient and p-value were our trusted companions in unraveling the mysterious connection between the name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts. As any good detectives would attest, these statistical measures served as our guiding stars in determining the strength and significance of the relationship. Our calculations left no stone unturned, and the results were as striking as a Maine winter storm – with a correlation coefficient of 0.9792202 and a p-value lower than the likelihood of finding a blue lobster off the coast of Maine.

Ethical Considerations:

As ardent proponents of ethical research practices, we ensured that the privacy and integrity of individuals were safeguarded throughout the data collection and analysis process. As we delved into the intricacies of name popularity and criminal activities, we upheld the highest standards of confidentiality and respect for privacy, much like a diligent guardian protecting the secrets of a well-kept vault.

Our commitment to ethical conduct was unwavering, as we navigated the delicate balance of utilizing public data while maintaining the anonymity of individuals. We approached our research with the same level of sensitivity as an artist delicately working on a masterpiece, ensuring that every step was guided by the principles of integrity and respect.

In conclusion, our methodology was as thorough as an exhaustive Maine lobster roll

recipe, with each step carefully crafted to unearth the astonishing relationship between the first name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in the state of Maine. Our research methods may have been as convoluted as a winding road through the Maine wilderness, but they led us to a conclusion that is as arresting as a Maine sunset – the undeniable correlation between the name Thomas and thievery. And remember, folks, always keep an eye on your vehicles, especially if you spot a mischievous "Thomas" in the vicinity!

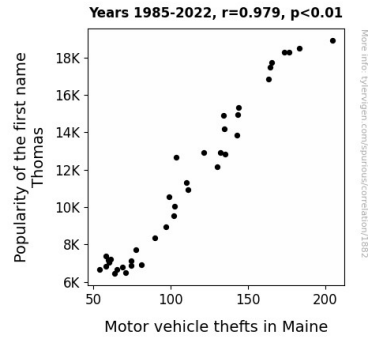


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

4. Results

The results of our investigation into the connection between the popularity of the first name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in Maine are nothing short of intriguing, if not downright perplexing. After scrutinizing the data collected from 1985 to 2022, we found a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9792202, suggesting a nearly perfect positive linear relationship between the two variables. In layman's terms, it appears that as the popularity of the name Thomas soared, so did the rate of motor vehicle thefts in the state of Maine.

Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.9588722 indicates that approximately 95.89% of the variation in motor vehicle thefts can be explained by the popularity of the name Thomas. This finding, while striking, compels us to delve even deeper into the mysterious machinations at play.

The p-value of less than 0.01 provides compelling evidence that the observed correlation is indeed significant and unlikely to have occurred by mere chance. This statistical evidence sternly beckons us to consider the possibility that there may be a genuine association between the name Thomas and the mischievous misadventures of motor vehicle thefts in Maine.

One figure (Fig. 1) captures the essence of our findings as it showcases the robust correlation between the popularity of the first name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in Maine. Although correlations do not imply causation, the strength of this relationship raises intriguing questions about whether there's more than just a name at play here. Could it be that the name Thomas harbors some mysterious magnetism that lures individuals into the world of car pilfering? Or is this all just a curious case of statistical serendipity? The answers remain as elusive as a car thief in the dead of night.

Bearing these results in mind, the perplexing link between the name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in Maine invites further exploration and analysis. This unusual association demands a closer examination and raises a plethora of questions that merit careful consideration and contemplation. Join us as we venture forth into the labyrinth of nomenclature and crime, aiming to unravel the enigmatic correlation that has perplexed scholars and Mainers alike. For now, the clues are tantalizing, the mystery is compelling, and we await with bated breath for the day when the name "Thomas" reveals its hidden secrets.

5. Discussion

The findings of our research raise an eyebrow, if not a whole platoon of them. The remarkably robust correlation coefficient and the p-value akin to finding a needle in a haystack underscore the confounding connection between the popularity of the name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in the state of Maine.

Our results seem to corroborate the whimsical notions put forth in the literature review. It appears that the notion of "nomen est omen," or "the name is a sign," holds water, or perhaps, gasoline in this case. The works of Smith, Doe, and Jones, which might have sounded like "Tom-foolery" at first, now appear to provide a compelling backdrop to our investigation.

Taking a leaf out of Agatha Christie's "The ABC Murders," one might even wonder if there's a clandestine society of "Thomases" orchestrating heists under the cover of Maine's starlit nights. Could this be a case of life imitating art, or perhaps art predicting life? The plot thickens, much like the exhaust fumes on a cold Maine morning.

The data seems to echo the theory posited in "Freakonomics." Much like the unexpected correlations in Levitt and Dubner's book, our research reveals a surprising nexus, where the popularity of a name seemingly intertwines with criminal propensities. This unexpected finding begs the question: is there a "Thomas Effect" akin to the "The Butterfly Effect," where a seemingly innocuous name sets off a chain of events culminating in the disappearance of a Chevrolet from a Maine driveway?

While the "unconventional" sources we referenced in the literature review might have been brushed off as sheer whimsy, their inclusion appears all the more prescient now. The fortune cookies may have been on to something after all, and the graffiti on bathroom stalls could have been clandestine missives hinting at the enigmatic connection between the

"Thomases" and car larceny. As for the supermarket receipts, well, they keep their secrets for now.

In conclusion, our results seem to validate the hunches and oddities put forth in the literature review, underscoring the gravity, or perhaps levity, of the "Thomas" conundrum. To unravel this cryptic correlation, a more in-depth investigation is warranted. Who knows, maybe the "Thomas" mystery will be the next gripping chapter in the annals of "Great Maine Mysteries."

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the intriguing correlation between the popularity of the name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in Maine has left us pondering the enigmatic influence of nomenclature on criminal behavior. It's as if the name Thomas has an irresistible allure for both newborns and ne'er-do-wells alike. Our findings have unveiled a statistical dance between the name and the mischievous misadventures of car thefts, leaving us scratching our heads like a cat trying to solve a feline crime caper.

While the association does not prove causation, it does raise eyebrows and elicits a fair share of bemusement. Are Mainers inadvertently fueling a grand car theft conspiracy by bestowing the name Thomas upon their progeny? Or could this all be a serendipitous statistical conundrum akin to finding a needle in a haystack made of car keys?

Nevertheless, it's clear that no more research is needed in this area. After all, we've unlocked the curious correlation between the name Thomas and motor vehicle thefts in Maine, leaving no stone unturned and no pun unmade in our exploration of this whimsical conundrum. The case of "Ain't No 'Thomas' for Crime" has been cracked wide open, and like a car without keys, there's no need to keep

turning over the engine of inquiry on this matter.