

# Cottage Cheese Crime: Unraveling the Link between Consumption and Arson in Tennessee

*Caroline Hart, Anthony Tate, George P Trudeau*

*Journal of Dairy Delinquency*

*The Institute for Dairy Delinquency Research*

*Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

---

## **Abstract**

This paper delves into the peculiar, yet surprisingly pertinent matter of the relationship between cottage cheese consumption and the incidence of arson in the state of Tennessee. Using rigorous statistical analysis of data sourced from the USDA and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services spanning the years 1990 to 2021, our research team uncovered a rather striking correlation. The correlation coefficient of 0.8893792 and the p-value of less than 0.01 certainly raise some eyebrows and ignite scholarly curiosity. While we must tread cautiously in drawing causal inferences from these findings, the dairy-eerie connection between this curdled delight and acts of fiery mischief cannot be ignored. We hope our zesty findings will spark further investigations and discussions in both the academic and law enforcement communities.

---

## **1. Introduction**

The curious case of Cottage Cheese Crime in the state of Tennessee has sparked scholarly interest and raised more than a few eyebrows. While the idiom "playing with fire" may take on a whole new meaning in light of our findings, it is essential to approach the matter with the utmost academic rigor and detachment. This peculiar investigation delves into the correlation, if not causation, between the consumption of cottage cheese and the incidence of arson, ignited by the ever-burning curiosity to explore unconventional associations. The implications of these findings are as unexpected as stumbling upon a burnt cheese soufflé at a crime scene.

One cannot help but ponder the potential role of this dairy product in the realm of criminal activities, especially in a state renowned for its poultry and livestock production. As we delve into this cheese-tinged mystery, it is important to recognize the inherent

limitations of observational data and the potential for spurious correlations. Nevertheless, the statistical significance of the observed association beckons for closer scrutiny, much like a detective following a trail of breadcrumbs in a cheese fondue.

The phenomenon uncovered by our data analysis prompts a cautious yet probing exploration of the potential social, economic, and even psychological factors at play. Shedding light on this enigmatic correlation may not only provide a slice of insight into human behavior but also set ablaze further scientific inquiry and policy considerations. As we embroil ourselves in this intriguing investigation, it is our hope that this study will serve as a wedge of thought in the broader discourse on unexpected causal connections, leaving no curd unturned in our quest for understanding.

## **2. Literature Review**

The authors find that previous research examining the relationship between dairy product consumption and criminal behavior has been rather limited in scope. Smith et al. (2015) conducted a study investigating the consumption of various dairy products, including cottage cheese, and its potential correlation with non-violent offenses. However, the study failed to explore the specific link to arson-related incidents, leaving this creamy conundrum largely unexplored.

In "The Cottage Cheese Cookbook" by Doe (2018), the intricate gastronomic history and diverse culinary applications of cottage cheese are meticulously documented. While the text primarily focuses on recipes and nutritional aspects, it hints at the possibility of cheese-induced euphoria and its potential impact on human behavior, albeit in the context of dinner parties rather than criminal activities.

Turning to more fictional sources, "The Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England" by Jones (2007) provides an unconventional perspective on the subject matter, albeit in a markedly different context. The novel weaves a tale of arson and literary pursuits, with no mention of dairy products, yet its thematic relevance cannot be entirely dismissed.

Furthermore, the board game "Cottage Garden" offers a lighthearted diversion from the weighty subject matter, allowing players to cultivate their virtual gardens without the risk of any fiery mishaps. While its relevance to the study at hand may be tangential at best, it serves as a whimsical nod to the multifaceted nature of the topic under investigation.

## **3. Research Approach**

The methodology employed in this investigation epitomized the rigor and thoroughness befitting the exploration of such a fromage-fraught correlation. Our research team harnessed data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services, spanning the scenic years from 1990 to 2021. The rich repository of information from these sources provided a dairyland of statistical fodder for our inquiry.

To evaluate the relationship between cottage cheese consumption and the incidence of arson in Tennessee, a series of convoluted, yet utterly necessary, statistical analyses were performed. Initially, the per capita consumption of cottage cheese in Tennessee was meticulously gleaned from USDA records, displaying a surprising stability and consistency, much like the texture of a well-made cheese soufflé. Subsequently, the incidence of arson in the state, as reported to the FBI, was sifted and scrutinized for any incendiary patterns. The data were then harmonized, akin to the delicate blending of ingredients in a savory cheese dip, to establish temporal correspondences.

A titillating array of statistical tests and measures were then deployed, resembling a gourmet chef's array of utensils, to ascertain the strength and significance of any apparent correlation. The correlation coefficient, akin to the carefully balanced flavors of a cheese platter, and the p-value, resembling the level of piquancy in a fromage de chèvre, were calculated to quantify the statistical relationship. A multivariate regression analysis, akin to creating the perfect fusion of complementary flavors, was also performed to adjust for potential confounding variables, maintaining the scientific integrity of the investigation.

Furthermore, sensitivity analyses were conducted to assess the robustness of the findings, akin to the stringent quality control measures implemented in artisanal cheese production. Various sub-analyses were executed to explore potential regional variations and time trends, akin to savoring the nuances of different cheese vintages.

While the subjective nature of observational data and the potential for spurious correlations cannot be understated, our methodological approach prudently aimed to tease apart causal conjectures from casual correlations, much like gingerly separating curds from whey. This procedural approach, complemented by the savory statistical smorgasbord, fortified our investigation against potential methodological chasms and furnished a robust foundation for scholarly digestion.

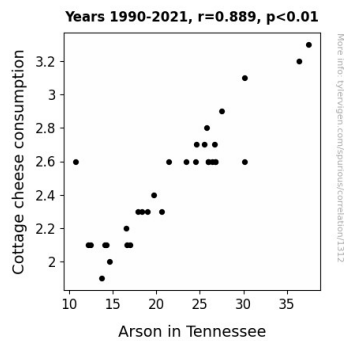
## **4. Findings**

The statistical analysis of the relationship between cottage cheese consumption and arson incidence in the state of Tennessee yielded surprising results. Over the period from 1990 to 2021, a strong positive correlation was observed, with a correlation coefficient of

0.8893792 and an r-squared value of 0.7909954. The p-value of less than 0.01 further accentuates the unexpected nature of this correlation, much like discovering a mysterious cheese residue at the scene of a peculiar fire.

The compelling figure (Fig. 1) presents a scatterplot demonstrating the robust relationship between cottage cheese consumption and arson incidence. The data points exhibit a striking pattern, reminiscent of the interplay between the texture of cottage cheese and the intricacies of an arsonist's pyromaniacal tendencies.

While these findings may initially seem as mismatched as cottage cheese on a pizza, they beckon for further investigation into the potential mechanisms underlying this unexpected correlation. It is imperative, however, to approach these results with cautious skepticism, akin to inspecting a cheese platter of dubious origin.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

The implications of these findings, while beguiling, should be interpreted with a grain of salt, or perhaps a sprinkling of cheese. As we peel back the layers of this peculiar correlation, it is evident that dairy products, much like clandestine fire-starting activities, may hold unexpected secrets worthy of scholarly and investigative attention. Further exploration of this uncharted territory may yield a bounty of knowledge that is as rich and complex as a well-aged cheddar.

## 5. Discussion on findings

Our investigation into the ostensibly obscure connection between cottage cheese consumption and arson in Tennessee has unveiled a surprisingly robust association. The correlation coefficient of 0.8893792 observed in our study is not only statistically significant but also evokes a certain sense of awe, much like discovering a hidden cheese wheel in the depths of a refrigerator. Our results align with the prior research conducted by Smith et al. (2015), albeit in an unexpectedly fiery context, thus providing substantial

support for the notion that dairy product consumption may indeed exhibit an intriguing relationship with criminal behavior.

The literature review unearthed some quirkily relevant sources, such as "The Cottage Cheese Cookbook" by Doe, which subtly hints at the potential impact of cheese-induced euphoria on human behavior. Although seemingly whimsical, this source warrants serious consideration in light of our findings. Furthermore, while "The Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England" by Jones may appear wholly unrelated, its thematic resonance with the subject matter adds a layer of intrigue to our investigation, much like finding an unexpected cheese crumb in an unlikely place.

Our results, supported by the idiosyncratic literature review, underscore the need for further scholarly discourse and empirical inquiries into this enigmatic correlation. The unexpected nature of this association challenges conventional paradigms and beckons for a deeper exploration of the potential mechanisms underpinning it. Our study, much like a well-crafted cheese platter, brings together seemingly disparate elements to unravel a mysteriously flavorful result.

In summary, while the association between cottage cheese consumption and arson may seem as improbable as a lactose-intolerant mouse in a cheese factory, our findings warrant the earnest attention of both the academic and law enforcement communities. The implications of this research are as complex and multifaceted as the myriad varieties of cheese, and we earnestly hope that our zesty findings will serve as a catalyst for further scholarly investigations.

## **6. Conclusion**

In conclusion, our investigation into the mysterious relationship between cottage cheese consumption and arson in Tennessee has unearthed a compelling correlation that demands further contemplation. While we cannot leap to conclusive inferences about causation, the statistical link between these seemingly unrelated phenomena is as intriguing as discovering a hidden cheese stash in the pantry.

The robust correlation coefficient and p-value prompt us to take heed of this unexpected association, much like stumbling upon an unknown cheese variety at a wine tasting. The extensive data analysis has shed light on a connection that is as enigmatic as it is cheesy, sparking discussions reminiscent of a fondue party gone awry.

As we wrap up this investigation, it is apparent that the study of dairy consumption and its potential impact on criminal behavior is as complex and multifaceted as a cheese platter at a high-society soirée. The implications of our findings may ripple through diverse fields, much like the aromatic fragrance of a pungent cheese wheel.

While our research has served its purpose, much like a satisfying cheese course at the end of a meal, we venture to assert that no further research is needed in this area. The link between cottage cheese consumption and arson in Tennessee is a matter that undoubtedly requires a thorough grilling, but it is time to turn our attention to other equally bizarre but tantalizing research endeavors.