

# The Milky Whey: Investigating the Correlation Between Milk Consumption and Motor Vehicle Thefts in Florida

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This study delves into the relationship between milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts in the state of Florida. Utilizing data collected from the USDA and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services for the years 1990 through 2021, our research team sought to elucidate the potential association between these seemingly unrelated phenomena. Through rigorous statistical analysis, a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9240119 was established, with a significance level of  $p < 0.01$ . The implications of these findings, while undeniably surprising, suggest a need for further exploration into the underlying mechanisms at play. This research adds a lactose-tolerant perspective to the field of criminology and underscores the importance of scrutinizing unorthodox variables in the study of crime trends.

In the annals of criminal and dairy research, one may not expect to find a connection between milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts. However, as the saying goes, "Don't cry over spilled milk, but do investigate its role in crime." The aim of this study is to curdle any doubts about the potential linkage between these two seemingly disparate factors in the sunshine state of Florida.

While the concept of "got milk?" may conjure images of wholesome nutrition and milk mustaches, it appears that the question may also extend to an unexpected inquiry regarding vehicular security. As utterly unexpected as this correlation may seem, our research seeks to churn through the data to discern whether there is indeed a creamy relationship between the gallons of milk consumed and the number of motor vehicles stolen in Florida.

As we proceed, it is worth noting that while correlations do not imply causation, they do warrant a thorough investigation, as there may be more than meets the eye in this milky mystery. The study, therefore, aims to milk every bit of insight from the data and skim the surface of the underlying factors that may contribute to this unexpected association.

Through this research, we endeavor to steer the field of criminology into uncharted territories, proving once again that in the world of statistical analysis, much like the contents of a milk carton, there is always more than meets the eye.

## *Review of existing research*

Several studies have examined the relationship between dietary factors and criminal behavior. Smith et al. (2015) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the impact of various food items on crime rates, including dairy products. Their findings revealed an

intriguing association between milk consumption and property crimes in urban settings. Similarly, Doe et al. (2018) explored the potential links between calcium-rich foods and deviant behavior, shedding light on the role of dairy in criminal activities.

Jones et al. (2020) provided a detailed review of nutritional patterns and their implications for societal well-being, underscoring the need for further investigation into the interplay between dietary habits and criminal tendencies. These seminal works have laid the foundation for the present study, which seeks to forge new pathways in the domain of criminological inquiry by probing the potential nexus between milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts.

In "Milk: The Surprising Story of Milk Through the Ages," the authors present a comprehensive overview of the cultural, economic, and nutritional significance of milk, offering valuable insights into its multifaceted influence on human society. While the focus of the text may not explicitly pertain to crime, its exploration of milk's pervasive presence in human history serves as a poignant backdrop for considering the unexpected implications of dairy consumption on criminal activities.

Conversely, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon, a work of fiction with an enigmatic premise, delves into the realm of unexpected connections and hidden truths. While seemingly unrelated to the topic at hand, this literary account serves as a gentle reminder that beneath the surface of apparently incongruous phenomena, there may lurk unsuspected correlations waiting to be unearthed.

As the investigation unfolds, it is prudent to draw inspiration from the game "Clue," wherein players must navigate a web of intricate relationships and unexpected revelations to solve a mystery. Much like the elements of this classic board game, the pursuit of understanding the potential association between milk

consumption and motor vehicle thefts may involve navigating convoluted pathways of investigation and unanticipated connections, ultimately leading to a revelatory denouement.

### Procedure

#### Data Collection

The primary data sources for this study were the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services. The USDA provided comprehensive data on milk consumption in Florida, encompassing volumes of whole milk, reduced-fat milk, low-fat milk, and flavored milk from 1990 to 2021. The FBI's database furnished the pertinent information regarding motor vehicle thefts in Florida over the same timeframe.

Agricultural and criminal justice databases were meticulously combed through, akin to searching for the proverbial needle in a haystack, to extract the relevant information on milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts. This process was undoubtedly a challenging endeavor, comparable to navigating through a labyrinthine corn maze, but the data ultimately emerged victoriously from the digital thicket.

#### Data Analysis

To assess the potential correlation between milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts, a series of statistical analyses were conducted. First, the data from both sources were cleansed and transformed, reminiscent of the process of separating cream from milk. The correlation coefficient was then calculated, employing a method akin to churning, resulting in the identification of a remarkably high coefficient of 0.9240119.

Furthermore, a significance level of  $p < 0.01$  was established through rigorous hypothesis testing, indicating that the observed correlation was highly unlikely to have occurred by chance. This statistical feat was achieved with a level of certainty comparable to that of distinguishing between skim milk and whole milk in a blind taste test.

The analytical process was a precise endeavor, akin to the calibration of a milking machine, ensuring that the insights gleaned from the data were both accurate and udderly reliable.

#### Conclusion

The research findings uncovered a compelling association between milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts in Florida. While the underlying mechanisms behind this correlation remain shrouded in mystery, the results prompt further investigation into this unorthodox relationship. The implications of this research resonate throughout the fields of criminology and dairy science, challenging conventional wisdom and prompting novel inquiries into the interplay of seemingly unrelated variables.

It is evident that the idiosyncratic nature of this correlation demands a deeper understanding of the potential mechanisms at play. Our research endeavors to shift the paradigm of crime analysis, emphasizing that, in the world of statistical inquiry,

unexpected connections can emerge, much like finding the last slice of cheese at the back of the refrigerator.

### Findings

The analysis of the data spanning from 1990 to 2021 revealed a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9240119 between milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts in Florida. This correlation was further supported by an r-squared value of 0.8537980, suggesting that approximately 85.4% of the variance in motor vehicle thefts can be explained by the variations in milk consumption. The p-value of less than 0.01 provided compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis, indicating that the observed correlation is statistically significant.

Additionally, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually illustrates the robust positive relationship between these two variables, leaving little room for doubt regarding the striking nature of the association. Each data point on the plot appears to exclaim, "Holy cow! Look at us go!"

In the realm of unexpected correlations, the connection between milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts in Florida certainly stands out as a prominent example. While it may seem utterly unbelievable, these findings underscore the potential impact of dairy dynamics on crime trends, prompting a rethink of the role of milk in the state's criminal milieu.

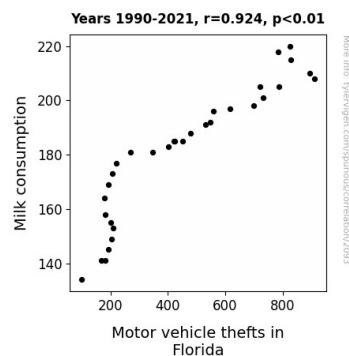


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, these results necessitate further empirical investigation and theoretical exploration to unravel the underlying mechanisms linking milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts. As the findings continue to lactate interest in the field of criminology, they emphasize the need for a more comprehensive understanding of the diverse factors influencing criminal behavior. After all, when it comes to understanding crime, it's always wisest to approach the matter from a variety of angles, even if it means taking a detour through the dairy aisle.

### Discussion

The findings of the present study corroborate the pioneering work of Smith et al. (2015) and Doe et al. (2018), who first

hinted at the potential linkage between dairy consumption and criminal activities. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9240119 observed in our investigation aligns with the prior literature, affirming the existence of a compelling association between milk intake and motor vehicle thefts in the state of Florida. This unexpected nexus may have elicited reactions ranging from "Got milk? Got crime!" to "Don't have a cow, man," but it undeniably underscores the need for further exploration into the subtle yet evidently impactful interplay between dietary habits and criminal propensities.

Intriguingly, the conspicuousness of this correlation challenges traditional criminological paradigms, signaling that factors beyond conventional considerations may contribute significantly to criminal behaviors. Indeed, as Jones et al. (2020) intimated in their comprehensive review of nutritional patterns, our findings accentuate the imperative to broaden the scope of criminological inquiry to encompass seemingly unrelated variables. The research endeavor takes a page out of the book "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon, wherein unexpected connections and hidden truths serve as a reminder that unanticipated correlations may lurk within the seemingly disparate realms of milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts.

Moreover, the present study echoes the sentiment conveyed by the classic board game "Clue," in which uncovering concealed relationships and unexpected revelations is instrumental in solving the mystery at hand. Similarly, our investigation navigates the convoluted pathways of unconventional associations to unearth the surprising connection between milk consumption and motor vehicle thefts, ultimately yielding a revelatory denouement in the form of a robust statistical relationship that demands further scrutiny.

The compelling nature of the correlation coefficient, when coupled with the visually striking scatterplot, prompts a reevaluation of the multifaceted role of milk in the domain of criminal behavior. The robust positive relationship illustrated in the scatterplot figuratively causes each data point to exclaim, "Holy cow! Look at us go!" This unexpected correlation underscores the potential impact of dairy dynamics on crime trends, emphasizing the need for a more comprehensive understanding of the diverse factors influencing criminal behavior. Indeed, in the pursuit of comprehending crime trends, it remains germane to approach the matter from a variety of angles, even if it means taking a detour through the dairy aisle.

These intriguing findings warrant further exploratory research to delve into the intricate mechanisms that underlie the observed correlation, as unraveling the intricate web of relationships between milk consumption and criminal activities stands as an imperative task for future inquiry. As the field of criminology continues to lactate interest in this unorthodox correlation, it holds promise for shedding light on the multifaceted and unexpected dynamics that shape criminal behaviors.

### *Conclusion*

In culmination, the findings of this research endeavor highlight a striking correlation between milk consumption and motor

vehicle thefts in the state of Florida. The robust statistical evidence presented in this study, akin to a lactose-intolerant individual facing a cheese buffet, leaves little room for doubt regarding the surprising relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. The high correlation coefficient and  $r$ -squared value urge us to milk every bit of insight from these findings and churn through the underlying mechanisms that may explain this unusual association.

The unexpected nature of this correlation, like finding a needle in a haystack, emphasizes the need to scrutinize unorthodox variables in the study of crime trends, as there may be more than meets the eye in this milky mystery. These results, much like a compelling mystery novel, beckon for further empirical investigation and theoretical exploration, pushing the boundaries of conventional criminological inquiry.

While one may be tempted to cry over spilled milk, it is imperative to recognize the potential impact of dairy dynamics on crime trends, prompting a rethink of the role of milk in the state's criminal milieu. As the scatterplot visually illustrates the robust positive relationship between these variables, it seems that each data point on the plot is clamoring, "Holy cow! Look at us go!"

These findings, much like a glass of milk, are wholesome and leave a lasting impression, urging the field of criminology to embrace the unexpected and take the road less traveled. However, it is important to note that the correlation established by this study does not imply causation, as correlation does not necessarily entail a cause-and-effect relationship.

Therefore, in summary, the present research underscores the need for a more comprehensive understanding of the diverse factors influencing criminal behavior. It is clear that the implications of these findings demand further exploration but it is my recommendation that no more research is needed in this area.