

UTAH NAMING PRACTICES, 1960–2020

David Ellingson Eddington

1. Introduction

You can tell you are from Utah if you are *Jaxton*, your mother is *Sariah*, and your grandparents are *Alma* and *LaRue*. Jokes such as this one, which center on the creative names many residents of the state of Utah in the United States give their offspring, abound.¹ It is not just the more modern varieties like *Kaylee* and *Kaden* that have caught people's ears. In 1945, Henry Louis Mencken noted unusual names in the state belonging to the now uncommon *LaNae*, *LaVelle* variety.² More contemporary observers note the abundance of female names ending in *-lee* such as *Ashlee* and *Kaylee*.³ The pseudo suffix *-lyn*, as seen in *Kaylyn*, is also common, as are the suffixes *-den*, *-son*, *-ton*, and *-der* that prevail in male names like *Brayden*, *Jaxton*, *Grayson*, and *Zander*.⁴ The prefixes

1. Cari Bilyeu Clark, "What's in a Utah Name?," The Original Utah Baby Namer, last modified June 5, 2017, <https://utahbabynamer.blogspot.com/2017/06/front-page.html>.

2. Henry Louis Mencken, *The American Language: An Inquiry into the Development of English in the United States*, vol. 2 (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1945).

3. Jennifer R. Mansfield, "It's Wraylynn—with a W: Distinctive Mormon Naming Practices" (Master's thesis, Utah State University, 2012).

4. Eric A. Eliason, "Nameways in Latter-Day Saint History, Custom, and Folklore," in *Perspectives on Latter-day Saint Names and Naming: Names, Identity, and Belief*, ed. Dallin D. Oaks, Paul Baltes, and Kent Minson (Milton Park, UK: Routledge, 2013), 70–100.

Mc- and *Mac-* are used principally in female names such a *MacKenzie* and *McCall* but they find their way into the occasional male name as well: *McClain*.⁵ Another naming trend is the conversion of surnames into given names: *Dustin*, *Colton*, *Skyler*, *Tyler*, and *Colby* for boys, and *Whitney*, *Haley*, *Courtney*, and *Madison* for girls.⁶

The unique nature of names in the Beehive State has given rise to a number of well-visited websites. The (Original) Utah Baby Namer pokes fun at the naming trends in the state, while at the same time providing an extensive list of baby names for mothers- and fathers-to-be to choose from.⁷ The other Utah Baby Namer takes a computational approach to naming trends.⁸ The site owner programmed a computer with given names that are twice as popular in Utah than in the remainder of the country. The algorithm, which appears online, outputs a wonderful variety of novel names, many of which have a particular Utah flavor to them.

While some observers treat the naming phenomena in the state under the rubric of Utah names, others suggest that bestowing unique names is a practice limited to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) and discuss them as Mormon names. Of course, about 55 percent of Utahns belong to the LDS Church, and the influence of religion is certainly present. However, most naming studies fail to distinguish the two groups, making it unclear whether the unique names in Utah are limited to members of the LDS Church or not. Also, the question of whether US members of the church outside of Utah follow similar trends has not been examined. The data used in

5. Cleveland Evans, "Contemporary Latter-day Saint Naming," in Oaks, Baltes, and Minson, *Perspectives on Latter-day Saint Names*, 111–60; Mansfield, "It's Wraylynn."

6. Evans, "Contemporary Latter-day Saint Naming."

7. Clark, "What's in a Utah name?"

8. "17 Mainstream Naming Fads We Stole from Utah," Utah Baby Namer, accessed June 14, 2008, <https://www.utahbabynamer.com/>.

the present study do not contain information about the name giver's religion. For this reason, the names discussed are referred to simply as Utah names.

There are, of course, naming trends whose origins are related to the LDS Church. Jennifer R. Mansfield limited her study to Utahns who were members of the LDS Church.⁹ She sorts names into a number of categories, some of which are religion-based. These include names taken from the Book of Mormon such as *Alma*, *Nephi*, and *Moroni*. Others, such as *Dallin* and *Talmage* are homages to Church leaders. Given the LDS Church's emphasis on families and family history, many of Mansfield's interviewees acknowledged having plucked baby names from their family tree. The experiences that missionaries have in foreign countries may account for some unusual names such as Utahns with foreign names (*Alitaya*) or names derived from distant places (*Alaska*).

African Americans are also known to use creative names as a form of ethnic identity marker.¹⁰ Some draw a parallel between African American names and naming practices in the Mormon community.¹¹ They suggest that Mormon parents give their children names that are intended to identify their children's faith. As appealing as that may sound, it does not hold up. Mansfield conducted interviews with Utahns in which she asked the interviewees about naming practices and their perceptions of Utah names. In those interviews, parents never identified the bequeathing of unique names on their children as a way of marking religious identity or cultural roots. Instead, the

9. Mansfield, "It's Wraylynn."

10. Rebecca Bateman, "Naming Patterns in Black Seminole Ethnogenesis," *Ethnohistory* 49, no. 2 (2002): 227–57.

11. Christy Karras, "Different Is Good for Utah Names," *Salt Lake Tribune*, October 29, 2002; Don Norton, "Composite LDS Given Games," in Oaks, Baltes, and Minson, *Perspectives on Latter-day Saint Names*, 101–10, "Names Reflect Cultural Origins," *Washington Times*, May 13, 2003.

motive expressed by most was that “their particular combination of these sounds is fresh and unique to their baby and free from fitting into any types or being bound to any existing expectations.”¹²

The search for uniqueness in naming is not limited to Utah, however. One study of naming practices in the US came to a similar conclusion.¹³ Many of the parents interviewed expressed the hope that their child would not turn out ordinary, but special. Their use of less common names was the parents’ attempt to endow a unique identity on the child from the outset of their life.

One drawback to the majority of studies on Utah names is that they are based on the authors’ own observations of names they have come into contact with. In contrast, Cleveland Evans’s study makes an important contribution by providing some quantitative evidence. He contrasts the names given to Utahns with those given to Coloradoans born in 1982, 1990, 1998, 2012, and 2021, drawing the data from the Social Security Administration. While he does find some Utah-centric names, he concludes that “the great majority of babies born in Utah are given names which would arouse no comment in the rest of the United States. . . . Even some of the more creative names found in Utah probably wouldn’t seem to be out of place in the rest of the country.”¹⁴ Mansfield concurs with his conclusion.¹⁵

Although many have discussed Utah naming practices, it is disheartening to realize that most published works are founded on anecdotal evidence at worst, and very limited evidence at best. The most extensive study that examines naming practices with quantitative

12. Mansfield, “It’s Wraylynn,” 11.

13. Hannah Beth Emery, “What’s in a Name? American Parents’ Search for the Perfect Baby Name” (PhD diss., University of California-Berkeley, 2013).

14. Evans, “Contemporary Latter-day Saint Naming,” 142.

15. Mansfield, “It’s Wraylynn.”

evidence is found on the Utah Baby Namer website.¹⁶ The data appear to come from the Social Security Administration list, but the author's methodology is not laid out explicitly. However, the author identifies seventeen names that were popular in Utah before catching on in the rest of the US: *Evan, Brittany, Brent, Kent, Scott, Chad, Corey/Cory, Brayden, Jadon, Jaxon, Kaden, Beth, Bryce, Ryker, McKenna, and Brody*. The author concludes: "Looking at the last 100 years in America, newly popular names have gotten popular in Utah an average of 5 years earlier than the rest of the country."

The extant studies raise a number of questions that need to be answered. Can anecdotal observations stand up to scrutiny when they are tested against a large data set? How common are the creative Utah names people have given as examples of Utah names? What Utah names are not found outside the state? Is Utah truly a trendsetter as far as baby names are concerned? What characteristics comprise a Utah name? Evans compared Utah names to Colorado names in five different years, and this article is designed to expand on his work to comprise the entire country.¹⁷

The US Social Security Administration has kept a tally of baby names for many years.¹⁸ Their current list only includes names with a frequency of five or greater and every different spelling is counted as a different name. The present study is based on a subset of this data consisting of the names given to children in the US between 1960 and 2020. As a first foray into the topic, the twenty most popular names given to children in the twenty-first century (2001–2020) were examined. The top twenty Utah names in each year were compared with the top twenty

16. "17 Mainstream Naming Fads."

17. Evans, "Contemporary Latter-day Saint Naming."

18. "Beyond the Top 1000 Names," Social Security Administration (website), accessed December 14, 2021, <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/limits.html>.

US names. Names that made the Utah list but not the nationwide list appear in table 1. Women's names ending in *-lee* and *-lyn* appear here, as do men's names ending in *-son*. The list is reminiscent of a wedding: something old (*Eleanor*), something new (*Grayson*), something biblical (*Isaac*), something Trekkie (*Ryker*).

Table 1: Twenty-First Century Names More Popular in Utah Than They Are Nationwide

Girls Names	Boys Names
Brooklyn	Asher
Claire	Austin
Eleanor	Brooks
Ellie	Caleb
Hazel	Carson
Ivy	Carter
Kate	Ezra
Kaylee	Gavin
Lucy	Grayson
Lydia	Hudson
Nora	Hunter
Oakley	Isaac
Paisley	Landon
Rachel	Leo
Ruby	Lincoln
Savannah	Luke
Sophie	Miles
Sydney	Owen
	Ryker
	Samuel
	Theodore
	Thomas
	Wyatt

2. Methodology for Comparing US and Utah Names

Some researchers studying Utah naming practices have identified characteristics purported to identify Utah names. Among them are the pseudo suffixes such as *-lyn* for girls' names or *-son* for boys'. Once again, the question that needs to be answered is whether such observations hold up to empirical investigation. In order to get a sense of which names are popular in the state and when a name first appeared, a list of possible Utah names was needed as a point of departure. This was accomplished by comparing all Utah names in sequential two-year periods, for example 1978 and 1979. When a name appeared in 1979, but not in 1978, 1979 was considered the name's first appearance. A better name for it would be *quasi first appearance* since some names may have occurred in the state prior to 1978, for example. However, these quasi first appearances highlight names that appear in Utah and provide a starting point for comparing Utah names with names in the rest of the US. The comparison between 1960 and 1961 indicated no new names in 1961, while there were new first appearances in 1962. In other words, the data for the present study is actually based on the years 1962 to 2020.

In order to make a comparison, the number of instances of each of the 12,809 unique quasi first appearance names in Utah was divided by the total number of each of those individual names in the US. The resulting percentage for each name in each year was averaged across the years 1962 and 2020. Any name that had an average frequency of 1 percent or more across that fifty-eight-year time span comprised the Utah names data set. Of course, this methodology only gleans more frequent Utah names and does not find a single name, for instance, that only occurs in the state and nowhere else.

US names with a frequency of one hundred or greater were extracted from the Social Security database for comparison. For the purposes of the study, it was not relevant when a name first appeared in the US. Names from the Utah data set were then eliminated from the US data set of names with a frequency of one hundred or greater. This

comprised the US names data set. This resulted in five hundred female Utah names (table 2) and 1,764 female US names. On the other side, there were 474 male Utah names (table 3) and 2,416 male US names for a total of 5,154 names in the data set that was considered.

Table 2: Female Names in Utah from 1962 to 2020 That Comprised an Average of 1 Percent or Greater of US Names

Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT
Mckell	0.36	Kaybree	0.02	Elisabeth	0.02	Austyn	0.01
Mccall	0.19	Holland	0.02	Teisha	0.02	Marie	0.01
Oaklee	0.15	Baylee	0.02	Oaklyn	0.02	Kara	0.01
Oaklie	0.14	Amberly	0.02	Breklyn	0.02	Darci	0.01
Oakley	0.13	Mindi	0.02	Amelia	0.02	Oaklynn	0.01
Janalee	0.12	Brooke	0.02	Laurel	0.02	Emmie	0.01
Mikelle	0.11	Madisen	0.02	Saydee	0.02	Macie	0.01
Makell	0.11	Marilee	0.02	Kinlee	0.02	Averie	0.01
Shaylee	0.1	Tess	0.02	Allyson	0.02	Becky	0.01
Taylee	0.1	Jodee	0.02	Jana	0.02	Jillyn	0.01
Brinlee	0.09	Quincey	0.02	Shellie	0.02	Sienna	0.01
Afton	0.09	Shaylynn	0.02	Liberty	0.02	Summer	0.01
Cami	0.09	Sage	0.02	Robyn	0.02	Jacey	0.01
Brynlee	0.08	Maycee	0.02	Shayla	0.02	Kiera	0.01
Mele	0.08	Pyper	0.02	Charlee	0.02	Nichole	0.01
Mckelle	0.08	Hallie	0.02	Lucy	0.02	Jami	0.01
Kambree	0.08	Kenzie	0.02	Brightyn	0.02	Trisha	0.01
Maren	0.08	Mindy	0.02	Allie	0.02	Goldie	0.01
Janae	0.07	Brooklyn	0.02	Dixie	0.02	Emmeline	0.01
Brinley	0.07	Swayzie	0.02	Amber	0.02	Kaiya	0.01
Taylie	0.07	Britney	0.02	Preslie	0.01	Kennedy	0.01
Kamree	0.07	Saige	0.02	Jenny	0.01	Mandee	0.01
Mikell	0.06	Brittany	0.02	Holli	0.01	Jovie	0.01
Hadlee	0.06	Mckayla	0.02	Sadee	0.01	Ireland	0.01
Kami	0.06	Shalese	0.02	Corinne	0.01	Savannah	0.01
Tylee	0.05	Hallee	0.02	Kelsee	0.01	Tayler	0.01

Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT
Sariah	0.05	Tori	0.02	Jennie	0.01	Taytum	0.01
Gentry	0.05	Kilee	0.02	Shilo	0.01	Savanna	0.01
Brighton	0.05	Gwen	0.02	Lydia	0.01	Madilyn	0.01
Brynlie	0.05	Josie	0.02	Colette	0.01	Tristan	0.01
Mckaylee	0.05	Karlie	0.02	Marcie	0.01	Staci	0.01
Karalee	0.05	Janalyn	0.02	Merrilee	0.01	Ladawn	0.01
Emilee	0.05	Shaunna	0.02	Andie	0.01	Alice	0.01
Camie	0.05	Halle	0.02	Paisley	0.01	Lindsay	0.01
Bostyn	0.05	Shantel	0.02	Ashtyn	0.01	Madison	0.01
Aspen	0.05	Bree	0.02	Brook	0.01	Joni	0.01
Aspyn	0.05	Chantel	0.02	Quinlee	0.01	Lesieli	0.01
Jennilyn	0.05	Berklee	0.02	Bonnie	0.01	Weslie	0.01
Cambree	0.05	Cassidy	0.02	Emily	0.01	Mckynlee	0.01
Brynley	0.04	Karli	0.02	Shaelyn	0.01	Ruby	0.01
Makelle	0.04	Callie	0.02	Scottie	0.01	Charlotte	0.01
Kayzlee	0.04	Marianne	0.02	Jessie	0.01	Carly	0.01
Aubree	0.04	Kira	0.02	Chelsea	0.01	Mckinzie	0.01
Kaylynn	0.04	Janessa	0.02	Kylie	0.01	Chelsee	0.01
Quincee	0.04	Shandee	0.02	Jenifer	0.01	Eve	0.01
Skylee	0.04	Capri	0.02	Tawnya	0.01	Emmy	0.01
Kenadee	0.04	Makaylee	0.02	Kaisley	0.01	Katelyn	0.01
Boston	0.04	Breann	0.02	Kassie	0.01	Bailey	0.01
Charly	0.04	Kimber	0.02	Tiffani	0.01	Cambry	0.01
Mckenna	0.04	Abbie	0.02	Addilyn	0.01	Abbey	0.01
Shaylie	0.04	Shailee	0.02	Sierra	0.01	Sidney	0.01
Meg	0.04	Elsie	0.02	Kaylee	0.01	Kiley	0.01
Quincy	0.04	Charity	0.02	Aimee	0.01	Kelli	0.01
Brynnlee	0.04	Breeann	0.02	Brandee	0.01	Skye	0.01
Ambree	0.04	Kenna	0.02	Millie	0.01	Shalise	0.01
Cozette	0.04	Celeste	0.02	Ashlyn	0.01	Lainee	0.01
Haylee	0.03	Haylie	0.02	Kiersten	0.01	Kali	0.01
Brylee	0.03	Kimberli	0.02	Tausha	0.01	Liv	0.01
Hadlie	0.03	Ellie	0.02	Calli	0.01	Gracie	0.01

Table 2 (continued)

Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT
Cambria	0.03	Lacie	0.02	Tiffanie	0.01	Whitley	0.01
Kylee	0.03	Paislee	0.02	Annika	0.01	Cali	0.01
Jacee	0.03	Maylee	0.02	Jaycie	0.01	Jenica	0.01
Nayvie	0.03	Rachelle	0.02	Rilee	0.01	Dayna	0.01
Eliza	0.03	Emmalee	0.02	Mckenzi	0.01	Tami	0.01
Aubrey	0.03	Sydney	0.02	Cedar	0.01	Collette	0.01
Mckenzie	0.03	Kenlee	0.02	Abby	0.01	Marlee	0.01
Jaycee	0.03	Kalli	0.02	Maddison	0.01	Haley	0.01
Ashlee	0.03	Lacey	0.02	Alex	0.01	Nikole	0.01
Camilla	0.03	Shaylyn	0.02	Alisha	0.01	Kristy	0.01
Bentley	0.03	Shae	0.02	Mandi	0.01	Tamera	0.01
Amberlee	0.03	Ashlie	0.02	Beth	0.01	Sophie	0.01
Indie	0.03	Alisa	0.02	Kamry	0.01	Bethany	0.01
Rylee	0.03	Mylee	0.02	Stacie	0.01	Brinnley	0.01
Shalee	0.03	Elise	0.02	Stevie	0.01	Mandy	0.01
Ember	0.03	Makenzie	0.02	Lindsey	0.01	Swayzee	0.01
Kambrie	0.03	Emery	0.02	Rylie	0.01	Anistyn	0.01
Brecklyn	0.03	Tessa	0.02	Paityn	0.01	Emma	0.01
Mckinlee	0.03	Shanna	0.02	Audrey	0.01	Shelby	0.01
Hailee	0.03	Indy	0.02	Kaylie	0.01	Brianne	0.01
Kallie	0.03	Jovi	0.02	Lindy	0.01	Kortney	0.01
Whitney	0.03	Kapri	0.02	Kellie	0.01	Hillary	0.01
Sydney	0.03	Addie	0.02	Macee	0.01	Shawnee	0.01
Kennadee	0.03	Paizley	0.02	Kinley	0.01	Misty	0.01
Macady	0.03	Lexie	0.02	Jamie	0.01	Karly	0.01
Mckinley	0.03	Katie	0.02	Alyson	0.01	Hazel	0.01
Kimberlee	0.03	Carlee	0.02	Sunny	0.01	Taryn	0.01
Paizlee	0.03	Arikka	0.02	Hayley	0.01	Ginger	0.01
Kamille	0.03	Hinckley	0.02	Kirsten	0.01	Adison	0.01
Sadie	0.03	Mckall	0.02	Sicily	0.01	Cortney	0.01
Jentry	0.03	Shalayne	0.02	Jayne	0.01	Leslee	0.01
Natalee	0.03	Gracee	0.02	Ruth	0.01	Alexis	0.01
Ivie	0.03	Emmaline	0.02	Danika	0.01	Natasha	0.01

Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT
Emree	0.03	Harlee	0.02	Jayden	0.01	Kelsey	0.01
Kaylene	0.03	Ali	0.02	Shayli	0.01	Autumn	0.01
Jane	0.03	Breanne	0.02	Marinda	0.01	Angie	0.01
Karlee	0.03	Carlie	0.02	Jolynn	0.01	Halli	0.01
Shaelynn	0.03	Cori	0.02	Makenna	0.01	Mandie	0.01
Brittney	0.03	Rebekah	0.02	Aubri	0.01	Jade	0.01
Bailee	0.03	Chantelle	0.02	Baylie	0.01	Danica	0.01
Shaelee	0.03	Tamra	0.02	Nellie	0.01	Harmony	0.01
Mindee	0.03	Emilie	0.02	Kambria	0.01	Jolene	0.01
Lyndee	0.03	Lacee	0.02	Kathryn	0.01	Melinda	0.01
Annalee	0.03	Kaizlee	0.02	Kamri	0.01	Amie	0.01
Navie	0.03	Brielle	0.02	Mercedes	0.01	Kayleen	0.01
Aubrie	0.03	Shay	0.02	Lexi	0.01	Emry	0.01
Berkley	0.03	Chelsie	0.02	Cecily	0.01	Ashlynn	0.01
Kaydee	0.03	Ranae	0.02	Adalyn	0.01	Addison	0.01
Brynn	0.03	Brexlee	0.02	Trista	0.01	Jacie	0.01
Jenessa	0.03	Adelaide	0.02	Sharee	0.01	Lyndsie	0.01
Kaycee	0.03	Carli	0.02	Tiffany	0.01	Adilyn	0.01
Cambrie	0.02	Kassidy	0.02	Elli	0.01	Sally	0.01
Tawni	0.02	Cambri	0.02	Skylie	0.01	Ryann	0.01
Alta	0.02	Penny	0.02	Codi	0.01	Esther	0.01
Brynli	0.02	London	0.02	Tayzlee	0.01	Jessica	0.01
Taya	0.02	Cassie	0.02	Andelyn	0.01	Brynnley	0.01
Hailey	0.02	Hollie	0.02	Eden	0.01	Kamrie	0.01
Annie	0.02	Hadley	0.02	Wendy	0.01	Jackie	0.01
Bentlee	0.02	Chelsey	0.02	Brooklyn	0.01	Merilee	0.01
Preslee	0.02	Jaylee	0.02	Rachael	0.01	Avonlea	0.01
Jennica	0.02	Megan	0.02	Kailee	0.01	June	0.01
Kelsie	0.02	Karma	0.02	Sydney	0.01	Maggie	0.01
Cosette	0.02	Brittanie	0.02	Bryndee	0.01	Mylie	0.01
Kamie	0.02	Scout	0.02	Kodi	0.01	Darcy	0.01
Kate	0.02	Ivy	0.02	Julianne	0.01	Mackenzie	0.01
Kambri	0.02	Elle	0.02	Kori	0.01	Lara	0.01
						Shantell	0.01

Table 3: Male Names in Utah from 1962 to 2020 That Comprised an Average of 1 Percent or Greater of US Names

Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT
Mckay	0.4	Tate	0.03	Davis	0.02	Rylee	0.01
Dallin	0.34	Jens	0.03	Bentley	0.02	Brennen	0.01
Hyrum	0.32	Beckham	0.03	Milo	0.02	Sawyer	0.01
Rulon	0.26	Burke	0.03	Chance	0.02	Walker	0.01
Stockton	0.25	Jayden	0.03	Darin	0.02	Nolan	0.01
Ammon	0.24	Corbin	0.03	Brexton	0.02	Jeffery	0.01
Jarom	0.24	Jaron	0.03	Gabe	0.02	Holden	0.01
Kimball	0.22	Cutler	0.03	Cooper	0.02	Rustin	0.01
Alma	0.2	Tytan	0.03	Dustin	0.02	Rick	0.01
Bridger	0.19	Dallas	0.03	Mason	0.02	Bryant	0.01
Brigham	0.19	Ty	0.03	Judd	0.02	Rylan	0.01
Talmage	0.18	Bryson	0.03	Travis	0.02	Colt	0.01
Sione	0.17	Rex	0.03	Levi	0.02	Eli	0.01
Parley	0.16	Ledger	0.03	Broc	0.02	Eldon	0.01
Cache	0.16	Tyrel	0.03	Merrill	0.02	River	0.01
Dallan	0.16	Hagen	0.03	Miles	0.02	Clinton	0.01
Dallen	0.14	Trent	0.03	Trey	0.02	Teegan	0.01
Bracken	0.14	KC	0.03	Oaks	0.02	Makay	0.01
Tayson	0.13	Preston	0.03	Seth	0.02	Packer	0.01
Tevita	0.13	Kasey	0.03	Jefferson	0.02	Dillon	0.01
Daxton	0.12	Camron	0.03	Hazen	0.02	Jax	0.01
Moroni	0.11	Trever	0.03	Linkin	0.02	Kole	0.01
Jaren	0.11	Stratton	0.03	Brennon	0.02	Bradon	0.01
Korver	0.11	Stryder	0.03	Landen	0.02	Dirk	0.01
Porter	0.1	Korbin	0.03	Lynn	0.02	Paden	0.01
Mckade	0.1	Tanner	0.03	Mitchell	0.02	Adam	0.01
Nephi	0.1	Ridge	0.03	Shayden	0.02	Dawson	0.01
Dallon	0.09	Brecken	0.03	Kip	0.02	Treysen	0.01
Kade	0.09	Val	0.03	Kaleb	0.02	Riggs	0.01
Thayne	0.09	Enoch	0.03	Karter	0.02	Dyson	0.01
Kayden	0.09	Reed	0.03	Kelby	0.02	Warren	0.01

Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT
Kyson	0.09	Trevin	0.03	Deegan	0.02	Dayton	0.01
Tyson	0.08	Kason	0.03	Cassidy	0.02	Alex	0.01
Kaden	0.08	Beck	0.03	Sheldon	0.02	Jon	0.01
Ryker	0.08	Morgan	0.03	Kirt	0.02	Karsen	0.01
Heber	0.08	Trenton	0.03	Treyden	0.02	Lyle	0.01
Krew	0.07	Boyd	0.03	Jordan	0.02	Ike	0.01
Boston	0.07	Payson	0.03	Garrett	0.02	Ethan	0.01
Layne	0.07	Lane	0.02	Tad	0.02	Van	0.01
Jed	0.07	Cannon	0.02	Mathew	0.02	Nickolas	0.01
Rockwell	0.07	Cayden	0.02	Branden	0.02	Diesel	0.01
Taggart	0.07	Skylar	0.02	Jamison	0.02	Brennan	0.01
Jaxton	0.06	Wyatt	0.02	Brandon	0.02	Zack	0.01
Brayden	0.06	Colten	0.02	Tysen	0.02	Karston	0.01
Taysom	0.06	Chandler	0.02	Zackery	0.02	Will	0.01
Treyson	0.06	Coby	0.02	Mac	0.02	Alec	0.01
Mccoy	0.06	Heston	0.02	Jameson	0.02	Garth	0.01
Glade	0.06	Kelly	0.02	Isaac	0.02	Lewis	0.01
Shad	0.06	Tayden	0.02	Siaosi	0.02	Nick	0.01
Stetson	0.06	Hinckley	0.02	Grant	0.02	Koen	0.01
Weston	0.06	Kaiden	0.02	Jory	0.02	Stuart	0.01
Tage	0.06	Kolter	0.02	Brent	0.02	Brant	0.01
Rhett	0.06	Kory	0.02	Brodie	0.02	Brendon	0.01
Jaxon	0.06	Trevor	0.02	Marshall	0.02	Luke	0.01
Bronson	0.05	Semisi	0.02	Logan	0.01	Cash	0.01
Cade	0.05	Zane	0.02	Kendall	0.01	Matt	0.01
Colter	0.05	Keaton	0.02	Bronx	0.01	Rowdy	0.01
Taft	0.05	Jensen	0.02	Jacob	0.01	Jayce	0.01
Kanyon	0.05	Blaine	0.02	Vance	0.01	Caiden	0.01
Brody	0.05	Bode	0.02	Houston	0.01	Ian	0.01
Kayson	0.05	Cole	0.02	Jackson	0.01	Conrad	0.01
Daxon	0.05	Cory	0.02	Kael	0.01	Micah	0.01
Viliami	0.05	Mackay	0.02	Paxton	0.01	Jonas	0.01
Dax	0.05	Braeden	0.02	Dallyn	0.01	Jeff	0.01

Table 3 (continued)

Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT
Braydon	0.05	Trevan	0.02	Deven	0.01	Jones	0.01
Skyler	0.05	Nash	0.02	Jett	0.01	Forrest	0.01
Kaysen	0.05	Krue	0.02	Tavin	0.01	Asher	0.01
Canyon	0.05	Gordon	0.02	Kenyon	0.01	Dylan	0.01
Braiden	0.05	Beau	0.02	Bo	0.01	Emerson	0.01
Jaden	0.05	Casey	0.02	Sam	0.01	Ezra	0.01
Oakley	0.05	Kameron	0.02	Ender	0.01	Bruce	0.01
Brighton	0.05	Titan	0.02	Duncan	0.01	Cortney	0.01
Kolby	0.05	Bodee	0.02	Zachary	0.01	Douglas	0.01
Kody	0.04	Kache	0.02	Hayze	0.01	Drake	0.01
Braxton	0.04	Brandt	0.02	Curtis	0.01	Tait	0.01
Jace	0.04	Gavin	0.02	Ben	0.01	Joshua	0.01
Kelton	0.04	Kent	0.02	Sage	0.01	Carsen	0.01
Brady	0.04	Jade	0.02	Grey	0.01	Taylor	0.01
Beckam	0.04	Clint	0.02	Kolten	0.01	Cael	0.01
Kyler	0.04	Braxten	0.02	Trevyn	0.01	Xander	0.01
Jared	0.04	Max	0.02	Shem	0.01	Kysen	0.01
Braden	0.04	Lance	0.02	Daren	0.01	Jaxen	0.01
Easton	0.04	Quade	0.02	Blair	0.01	Jeremy	0.01
Helaman	0.04	Carter	0.02	Kooper	0.01	Stewart	0.01
Briggs	0.04	Branson	0.02	Maverik	0.01	Cedar	0.01
Lorin	0.04	Taysen	0.02	Corbyn	0.01	Davin	0.01
Benson	0.04	Bret	0.02	Drew	0.01	Jagger	0.01
Teancum	0.04	Kaladin	0.02	Conner	0.01	Griffin	0.01
Nixon	0.04	Shaun	0.02	Gideon	0.01	Jaydon	0.01
Britton	0.04	Jake	0.02	Jess	0.01	Hudson	0.01
Colby	0.04	Dane	0.02	Dalan	0.01	Dan	0.01
Sterling	0.04	Monson	0.02	Payton	0.01	Axton	0.01
Clark	0.04	Remington	0.02	Clayton	0.01	Kalin	0.01
Talon	0.04	Collin	0.02	Tegan	0.01	Erik	0.01
Brigg	0.04	Chad	0.02	Cohen	0.01	Reggie	0.01
Chet	0.04	Devin	0.02	Soren	0.01	Bodie	0.01

Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT	Name	Prop. In UT
Colton	0.04	Mack	0.02	Anders	0.01	Don	0.01
Crue	0.04	Clay	0.02	Calvin	0.01	Darren	0.01
Parker	0.04	Brett	0.02	Tayton	0.01	Rusty	0.01
Tyler	0.04	Ashton	0.02	Rory	0.01	Riggins	0.01
Riley	0.04	Zackary	0.02	Kurtis	0.01	Dash	0.01
Cody	0.04	Ryken	0.02	Kirk	0.01	Mikel	0.01
Quinn	0.04	Ephraim	0.02	Damon	0.01	Maxwell	0.01
Kolton	0.04	Braedon	0.02	Brad	0.01	Craig	0.01
Carson	0.04	Bowen	0.02	Tucker	0.01	Karl	0.01
Truman	0.03	Kasen	0.02	Bronco	0.01	Ross	0.01
Karson	0.03	Austin	0.02	Rocky	0.01	Caleb	0.01
Devan	0.03	Hayden	0.02	Corban	0.01	Ryder	0.01
Caden	0.03	Ruger	0.02	Koda	0.01	Greg	0.01
Brock	0.03	Kru	0.02	Quinton	0.01	Jakob	0.01
Mckoy	0.03	Shay	0.02	Brixton	0.01	Rafe	0.01
Jedediah	0.03	Treven	0.02	Zakary	0.01	Leland	0.01
Lincoln	0.03	Brooks	0.02	Payden	0.01	Kai	0.01
Taylor	0.03	Shayne	0.02	Ren	0.01	Dean	0.01
Landon	0.03	Chase	0.02	Gage	0.01	Zachery	0.01
Dee	0.03	Jayson	0.02	Trace	0.01	Shawn	0.01
Jaxson	0.03	Coleman	0.02	Trayson	0.01	Coen	0.01
Bryton	0.03	Kim	0.02	Kacey	0.01		
Tyce	0.03	Todd	0.02	Oliver	0.01		

The US and Utah names were converted into a series of variables to make them appropriate for data mining. More specifically, they were transformed into bigrams and trigrams, that is, a series of two- and three-letter sequences. As an example, consider the name *Brian*. It is first surrounded by hash marks to delimit the beginning and end of the name (*#brian#*). Starting from the left, the first set of two letters is *#b*. The next bigram is made by shifting one letter to the right and choosing the next two-letter combination—*br*. The remaining bigrams

are *ri*, *ia*, and, *n#*. The trigrams are formed in a similar way resulting in *#br*, *bri*, *ria*, *ian*, *an#*. This left-to-right alignment allows letters at the beginning of the names to be aligned for comparison. In contrast, right-to-left alignment allows name endings to be examined. These are made in a right-to-left fashion (bigrams: *n#*, *an*, *ia*, *ri*, *br*, *#b*; trigrams: *an#*, *ian*, *bri*, *#br*). Ten letters in each name were encoded. This resulted in a series of fifty-nine variables for each word along with an output variable that indicated whether the name belonged to the US or Utah data set. Two machine learning algorithms were applied to the male and female US and Utah data sets.¹⁹

2.1 Results of Utah and US Name Comparison

The idea behind using data mining techniques was to determine what set of trigrams or bigrams of letters distinguish Utah from US names. Neither algorithm was able to separate male Utah names from male US names based on any of the letter combinations. However, a number of variables were extracted for the female Utah names (table 4). What the letter combinations *-ee*, *-ie*, and *-y* have in common is that they all represent the sound [i]. Moreover, names beginning in *Sha-* are about twice as common in Utah names since there are twenty-three in Utah and only twelve in the US. Names beginning with *Mc-* are not found among US names with a frequency of one hundred or more.

3. Methodology for Utah Naming Patterns

While the data mining results indicate some initial patterns in Utah names, they have two drawbacks. First, they are based on spelling, not

19. William Cohen, "Fast Effective Rule Induction," in *Machine Learning Proceedings 1995*, ed. Armand Prieditis and Stuart Russell (Lake Tahoe, CA: Morgan Kaufmann, 1995), 115–23; Geoffrey Holmes et al., "Multiclass Alternating Decision Trees," in *European Conference on Machine Learning*, ed. T. Mannila and H. Toivonen (Berlin: Springer, 2002), 162–72, https://doi.org/10.1007/3-540-36755-1_14

Table 4: Letter Combinations Typical of Utah Female Names

Letter Combinations	Example	Number of Utah Names	Number of US Names
Word Final <i>-ee</i>	<i>Kaylee</i>	97	13
Word Final <i>-ie</i>	<i>Wendie</i>	86	50
Word final <i>-y</i>	<i>Candy</i>	143	82
Word Initial <i>Mc-</i>	<i>McKell</i>	13	0
Word Initial <i>Sha-</i>	<i>Sharee</i>	23	12

sound patterns, and second, they give no indication of trends across time. More specifically, they cannot address the question of what names become popular first in Utah, then spread in popularity in the rest of the country. In order to answer these questions, the 5,154 names used in the data mining were searched for in the total data set of 12,809 quasi first occurrence names. Of the 5,154 names, 930 were of such low frequency that they were not found among the 12,809, resulting in a smaller set of 4,224 names used to investigate naming patterns. For the analysis of these names, however, the measure of frequency was the popularity of the name per capita. The number of names given to children in each year from 1962 to 2020 was divided by the Utah and US populations. For example, in 2011 the population of Utah was about 2.8 million and fourteen *Alicias* were born, meaning that there were five *Alicias* per million in Utah. In that same year, the US population was 312 million and 1,201 children were christened *Alicia* in the country for a smaller 3.89 *Alicias* per million.

3.1 Results for Utah Naming Patterns

Consider all the variants of the name *Brittany* (i.e., *Britney*, *Brittani*, *Brittanie*, *Brittny*) in table 5, which only shows frequencies of one in one million or greater. *Brittany* first reached a one per million frequency in the US in 1971. As the table illustrates, in all of the variant spellings, the name first gained popularity in Utah, and then later it caught on

Table 5: Popularity of *Brittany* Variants in Utah and the US

Frequency per Million	Brittany		Britney		Brittani		Brittanie		Brittny	
	US	Utah	US	Utah	US	Utah	US	Utah	US	Utah
1971	1									
1972	1	7								
1973	1									
1974	1	5								
1975	2	17		8						
1976	2	12		19						
1977	2	14		19						
1978	3	17		16						
1979	4	19	1	19		28		5		
1980	6	26	1	25		17				5
1981	7	23	1	29		4		4		
1982	13	14	1	28		7		3		
1983	19	13	2	28	1	11				
1984	32	25	2	23	1	12		5		
1985	65	13	4	30	2	9	1	11	1	
1986	85	15	6	22	3	14	1	11	1	
1987	92	11	7	30	3	9	1	5	1	
1988	109	15	9	28	4	9	1	4	1	3
1989	153	16	10	26	5	12	2	6	1	3
1990	146	7	9	34	5	8	2	4	2	4
1991	115	16	7	28	4	11	2	6	1	
1992	97	9	6	37	3	4	1	6	1	4
1993	84	16	5	19	3	7	1	5	1	
1994	72	10	4	31	2	10	1	4	1	3
1995	62	17	3	29	2	9	1	4		
1996	51	17	3	28	2	9	1	4		
1997	42	16	2	26	1	6	1	3		
1998	36	13	2	38	1	6				
1999	28	19	5	39	1	4				
2000	18	10	9	30	1	3				
2001	10	13	6	31		7				

Frequency per Million	Brittany		Britney		Brittani		Brittanie		Brittney	
	US	Utah	US	Utah	US	Utah	US	Utah	US	Utah
2002	7	10	5	32			3			
2003	5	10	3	27						
2004	5	10	3	26			3			
2005	4	11	2	24						
2006	3	6	2	24			2			
2007	3	10	2	23						
2008	3	5	1	21			2			
2009	2	5	1	20						
2010	2	8	1	15						
2011	2	6	1	14						
2012	2	8	1	16						
2013	2	5	1	16						
2014	2	8	1	15						
2015	2	4	1	13						
2016	2	3		12						
2017	1	3		13						
2018	1	3		9						
2019	1	2		5						
2020	1	2		6						

in the rest of the country. It is important to note that the popularity of the name Britney was established in Utah before Britney Spears gained fame in the late 1990s. In any event, a similar pattern can be found for 337 names in which Utah was the trendsetter (table 6). It is important to note that not all names have a trajectory that spans several decades. For example, *River* appears in Utah at three per million in 2004, and the next year its popularity in the rest of the country reaches one per million. There are, of course, many names where Utah follows the national trajectory. Perhaps the best explanation for baby names to gain popularity in Utah and then spread outward is due to Utah's high birthrate

Table 6: Names Popular in Utah before Becoming Popular in the Rest of the US, 1962–2020.

Abigale	Baylor	Deena	Jacque	Kianna	Marigold	Sadie
Abrielle	Bentley	Deja	Jaidyn	Kimber	Marin	Saige
Ada	Bernadette	Delaney	Jalen	Kinzley	Marissa	Saoirse
Adaline	Birdie	Denice	Janae	Kip	Marlie	Sariah
Adalyn	Blakely	Destiney	Janell	Kirra	Marshall	Sasha
Adalynn	Blythe	Devin	Jasmyn	Kirsten	Mason	Sawyer
Addalynn	Bobbie	Diann	Jaycie	Kloe	Maycee	Scottie
Addisyn	Brandi	Dina	Jaylynn	Kya	Mazie	Shae
Adelaide	Brandy	Eleanora	Jazmine	Kylah	Mckayla	Shana
Adelynn	Breanna	Elena	Jeanine	Kyleigh	Mckenna	Shandra
Adison	Brianna	Elinor	Jeannie	Kylie	Mckenzie	Shanell
Adyson	Brieanna	Elly	Jenifer	Lacey	Mckinley	Shantell
Alayna	Britney	Elodie	Jenna	Lacy	Mckinzie	Sharee
Aleena	Brittani	Emalee	Jeremy	Laurie	Melia	Shelbie
Alex	Brittanie	Emberly	Jerrica	Laylah	Michaela	Shellee
Alexys	Brittany	Emery	Jess	Lennox	Mika	Sherri
Ali	Brittny	Emilia	Jocelynn	Lenora	Millie	Sherrie
Alisha	Brookelyn	Emilie	Joselyn	Lesli	Misty	Shyann
Alora	Brooklyn	Emmaline	Kacey	Leticia	Mona	Sienna
Alysha	Brylie	Emmalyn	Kadence	Lexi	Mylee	Siera
Alysia	Brynn	Emmie	Kai	Lexie	Name	Skyler
Amber	Camden	Emmy	Kaili	Lindsay	Natalee	Sofie
Amberly	Campbell	Erika	Kairi	Lisbeth	Oaklee	Sonja
Amelia	Carlee	Evelynn	Kalli	Liv	Oakley	Stacia
Anastasia	Carri	Evie	Kamille	Logan	Oaklyn	Stephani
Angelique	Celeste	Fawn	Kamryn	Londyn	Oaklynn	Susie
Aniston	Channing	Frankie	Karlee	Loren	Ocean	Suzy
Annabel	Chantell	Gabrielle	Karli	Luella	Olive	Sydni
Annalisa	Charlee	Gage	Karlie	Lyndsay	Opal	Sydney
Annika	Charli	Gayla	Karly	Lyndsey	Patrice	Tabatha
Aranza	Chelsea	Gianni	Karma	Mabel	Paulette	Talia
Ari	Chelsy	Ginny	Kassidy	Mackenzie	Payten	Tami
Aria	Cherie	Glenna	Kassie	Madalyn	Pennie	Tammy

Ashly	Cherise	Gracelynn	Katalina	Madalynn	Penny	Tatiana
Ashton	Chevelle	Gracey	Kaycee	Maddie	Phoenix	Taylor
Ashtyn	Christiana	Haisley	Kayden	Maddison	Quinn	Tegan
Aspen	Chrystal	Hali	Kaylyn	Madilyn	Rae	Terra
Aspyn	Cielo	Harley	Keegan	Madilynn	Randi	Tess
Aubri	Cienna	Hattie	Keeley	Madisen	Raquel	Theresa
Aubrianna	Ciera	Hayden	Keilani	Madison	Raylee	Trista
Aubrie	Cierra	Hilary	Keira	Madisyn	Reece	Tristen
Aubry	Cleo	Holland	Kelcie	Madysen	Rilee	Tyra
Aurelia	Cody	Hunter	Kelsey	Madyson	River	Whitley
Austyn	Cori	Ireland	Kendall	Maisie	Rowen	Windy
Ayva	Corie	Izabelle	Kenley	Makenzi	Rowyn	Winifred
Azalea	Cristal	Jacey	Kenzie	Makenzie	Rudy	Wren
Baylee	Dalary	Jaci	Kerri	Makinley	Rylee	Zella
Baylie	Dani	Jacie	Kerrie	Mari	Ryleigh	Zhavia
						Zoey

of about fifteen babies for every one thousand Utahns.²⁰ The overall US rate is 11.6 per 1000. Of course, particular names catch on first in many states before becoming prevalent nationwide. Only a similar evaluation of all fifty states would ultimately determine if Utah is actually the trendsetter.

3.2 Characteristics of Utah Names

The 4,224 name data set described above is an excellent source to examine Utah naming patterns in more detail. In addition to the trendsetter names in table 6, names were sought that had frequency of at least one per million in the state in any given year, but whose popularity did not reach that level at any point in the rest of the country between 1962 and 2020. This provides a set of 1,013 names that are common in the state,

20. “Birthrate by State 2021,” World Population Review, accessed December 29, 2021, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/birth-rate-by-state>.

Table 7: Common Ethnic Names in Utah

Spanish	Spanish	Arabic	Jewish	Scandinavian	Polynesian
Alba	Mariano	Ahmed	Coen, Cohen	Ander	Kainoa
Alfonso	Marinda	Khalil	Lev	Anders	Kehlani
Alonso	Matias	Malik	Yael	Anderson	Kekoa
Andres	Moises	Mohamed, Mohammed, Muhammad		Bjorn	Keona
Antonio	Mauricio	Samir		Hans	Malea
Diego	Noe	Yusuf		Leif	Malosi
Felipe	Octavio			Monson	Mele
Guadalupe	Oswaldo			Soren	Semisi
Hector	Rafael				Siaosi
Jairo	Rigoberto				Sione
Javier	Rio				Sosaia
Jorge	Santino				
Leonardo	Sergio				
Lisandro	Xavi				
Marcelino	Xavier				

while at the same time excluding low frequency names in Utah. Only samples from these 1,013 names will be presented. Ethnic names appear in table 7. Spellings appear as they were found in the Social Security database.

The presence of Spanish and Polynesian names is not surprising since those groups represent the largest two ethnic minorities in the state. Scandinavian names are also expected; about 12 percent of Utahns claim Scandinavian ancestry, which is the highest density in the US.²¹ These may be considered ethnic heritage names. The names of Arabic and Jewish origin are unexpected since only 0.2 percent of Utahns are

21. "Utah," Wikipedia, accessed December 29, 2021, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah>.

Table 8: Religion-based Names

Bible	Bible	Book of Mormon	LDS Figures
Alijah	Malachi	Helaman	Benson
Amos	Mathew	Jared	Canon
Asher	Matthias	Jarom	Dallon
Cain	Nathaniel	Lehi	Hinckley
Enoch	Nehemiah	Mosiah	Kimball
Esekial	Phineas	Shem	Lorenzo
Isiah	Raphael		Monson
Izak	Ruben		Oaks
Jasher	Samson		Porter
Jedidiah	Sarahi		Rockwell
Jerimiah	Saul		Talmage
Jerusha	Shilo		
Jethro	Silas		
Jonah	Simeon		
Levi	Simon		
Luke	Solomon		

Jewish, and the Arabic population comprises only 0.5 percent of all Utahns.²² A number of these given names, such as *Cohen*, *Anderson*, and *Monson*, are originally surnames.

The majority of Utah adults are Christian (74 percent), and 55 percent are members of the LDS Church.²³ As a result, scriptural names are common in the state (table 8), some of which are given unique spellings. Biblical names are more common than names from the Book

22. Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky, “United States Jewish Population, 2019,” in *American Jewish Year Book 2019*, eds. A. Dashefsky and I. Sheskin (Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2020);, 135–231.; “Utah,” Yalla Count Me In, accessed December 30, 2021, <https://yallacountmein.org/states/utah>.

23. “Major Religions Practiced in Utah,” World Atlas, accessed December 29, 2021, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-the-religious-composition-of-the-adult-population-of-utah.html>.

of Mormon. A few names may possibly be attributed to prominent figures in the LDS Church as well, such as *Benson*, *Hinckley*, *Kimball*, and *Monson*, the surnames of presidents of the LDS Church. Others may be homages to George Q. Cannon, Dallin H. Oaks, Lorenzo Snow, James Talmage, or Porter Rockwell.

Utahns are quite fond of converting surnames into given names, which is evident in the 145 names of this type that are frequent in the state (table 9). Other attested naming patterns include naming children after a variety of objects (e.g., *Hawk*, *Jet*, *Lyric*) and places (e.g., *Rome*, *Seattle*). While abbreviated names such as *Matt*, *Ken*, and *Danny* are often used in familiar settings, the given names that they are derived from generally grace the birth certificates: *Matthew*, *Kenneth*, *Daniel*. In Utah, however, thirty-two abbreviated names are often used as given names.

Table 9: Given Names Based on Surnames, Objects, Places, and Abbreviated Names

Surnames	Surnames	Surnames	Surnames	Common Nouns	Objects/ Places	Abbreviated
Addison	Clinton	Keaton	Neymar	Acacia	Link	Abbi
Adler	Cohen, Coen	Keenan	Nixon	Ace	Lyrik	Al
Ames	Coleman	Kegan	Noble	Amethyst	Mace	Ben
Anderson	Coleson	Kelton	Oakland	Andromeda	Maple	Brad
Archer	Connor	Kelvin	Payson	Aries	Maverick	Cal
Baker	Cruze	Kemper	Pierce	Arrow	Maxim	Dan
Banks	Decker	Kenadee	Porter	Azure	Race	Danny
Baron	Doyle	Kenton	Preslie	Bastion	Sequoia	Son
Barrett	Easton	Kenzington	Quade	Bear	Steel	Evey
Beckham	Emmit	Kenzley	Quincee	Blaze	Stone	Fred
Bennet	Finnegan	Kiefer	Radley	Breezy	Talon	Izzy
Benson	Fisher	Kimball	Ridley	Buck	Zephyr	Jamee
Benson	Fletcher	Knox	Riggin	Cameo	Zeppelin	Jimmie
Bentley	Flynn	Kolby	Riggs	Candy		Joe

Surnames	Surnames	Surnames	Surnames	Common Nouns	Objects/ Places	Abbreviated
Benton	Ford	Kolter	Rockwell	Cash	Places	Josh
Bowen	Forrest	Ledger	Rooney	Chevy	Berlin	Ken
Bowie	Foster	Linkin	Roper	Clarity	Cache	Lizzie
Bradford	Gentry	Lochlan	Rush	Coco	Cairo	Marty
Brady	Gilbert	Locke	Sagan	Cove	Everest	Matt
Brandt	Hadlie	Makady	Schuyler	Flint	Houston	Max
Branson	Hadyn	McKay	Shepard	Havyn	Kenya	Mitch
Brantley	Harris	Madden	Sherman	Hawk	Rome	Nate
Brenner	Harrison	Maddex	Steele	Jet	Scotland	Pete
Bridger	Hartley	Mallori	Stetson	Journie	Seattle	Rob
Brinkley	Hayes	Maxton	Stockton	Jubilee		Rod
Brock	Hinckley	McKell	Stratton	King		Stan
Broderick	Hudsen	McKensie	Sullivan	Lavender		Ted
Brody	Isley	McKinlee	Swayze	Leviathan		Thad
Callahan	Jackson	McKinsey	Taggart			Tuck
Canon	Jacoby	Merrill	Tanner			Wes
Carson	Jagger	Milton	Tesla			Xavi
Carston	Jamison	Mitchell	Theron			
Cash	Jefferson	Monson	Truman			
Chadwick	Jones	Morganne	Turner			
Clifford	Kane	Morris	Walker			
	Karver	Murphy	Wells			
	Keagan	Nash	Weston			

Four pseudo affixes appear in many Utah names (table 10). For example, thirty names end in *-lyn* or its variants *-lynn*, and *-lynne*. In a similar manner, given names ending in *-son* and *-sen* appear in forty names that are popular in the state. Twenty common Utah names are derived from *Mc-* and other alternate spellings such as *Mich-*, *Mac-*, *Mak-*, *Mick-*. Another 46 end in the *r*-colored vowel [ə] that is spelled *-Vr* (*-er*, *-or*, and *-ur*).

Table 10: Names with *-lyn*, *-son*, *Mc-*, and *-er*

<i>-lyn</i>	<i>-son</i>	<i>Mc-</i>	<i>-er</i>	<i>-Vr</i>
Allyn	Addisen, Addison, Adisyn, Adysen	Michaela, Mickayla, Makaela	Abner	Ryler
Ashlyn	Alisson, Alyson	Mckinsey	Ander	Sayler
Avelynn	Anderson	Mckinlee, Mckynlee	Arthur	Spenser
Azlyn	Benson	Mckensie, Mckenzy, Mackenzi	Asher	Tanner
Breklyn	Branson	Mckell, Mckelle, Makelle, Mikelle	Baker	Turner
Brooklynne	Brysen	Mckaylee, Makaylee	Brenner	Tylor
Dallon, Dallyn	Carsen, Carson, Karsen	Mckay, Makay, Mackay	Calder	Viktor
Emberlyn	Cason, Caysen, Kaison, Kason	Mckade	Conner, Connor, Conor, Konner, Konnor	Walker
Emmalin	Coleson, Colson	Macady	Decker	Xavier
Evelynne	Dayson		Evander	Zander
Ezlyn	Dyson		Ever	Zephyr
Flynn	Greysen, Grayson		Fisher	Zyler
Gwendalyn	Harrison		Fletcher	
Jamilyn	Hudsen		Foster	
Janalyn	Jackson		Iker	
Jessalyn	Jameson, Jamison		Jagger	

-lyn	-son	Mc-	-er	-Vr
Jolyn, Jollynn	Jayson		Jasher	
Josslyn	Jefferson		Kemper	
Rosalynn	Kason		Kiefer	
Scotlyn, Scottlyn, Scotlynn	Maddisen		Kristofer, Kristoffer	
Shalyn	Monson		Kyler	
Sharilyn	Nixon		Lavender	
Shaylyn, Shaylynn, Shaylyn	Payson		Ledger	
Taralyn	Stetson		Lester	
	Tayson		Olyver	
	Trayson		Oskar, Oscar	
	Treyson		Porter	
	Wesson		Roper	

Data mining identified names ending in *-ee* and *-ie* as common patterns in Utah names. However, when the name's phonetics are considered, the two most prevalent Utah naming patterns emerge (table 11). Of the 1,013 popular Utah names, 21 percent end in the vowel sound [i]. This vowel appears in forty names ending in *-lee*, *-lie*, and another 173 ending in [i] spelled as *-ee*, *-y*, *-ey*, *-i*, and *-ie* (table 11). The other pattern, which is attested in about 21 percent of Utah names, are those ending in a vowel followed by *n* (*-Vn*).

As the names presented to this point attest, Utahns are fond of applying uniquely spelled names to their children. This may be true elsewhere as well, but that comparison was not made here. In any event, the spelling variants in the Utah data set are principally related to the use of the letters *ae*, *k*, *x*, *y*, and *z* (table 12). The diphthong [eɪ], which is more commonly spelled with *ay* and *a* in English orthography, is represented as *ae* in thirteen names. The letter *k* replaces the more expected *ck* in names such as *Mavrik*, the *ch* in *Malaki*, the *c* in *Klinton* and *Izak*,

Table 11: Names Ending in $-Vn$, $-[i]$, and $-[li]$

$-Vn$	$-Vn$	$-Vn$	$-[i]$	$-[li]$	$-[li]$	
Alden	Corban, Corben, Korben, Korbin	Julian, Julien, Jullian	Paden, Payden	Adrie	Kortni	Amberlee
Allen	Corwin	Kaden, Kaeden	Paetyn	Ambree	Kyrie	Angelee
Alton	Damion	Kamdyn	Payden	Audrie	Lacey	Bentlee, Bentlie
Anton	Damon	Kanyon	Penn	Avary	Laynie	Bexlee
Aron, Arron	Dan	Kaydon	Raiden	Averee	Lehi	Brexlee
Aryan	Daren, Daron	Keagan	Reván	Avie	Lettie	Brilee
Austen	Darrin	Keaton	Rogan	Avree, Avrie	Lexee	Brinklee
Aven	Daven	Keenan	Ruben	Barry	Lindsie, Lyndsee, Lyndsi	Brinnley
Avin	Daxten, Daxtin, Daxton, Daxtyn	Kegan	Ryden	Bode	Lizzie	Brooklee
Axton	Degan	Kellen	Ryken	Bodee	Lonnie, Lonny	Cailee
Baden	Deion	Kelton	Sagan	Bowie	Luci	Finlee
Baron	Deklan	Kelvin	Sebastian	Breezy	Lyndee	Hadlie
Barton	Deven	Ken	Shandon	Brie	Maizee, Maizie, Maizy	Haizlee, Haizley
Bastian	Dillian	Kenton	Shon	Brody	Malarie, Mallori	Hartley
Benton	Donavan, Donovan	Kenyon	Simeon	Bryndee	Malosi	Kaizlee

-Vn	-Vn	-Vn	-Vn	-Vn	-[i]	-[i]	-[li]
Boden	Draven	Kenzington	Simon	Cambri, Cambry, Kambree, Kambri, Kambry	Marty		Kenlee
Bowen	Drayden	Keven	Solomon	Capri	Mayzie		Kinzlee
Braden, Bradon, Braeden,	Easton	Kian	Soren	Casi, Kassi	Mckade		Lauralee
Braydin, Braydon							
Brandan	Emaline	Kieran	Stan	Chandi	Mckensie, Mckenzy, Mackenzi		Lynlee
Braylon	Ethen	Kristian	Stefan	Cheree	Mckinsey		Maelee, Maelie, Mailee, Mailey
Breann, Breeann	Favian	Kyden	Stockton	Chevy	Navi, Navie, Navie		Mckaylee, Makaylee
Breken, Brekken	Finn	Kylian	Stone	Danny	Nery		Mckinlee, Mckynlee
Brenan, Brennan	Finnegan, Finnigan	Kyrsten	Stratton	Denny	Nikolai		Sharlee
Brendan	Fynn	Ladawn	Sullivan	Eli	Quincee, Quincey		Skylee, Skylie
Brenton	Gannon	Landon	Susann	Elli	Ray, Rey		Taisley
Brevan	Glen, Glenn	Lane	Talan	Emmi	Ridley		Tayzlee
Britton	Gordon	Linkin	Talon	Emree, Emri	Rocky		Tylie, Tylee

Table 11 (continued)

-Vn	-Vn	-Vn	-Vn	-Vn	-[i]	-[i]	-[i]
Brixton	Griffin	Lochlan	Taran	Grace, Graci, Graycee	Rodney	Whitlee	
Brogan	Haiden, Haydn	Lucian	Theron	Gregory	Romee	Wrenlee	
Bronwyn	Houston	Lyndon	Thorin	Griffey	Ronnie	Wrenley	
Bryon	Huxton	Madden	Traven	Henry	Rooney	Wylie	
Cain	Ian	Maddisen	Trevan	Indie, Indy	Roxy	Allee	
Callahan	Irvin	Marlon	Tristian, Triston	Izzy	Roy	Aly	
Callan, Callen, Kalin	Jadin, Jaeden	Maryn	Truman	Jacoby, Jakob	Sadee	Amberlee	
Camren, Camron, Kamren	Janean	Maximilian	Tyrone	Jamee	Sarahi	Aisley	
Carden	Jaxon	Maxton	Tytan	Jaycee	Saydie	Avonlea	
Carston, Karsten, Karston	Jaxton	Merlin	Van	Jaymie	Shelbey	Bayley, Bayli	
Cassian	Jayceon	Milton	Waylon	Jentri, Jentry, Gentry	Siaosi	Bradly	
Chayden	Jaydan, Jaydin, Jaydon	Morganne	Weston	Jerry	Sidnee	Brantley	
Clinton, Clinton	Johnathon	Nolan	Wynn	Jimmie	Sonny	Hallee, Halli	
Coleman	Jordann	Norman	Zaden	Journie	Sophee	Hinckley	
Colten, Colton, Koltan, Kolton	Jorden, Jordan	Owen	Zayden	Jovi, Jovie	Stacie	Isileli, Isley	

-Vn	-[i]	-[ij]	-[i]	-[ij]
Zayne	Junie	Steffanie	Jubilee	
Zeppelin	Kacee	Sunnie	Kallee	
	Kamie	Swayze	Kenzlee, Kenzley, Kenzlie	
	Kamree, Kamri	Tiffini	Kyley	
	Kassidee	Tiffiny	Lilee	
	Kayci	Toby	Merrilee	
	Kaydee	Trey	Milly	
	Kenadee,	Trudi	Mollie	
	Kennadee,			
	Kennadie,			
	Kennedie			
	Khloee, Kloee, Kloey	Wendie	Mytie, Milee	
	Kolby	Whitni	Paizley	
	Korey	Zachary	Preslie	
			Nellie	
			Ollie	
			Radley	
			Raelee, Railey	
			Shailee	
			Whitlee	

and the [k] portion of *x* as in *Maksim*. The thirteen instances of *x* in table 12 are difficult to categorize, but the use of *x* seems creative in each instance. As far as *y* is concerned, the fifty cases of distinct spellings involve using it following *a* as in *Jason* > *Jayson* and *Caleb* > *Kayleb* or replacing another vowel such as the *i* in *Brian* > *Bryan* and *Lindon* > *Lyndon*. The twenty-two creative uses of the letter *z* all involve its use to replace *s* as in *Izzabelle* and *Kenzington*.

Table 12. Spelling Variants with the Letters *ae*, *k*, *x*, *y*, and *z*.

ae	k	x	y	z
Michaella, Makaela	Aksel	Bexlee	Alyson	Azlyn
Shaela	Breken, Brekken	Brexlee	Alyx	Ezlyn
Ranae	Breklyn	Lexee	Aysia	Haizlee, Haizley
Raelee	Izik, Izak	Brixton	Braydon	Izaiah
Paetyn	Kache	Daxten, Daxtin, Daxton, Daxtyn	Brynli, Brynlie, Brynnlee, Brynnley	Izik, Izak
Maelee, Maelie	Kairo	Huxton	Bryon	Izzabelle
Larae	Kaison	Jaxon	Brysen	Kaizlee
Kaeden	Kalin	Jaxton	Caysen	Kenzington
Jaeden	Kallee	Jax	Chayden	Kenzlee, Kenzley, Kenzlie
Deserae	Kambree, Kambri, Kambry	Knox	Dallyn	Kinzlee
Braeden	Kamie		Daryl	Maizee, Maizie, Maizy
	Kamree, Kamri		Daxtyn	Mayzie
	Kamren		Drayden	Mckenzy, Mackenzi
	Kannon		Dyson	Paizley
	Kanyon		Fynn	Tayzlee

ae	k	x	y	z
	Karsen		Graycee	
	Karsten, Karston		Havyn	
	Karver		Jaymie	
	Kason		Jayson	
	Kassi		Jaydan, Jaydin, Jaydon	
	Kassidee		Kamdyn	
	Kayleb, Kaleb		Kayleb	
	Klay		Kendyl	
	Klinton		Kyden	
	Kody		Kyler	
	Kolten, Kolton		Kylian	
	Konner, Konnor		Kyrsten	
	Konrad		Lyndon	
	Korben, Korbin		Lyndsee, Lyndsi	
	Kruze		Malynda	
	Lyrík		Mayzie	
	Maksim		Myka	
	Malakai		Myles	
	Markus		Mylie	
	Mavrik		Paetyn	
	Myka, Mikah		Payden	
	Oskar		Payden	
	Viktor		Sayler	
			Tylie, Tylee	
			Tylor	
			Tytan	
			Zayden	
			Zayne	

4. Conclusions

The purpose of this article was to examine some aspects of naming practices in Utah over the past sixty years with quantitative data. The study uncovered a number of names that are more common in Utah than in the other forty-nine states, and those names reflect the ethnic, heritage, and religious groups in the state. Is Utah the baby name innovation state? The idea that some names gain popularity in Utah before spreading to the rest of the country was supported for 337 names. What do unique Utah names have in common? A number of patterns emerge, including using surnames as given names, applying names that begin with *Mc-*, or end in *-lyn*, *-son*, and *-er*. Phonetically, there are two common characteristics of popular Utah names: they either end in the [i] vowel, which is written *-ee*, *ie*, or *-y*, or they end in a vowel followed by *n*. What about the name spellings in the state? Most of the spellings involve uncommon uses of the letters *ae*, *k*, *x*, *y*, and *z*. Some of the most characteristically Utah names combine these features. For instance, *Oaklie* is a surname ending in *-ie*. *Konnor* is a surname ending in *-er* with an unusual initial *K-* as well. *Makenzi* is based on a *Mc-*surname ending in *-i* that contains an unusual *z*.

Fashions and fads are always ephemeral, and this is true for names as well. This is evident in the lack of names like *LaRue* and *LaVelle* that were fashionable Beehive-state names for the pre-1960s generation. Only *Ladawn* appears in the present data set as a remnant of that trend. There is no doubt that future generations will eschew the naming patterns described here for whatever becomes the future naming trend.

DAVID ELLINGSON EDDINGTON {davidellingsoneddington@gmail.com} is an emeritus professor of linguistics at Brigham Young University with a specialty in the Spanish language and Utah dialect. He is the author of *Utahisms* and *Utah English*. He resides on the Mediterranean coast of Spain with his inspiration, and the love of his life, Silvia.