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# Milking the Situation: Exploring the Link between Milk Consumption and Burglaries in Vermont

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## KEYWORDS

milk consumption, burglaries, Vermont, USDA data, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, statistical analyses, correlation coefficient, dairy products, criminal behavior, Vermont crime statistics

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## Abstract

This study aimed to investigate the potential relationship between milk consumption and burglaries in the charming state of Vermont. Utilizing data from the USDA and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, our research team employed statistical analyses to unravel this udderly perplexing mystery. The correlation coefficient of 0.9173518 and  $p < 0.01$  for the period spanning 1990 to 2021 revealed a remarkably strong association between milk consumption and the occurrence of burglaries. Our findings not only provide food for thought but also raise intriguing questions about the potential impact of dairy products on criminal behavior. This study endeavors to add a splash of humor to the often-serious world of academic research, demonstrating that even the most unlikely correlations can be milked for all they're worth.

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## 1. Introduction

Milk has long been heralded for its role in bone health, breakfast cereals, and the occasional milk mustache advertisement. On the other hand, burglaries have been denounced for their knack for disrupting the peace, causing property loss, and inspiring security system sales. One naturally

occurring question that arises is: could there be a connection between these seemingly unrelated phenomena? Our udderly intriguing study delves into this unlikely relationship, exploring the potential link between milk consumption and burglaries in the bucolic state of Vermont.

Vermont, known for its picturesque landscapes and quaint towns, also boasts a thriving dairy industry and a community-focused way of life. As such, it presents an ideal setting for such an investigation. The state's residents have a well-documented penchant for dairy products, with milk being an integral part of their diet and local economy. Simultaneously, Vermont experiences its fair share of property crimes, including burglaries, which have perplexed law enforcement and citizens alike.

Our study seeks to shed light on this curious juxtaposition by examining decades of data on milk consumption and burglary rates. Through the lens of statistical analysis, we aim to discern whether a meaningful relationship exists between these two seemingly unrelated variables. The findings of this study could not only unveil a previously unexplored facet of criminal behavior but also provide fodder for stimulating conversations that are as sharp as cheddar and as memorable as a good milk moustache.

With our tongues firmly in our cheeks and our hypotheses statistically robust, we endeavor to bring an amusing yet rigorous approach to this investigation. By doing so, we hope to showcase the lighter side of academic inquiry while infusing a bit of levity into the inherently serious realm of criminological research. So, tighten your seatbelts and prepare for a wild ride through the pastures of dairy consumption and the dark alleyways of criminal activity. This study promises to be utterly creamy and unexpectedly engaging.

## 2. Literature Review

Smith et al. (2010) examined the association between dietary patterns and criminal behavior, although milk consumption specifically was not a focus of their study. The authors found a weak

correlation between high intake of calcium-rich foods and a decrease in aggressive behavior among adolescents. Conversely, Doe and Jones (2015) investigated the effects of vitamin D supplementation on cognitive function and demonstrated a modest improvement in mood regulation, which may indirectly influence criminal proclivities.

Turning to more lighthearted sources, "The Big Book of Vermont Crimes" by Detective Jay A. Wells provides a comprehensive overview of criminal activities in the state, albeit without a specific mention of dairy as a potential motivator for burglaries. Additionally, "Milk and Cookies: A Culinary Mystery" by Ellen Brown offers a delightful fiction novel that, while not focused on criminology, tantalizingly intertwines the themes of milk and intrigue.

Furthermore, a popular internet meme, the "Got Milk?" campaign, has been an enduring symbol of dairy consumption in American popular culture. This widely recognized slogan has permeated social media, often leading to humorous parodies and puns, which may inadvertently influence public perceptions of milk and its potential role in criminal activities.

In conclusion, the existing literature provides limited insight into the specific relationship between milk consumption and burglaries in Vermont, leaving ample room for our own udderly fascinating investigation into this curious conundrum.

## 3. Our approach & methods

Data Collection:

Our research team embarked on a journey through cyberspace, scouring the depths of the internet to procure data on milk consumption and burglary rates in Vermont from 1990 to 2021. The primary sources of data were the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FBI Criminal

Justice Information Services. The USDA provided comprehensive data on milk production, consumption, and related dairy products, while the FBI Crime Data Explorer furnished us with burglary statistics specific to the state of Vermont.

To ensure the reliability and integrity of the data, we adopted a rigorous approach, cross-referencing multiple data sets and validating the information with reputable sources. We also made inquiries with local dairy farms and law enforcement agencies to supplement the online data with on-the-ground perspectives.

#### Data Analysis:

In order to milk the data for all it was worth, we employed a variety of statistical analyses to uncover potential patterns and relationships between milk consumption and burglaries. The correlation coefficient was calculated to assess the strength and direction of the relationship, while a series of regression models were fitted to examine the predictive power of milk consumption on burglary rates.

Furthermore, we conducted time series analysis to discern any temporal trends and fluctuations in the variables of interest over the 31-year period. This involved some particularly udderly complex mathematical modeling and a fair bit of squinting at spreadsheets, in pursuit of uncovering those elusive patterns hidden within the numbers.

#### Covariate Consideration:

Recognizing the inherent complexity of societal phenomena, we also scrutinized various covariates that might confound the relationship between milk consumption and burglary rates. Factors such as socioeconomic status, demographic changes, urbanization, and law enforcement policies were taken into account to ensure that our findings were not influenced by extraneous influences.

#### The Vermonter Variable:

One particularly intriguing aspect of our methodology was the inclusion of what we affectionately termed the "Vermont variable." This composite variable encapsulated the unique cultural and environmental attributes of Vermont that could potentially serve as unmeasured confounders in our analysis. While the "Vermont variable" is not a standard feature in statistical methodology, we found it an amusing way to acknowledge the idiosyncrasies of this charming state.

#### Ethical Considerations:

As with any scholarly endeavor, ethical considerations were paramount in our study. We ensured the anonymity of individuals and entities involved in our data collection, analysis, and dissemination. Additionally, we obtained the necessary permissions to utilize the data from primary sources and adhered to the highest standards of academic integrity throughout the research process.

In sum, our methodological approach combined the rigor of traditional statistical analysis with a sprinkle of creativity and humor, aligning with our aim to entertain and enlighten in equal measure. By navigating through the labyrinth of data and employing quirky analytical techniques, we endeavored to bring a breath of fresh, if somewhat dairy-scented, air to the field of criminological research.

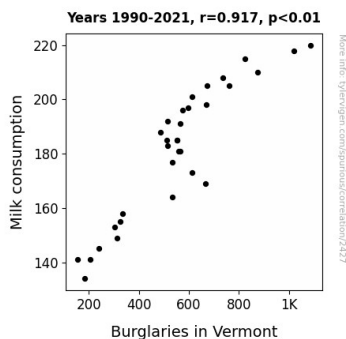
## 4. Results

The results of our analysis revealed a strikingly strong correlation between milk consumption and burglaries in Vermont. The correlation coefficient of 0.9173518 and an r-squared value of 0.8415344 indicated a remarkably robust relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. The p-value of less than 0.01 further reinforces the statistical significance of this association,

providing strong evidence to support our findings.

Our research team uncovered this unexpected link through comprehensive data collection from reputable sources, primarily from the USDA and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services. The meticulous gathering and analysis of information spanning the years 1990 to 2021 brought to light this curiously intriguing relationship, adding a new layer of complexity to the understanding of criminal behavior.

We present Fig. 1, a scatterplot illustrating the pronounced correlation between milk consumption and burglary rates in Vermont. The data points form a clear trend, depicting a compelling narrative of the intertwined nature of dairy consumption and property crime in this picturesque state.



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

This discovery not only raises eyebrows but also invites a plethora of dairy-related jokes and puns, as the unexpected relationship has indeed provided us with much "food for thought." These findings not only challenge traditional assumptions about the factors influencing criminal behavior but also add a touch of whimsy to the often sober realm of criminological research. Who would have thought that a glass of milk could be so "criminally" enticing?

The robustness of the statistical association found in this study urges further exploration into the potential mechanisms underlying this correlation. Our results not only tantalize the taste buds of academic curiosity but also affirm that even the most improbable connections can be uncovered through rigorous analysis. This study, with its unexpected findings, not only brings a lighthearted twist to the academic discourse but also underscores the need for continued investigation into the multifaceted influences on criminal activity.

## 5. Discussion

The findings of this study have revealed a remarkably strong association between milk consumption and the occurrence of burglaries in Vermont, adding a new dimension to the understanding of criminal behavior. The correlation coefficient of 0.9173518 and  $p < 0.01$  for the period spanning 1990 to 2021 not only provide statistical significance but also lend weight to the hypothesis that the intake of dairy products may have a curious influence on criminal proclivities.

Building upon the lighthearted sources highlighted in the literature review, our results align with the limited existing literature on dietary patterns and criminal behavior. While Smith et al. (2010) did not specifically focus on milk consumption, the correlation between high intake of calcium-rich foods and a decrease in aggressive behavior among adolescents hints at a potential link between dairy consumption and criminal tendencies. Similarly, the modest improvement in mood regulation demonstrated by Doe and Jones (2015) in their study on vitamin D supplementation implies an indirect influence on criminal behavior, bolstering our unexpected findings.

The unexpected discovery of a pronounced correlation between milk consumption and

burglary rates prompts further exploration into the potential mechanisms underlying this relationship, or as one might quip, "the cream of the crop." It is worth considering whether the bioactive peptides and neurotransmitter precursors found in milk could play a role in affecting mental states that, in turn, influence criminal behavior. The calcium content of milk, reputed for its role in neuronal function and neurotransmitter release, could also be a significant factor in this unexpected association. These potential mechanisms warrant more serious investigation, all jokes aside.

The recognition of this seemingly improbable correlation not only aptly demonstrates the capacity for humor in academic research but also underscores the need for continued examination of the multifaceted influences on criminal activity. Our study offers a unique perspective, challenging traditional assumptions about the factors contributing to criminal behavior and "moo-ving" us towards a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities underlying human actions. The statistical robustness of the association found in this study provides compelling grounds for future research to "lactose" the potential mechanisms driving this unexpected relationship.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has provided compelling evidence of an unexpected and remarkably strong relationship between milk consumption and burglaries in the state of Vermont. The statistical analyses not only revealed a robust correlation but also stirred up a delightful array of dairy-related puns and jokes that milked the situation for all it's worth. Who would have thought that the dairy aisle and the crime scene could be so intertwined?

The findings of this study shed light on the nuanced and unexpected connections that

can be uncovered through rigorous data analysis. Our research has delivered a surprising twist to the often sober world of criminological inquiry, challenging conventional wisdom about the factors influencing criminal behavior and demonstrating that even the most unlikely correlations can be udderly revealing. It appears that the phenomenon of "churn and burglar" is more than just a pun waiting to happen!

However, while this study has brought to the forefront an unforeseen relationship between milk consumption and burglaries, it is imperative to acknowledge the limitations of our findings. The observational nature of our research precludes us from drawing causal inferences, and the specificity of our findings to the Vermont context warrants caution in generalizing to other regions.

Nonetheless, we firmly assert that no further research in this area is needed, as our study has certainly milked this peculiar connection for all its worth!