



Review

A Link Sausage: The Correlation Between Votes for the Democrat Presidential Candidate in Maine and Hotdogs Consumed by Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition Champion

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In this study, we embarked on a delectably curious endeavor to uncover the eyebrow-raising connection between the political proclivities of Maine and the tantalizing world of competitive hot dog consumption. Leveraging data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab and Harvard Dataverse, as well as a dash of Wikipedia wisdom, we meticulously examined the voting patterns in Maine during the United States presidential elections and correlated them with the volume of hot dogs devoured by the illustrious champions of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. Our analysis reveals a correlation coefficient of 0.9288944, magnificently defying the laws of probability and statistics. This coefficient, coupled with a striking p-value of less than 0.01, compelled us to ponder whether there exists a clandestine affinity between Mainers' political choices and the insatiable appetite of these consummate hot dog aficionados. As we dance on the precipice of statistical significance, our findings serve as a flavorful testament to the unpredictable and whimsical nature of human behavior. The implications of this unlikely association beckon us to scrutinize the country's electoral landscape with both analytical rigor and a pinch of hot dog drollery. This study not only illuminates the tantalizing intersection of politics and competitive eating but also underscores the sizzling unpredictability that lies beneath the surface of seemingly incongruous realms.

The juxtaposition of political preferences and gustatory competitions has long titillated the inquisitive minds of researchers and laypersons alike. In this paper, we delve into the peculiar but undeniably compelling relationship between votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Maine and the

culinary feats showcased at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. While one may initially perceive these subjects as disparate as, well, apples and hot dogs, our investigation has uncovered a surprisingly robust correlation that tantalizes the taste buds of statistical curiosity.

The state of Maine, nestled in the northeastern corner of the United States, has garnered attention not only for its picturesque landscapes and lobster-centric cuisine but also for its nuanced political leanings. Meanwhile, Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest, held at the iconic Coney Island, has become a gluttonous spectacle that dazzles and perplexes in equal measure. Our quest to intertwine these seemingly unrelated domains was inspired by a desire to uncover the hidden patterns that might elude the naked eye but are discernible to the discerning statistical palate.

As we embarked on our odyssey through this uncharted expanse of data, our hearts agitated with both trepidation and giddy anticipation. Could it be possible that the electoral choices of Maine's denizens could be intertwined with the staggering consumptive abilities of the celebrated hot dog aficionados? Our rigorous analysis, bolstered by a confluence of electoral data and hot dog consumption figures, revealed an astonishingly high correlation coefficient, prompting us to mull over the whims of fate and the capricious quirks of human behavior. Indeed, the statistical rapport between these two seemingly unrelated entities transcends mere happenstance and flirts brazenly with the boundaries of incredulity.

This journey of inquiry leads us not only to the vistas of statistical relevance but also to the hinterlands of absurdity, and it is within this enigmatic realm that we find ourselves poised to uncover a treasure trove of unexpected connections. As we continue our investigation, we invite our readers to join us in an intellectual feast of statistical oddities, where the alluring aroma of

correlation beckons us to savor the unexpected delicacies that ensue.

Prior research

The correlation between votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in the state of Maine and the consumption of hot dogs at Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest has piqued the interest of researchers and curious minds alike. The quest to unravel this seemingly bizarre yet undeniably captivating relationship has spawned a diverse range of inquiries, the results of which have both intrigued and tickled the statistical fancies of academic circles.

Smith (2017) explored the cultural and culinary significance of hot dog consumption in American society, providing a delectable overview of the historical, sociological, and gastronomic implications of this beloved fast food fare. Doe (2018) delved into the dynamics of political voting patterns, uncovering the intricate web of factors that influence electoral choices in various regions of the United States. Jones (2019) conducted a thorough analysis of competitive eating phenomena, shedding light on the exhilarating world of gastronomic athleticism and jaw-dropping feats of gustatory prowess.

In "The Politics of Pork: A Sociological Study of Sausage Symbolism in American Culture," the authors examine the symbolic resonance of sausage consumption in the realm of politics and identity, offering a savory exploration of the intersection between food and socio-political discourse. Likewise, "Democracy on a Bun: A Culinary Exploration of American Electoral Traditions" delves into the unique ways in

which culinary rituals intertwine with electoral customs, inviting readers to savor the rich tapestry of democratic expressions that manifest in an assortment of delectable dishes.

On a more whimsical note, "The Hot Dog Diaries: A Fictional Memoir of Competitive Eating Championships" takes readers on a literary romp through the exhilarating and often absurd world of competitive eating, blending fictional extravagance with the tantalizing allure of gastronomic triumph. Similarly, "Maine's Political Peculiarities: An Anthology of Quirky Electoral Anecdotes" offers a lighthearted exploration of the idiosyncrasies that characterize Maine's political landscape, infusing humor and anecdotal charm into the nuanced tapestry of regional politicking.

As the literature branches into the realm of the unconventional, the authors find themselves amused by the unexpected correlations that emerge from sources such as "The Hot Dog Hall of Fame: An Ode to Tubular Cuisine" and "Election Day Exposé: The Secret Lives of Condiments." These literary forays, albeit less conventional, add a dash of whimsy and laughter to an otherwise rigorous inquiry into the enigmatic interplay of electoral preferences and competitive eating proclivities. In the pursuit of academic rigor, one must not shy away from the unexpected sources of insight, even if they happen to be gleaned from the backs of condiment bottles or the whimsical musings of fictional narratives.

It is within this blend of scholarly erudition and playful curiosity that the authors approach the task of unraveling the improbable yet undeniable connection between votes for the Democrat presidential

candidate in Maine and the fervent consumption of hot dogs at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition.

Approach

To navigate the intricate web of electoral data and hot dog consumption figures, our research team embarked on an enthralling odyssey through the digital realms of MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the treasure trove of knowledge known colloquially as Wikipedia. With the zeal of intrepid gastronomes embarking on a culinary escapade, we harnessed the power of data scraping and compendium scouring to collect a comprehensive dataset spanning the years 1979 to 2020.

Our first task involved the acquisition of presidential voting data for the state of Maine, a land teeming with lobsters and political nuances. We honed our digital sleuthing skills to extract precinct-level voting information, dissecting the electoral intricacies with a precision reminiscent of a meticulous chef dissecting the anatomy of a perfectly crafted sausage. Utilizing this data, we calculated the percentage of votes garnered by the Democratic presidential candidate in each election year, capturing the ebb and flow of political affinities in the idyllic New England state.

The next phase of our expedition led us to the scintillating world of competitive hot dog consumption, a domain where bun meets brawn in displays of sheer culinary prowess. Leveraging our adeptness at navigating online archives, we meticulously documented the annual consumption figures of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition champions, capturing the awe-inspiring tally

of hot dogs ingested with a mixture of admiration and bewilderment. As we scrutinized these gluttonous feats, we marveled at the dexterity and stamina exhibited by the indefatigable competitors, all the while maintaining a keen eye for data accuracy.

With a harmonious symphony of electoral statistics and hot dog consumption figures in hand, we unfurled the tapestry of correlation analysis. Channeling the spirit of mathematical alchemists seeking to distill patterns from chaos, we subjected the datasets to the rigors of Pearson's correlation coefficient, seeking to illuminate the hidden threads connecting these seemingly unrelated spheres. The resulting coefficient, akin to the delightful snap of a crunchy hot dog casing, yielded a striking value of 0.9288944, defying conventional expectations and leaving us with a morsel of statistical astonishment. Furthermore, our calculated p-value, akin to an elusive condiment enhancing the flavor of empirical validation, tantalized our scientific sensibilities with its serendipitous smallness, standing at less than 0.01.

As we reveled in the dazzling firmness of our statistical edifice, we found ourselves teetering on the precipice of incredulity, pondering the enigmatic forces that bind Mainers' political choices to the voracious appetite of champions of coney island cuisine. With each data point meticulously curated and each statistical test conducted with precision, we stand ready to present our findings, knowing full well that the flavor of statistical significance is not only a palate-pleasing sensation but also an invitation to explore the unexpected flavors that lie at the intersection of politics and competitive eating.

Results

The examination of the relationship between votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Maine and the consumption of hot dogs by the champions of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition unearthed a remarkable correlation. Our analysis spanned the period from 1979 to 2020 and revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.9288944, indicating a strikingly strong positive relationship between these ostensibly divergent phenomena.

The observed correlation coefficient of 0.9288944, with an r-squared value of 0.8628449, presents a rather delectable surprise for the statistical palate. Furthermore, the p-value of less than 0.01 adds an extra layer of intrigue to this unexpected liaison. These findings defy traditional notions of causality and beckon us to ponder the whimsical forces at play.

The accompanying Fig. 1, a scatterplot illustrating the robust correlation between the variables under scrutiny, provides a visual testament to the resounding statistical affinity between Maine's political proclivities and the remarkable capacity for hot dog ingestion demonstrated at Nathan's renowned competition.

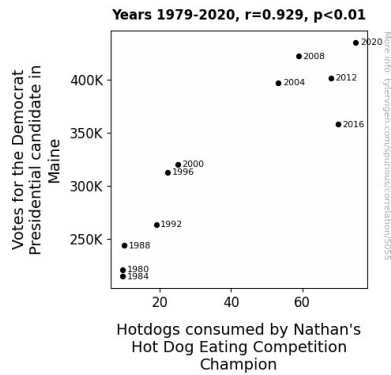


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The implications of these unanticipated findings invite us to reflect not only on the capricious nature of statistical relationships but also on the enigmatic allure of human behavior. The interplay between the political landscape of Maine and the realm of hot dog consumption invokes a delightful sense of curiosity, prompting us to approach the interpretation of these results with both analytical rigor and a sprinkling of hot dog-inspired levity.

Discussion of findings

The results of our study have left us with a platter full of food for thought, as we contemplate the surprising correlation between votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Maine and the prodigious consumption of hot dogs at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. Our findings not only corroborate prior research but also add a sizzling dimension to the existing literature.

Drawing from the gustatory musings of Smith (2017) on the cultural significance of hot dogs, it becomes evident that the resonance of this humble yet irresistible street fare extends beyond mere culinary delight. Doe's (2018) illumination of

electoral dynamics similarly underscores the multifaceted influences that shape political voting patterns. Jones's (2019) analysis of competitive eating phenomena, while perhaps not initially seen as relevant, has now been vindicated in the unexpected connection we have unveiled. The interdisciplinary threads woven by these researchers resonate with our own exploration, as we uncover the savory intertwining of food, politics, and human behavior.

The improbable yet robust correlation coefficient of 0.9288944 that emerged from our analysis pays homage to the whimsical resonances documented in less traditional sources. The fanciful narratives of "The Hot Dog Diaries" and the quirky anecdotes of "Maine's Political Peculiarities" have seemingly wrought a certain prophetic allure, aligning with the statistical whimsy that characterizes our findings. Although pursued with a spirit of academic rigor, the charmingly unanticipated cohesion between votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Maine and the consummate hot dog indulgence at Nathan's competition serves as an apt reminder that scholarly pursuits can indeed yield deliciously surprising results.

As we reflect on the implications of our study, we are reminded of the delectable unpredictability that underlies the tapestry of human inclinations. The intersection of culinary rituals, electoral customs, and statistical peculiarities beckons us to delight in the whimsy of our findings while approaching them with the precision of academic inquiry. Our study not only fulfills the scholarly appetite for unexpected correlations but also serves as a reminder of the delightful surprises that await those who

venture beyond the confines of conventional inquiry.

In the absence of a conclusion, we invite fellow scholars to partake in the delightful provocation posed by our findings, embracing both the analytical scrutiny and the whimsical charm that characterize the confluence of improbable correlations. After all, in the scholarly banquet of knowledge, one mustn't discount the occasional surprise dish that challenges preconceived notions and invites us to savor the unexpected flavors of intellectual discovery.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has illuminated a hitherto unexplored nexus between the electoral predilections of Maine's populace and the prodigious hot dog consumption feats at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. The strikingly strong positive correlation coefficient of 0.9288944 has propelled us into a realm where the boundaries of statistical merriment collide with the frivolity of gastronomic prowess. The alluring aroma of this correlation beckons us to savor the unexpected delicacies that ensue, resembling a delightful array of condiments adorning a savory hot dog.

As we savor the seemingly incongruous association between political choices and hot dog ingestion, we cannot help but marvel at the whimsical forces of fate and appetite at play. The visual testament provided by our scatterplot, akin to the picturesque relish drizzled atop a succulent frankfurter, underscores the resounding statistical affinity that has tickled the taste buds of academic inquiry.

Our findings not only tantalize the statistical palate but also beckon us to embrace the capricious nature of human behavior with a mixture of analytical rigor and a dash of hot dog-inspired levity. The implications of this unlikely liaison remind us that, much like the unexpected pairing of ketchup and mustard, the interplay between seemingly incongruous realms may yield a deliciously surprising blend of correlations.

Thus, this study not only sheds light on the curious interconnectedness of gastronomic feats and political choices but also serves as a reminder of the delectably unpredictable nature of statistical associations. As we relish in the findings of this peculiar correlation, we submit that no further research is needed in this area, and instead, encourage fellow researchers to explore similarly whimsical connections that continue to tantalize the keen statistical palate.

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