Comparing average rainfall in Seattle and Vancouver

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**Introduction**

The NCAA & intercollegiate landscape is centered mainly in the heart of the United States and the East Coast. The Pacific Northwest (PNW) has an NCAA presence, but it is rather isolated from the rest of the country. From a recruiting standpoint, this means PNW institutions must distinguish themselves from member institutions often on stereotypical PNW attributes. Most commonly, these stereotypes are rainfall and cloudy days.

The PNW, in this case, is being narrowed down to Seattle and Vancouver, BC.

Seattle has two predominant NCAA institutions: University of Washington and Seattle University. Vancouver has two predominant intercollegiate athletics institutions: University of British Columbia (non-NCAA) and Simon Fraser University (NCAA). Recruits who are interested in the PNW with equal offers from all these institutions could make the call on something as simple as "which city experiences more rainfall?".

This study answers that question to help recruiters make informed claims to potential student-athletes.

**The Data**

Two data sets (one for each city) were used in this study. They were downloaded from the [NOAA climate data search page](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/cdo-web/search?datasetid=GHCND). Each data set contains precipitation patterns observed from one station in the city.

Each record in the set has data on the station number, the station name, the date of collection, the amount of precipitation, the amount of snow, and the snow water equivalent. Seattle has four more variables per record, but, this study is only concerned with the station, the date, and the amount of precipitation.

**Analysis Methods**

This study was basic in analysis. After an initial glimpse if the data, I combined both data sets into one file. I then filled in all the days with blank precipitation values with averages based on that day’s precipitation over the years at hand.

No statistical analysis was run in this study. The question could be answered by creating various graphs to visualize what the data show.

**Results**

Vancouver sees more rainfall on average compared to Seattle. Though, this difference is rather insignificant.

A graph with different colored squares

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This graph shows that Vancouver consistently has more rainfall than Seattle. The distributions of rainfall stay relatively proportional between the two cities over a year, too. Notice how small the values are on the y-axis, though.

A graph of a number of points

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This graph shows the distribution of rainfall. Most rainy days have precipitation amounts in within the bounds of each blue box. It is less than 0.1’.

**Conclusion**

Although Vancouver sees more rainfall than Seattle, it is an insignificant amount. I would rather look in to days of sun, if rainfall is the concern for recruiting student athletes outside of the PNW. NCAA institutions in the PNW should look to other distinguishing climate factors other than rainfall.