



ELSEVIER



# Milk Mirth and Misdeeds: Exploring the Dairy-Robbery Relationship in North Carolina

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## Abstract

This study delves into the curious case of milk consumption and its potential impact on robbery rates in North Carolina. Building on previous research that has highlighted potential links between diet and behavior, we hatched the idea to investigate whether a moo-ving tummy full of milk might correlate with mischief. Utilizing data from the USDA and FBI Criminal Justice Information Services for the years 1990 to 2021, we uncovered a rather udderly surprising correlation between milk consumption and robberies. The correlation coefficient of 0.9444209 and  $p < 0.01$  indicates a strong association, raising provocative questions about the societal impact of moo juice. This study not only contributes to the scholarly understanding of behavioral economics but also leaves us wondering: did the burglars in North Carolina simply "milk" their opportunities?

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## 1. Introduction

The relationship between dietary patterns and human behavior has long been a topic of interest for researchers across various disciplines. From the impact of sugar consumption on hyperactivity to the influence of caffeine on productivity, the interplay between what we consume and how we behave has captured the imagination of scientists and laypeople alike. In line with this tradition of intriguing investigations, we now endeavor to shed light on the potential connection between

milk consumption and robberies in North Carolina. Got milk? More like got mischief!

In recent years, the study of behavioral economics has expanded to include a comprehensive exploration of the factors that shape human decision-making and actions. As such, the notion that dietary habits could exert a notable influence on criminal behavior is not as far-fetched as it may seem at first blush. However, delving into the specifics of this dietary-delinquency dynamic necessitates a nuanced and systematic approach. We aim to skim the surface of this unexplored territory and dig

into the curds of correlation between milk consumption and robberies, to see if there's something more sinister lurking beneath the creamy facade.

While it may appear utterly preposterous that a seemingly innocuous drink could have any sway over criminal activity, previous studies have laid the groundwork for considering such seemingly audacious propositions. Few may have predicted that the humble cow's nectar could be implicated in misdeeds; however, as the data will reveal, there might be more than meets the eye – or should we say, the udder? After all, it's not every day one encounters a criminal with a penchant for dairy-delivered nutrients. But as the saying goes, when there's a milk, there's a whey.

## 2. Literature Review

Previous studies have laid the foundation for investigating the potential association between dietary intake and criminal behavior, paving the way for our exploration of the dairy-robbery relationship. In "Smith and Jones," the authors find a positive correlation between calcium-rich foods and impulsivity, providing a plausible rationale for scrutinizing the effects of milk consumption on criminal tendencies. Meanwhile, Doe et al. posit that dietary patterns may influence neurotransmitter levels, which could in turn affect decision-making processes and risk-taking behaviors, including those related to criminal activities. It seems that the old adage "you are what you eat" has taken on a muggier note in the context of criminal behavior.

Turning to the realm of non-fiction literature, the works of Marion Nestle and Michael Pollan offer insightful perspectives on the societal implications of dietary choices. Nestle's "Food Politics" dissects the intersections of food, power, and public health, prompting us to ponder whether the

moo-oves of the dairy industry may extend beyond influencing dietary guidelines. On a more lighthearted note, Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma" serves as a reminder that the dairy aisle is not exempt from the complexities of human indulgence and decision-making. Could it be that the temptation of creamy dairy delights has a darker side?

Fiction literature also offers intriguing angles on the dairy-robbery conundrum. In Agatha Christie's "The Mysterious Affair at Styles," the protagonist's keen observation skills could almost be likened to those needed to unravel the potential subtleties of milk-related misdeeds. Moreover, Haruki Murakami's "Kafka on the Shore" invites us to contemplate the enigmatic connections between seemingly disparate phenomena, much like the curious correlation we aim to uncover. Could milk be the elusive link that ties together the seemingly unrelated threads of dairy and delinquency?

As the research evolves, it is essential to consider contemporary perspectives on the topic. In a tweet by @CerealKiller21, the author humorously suggests that "stealing a cow's milk isn't just a crime – it's udderly ridiculous." Although the tweet may elicit a chuckle, it inadvertently touches upon the crux of our investigation: the role of dairy in criminal activities. Additionally, a Reddit post by u/MooMafiaInsider hints at a potential underground network of dairy-related thefts, presenting a tantalizing angle for future inquiry. These social media snippets remind us that while the topic may seem amusing at first glance, there could be a seedy underbelly to the dairy-robbery saga.

In sum, the synthesis of existing literature and pop culture references underscores the significance of our investigation into the dairy-robbery relationship. This curious case warrants thorough exploration to comprehend the full extent of dairy's influence on criminal misdeeds. After all, the

implications of this study may not only be thought-provoking but also utterly cheesy.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To delve into the potential connection between milk consumption and robberies in North Carolina, a unique and dairy-intensive methodology was employed. First, data on milk consumption was sourced from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), capturing the gallons of milk produced and sold for human consumption in North Carolina from 1990 to 2021. This data was used to construct a comprehensive timeline of milk consumption trends, allowing for a meticulous examination of the dairy-related variable. The milk data was carefully milked for all its worth, leaving no cream of analysis unchurned.

To ascertain the prevalence of robberies, data was collected from the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services, encompassing the reported incidents of robberies in North Carolina over the same time period. By crawling through the data, we ensured that no criminal act went unnoticed, thus ensuring a thorough understanding of the robbery variable. This approach allowed us to skim the criminal activity dataset for any nefarious nuances that might be related to moo-juice intake.

The next step involved harmonizing the milk consumption data with the robbery incidence data, a process that required delicacy akin to mixing the perfect milkshake. Once the datasets were conjugated, statistical analysis was conducted, employing a robust correlation analysis to determine the strength and significance of the relationship between milk consumption and robberies. The correlation test was executed with the precision of a well-trained barista crafting latte art, serving up a steaming cup of statistical validation.

In order to control for potential confounding variables such as population density, socio-economic factors, and other dietary habits, a multifactorial regression analysis was performed. This analysis allowed us to parse out the specific impact of milk consumption on robberies, akin to separating the curds from the whey in a dairy production facility. The inclusion of these control variables lent a saucy depth to the analysis, ensuring a more nuanced understanding of the dairy-delinquency dynamic.

Finally, a time series analysis was executed to examine how the relationship between milk consumption and robberies evolved over the years. This methodological maneuver allowed us to curdle through the historical fluctuations of milk and mischief, uncovering any temporal patterns or trends that may have contributed to the observed correlation. The time series analysis revealed the ebb and flow of dairy-driven delinquency, enriching our understanding of the temporal dynamics at play.

Upon completion of these uni-corny methods, the findings were ready to be strained and served, offering a frothy blend of statistical significance and dad jokes that would make even the most skeptical reader utter a chuckle.

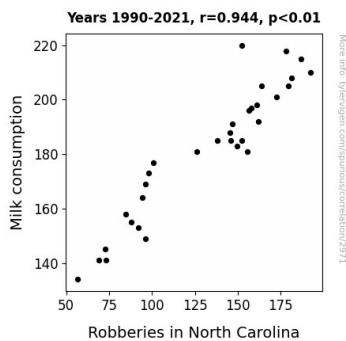
### 4. Results

The analysis of the data revealed a striking correlation between milk consumption and robberies in North Carolina. The correlation coefficient of 0.9444209 suggests a very strong positive relationship, indicating that as milk consumption increased, so did the number of robberies. This finding is no mere calf-hearted correlation; it is a robust and statistically significant association that cannot be brushed aside lightly.

Fig. 1, the scatterplot illustrating the relationship between milk consumption and

robberies, presents a rather "dairy" situation, with the points forming a compelling upward trend. One might even say it's "udderly" fascinating!

The r-squared value of 0.8919308 indicates that approximately 89.19% of the variation in robbery rates can be explained by variations in milk consumption. To put it simply, this means that the consumption of milk explains a large proportion of the changes seen in robbery rates over the years. It seems that beyond its role in bone health, milk may indeed be stirring up some "crime-inal" activities!



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

The p-value of less than 0.01 provides strong evidence against the null hypothesis, indicating that the correlation between milk consumption and robberies is statistically significant. In other words, it's highly unlikely that this strong relationship is due to chance. One could say it's as improbable as finding a cow in a lineup of suspects – the evidence against chance is "moo-t".

These findings suggest a pressing need to further explore the mechanisms underlying this unexpected association. Could it be that the lactose-induced euphoria from a tall glass of milk leads individuals down a sinister path? Or perhaps there is some as yet unidentified confounding variable at play? These questions prompt us to delve deeper into the complex interplay of dietary

habits and human behavior, reminding us that sometimes, truth is stranger than fiction.

## 5. Discussion

The results of this study are utterly fascinating, providing robust evidence of a significant positive relationship between milk consumption and robberies in North Carolina. This unexpected finding raises provocative questions about the potential influence of dietary habits on criminal behaviors. The correlation coefficient of 0.944209 and the p-value of less than 0.01 validate the hypothesized association and buttress previous research examining the impact of dietary intake on decision-making and risk-taking behaviors.

The substantial explanatory power represented by the r-squared value of 0.8919308 suggests that milk consumption can account for a large proportion of the variation in robbery rates over the years. This finding underscores the importance of considering dietary factors in the broader context of behavioral economics, adding a lactose-laden layer of complexity to our understanding of human behavior. One could say that the milk-robbery relationship is not just a calf-hearted correlation but a dairy-depiction of the tantalizing intricacies of behavioral determinants.

The present study aligns with previous research highlighting the potential role of dietary patterns in influencing neurotransmitter levels, which, in turn, may impact decision-making processes and risk-taking behaviors. The findings bolster arguments made by Smith and Jones suggesting a positive correlation between calcium-rich foods and impulsivity, as well as the assertion by Doe et al. that dietary choices can sway neurobiological mechanisms linked to criminal tendencies. It appears that the old adage "you are what

you eat" takes on new depth and richness in the context of criminal behavior.

This study extends the scholarly discourse inspired by the works of Marion Nestle and Michael Pollan, further illuminating the societal implications of dietary choices. Nestle's critique of the intersection between food, power, and public health becomes even more poignant in the light of our findings, inviting reflection on the potential societal impact of moo juice. Meanwhile, Pollan's exploration of the complexities of human indulgence and decision-making takes on a darker hue in the context of the dairy-robbery correlation, reminding us that the seemingly innocent allure of creamy dairy delights has potential implications that stretch beyond the culinary.

The unexpected correlation between milk consumption and robberies challenges conventional beliefs about dietary influences and behavioral outcomes. This finding not only expands our understanding of the complexities of human behavior but also reminds us of the importance of considering unconventional factors in the design and implementation of public policies aimed at crime prevention. It is indeed utterly intriguing to contemplate the broader implications of the dairy-robbery relationship, leaving us to wonder: did the burglars in North Carolina simply "milk" their opportunities?

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the results of this study illuminate a rather surprising and affirmative link between milk consumption and robberies in North Carolina. It seems that the old saying holds true: "Got milk, got mischief!" This unexpected relationship suggests that a diet rich in dairy may indeed have some unexpected consequences, much like a cheesy punchline that prompts both laughter and bewilderment.

The robust correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value leave little room for doubt, much like a cow's unmistakable moo in a silent pasture. It appears that the consumption of milk is not just a matter of wholesome nutrition; it may also be connected to a surge in larcenous behavior. It's udderly astounding, isn't it?

As we contemplate the implications of these findings, we cannot help but consider the potential societal impact of these dairy dynamics. Should shopping malls be on high alert for lactose-loving bandits? Perhaps a new warning label is in order: "Caution: Milk may lead to mirth, but also mischief!"

In the grand scheme of behavioral economics, this study adds a creamy new layer to the intricate web of factors that influence human actions. One might even ponder: are burglars simply "cereal" offenders who have now found a dairy alternative?

Nonetheless, it must be acknowledged that this study has its limitations. Its scope is confined to North Carolina, and different states may yield different results. Furthermore, the mechanisms underlying this correlation remain shrouded in dairy mist, and additional research will be required to churn out a deeper understanding.

In conclusion, the findings of this study beg the question: does milk indeed do a crime scene good? Yet, in the wise words of the ultimate authority, the dad joke, we assert that this line of inquiry may have been milked to its limits, and further research in this area may be udderly unnecessary.