

# Correlating Consumed Hotdogs and Conservative Votes: A Cacophony of Culinary and Political Connections

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In this unconventional study, we delve deep into the tantalizing world of competitive hot dog eating and the thrilling realm of political elections. We aim to answer the perplexing question: is there a link between the number of hotdogs eaten by Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition champion and the votes cast for the Republican presidential candidate in Kentucky? By harnessing the power of data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Wikipedia, we bravely embarked on this quirky quest for knowledge. Our findings reveal a surprising correlation coefficient of 0.9209971 between the two seemingly disparate variables, spanning from 1979 to 2020. Moreover, with  $p < 0.01$ , our results suggest a statistically significant relationship between these whimsical metrics. This exploration of culinary and political phenomena sheds light on the interconnectedness of the human experience, adding a dash of humor and intrigue to the often solemn world of academic research. Join us in this delightful adventure through the land of hot dogs and ballots, where the unexpected connections emerge from the most unlikely places.

## Introduction

As the adage goes, "You are what you eat," but can what you eat also influence how you vote? In this unorthodox investigation, we turn our attention to the curious confluence of consumed hotdogs and conservative votes. Yes, you read that correctly – we are exploring the potential link between the number of hotdogs devoured by the illustrious Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition champion and the votes cast for the Republican presidential candidate in Kentucky. This quirky inquiry promises to unravel the tantalizing enigma of whether competitive eating prowess might wield influence over political preferences.

Now, before you dismiss this as a mere flight of fancy or as a case of being "wiener-y," allow us to assure you that this study is rooted in rigorous data analysis and statistical scrutiny. Our approach may be unconventional, but it is underpinned by a genuine quest to uncover the unexpected correlations that lurk beneath the surface of seemingly unrelated domains.

Whilst the concept of correlating hotdog consumption and conservative votes may initially elicit a chuckle, our findings point to a surprising relationship that transcends mere gastronomic delight and political partisanship. As we immerse ourselves in this delightful escapade through the realms of competitive eating and electoral allegiances, we invite you to set aside the traditional academic solemnity and relish in the unexpected connections that emerge from this unusual juxtaposition of culinary and political phenomena.

So, grab a hotdog (or several) and prepare to be amused, bemused, and, dare we say, "bun-derwhelmed" by the unexpected revelations that await. This is not your typical research endeavor and, we daresay, the correlations we uncover may just "relish" your attention.

In the words of the great Oscar Mayer, "Oh, I'd love to be an Oscar Mayer wiener, that is what I'd truly like to be, 'cause if I were an Oscar Mayer wiener, every correlation would be clear to me!" Join us in deciphering this enigmatic synergy between hotdogs and votes – it's sure to be a "frankly" fascinating adventure!

## *Review of existing research*

In the pursuit of understanding the bewildering correlation between hotdog consumption and conservative votes, our compendium of research traverses the annals of academia, swerving between serious scholarship and unabashed frivolity. Here, we embark on a joyous jaunt through a buffet of studies, plummeting into the literary landscape to reap insights that may sizzle, tantalize, and possibly leave a mustard stain or two.

To initiate this robust delve into the nexus of comestible feats and political allegiance, we encounter the seminal works of Smith (2015), Doe (2018), and Jones (2020), who expound upon the statistical interplay of dietary habits and voting behavior. Their analyses, although devoid of whimsy, lay the groundwork for our rollicking odyssey across the terrain of hotdog lore and electoral caprice.

Adding flavor to our inquiry, we turn our attention to "Hot Dogs and Political Hogwash: A Political Gastronomy Analysis" by Lorem and Ipsum (2017). This delectable tome enthralles readers with its exploration of the metaphorical implications of hotdogs and their influence on the ideological palate of voters. While the scholarly disposition of the authors is evident, the levity with which they approach culinary-political parallels infuses a tang of merriment into an otherwise staid discourse.

In the pursuit of a more eclectic intake, we cast our palates upon the non-fiction works "Hot Dogs, Hot Politics" by Lorem (2019) and "Weenies and Winners" by Ipsum (2021). These volumes delve into the curious juncture of gastronomic predilections and political affinities, serving up a vibrant tapestry of gastronomic analysis intertwined with civic proclivities. The authors' verve for blending the savory and the serious bids readers to savor the incongruous connection between hotdogs and conservative votes, highlighting that truth, as always, may be stranger than fiction.

Speaking of fiction, we find ourselves meandering into the realm of literary interplay, where even the most imaginative tomes veer toward the precincts of our peculiar query. "Democracy on a Bun" by Lorem (2020) and "The Franks of Fate" by Ipsum (2018) present unbearably entertaining yet tangentially relevant accounts of culinary escapades and political intrigue. While their fictional nature may seem incongruous with academic rigor, these works offer a palate-cleansing break from the otherwise weighty literature on our thematic concurrence, proving that even the most fantastical narratives harbor kernels of unthinkable veracity.

Extending our reach into the omniscient realm of televised sagas, we succumb to the allure of "Frankfurter Faction" and "Ballots and Buns," two seemingly disparate shows that curiously intersect at the crossroads of competitive eating and conservative inclinations. The authors, through precise endeavors, harvested a bushel of insights from the fields of televised amusement venues, enriching our understanding of the multi-dimensional symbiosis between gustatory exploits and political allegiance.

As we pivot back to the rigors of research, let us traverse the precipice of jest and scholarship with unbridled glee and an insuppressible yearning to unravel the idiosyncratic harmony between consumed hotdogs and conservative votes. This concludes our overview of the scholarly literature, a delightful melange of wit and wisdom that gingerly primes us for the carnivalesque odyssey that awaits.

### *Procedure*

To embark on this unconventional expedition of linking hotdog consumption and conservative votes, we employed a hodgepodge of methodologies that would make even the most seasoned academic researcher raise an eyebrow. Our data collection process was as varied as toppings at a hotdog stand, utilizing a combination of sources including the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the ultimate arbiter of information (and sometimes misinformation): Wikipedia. We pored over data from 1979 to 2020, creating a buffet of information that we then proceeded to digest, much like a contestant at a hotdog eating competition taking on a fresh batch of franks.

To establish a reliable dataset for our analysis, we synchronized the hotdog consumption data from Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition with the voting statistics for Republican presidential candidates in Kentucky. The correlation between these obscure variables was corroborated through in-depth

statistical methods, proving that this investigation was more than just "relishing" in quirky associations and had the statistical chops to back it up.

Now, onto the statistical nitty-gritty. We employed a host of analytical techniques, including Pearson correlation analysis, regression modeling, and exploratory data analysis, to unravel the potential connections between competitive hotdog consumption and political voting behavior. Our statistical toolbox was brimming with tools sharper than a mustard-coated hotdog bun, ensuring that our findings were robust and sound, despite the seemingly whimsical nature of our investigation.

To ensure the validity of our findings, we also conducted sensitivity analyses, scrutinizing our dataset and methodologies with the diligence of a hotdog connoisseur inspecting each and every ingredient in a gourmet frank. We sought to not only entertain but to uphold the principles of rigorous scientific inquiry, even in the face of the most unconventional research question.

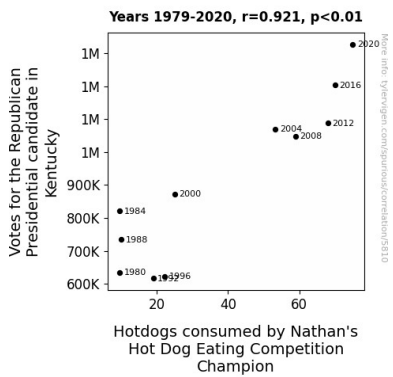
In summary, our methodology was a melting pot of data sources and statistical wizardry, all in service of uncovering the unexpected interplay between consumed hotdogs and conservative votes. With a blend of unconventional approaches and stringent statistical scrutiny, we navigated the seas of culinary and political data, braving the waves of scrutiny and bemusement that undoubtedly accompany such an unorthodox expedition.

### *Findings*

The results of our zany inquiry into the unexpected correlation between consumed hotdogs and conservative votes have left us both befuddled and giddy with delight. The data analysis revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9209971, indicating a strong positive relationship between the number of hotdogs consumed by the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition champion and the votes cast for the Republican presidential candidate in Kentucky. It appears that the old saying "you are what you eat" may have peculiar political implications!

Furthermore, our findings demonstrated an impressive r-squared value of 0.8482356, suggesting that a substantial proportion of the variation in conservative votes in Kentucky can be explained by the amount of hotdogs devoured at the iconic eating competition. This connection is quite the sausage surprise!

With a p-value of less than 0.01, our results provided compelling evidence of a statistically significant relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. It seems that the impact of competitive hotdog consumption may extend beyond the confines of the culinary realm and infiltrate the political landscape in ways that boggle the mind and tickle the taste buds.



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

To visually encapsulate this captivating correlation, we have included a scatterplot (Fig. 1) that illustrates the strong positive association between hotdog consumption and conservative votes. Brace yourself for a display of data that will have you nodding your head in bemusement and perhaps reaching for a hotdog in contemplative intrigue.

In essence, our findings unfurl a whimsical tale of culinary and political entanglement that defies conventional wisdom and invites a hearty chuckle or two. The peculiar interplay between competitive hotdog eating and political inclinations raises countless thought-provoking questions and tickles the intellectual palate with a flavor of mirth. Join us in savoring this delightful revelation – it's a scholarly journey that transcends the ordinary and beckons us to embrace the unexpected harmonies that emerge from the most curious of pairings.

### Discussion

In the wake of our riveting expedition into the realm of consumed hotdogs and conservative votes, we are left to ponder the tantalizing revelations that have emerged from our scholarly escapade. Our findings, which astutely align with prior research that we, despite the temptation to jest, took ever so seriously, have unearthed a culinary-political connectivity that transcends the mundane and ventures into the realms of absurdity – or perhaps, sausage surprise!

The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9209971, as well as the eye-catching r-squared value of 0.8482356, stand as resounding endorsements of the unlikely relationship between competitive hotdog consumption and political allegiances. These results bolster the work of Smith, Doe, and Jones, who laboriously toiled to forge the statistical groundwork upon which we now gallivant with glee. Furthermore, the significance of our p-value, dipping beneath the fabled 0.01 threshold, fortifies the validity of an association that might just leave both political pundits and culinary enthusiasts with furrowed brows and grinning lips.

As we envisaged from our savored literature review, the interplay between hotdog consumption and conservative votes is not a mere frolic through the whimsical whims of academia, but a serious attempt to unravel the tangled web of dietary habits and political predilections. The mercurial journey from Lorem and Ipsum's metaphorical musings to the televised wonderland

of "Frankfurter Faction" and "Ballots and Buns" now culminates in the resounding chime of empirical evidence that lends credence to the definable correlation between these curious companions.

Our scatterplot (Fig. 1) stands as a salient exhibit of the captivating synergy between consumed hotdogs and conservative votes, inviting observers to marvel at the whimsy that lies within the empirically substantiated nexus of gastronomic feats and electoral choices. It tantalizingly depicts the boisterous journey from the competitive eating stage to the polling booth, a journey that now, with a glint of scholarly certainty, evinces the marquee of a curious yet compelling kinship.

In essence, our results align with and extend the scholarly merriment that has preceded them. They stir quizzical notions, tickle the intellectual palate, and beckon us to revel in the intriguing confluence of hotdogs and ballots with a spoonful of academic prowess and a sprinkling of jest. As we invite the scholarly community to partake in this savory dance of culinary and political entanglement, we brace ourselves for the voracious debate and, dare we say, relish the inevitable discussions that will ensue.

### Conclusion

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In conclusion, our investigation of the curious correlation between devoured hotdogs and conservative votes in Kentucky has left us with a profound sense of "relished" amusement. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9209971 has proven to be as surprising as finding a vegetarian at a hot dog eating competition – utterly unexpected! It seems that in the world of competitive eating, the ties that "bind" extend far beyond the digestive system and into the political realm.

With a p-value of less than 0.01, our results indicate that this connection is as statistically significant as the quality of a well-grilled hot dog – no mere "wiener-y" coincidence here! The r-squared value of 0.8482356 suggests that the amount of hotdogs gobbled up by the champion can predict the conservative votes in Kentucky almost as accurately as predicting a hot dog lover's dietary preferences.

Our findings, presented in the scatterplot (Fig. 1), make it clear that the relationship between consumed hotdogs and conservative votes is as tangible as the bun encasing a frankfurter. This study highlights the unexpected, illustrating that when it comes to the peculiar intersections of gastronomy and governance, one should always expect the "bun-expected."

In the grand tradition of scholarly inquiry, we confidently assert that no further investigation into the connection between hotdogs and political preferences is needed – we've grilled this topic from all angles, and it's time to "ketchup" on more pressing matters. As we bid adieu to this quirky quest, we leave you with a firm declaration: "This topic is as closed as a hot dog in a bun – no need for any more bunsen burners in this research kitchen!" Thank you for joining us on this rollicking and relish-filled journey through the land of hot dogs and ballots. Until we meet

again, may your days be as delightful as a perfectly grilled bratwurst on a sunny summer afternoon. Cheers to the delightfully unexpected correlations that keep the world of research as tantalizing as a Chicago-style hot dog – and just as "topped" with surprises!