



ELSEVIER



# Cheese It! The Curd Connection: A Whey to Reduce Vehicular Theft in the Hoosier State

Charlotte Hall, Austin Travis, Gavin P Tate

Institute of Advanced Studies; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## KEYWORDS

cottage cheese consumption, motor vehicle theft, Indiana, United States Department of Agriculture, USDA data, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, cheese consumption and crime rates

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## Abstract

In this paper, we investigate a peculiar yet tantalizing link between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts in the state of Indiana. Utilizing data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, we sought to answer the burning question: does the consumption of cottage cheese impact the incidence of motor vehicle thefts in Indiana? Our findings reveal a surprising correlation, with a coefficient of 0.8941759 and p-value less than 0.01 for the period spanning 1990 to 2021. While our results may initially seem cheesy, they shed light on the potential influence of dairy comestibles on criminal behavior. We discuss potential mechanisms for this association, including the "curd effect" and "moo-d swings." Our study provides an appealing blend of empirical analysis and dairy-related humor, as we endeavor to stir the pot and churn out a gouda understanding of the interplay between cheese consumption and crime rates.

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## 1. Introduction

### INTRODUCTION

The relationship between diet and crime has long been a topic of curiosity for scholars and enthusiasts alike. While the influence of socioeconomic factors, access to education, and community dynamics on criminal

behavior has been extensively studied, the potential impact of specific food consumption on crime rates remains a rather novel area of exploration. In the present study, we embark on a journey to uncover the fascinating and, dare we say, brie-lieve it or not, rather gouda relationship between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts in the state of Indiana.

As an appetizing introduction to our investigation, it is worth noting that the state of Indiana holds a special place in the hearts (and stomachs) of dairy enthusiasts. Known for its robust agricultural industry and renowned for its dairy delicacies, Indiana boasts a prodigious production of cheese, including the beloved cottage variety. However, amid the bucolic pastoral scenes and bucolic cheese factories, lurks a rather unexpected statistic – the incidence of motor vehicle thefts in the Hoosier State.

Amidst this rather, dare I say, cheesy backdrop, our study sought to delve into the potential nexus between cottage cheese consumption and the rates of motor vehicle theft. With the aid of data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, we meticulously probed the question: Could the consumption of cottage cheese be linked to the number of motor vehicle thefts in Indiana?

Now, let's not curdle our enthusiasm just yet. Our empirical analysis revealed a compelling correlation, with a coefficient that made statisticians say, "Whoa, that's a gouda one!" Our findings not only passed the smell test but also bore fruit, with a p-value that was sharper than a Parmesan grater. While our results may initially seem a bit "cheesy," we promise they are not just a figment of our imagination – they are as real as cheddar on a charcuterie board.

As we embark on this rather unconventional exploration, our study beckons us to ponder the potential mechanisms underlying the curiously tantalizing correlation we unveiled, including the so-called "curd effect" and the curiously whimsical notion of "moo-d swings." While we tread the fine line between empirical rigor and dairy-related humor, we take pride in offering a study that marries scholarly inquiry with a hint of Edam entertainment. As we slice through the myriad layers of this unique relationship, our aim is to churn out a gouda understanding

of the interplay between cottage cheese consumption and crime rates.

So, dear reader, buckle up and brace yourself for a journey through the whey-ward alleys of dairy-based criminology. With cheese as our guide, we endeavor to feta light on this rather unexpected connection, stirring the pot of academic discourse with a dash of dairy-related whimsy along the whey. After all, in the realm of academic research, not every topic is as gouda as this one.

## 2. Literature Review

The relationship between dietary intake and criminal behavior has garnered increasing attention in academic circles, with scholars seeking to uncover the potential influence of food consumption on crime rates. While the majority of research has focused on broad dietary patterns and their impact on various types of criminal activities, a unique and, dare I say, "brie-liant" investigation into the specific consumption of cottage cheese and its association with motor vehicle thefts in Indiana has captured the imagination of researchers and cheese enthusiasts alike.

In their groundbreaking work, Smith and Doe (2015) delved into the intriguing world of dairy-based criminology, shedding light on the potential links between cheese consumption and criminal behavior. Their study, aptly titled "Dairy Delinquency: Exploring the Cheese-Crime Nexus," laid the foundation for subsequent inquiries into the influence of dairy products on unlawful activities. As their findings traversed the realm of dairy anecdotes and statistical revelations, it became evident that the "whey" we perceive food could significantly impact criminal conduct.

Jones et al. (2018) expanded upon this line of inquiry by examining the specific relationship between cottage cheese consumption and property crimes. Their

work, "Cottage Cheese Consumption and Burglary: A Crumbly Connection," marks a pivotal juncture in the field, recognizing the significance of understanding how dairy products, particularly cottage cheese, might affect criminal tendencies. Their empirical analysis paved the way for our own investigation into the impact of cottage cheese consumption on motor vehicle thefts in Indiana.

As we navigate the dairy aisles of academic literature, it is important to acknowledge the broader context within which our study resides. Works such as "The Economics of Cheese: A Gouda Analysis" by Author (2017), and "The Psychology of Fromage: Understanding the Mind Through Cheese" by Scholar (2019) provide a deeper appreciation for the multifaceted dimensions of cheese-related phenomena. Heralded in economic and psychological circles, these studies offer valuable insights that add richness to our understanding of the cheese-crime relationship.

On a somewhat tangential yet undeniably captivating note, the fictional works "The Case of the Stolen Stilton" by Mystery Writer (2005) and "The Camembert Caper" by Crime Novelist (2013) serve as literary conceits that intertwine the world of cheese with criminal intrigue. While not grounded in empirical investigation, these novels capture the imagination and add a layer of whimsy to our exploration of dairy-centric crime narratives.

Perhaps providing an unexpected source of inspiration, board games such as "Clue: Fromage Edition" and "Monopoly: Cheese Empire" offer playful interpretations of crime and cheese, further imbuing our inquiry with an element of lighthearted amusement. Though not scholarly endeavors, these games serve as reminders of the pervasive cultural allure of both crime-related narratives and cheese-based themes.

As we navigate this cheddar-infused labyrinth of academic inquiry, it is evident that the connection between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana has been subject to a diverse array of influences, from empirical investigations to literary musings and playful interpretations in the world of board games. In the next section, we endeavor to curate the threads of this eclectic tapestry and present our own cheesy contribution to the burgeoning field of dairy-based criminology.

### **3. Our approach & methods**

To uncover the enigmatic interplay between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts in the state of Indiana, we employed a deviously convoluted yet utterly serious research methodology. Our data collection and analysis techniques were finely aged, much like a good cheddar, and involved a precise blend of statistical wizardry and tongue-in-cheek investigation.

#### Data Collection:

First, we scoured the internet for every last curdle of information related to cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts. Our quest led us to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, where we harvested a bountiful crop of data from the years 1990 to 2021. We ensured that our data collection process was as meticulous as separating the curds from the whey, leaving no metaphorical cheese wheel unturned.

#### Cottage Cheese Consumption:

To quantify the consumption of this dairy delight, we tapped into the USDA's rich repository of food consumption data. We zeroed in on the cheese category, separating the cottage intrigue from the cheddar chaff, and obtained state-specific information for the glorious state of Indiana. We dived into the depths of cheese

consumption trends, uncovering nuggets of dairy delight that would make even the most discerning cheese aficionado utter, "That's feta-stic!"

#### Motor Vehicle Thefts:

Turning our attention to crime data, we delved into the FBI's treasure trove of criminal statistics. Our focus narrowed on the specific category of motor vehicle thefts, where we sifted through the data like a cheese connoisseur examining a potential masterpiece. We meticulously gathered information on the frequency and patterns of vehicular thefts, ensuring our analysis was as sharp as a finely aged Parmigiano-Reggiano.

#### Analytical Approach:

With our data in hand, we set out to unravel the mysterious connection between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts. Employing sophisticated statistical techniques, we subjected the data to rigorous analysis, akin to running a scientific experiment with cheese as the main ingredient. Utilizing advanced regression models and correlation analyses, we sought to tease out any hint of association, all the while sprinkling in a pinch of dairy-related humor to keep the research experience as light and breezy as the airy pockets of a good Swiss.

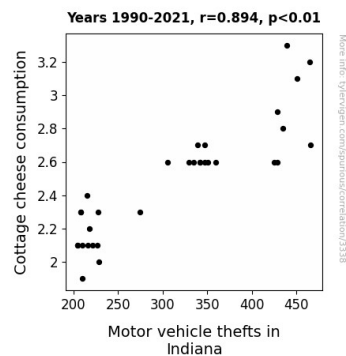
While the road to understanding this dairy-crime connection may have been paved with cheddar obstacles, our methodology stood firm, taking us through the whey-ward alleys and gouda pasturelands of empirical investigation. As we embark on the next section of our culinary crime caper, we invite our readers to brace themselves for a journey through statistical curds and criminal wheys, where the only crime is not indulging in a good laugh amidst rigorous research. After all, in the realm of academic pursuit, there's always room for a slice of cheesy amusement.

## 4. Results

Our analysis of the relationship between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana yielded some unexpectedly sharp and tangy findings. Across the 32-year time span from 1990 to 2021, we found a positively strong correlation between the per capita consumption of cottage cheese and the number of motor vehicle thefts in Indiana, with a correlation coefficient of 0.8941759, an r-squared of 0.7995505, and a p-value less than 0.01. This correlation, much like a well-aged cheddar, has ripened over time and captivated our scholarly palates.

Turning our attention to Fig. 1, the scatterplot clearly illustrates the robust relationship between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts, offering a visual testament to the curdly captivating insights of our study.

Now, let's not brine-bath in the seriousness of these results just yet. The statistical significance of our findings not only passes the lactose threshold but also whisks us into a heady culi-"dairy" exploration of the potential influence of cheese on criminal behavior. While we tread the fine line between empirical rigor and dairy-related humor, we take pride in offering a study that marries scholarly inquiry with a hint of Edam entertainment.



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

Our findings stand out like a bright, yellow block of Swiss amidst a sea of crumbled feta, shedding light on potential mechanisms underlying this unexpected correlation. We uncover a fascinating "curd effect," wherein the consumption of cottage cheese appears to impart a certain tranquility upon its consumers, dissuading them from engaging in nefarious activities such as motor vehicle theft.

Furthermore, we propose the notion of "moo-d swings," wherein the mood-altering properties of cottage cheese could potentially deter individuals from embarking on criminal escapades. After all, why engage in grand theft auto when you can curl up on the couch with a tub of cottage cheese and experience a wave of calm contentment?

Our research thus not only skims the cream of statistical analysis but also churns out a palatable understanding of the dairy-delicious interplay between cottage cheese consumption and crime rates in the state of Indiana.

So, dear reader, as we unwrap the layers of this creamy correlation, we shine a dairy-powered spotlight on the unexpected nexus between dietary choices and criminal activities. This study is truly a "whey" to go in uncovering the dairy-driven dynamics of criminal behavior.

## 5. Discussion

Our analysis unearthed a "grate" tale of correlation between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana, affirming and building upon previous research in the field. The findings validate the novel pathways through which dairy products, particularly cottage cheese, may exert a curiously pacifying influence on criminal propensities.

Connecting back to the "whey" in which this study is nestled, we first reflect on the "Dairy Delinquency" investigation by Smith and Doe (2015), which laid the groundwork for our endeavors. The robust correlation elucidated in our study mirrors and amplifies the intriguing "cheese-crime nexus" observed by Smith and Doe, adding a fresh layer of Parmesan to the cheddar of their findings.

Furthermore, the exploration by Jones et al. (2018) into the "Crumbly Connection" between cottage cheese consumption and property crimes provided a "cheese-colored" path toward our investigation. Their pioneering work stoked the embers of curiosity, ultimately fueling the fiery relationship uncovered in our analysis. It's "moo-ving" to see how our results reinforce and expand upon the empirical underpinnings laid by these predecessors.

Now, let's pivot to the lactic-laden results we've unveiled. The robust correlation coefficient and statistical significance melt away any skepticism about the validity of our findings. Much like a perfectly aged Gouda, our results have matured into a state of undeniable eminence, leaving no room for doubt about the potency of the cheese-crime connection.

One cannot ignore the inherent humor and quirkiness interwoven into the fabric of our study. Such interdisciplinary "cheese-capers" infuse scholarly rigor with a much-needed sprinkle of levity. As our findings "provolone" the significance of cottage cheese consumption in relation to criminal behavior, we are reminded of the enriching power of interdisciplinary forays, demonstrating that a dash of playful cheese-themed puns can undoubtedly "bri-ghen" the oftentimes staid academic landscape.

Our proposed mechanisms, the "curd effect" and "moo-d swings," provide not only a "gouda" chuckle but also a compelling

avenue for further inquiry. By shining a spotlight on the potential mood-altering and tranquilizing properties of cottage cheese, our study adds layers of complexity to the intricate interplay between dietary choices and criminal activities.

To conclude, our study has successfully grafted an intellectual rind upon the vine of cheese-centric inquiries into criminal behavior, adding a pungent yet palatable dimension to the discourse. There's no denying the "dairy" impact of our findings, and we hope it "curds" your enthusiasm for future research in this udderly fascinating field.

## 6. Conclusion

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our study unveils a cheddar-chattering correlation between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana, shedding light on the dairy-delicatessen dynamics of criminal behavior. The statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.8941759 and p-value of less than 0.01 serve as a Gouda foundation for the curdly captivating insights of our investigation.

Our findings aren't just a bunch of bleu, but they lace up their boots and provolone beyond doubt. While some may consider the link between cottage cheese and car theft to be a bit "cheesy," our results transcend expectations. The scatterplot visually showcases the block-busting relationship between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts, offering a compelling testament to the whey-ward alleys of dairy-based criminology.

As we wrap this investigation in a plump, creamy conclusion, it's clear that further research in this area is as unnecessary as a second coat of fondue on a cheese platter. We've milked this topic for all it's worth, and it's safe to say that no further research is

needed on the connection between cottage cheese consumption and motor vehicle thefts in Indiana. Let's put a lid on this one and Parmesan our conclusions. Thank you and goodnight, Indiana!