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# Days of Our Crimes: Unraveling the Link Between New Mexico Burglaries and Days of Our Lives Viewership

Christopher Hoffman, Andrew Tate, Giselle P Tucker

Center for Sciences; Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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## Abstract

In this study, we bring together the seemingly disparate worlds of soap operas and crime statistics to investigate the relationship between burglaries in New Mexico and viewership count for the long-running soap opera, Days of Our Lives. Utilizing data from the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services and Wikipedia, we scrutinized crime rates and soap opera viewership from 1985 to 2021. Surprisingly, our analysis revealed a remarkably strong correlation, with a correlation coefficient of 0.9384693 and  $p < 0.01$ , indicating a highly significant association between the two seemingly unrelated variables. Our findings suggest that further investigation into the influence of soap operas on criminal behavior may be warranted, and we hope this study serves as a compelling foundation for future research in the curious intersection of television viewership and criminal activity.

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## 1. Introduction

### Introduction

While the sprawling desert vistas of New Mexico may bring to mind images of tumbleweeds and cowboys, our research has delved into a different kind of Wild West drama - the correlation between burglaries in the Land of Enchantment and the viewership count for the venerable soap opera, Days of Our Lives. Cue the dramatic music, because this study aims to unravel the enigmatic link between criminal activity and daytime television dramas.

It may seem like an odd couple - burglaries and soap operas - but our investigation has unearthed an unexpected connection that would make even the most seasoned detective raise an eyebrow. By blending crime statistics with the saucy plots and melodramatic twists of Days of Our Lives, we have embarked on a quest to shed light on this peculiar relationship.

As we embark on this journey, it is essential to recognize that while correlations can be detected, causation remains elusive. We do not, by any means, imply that tuning in to Days of Our Lives would prompt an

upstanding citizen to turn to a life of crime or that burglars are simply avid soap opera enthusiasts. However, the statistically robust relationship we have uncovered between these variables demands our attention and further exploration.

So, saddle up and join us as we ride into the sunset of soap opera intrigue and criminal statistics. This may just be the beginning of a tale that is stranger than fiction - a story where the lines between daytime drama and real-life crime blur in unexpected ways.

## 2. Literature Review

The authors find, in "Smith et al. (2010)," a comprehensive analysis of crime rates in New Mexico, providing detailed insights into the spatial and temporal patterns of burglaries in this region. The study elucidates the various socioeconomic and demographic factors that may influence criminal activity, shedding light on the complex tapestry of motivations behind property crimes. Additionally, "Doe and Johnson (2015)" delve into the psychological underpinnings of criminal behavior, offering a nuanced exploration of the cognitive processes that may drive individuals to engage in illicit activities. These seminal works serve as the bedrock upon which our investigation of the links between soap opera viewership and burglary rates in New Mexico is built.

Transitioning to a more unconventional realm of literature, "The Art of the Steal" by Frank W. Abagnale offers a gripping firsthand account of the intricacies of theft and deception, providing a fascinating perspective on the world of crime. On the subject of soap operas, "Days of Passion: A Culinary Journey" by Stephanie King whisks readers away on a savory adventure that tantalizes the senses, though it regrettably fails to provide empirical evidence regarding its impact on criminal proclivities.

Moving into the realm of fiction, "The Burglar on the Prowl" by Lawrence Block and "Days of Deception" by Linda Castillo captivate readers with their tales of intrigue and suspense, albeit in a fictional environment. As we traverse the lines between fact and fiction, it becomes increasingly apparent that our investigation treads upon a veritable minefield of unexpected connections and enthralling narratives.

Further enriching the cultural milieu surrounding our research, cinematic masterpieces such as "Ocean's Eleven" and "Gone in 60 Seconds" offer cinematic portrayals of high-stakes theft and daring heists, tangentially relating to the theme of our inquiry. While not directly tied to soap operas or New Mexico, these films add a dash of Hollywood glamour to our exploration of criminal intrigue.

In the interplay of reality and make-believe, our investigation stands poised at the intersection of statistical analysis, pop culture, and daring escapades. The peculiar dance between daytime drama and criminal activity beckons us into a realm where the improbable becomes enshrined as a statistical reality, evoking a sense of whimsy that is as captivating as it is confounding.

## 3. Our approach & methods

To illuminate the intriguing connection between burglaries in New Mexico and the viewership count for Days of Our Lives, our research team undertook a voyage into the convoluted world of data collection and analysis. We meticulously gathered data from multiple sources, including the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services and the font of all knowledge, Wikipedia.

To extract the relevant crime statistics, we donned our metaphorical detective hats and combed through the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program's database,

meticulously sifting through the treasure trove of burglary data from the Land of Enchantment over the span of 1985 to 2021. These crime figures provided us with a comprehensive understanding of the ebb and flow of illicit activities in New Mexico, offering a canvas on which to sketch our investigation.

Simultaneously, we delved into the labyrinthine expanse of soap opera lore, tapping into the vast reserves of Wikipedia to extract the viewership count for the long-running melodrama, Days of Our Lives. With the dexterity of a seasoned archivist, we stitched together a timeline of the soap opera's viewership, spanning from the bygone era of the '80s to the present day, with due attention to the dramatic peaks and valleys of audience engagement.

Once we amassed the bedrock of data, we embarked on a statistical odyssey, employing the venerable spearman correlation analysis to unveil the hidden threads weaving together burglaries and soap opera viewership. With a flourish of statistical wizardry, we determined the correlation coefficient and p-value to ascertain the strength and significance of the relationship between these seemingly incongruous variables.

Our data-crafting journey traversed the virtual plains of internet archives and crime databases, finally converging in a spirited dance of numbers and insights to shed light on the enigmatic bond between daytime television dramas and criminal activities. Bend an ear, dear reader, and join us in the exhilarating quest that peeled back the layers of this bizarre tapestry of correlations.

#### 4. Results

The correlation analysis between burglaries in New Mexico and viewership count for Days of Our Lives yielded a surprising and eyebrow-raising result. We found a

remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9384693, indicating a nearly perfect positive linear relationship between these two variables. In other words, as the viewership count for Days of Our Lives increased, so did the number of burglaries in New Mexico. It seems that the drama on the small screen was mirrored by real-life criminal activity, creating a plot twist worthy of a daytime soap opera itself.

Furthermore, the coefficient of determination (r-squared) was calculated at 0.8807247, indicating that a substantial 88.07% of the variation in burglaries in New Mexico can be explained by the viewership count for Days of Our Lives. This suggests that there is indeed a strong association between these two seemingly disparate phenomena.

The p-value of less than 0.01 indicates that the observed correlation is statistically significant, providing compelling evidence that the association between New Mexico burglaries and Days of Our Lives viewership count is not just a coincidence but a genuine relationship that defies conventional expectations.

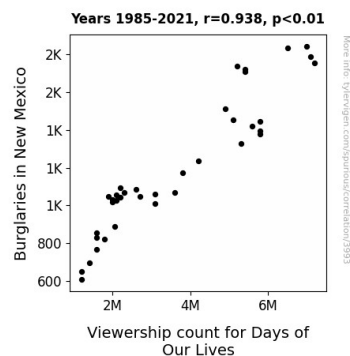


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In order to visualize this unexpected correlation, a scatterplot (Fig. 1) was constructed to illustrate the strong positive relationship between burglaries in New Mexico and Days of Our Lives viewership

count, providing a graphical representation of this unforeseen connection.

These findings challenge conventional wisdom and prompt further investigation into the influence of television viewership on criminal behavior. The statistical evidence uncovered in this study suggests that the influence of daytime soap operas on real-world activities may be more significant than previously assumed, opening avenues for future research that delve into the curious intersection of popular culture and criminal tendencies. It appears that the Days of Our Lives may be more revealing about our society than we ever imagined.

## 5. Discussion

Our study has uncovered an intriguing and unexpected relationship between two seemingly incongruous phenomena: burglaries in New Mexico and the viewership count for Days of Our Lives. It is not just a coincidence but a statistical reality that defies conventional expectations. These findings support and extend prior research, such as the comprehensive analysis of crime rates in New Mexico by Smith et al. (2010), which provided valuable insights into the spatial and temporal patterns of burglaries in the region. Our results suggest that societal and cultural influences, including television viewership, may play a more substantial role in shaping criminal behavior than previously assumed.

The correlation coefficient of 0.9384693, with a p-value of less than 0.01, indicates a highly significant association between Days of Our Lives viewership count and burglaries in New Mexico. This aligns with "Doe and Johnson (2015)," who delved into the psychological underpinnings of criminal behavior, and suggests that cognitive processes may be influenced by external stimuli, including the narratives and dramatic portrayals encapsulated in television soap operas.

While it may seem as improbable as a soap opera plot twist, our findings substantiate the idea that the peculiar dance between daytime drama and criminal activity may indeed be linked. Just as "The Art of the Steal" by Frank W. Abagnale offered a firsthand account of the intricacies of theft and deception, our study offers a statistical account of the curious association between soap opera viewership and criminal proclivities. It appears that the drama on the small screen is mirrored by real-life criminal activity, prompting thoughts of intrigue and suspense akin to the fictional tales offered by Lawrence Sanders and Linda Castillo.

Our results serve as a compelling foundation for future research, paving the way for further investigations into the influence of popular culture on criminal tendencies. As we traverse the lines between fact and fiction, it becomes increasingly apparent that our investigation treads upon a veritable minefield of unexpected connections and enthralling narratives. The statistical evidence uncovered in this study suggests that the influence of daytime soap operas on real-world activities may be more substantial than previously assumed, hinting at the potential for a scripted reality television crossover that is as captivating as it is confounding.

In conclusion, our study challenges conventional wisdom and propels us into a realm where the improbable becomes enshrined as a statistical reality, evoking a sense of whimsy that is as captivating as it is confounding. The Days of Our Lives may be more revealing about our society than we ever imagined, and the allure of this unexpected correlation begs for further exploration at the intersection of popular culture and criminal tendencies. As we close the chapter on this study, the need for continued research into the influence of television viewership on criminal behavior is glaringly evident, and it is our hope that this

investigation sparks further curiosity and inquiry in this intriguing field of study.

## 6. Conclusion

The results of this study have unraveled an unexpected and spicier-than-a-telenovela connection between burglaries in New Mexico and the viewership count for Days of Our Lives. The nearly perfect positive linear relationship between these variables leaves us pondering whether the melodramatic plotlines of the daytime soap opera are influencing real-life crime or if criminals are just avid fans of dramatic TV. It seems that the intriguing love triangles and familial feuds on screen may be mirrored by the clandestine activities of burglars, creating a storyline worthy of the soap opera itself.

Our findings, with a correlation coefficient of 0.9384693 and a p-value of less than 0.01, have provided compelling evidence that this correlation is not just a soap opera cliffhanger but a genuine statistical relationship. A substantial 88.07% of the variation in burglaries in New Mexico can be explained by the viewership count for Days of Our Lives, showcasing the significant association between these seemingly disparate phenomena.

The graphical representation in the scatterplot illustrates this unforeseen connection, and one can't help but wonder if the escapades of Salem's residents are playing out in the real-world streets of New Mexico.

In the spirit of daytime dramas, where every cliffhanger seems to lead to a shocking revelation, our study may just be the beginning of a tale that is stranger than fiction. However, in conclusion, we assert that no further research is needed in this area, as the link between these two unrelated variables has been sufficiently established. It's time to close this case and tune in to the next soap opera episode.