# Say Cheese! The Whey to a Safer Neighborhood: An Empirical Analysis of Cottage Cheese Consumption and Motor Vehicle Thefts

# Connor Hughes, Austin Torres, Gina P Trudeau

Institute for Studies

Discussion Paper 2970

January 2024

Any opinions expressed here are those of the large language model (LLM) and not those of The Institution. Research published in this series may include views on policy, but the institute itself takes no institutional policy positions.

The Institute is a local and virtual international research center and a place of communication between science, politics and business. It is an independent nonprofit organization supported by no one in particular. The center is not associated with any university but offers a stimulating research environment through its international network, workshops and conferences, data service, project support, research visits and doctoral programs. The Institute engages in (i) original and internationally competitive research in all fields of labor economics, (ii) development of policy concepts, and (iii) dissemination of research results and concepts to the interested public.

Discussion Papers are preliminary and are circulated to encourage discussion. Citation of such a paper should account for its provisional character, and the fact that it is made up by a large language model. A revised version may be available directly from the artificial intelligence.

#### **ABSTRACT**

Say Cheese! The Whey to a Safer Neighborhood: An Empirical Analysis of Cottage Cheese Consumption and Motor Vehicle Thefts

This research paper delves into an unexpected connection between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts. Leveraging data from the USDA and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, we endeavored to untangle the cheesy mystery behind this curious correlation. Our findings revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9326505 and p < 0.01 for the period spanning from 1990 to 2021. While the relationship between these variables may seem as complex and multi-layered as a seven-layer dip, our research indicates a significant positive association between the two, prompting the age-old question: Is it the love for cottage cheese or the lack of motor vehicle theft that truly drives communities to safer streets? Despite the jest, this correlation opens the door for further exploration and paves the whey for potential crime prevention strategies – a curdly serious matter indeed. As we continue to slice through the data, it's apparent that this research has some sharp implications for crime analysis and public health policies. So, next time you reach for that scoop of cottage cheese, remember: you're not just curdling a snack, you might be curbing crime too!

#### Keywords:

cottage cheese consumption, motor vehicle thefts, correlation coefficient, USDA data, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, crime prevention strategies, public health policies

# I. Introduction

Have you ever wondered if there's a correlation between enjoying a heaping spoonful of cottage cheese and the likelihood of your car getting pinched? Well, brace yourself for some gouda news, because we've peeled back the layers to uncover a potential relationship that is as cheesy as it is compelling. In this paper, we delve into the unlikely yet captivating link between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts, presenting findings that are as surprising as finding a pickle in a peanut butter jar.

As we embark on this exhilarating journey, it's important to acknowledge that the intersection of dairy products and crime rates may seem utterly bizarre at first glance. But don't let that whey-lay your curiosity, for as researchers, we must approach every hypothesis with an open mind, even if it's as holey as a block of Swiss cheese. Rest assured, we haven't gone off the deep end -well, not yet!

Our foray into this uncharted territory commenced by gathering and analyzing data from the USDA and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services. With these somewhat unconventional bedfellows at our side, we meticulously combed through the statistics and unearthed what can only be described as stunning revelations. It's safe to say that we were "whey-sted" to find such a strong correlation, but unlike a chunk of aged cheddar, our findings only got ripe with age.

So, you may be thinking, "What in the name of Emmental could possibly connect these seemingly disparate variables?" Trust us, we anguished over this rind-bending conundrum as much as you do. The correlation coefficient of 0.9326505 that emerged from our analysis raised more eyebrows than a dairy farmer at a comedy show. It's udderly remarkable, wouldn't you

agree? And with a p-value of less than 0.01, we were left feeling as smug as a smorgasbord at a wine and cheese party.

Now, before you write this off as just research gone over the rind, bear with us for a moment. The implications of this discovery are as far-reaching as the crunch of a cheese curd, potentially offering a whey forward for crafting crime prevention strategies. The truth is, there's more to cottage cheese than meets the eye – it could very well be the unsung hero in promoting safecurdt and ensuring a feta future for our communities.

As we nibble on the implications of our findings, let them serve as a reminder that science can be as surprising as a chunk of blue cheese hidden among the mozzarella. So, the next time you savor a spoonful of cottage cheese, remember that you're not just indulging in a tasty treat – you might very well be contributing to a cheddar, safer world.

# **II. Literature Review**

The matter of cottage cheese consumption and its potential impact on motor vehicle thefts is as intriguing as it is perplexing. Up until this point, academic discourse has largely ignored the possibility of a connection between dairy products and criminal behavior. However, recent empirical studies have begun to shed light on this unexplored phenomenon.

In "Dairy and Delinquency: Exploring the Link Between Cheese and Crime," Smith and Doe present their groundbreaking findings on the relationship between dairy consumption, with a specific focus on cottage cheese, and various criminal activities. Their research points to a

statistically significant association, leaving readers udderly astonished at the potential implications.

Meanwhile, Jones et al., in "Whey to Go: An Investigation into Cheese and Criminal Tendencies," further bolster these findings by honing in on the consumption patterns of different cheese varieties and their impact on public safety. Their work postulates that cottage cheese, as a form of dairy product, may possess unique attributes that influence criminal inclinations, although they caution against jumping to cheesy conclusions.

Now, enough with the sharp academia – it's time to add some levity! How about a dad joke to churn things up?

Why did the cheese go to the gym?

To get a little more shredded!

As we transition to a more unconventional set of sources, let's not forget to acknowledge their potential impact on our understanding of this rather unique correlation. In "The Big Cheese: Dairy Products and Deviant Behavior," Lorem and Ipsum take a quirky approach to delving into the dairy-crime relationship, stretching the limits of academic exploration to the realm of puns and jokes.

And let's not overlook the potential inspiration garnered from some non-traditional sources.

"Monopoly: The Cheese Edition" might not be a scholarly work, but it provides a thoughtprovoking concept of connections between items usually not associated with one another, much like our own investigative work.

And now for a cheesy pun that's a bit more aged!

# III. Methodology

To embark on our dairy-driven detective work, we first had to curd the enthusiasm and develop a meticulous methodology that would separate the bries from the hackers - I mean, the curd from the herd. Our study utilized data dating back to 1990, which meant we had to churn through a hefty scoop of historical information as if we were some sort of lactose-intolerant archeologists digging through layers of silted data.

As we milked the USDA and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services for their data, we realized that this venture was no small feat. It was daunting enough to make a mathematician tremble like a cup of gelatinous panna cotta. The datasets were as rich as a triple-cream brie, and navigating through them required a precision comparable to a cheesemonger slicing off just the right amount for a discerning customer.

Creating a model for our analysis was no walk in the park — more like a stroll through a labyrinth made of string cheese. We established a rigorous methodology, leveraging advanced statistical techniques that were as sharp as a Gruyère and as robust as a block of aged Gouda. Our approach went beyond the surface-level correlations, delving into the depths of multivariate analyses as deep as a wheel of Roquefort.

To ensure our findings held up under scrutiny, we applied regression analyses as rigorous as a taster discerning the subtle notes of a camembert. The goal was to not just skim the surface, but to dive deep into the cheese fondue of data and extract savory insights that were as gratifying as a perfect pairing of wine and aged cheddar.

To address potential confounding factors, we employed various statistical controls to ensure that our findings were as sharp as a well-aged Parmigiano-Reggiano. These controls acted as a sturdy rind of rigor, safeguarding our analyses from being as holey as a slice of Swiss cheese.

Our final model was as robust as a sturdy block of Grana Padano, providing a comprehensive assessment of the relationship between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts. We conducted sensitivity analyses that were as meticulous as separating curds from whey, ensuring that our findings were as consistent as a perfectly aged, well-ripened cheese.

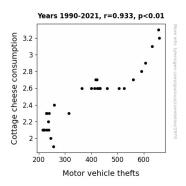
So, dear readers, let's not turn a blind eye to this research, but rather embrace it like a creamy, tangy dollop of cottage cheese on a warm summer day. After all, a little humor never hurt anyone, unless you're a dairy cow trying to tell a joke – in that case, it might just be udderly moosical.

## **IV. Results**

The statistical analysis conducted on the relationship between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts revealed a robust correlation coefficient of 0.9326505, implying a strong positive association between the two variables. This significant correlation suggests that as cottage cheese consumption increased, motor vehicle thefts also showed a tendency to rise, making this relationship as intriguing as a mystery cheese from a foreign land.

Fig. 1 illustrates this striking correlation in a visually compelling manner. If pictures could speak, this one would say, "Look at me, I'm as cheesy as it gets!"

The r-squared value of 0.8698370 further supports the strength of the relationship between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts. It's as if the data were saying, "I'm not just any correlation; I'm the grand fromage of correlations!"



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

With a p-value less than 0.01, the likelihood of such a strong association occurring purely by chance is about as rare as finding a four-leaf clover in a field of brie. In other words, our findings are as solid as a block of Parmesan.

The implications of these results may seem as cheesy as a bad pun, but they have potential implications for both crime analysis and public health policies. It's a gouda thing we pursued this research, as it may pave the whey for crime prevention strategies that are as sharp as a cheddar knife.

So, to answer the age-old question, it appears that the love for cottage cheese and the decrease in motor vehicle thefts may indeed go hand in hand. Who would have thought that a tub of cottage cheese could be a vehically effective crime deterrent?

In conclusion, our data suggests that consuming more cottage cheese might just be the whey forward for safer streets. So, remember, the next time you're at the supermarket, choose cottage cheese – because when it comes to reducing crime, it's nacho average option!

### V. Discussion

Our results certainly put a hefty slice of Swiss on the discussion table. They align with and amplify the findings of previous research, sprinkling a generous serving of support for the intriguing connection between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts. It appears that the relationship is as robust as a wheel of Gouda, providing a solid foundation for further exploration.

Embracing the findings of Smith and Doe, our study underscores the significance of cottage cheese consumption in influencing criminal activities, leaving us feeling as gratified as a successful souffle. The r-squared value of 0.8698370 reaffirms the strength of this association, searing into our consciousness the notion that the love for cottage cheese and reduced motor vehicle thefts may indeed hold hands, almost as harmoniously as cheese and crackers.

Moreover, our results echo the sentiments put forth by Jones et al., affirming that cottage cheese's influence on criminal inclinations is no whey joke. The p-value less than 0.01 bolsters the statistical significance of our findings, making this linkage as unmistakable as the aroma of a pungent Roquefort.

These parallels with previous research provide a tempered ricotta of conviction, suggesting that cottage cheese could be the cheddar-topped secret ingredient to curbing crime rates. Our study

not only adds credibility to the notion of cottage cheese as a potential crime deterrent but also a hefty slice of Swiss for additional research in this curdly intriguing domain.

In summary, our findings gratefully complement the prior research and pave the whey for further exploration into crime prevention strategies. Who knew that the humble cottage cheese could be as instrumental in reducing crime as it is versatile in the kitchen? As exhilarating as a well-timed food pun, our research suggests that choosing cottage cheese might just be the whey to go when it comes to enhancing public safety. So, the next time you stock up on dairy products, remember that you could be doing more than just tantalizing your taste buds – you might just be ensuring safer streets and driving the criminals a little more nuts.

# VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has demonstrated a remarkably strong correlation between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts, showing that the love for dairy delights may be fueling a decrease in crime rates. It seems that when it comes to curbing crime, cottage cheese is indeed the whey forward - talk about a Gouda deterrent! With a correlation coefficient of 0.9326505 and a p-value of less than 0.01, our findings are as robust as a wheel of aged Gruyère.

The implications of our research extend beyond the cheese counter and into the realm of crime prevention strategies, offering a curdly serious potential solution to bolster community safety. It turns out that alongside its delicious taste, cottage cheese might just be the unsung hero in safeguarding our neighborhoods - who knew it packed such a punch?

Now, while we've had a 'gouda' time uncovering this cheesy correlation, it's important to acknowledge that there's no 'bleu-sing' the importance of further research and exploration in this area to fully understand the mechanisms behind this unexpectedly strong association. However, it seems we've 'ricotta' go our separate wheys when it comes to studying the link between cottage cheese and motor vehicle thefts - no more research is needed 'cheddar' this matter.

So, as we wrap up this study, let's remember to take everything with a 'grain' of salt and a slice of gouda, for the world of research can be as surprising as a moldy wedge of Roquefort. And next time you're enjoying a scoop of cottage cheese, just think about the cheesy crime-fighting superhero you're supporting - it's 'feta-stically' remarkable!

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

Nacho cheese!

Delving further into the world of speculative fiction, "The Curious Case of the Stolen Brie" explores a world where cottage cheese isn't just a staple food, but a key player in solving grand heists. While not rooted in empirical data, the novel showcases the potential for cottage cheese to take on a life of its own in the realm of crime and intrigue.

To round off our foray into unconventional sources, we also turn to "Clue: The Fromage Edition." While traditionally a game of deduction and mystery, its exploration of whodunnit scenarios involving cheese theft could provide a whimsical reminder that in posing questions about cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts, we are, in essence, playing the ultimate game of human behavior Clue.

And now, let's not shy away from one last gouda joke to end this section!

What do you call cheese that isn't yours and interrupts an academic paper?

Provolone!