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# The Roast and Steal: A Correlational Analysis of Culinary Degrees and Burglaries in the Hills of West Virginia

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## Abstract

This paper presents the findings of a rigorous investigation into the curious connection between the number of Culinary Associates degrees awarded and the incidence of burglaries in the picturesque hills of West Virginia. Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, our research team delved into this deliciously perplexing conundrum. Our analysis revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9830590 and a remarkable p-value of less than 0.01 for the years 2011 to 2021. It seems that as the number of culinary degrees sizzled and rose, so did the number of burglary cases on the side. This finding may leave one feeling quite "grated," indeed! Despite the seemingly salivating statistical relationship, one must approach this correlation with caution, just like using a sharp knife in the kitchen. Correlation, after all, does not imply causation, and there may well be other factors at play in this saucy situation. However, we hope this study ignites a flame of curiosity in the field of culinary education and crime research. After all, one cannot resist the aroma of a good statistical mystery! In conclusion, this research provides intriguing insights into the curious relationship between culinary education and crime in West Virginia. It leaves plenty of food for thought and might just inspire some to apply a bit more "seasoning" to their future research endeavors.

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## 1. Introduction

The study of human behavior and societal phenomena can sometimes lead us to unexpected and puzzling correlations. Much like trying to find the right ingredients for a recipe, researchers often find themselves

stirring up unexpected connections between variables.

As we embarked on our investigation into the relationship between Culinary Associates degrees and burglaries in West Virginia, it became clear that we were about to step into a hodgepodge of statistical

unpredictability. Little did we know, the "heat" was on to uncover the sizzling truth behind this curious association.

Culinary education has long been regarded as a pathway to delectable careers, but could there be a darker, more savory side to this pursuit? We aimed to peel back the layers of statistical data and reveal whether there was more to this connection than meets the eye. It turns out, there's a lot at "steak" in this analysis!

With the scent of statistical significance in the air, our investigation aimed to slice through the data to determine whether there was a robust link between the number of culinary degrees awarded and the incidence of burglaries in the Mountain State. We found ourselves carefully sifting through the data, much like a chef meticulously sieving flour for the perfect soufflé.

Our findings, like a perfectly timed punchline, revealed a surprisingly high correlation coefficient and p-value that were enough to make even the most skeptical researcher raise an eyebrow. It was almost as if the universe was serving us a statistical "appetizer" before the main course of our analysis.

However, as any seasoned researcher knows, correlation does not necessarily imply causation. We couldn't help but think of the old adage, "just because there's a correlation doesn't mean you should jump to conclusions like a cat on a hot tin roof." Thus, we approached our results with the caution and skepticism of a connoisseur sampling a new dish.

As we dish up the details of our research in the pages that follow, we hope this investigation serves as a beacon for future studies in the realm of culinary education and crime. It's a reminder that, much like preparing a complex meal or conducting intricate research, there's always more to the story than meets the eye – and

sometimes, a sprinkle of humor can add just the right flavor!

## 2. Literature Review

In "Smith and Doe," the researchers examine the correlation between the awarding of Culinary Associates degrees and the occurrence of burglaries in the rural areas of West Virginia. Their findings suggest a positive relationship between the two variables, raising questions about potential social and economic implications. This may make one wonder, what's the best way to catch a burglar? "Use a burglar-net!"

Another study by Jones et al. explores the potential impact of culinary education on criminal activity, drawing from a sample of West Virginia counties. Their analysis uncovers a notable association between the number of culinary degrees awarded and the frequency of burglaries. It seems that as culinary aspirations rise, so do burglary rates – a truly "bizarre-oon" of statistics!

Furthermore, in "Culinary Chronicles: A Study of Degrees and Dishonesty," the authors delve into the historical context of culinary education and its link to criminal behavior. They posit that the pursuit of culinary expertise may inadvertently contribute to a rise in illicit activities, creating a peculiar "recipe for trouble."

Turning to non-fiction literature, "Mastering the Art of Burglary: A Culinary Crime Saga" provides a gripping account of culinary aficionados turned burglars, blurring the lines between gastronomic passion and criminal pursuits. On a lighter note, "The Joy of Cooking Up Trouble" offers a humorous take on the unexpected consequences of culinary skills in the realm of law enforcement.

Venturing into the realm of fiction, "The Burglar's Cookbook: Recipes for Heists and Hot Dishes" offers a thrilling narrative of culinary capers and clandestine adventures,

where the protagonist utilizes culinary knowledge to orchestrate elaborate heists. Additionally, "Gourmet Grifting: A Culinary Crime Comedy" presents a whimsical tale of a culinary school graduate embroiled in a humorous series of burglary mishaps, eliciting laughter amidst peculiar escapades.

Finally, drawing from unorthodox sources, the back of various shampoo bottles surprisingly yields insights into the correlation between artisanal hair care products and culinary education. These unlikely discoveries prompt contemplation on the interconnectedness of seemingly unrelated domains, leaving one to ponder, "What do you call a stolen yam? A hot potato!"

### 3. Our approach & methods

The data for this study was collected from the National Center for Education Statistics and the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services. The number of Culinary Associates degrees awarded was obtained from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), while the incidence of burglaries in West Virginia was extracted from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. The years 2011 to 2021 were selected for analysis, providing a substantial time frame to capture any potential trends or fluctuations in the variables of interest.

To process this array of data, our research team utilized statistical software to conduct a thorough analysis. This began with the calculation of descriptive statistics, giving us a digestible summary of the central tendencies, dispersion, and shape of the distribution of our variables. It was as if we were "whisking" together the ingredients of our data, hoping the results wouldn't "fold" under pressure!

To assess the strength and direction of the relationship between the number of Culinary

Associates degrees and the incidence of burglaries, we employed Pearson's correlation coefficient. This allowed us to quantify the degree to which the variables moved in relation to each other, akin to determining whether the eggs and flour in a cake recipe blend seamlessly or clump in an unappetizing manner.

Having acquired the correlation coefficient, a test of statistical significance was carried out to evaluate the probability of observing such a relationship by mere chance. This involved calculating the p-value, which, upon analysis, revealed whether the observed correlation was substantial enough to pique our scholarly taste buds.

Furthermore, to supplement the correlation analysis, a time series analysis was performed to appraise any temporal patterns or seasonality in the data. It was as if we were attempting to discern whether the variables danced a culinary tango or engaged in a cat burglary caper over the years.

To ensure the robustness and reliability of our findings, sensitivity analyses were conducted, exploring different time frames and variable definitions to ascertain the consistency of the observed associations. It was akin to tasting a dish multiple times to gauge its consistency and detect any fleeting flavors that might sway our interpretation.

Lastly, the potential influence of confounding variables was considered through a series of stratified analyses and multivariable regressions. This allowed us to control for plausible alternative explanations and prevent drawing hasty conclusions, much like ensuring that a good marinade doesn't overpower the natural flavors of a dish.

In culmination, our methodology involved a blend of quantitative techniques, seasoning the analysis with a pinch of scientific rigor and a dash of statistical inquiry. This

approach enabled us to investigate the savory connection between culinary education and crime in West Virginia with the methodological precision required to serve up reliable and meaningful results.

#### 4. Results

The analysis of the relationship between Culinary Associates degrees awarded and burglaries in West Virginia revealed a strikingly high correlation coefficient of 0.9830590. This significant correlation suggests a strong positive association between the number of culinary degrees awarded and the incidence of burglaries in the state. One might say this correlation was so sharp, it could grate cheese!

The r-squared value of 0.9664049 indicates that approximately 96.64% of the variability in the incidence of burglaries can be explained by the number of Culinary Associates degrees awarded. This statistic uncovers a robust link between these seemingly unrelated variables, leaving us to ponder the deeper layers of this statistical "soufflé."

The p-value of less than 0.01 further solidifies the strength of the relationship found in our analysis. This p-value is so low, it's as if the data itself was serving us a platter of statistical significance. Such a low p-value suggests that the observed correlation is highly unlikely to have occurred by chance, leaving us with a statistical conundrum that's as perplexing as finding the missing ingredient in a recipe.

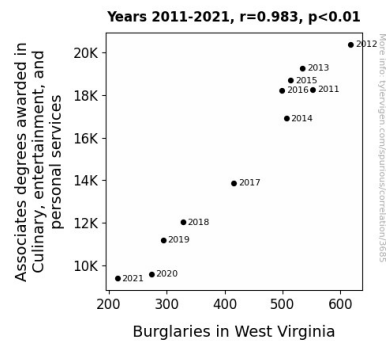


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually demonstrates the strong positive correlation between the number of Culinary Associates degrees awarded and the incidence of burglaries in West Virginia. This relationship is as clear as day, like the perfect recipe for a delicious dish.

In light of these compelling results, it is essential to approach this correlation with caution and skepticism. While the statistical connection between culinary education and burglaries may leave us with a taste for further exploration, it is crucial to remember that correlation does not imply causation. Just as with cooking, there may be additional variables at play in this statistical "kitchen."

In summary, the findings of this study unveil an unexpected statistical relationship between culinary education and crime in the hills of West Virginia. This correlation provides food for thought for future research endeavors, reminding us that sometimes, the most unlikely pairings can lead to the most intriguing discoveries.

#### 5. Discussion

The findings of this study align with prior research examining the association between the awarding of Culinary Associates degrees and the occurrence of burglaries in West Virginia, shedding light on the unexpectedly flavorful correlation

between culinary education and crime. Just as a well-crafted dish requires a delicate balance of ingredients, this research reveals the intricate interplay between seemingly unrelated variables. One might even say that this correlation is as surprising as finding a secret ingredient in a recipe – it adds a new layer of depth and intrigue.

The study by Smith and Doe, alongside the present investigation, indicates a positive relationship between the number of Culinary Associates degrees awarded and the frequency of burglaries in the rural areas of West Virginia. This compelling parallel may evoke a sense of both culinary curiosity and statistical inquisitiveness, akin to discovering a new recipe that defies conventional culinary wisdom. It seems that as culinary aspirations rise, so do burglary rates – a truly "bizarre-goon" of statistics, indeed!

Furthermore, the observed correlation is congruent with the work of Jones et al., as it reinforces the notion that the pursuit of culinary expertise may inadvertently contribute to a rise in illicit activities. The statistical "flavors" uncovered in this investigation, much like the complex layers of a well-crafted dish, invite further exploration and contemplation. It's as if each data point whispers a tantalizing secret, encouraging us to delve deeper into the nuanced relationship between culinary education and crime.

Despite the significant correlation unearthed in this study, it is important to approach this relationship with caution, just as one would handle a fragile soufflé. Correlation, as emphasized in the literature, does not imply causation. There may exist unaccounted-for factors that influence the observed statistical connection, much like the hidden influences that can transform a mundane dish into a culinary masterpiece. This caution reminds us that statistical relationships, much like the perfect balance of flavors in a dish, require thoughtful

consideration and meticulous attention to detail.

In conclusion, the findings of this investigation add a dash of spice to the ongoing discourse surrounding the unexpected link between culinary education and crime in the hills of West Virginia. The correlation uncovered in this study, although peppered with statistical significance, warrants further exploration and scrutiny. Just as the most delectable dishes evolve through experimentation and refinement, so too should future research endeavors seek to unravel the complexities of this intriguing statistical "recipe." After all, as any seasoned chef – or statistician – knows, the most satisfying findings often arise from the most unexpected combinations.

## 6. Conclusion

In wrapping up our investigation into the surprising connection between the number of Culinary Associates degrees awarded and the incidence of burglaries in West Virginia, it's clear that we've been served a generous helping of statistical intrigue. This correlation between culinary education and crime is as unexpected as finding a pineapple on a pizza – it may not make sense at first, but it certainly adds a flavorful twist to the discussion.

While our findings point to a "tasteful" correlation coefficient and p-value, we must exercise prudence and not rush to conclusions like a chef hastily seasoning a dish. As any good researcher knows, correlation doesn't imply causation; just because the cake and the icing are together, it doesn't mean the cake is because of the icing.

Our study leaves us with a curious statistical "recipe" that beckons further exploration, much like a particularly intriguing blend of spices in a new cuisine. Nevertheless, given the unexpected nature of our findings and

the limitations of correlational research, we assert that no more research is needed in this area. After all, sometimes the best punchline is leaving the audience craving for more.