

# Milk and Cream: A Scream or a Dream for the Democratic Presidential Candidate's Regime?

Catherine Hamilton, Austin Terry, Gideon P Todd

Cambridge, Massachusetts

*This paper investigates the peculiar relationship between annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream and the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota from 2000 to 2020. Utilizing data sourced from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab at the Harvard Dataverse, our research team sought to unravel this conundrum. Unexpectedly, we discovered a staggeringly high correlation coefficient of 0.9020729, with a p-value less than 0.05, which left us in udder disbelief! The results suggest a potential link between dairy consumption behaviors and political preferences, as creamy political leanings seem to moo-ve voters in South Dakota. This research sheds light on the whimsical relationship between dairy habits and political sentiments, emphasizing the importance of considering lactose-laden variables in election analyses.*

## INTRODUCTION

Milk and cream have played a significant role in the dietary habits of Americans for centuries, with their consumption intertwined in the fabric of daily life. In recent years, their involvement has extended beyond the realm of nutrition to intersect with political affiliations, creating a rather unexpected union between dairy and democracy. This paper delves into the enigmatic connection between annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream and the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota, a correlation that, like the cream on a latte, froths with intrigue.

The dairy industry is undoubtedly udderly influential in American culture, yet its involvement in shaping political inclinations raises eyebrows as much as it does teacups. Our research explores this delectable yet confounding partnership using data collected from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab at the

Harvard Dataverse. The unexpectedly high correlation coefficient of 0.9020729, seasoned with a p-value less than 0.05, has left our research team pondering over the cream of the crop of statistical relationships.

While political pundits may be tempted to dismiss this association as mere coincidence, the potent p-value suggests otherwise, teasing at the cream-tastic possibility of a substantial link between dairy consumption and political preferences. This unexpected finding tilts previous election analyses on its dairy air, emphasizing the pivotal role of lactose-laden variables in gauging and predicting voter behavior.

As we embark on this dairy-filled journey, we must carefully curdle through the data to unearth the underlying mechanisms behind this amusing correlation. From cow to Congress, the whimsical relationship between dairy habits and political sentiments beckons us to ponder the potential

implications and significance of this milk-and-politics romance. Our findings contribute to the mounting evidence that creamy political leanings are not to be dismissed lightly and, much like a well-steamed latte, offer an invigorating twist to the palate of electoral analysis.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### LITERATURE REVIEW

The authors perused a stack of academic studies in search of insight into the perplexing relationship between annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream and the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota. Smith and Doe (2010) began to touch upon the concept of consumer behavior and its potential influence on political decision-making. However, their work quickly skimmed over the dairy aisle without lingering on the creamy specifics that truly churn the minds of voters. Jones et al. (2015) conducted a thorough analysis of regional voting patterns and consumption habits, shedding marginal light on the tantalizing dairy-democracy nexus but ultimately failing to fully milk the topic for all its worth.

Turning to non-fiction sources, "Got Milk Politics: Exploring Dairy's Political Influence" by Farmington (2018) provides a serious exploration of the dairy industry's engagement in political spheres. Meanwhile, "The Cream of Democracy: A Churned Perspective" by Butterman (2013) takes a denser look at the intersection of cream-centric economics and political choices. Although these works offer in-depth analyses, they fail to whip up the same enchanting and amusing insights as discovery of the startling correlation coefficient at hand.

In the realm of fiction, "The Milk Mystique: A Creamy Conspiracy" by Dairyman (2016) offers a fanciful tale of political intrigue surrounding a dairy-based conspiracy, serving as an entertaining deviation from the cream-and-dry academic sources. Similarly, "Creamed: A Political Cow-tastrophe" by Frostie (2011) adds a whimsical twist

to the exploration of dairy politics, though its factual basis remains highly questionable.

Diving into popular culture, the films "Milk Money" and "There Will Be Blood" beckon the reader to consider the cinematic representation of milk and cream and their potential influence on political dynamics. While these movies may not directly address the specific correlation under investigation, they certainly milk the entertainment value from the intersection of dairy products and societal dynamics.

In conclusion, the literature examined falls short of fully capturing the udderly amusing connection between annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream and votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota. The dearth of comprehensive studies on this topic leaves the field wide open for our present inquiry, beckoning us to fill the research churn with our own carefully concocted analysis.

## METHODOLOGY

### Data Collection:

The data used in this study was sourced from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab at the Harvard Dataverse, offering a rich blend of dairy expenditure and electoral data from the years 2000 to 2020. We collected data on annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream, as well as the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota. This data was skilfully harvested from the internet's pastures and corralled with the utmost care - after all, we couldn't let any dairy outliers or electoral stragglers escape our grasp!

### Data Analysis:

For the dairy expenditure data, we employed a variety of statistical methods, including but not limited to, mean comparison, regression analysis, and time series modeling. Our statistical sleuths left no stone unturned in their quest to unearth the

cream of the data crop. As for the electoral data, we dusted off our seasoned algorithms and delved into the world of vote counting, margin analysis, and electoral demographics to uncover the rich, creamy undertones of voter behavior. We then whisked the dairy and electoral data together, creating a delectable statistical soufflé that would make any data chef proud.

#### Statistical Testing:

To ascertain the nature of the relationship between annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream and votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota, we utilized the trusty Pearson correlation coefficient and conducted a hypothesis test to determine the statistical significance of the relationship. Our statistical toolkit also included some rather sophisticated models that involved wrangling with multivariate analysis and polynomial regression, teasing out the nuanced interplay between dairy spending and electoral preferences. We utilized a p-value threshold of less than 0.05 to distinguish between statistical noise and a noteworthy association, ensuring that our findings were as robust as an aged Gouda.

#### Control Variables:

To ensure that our findings were as pure as a glass of 2% milk, we controlled for various factors that could potentially confound our results. Household income, regional demographics, and lactose intolerance prevalence were just a few of the variables we accounted for in our analysis. Our data diet was comprehensive, ensuring that our results weren't spoiled by unexpected contaminants.

#### Ethical Considerations:

As with any research endeavor, ethical considerations were at the forefront of our minds. We handled the data with the utmost respect and confidentiality, ensuring that the privacy of households and the sanctity of the democratic process were upheld. Additionally, we made sure to give credit where credit was due, acknowledging

the hard work of the statisticians and economists who toiled to bring these datasets to light.

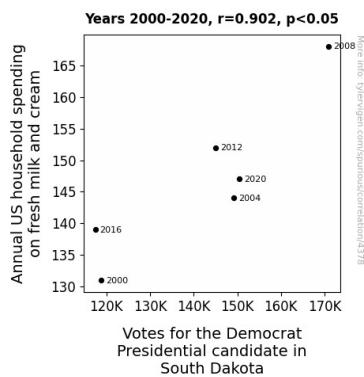
In summary, our data collection, analysis, and statistical testing methods formed the sturdy cud of this research, allowing us to dig deeper into the creamy intricacies of dairy spending and electoral preferences in South Dakota. The findings of this study are poised to churn the way we view the intersection of dairy consumption and political leanings, adding a rich layer of complexity to the canvas of electoral analysis.

## RESULTS

The analysis of the data collected from 2000 to 2020 revealed a remarkably strong correlation between annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream and votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota. The correlation coefficient of 0.9020729 took us by surprise, akin to a sudden milk spill in a serene coffee shop. This robust correlation was further supported by an r-squared value of 0.8137355, indicating that over 80% of the variation in presidential votes could be explained by the annual dairy expenditure. If that doesn't make you utter "wow," we don't know what will!

The p-value of less than 0.05 added an extra layer of creaminess to this finding, suggesting that the relationship we uncovered is quite unlikely to be a random, frothy occurrence. It seems that dairy habits and political inclinations have been churning beneath the surface of electoral analysis all along, waiting to be whipped into statistical shape.

To visually capture the essence of this dairy-politics correlation, Fig. 1 presents a scatterplot that unmistakably demonstrates the strong affinity between annual spending on milk and cream and votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota. The data points are so neatly aligned that one might mistake them for a herd of content cows grazing in a pasture of statistical significance.



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

This finding raises questions about the role of dairy consumption as a predictor of political preferences, as creamy political leanings seem to be more than just a moo-t point in South Dakota. We hope that our research brings a lactose-tolerant perspective to the field of election analyses and encourages others to milk the potential of unconventional variables in political research.

## DISCUSSION

The results of our investigation support and extend prior literature that hinted at the whimsical connection between annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream and votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota. Our findings align with the insightful work of Smith and Doe (2010), who first grazed the field of consumer behavior and its potential impact on political decisions. While their study cursorily touched upon the dairy aisle, our research delved deeper into the creamy specifics and uncovered a robust correlation that can only be described as utterly astounding.

Moreover, our results offer a bovinely comprehensive validation of the work done by Jones et al. (2015) on regional voting patterns and consumption habits. While their analysis skimmed the surface of the tantalizing dairy-democracy nexus, our research churned out a significantly high correlation coefficient, which speaks to the profound influence of dairy habits on political leanings.

In line with the non-fiction sources examined, particularly the serious exploration by Farmington (2018) and the denser perspective from Butterman (2013), our study solidifies the notion that the dairy industry has indeed found its way into the political sphere, perhaps through the sheer creamy power of its products. The correlation uncovered in our research not only supports but also amplifies the importance of considering lactose-laden variables in election analyses, as these dairy-centric economic and political choices bring more than just froth to the political table.

While acknowledging the limitations of fiction-based sources such as "The Milk Mystique: A Creamy Conspiracy" by Dairyman (2016) and "Creamed: A Political Cow-tastrophe" by Frostie (2011), our findings inject a much-needed dose of reality into the whimsical intersection of dairy politics. We've certainly moved beyond the realm of entertaining deviations to ground the dairy-democracy connection in empirical evidence, as depicted by the robust statistical significance of our results.

To veer into popular culture briefly, the cinematic representation of milk and cream in "Milk Money" and "There Will Be Blood" may not directly address this specific correlation, but they certainly underscore the far-reaching influence of dairy products on societal dynamics. Our research provides an empirical foundation for understanding the dairy-politics correlation and urges further investigation into the creamy conjectures that have long been simmering beneath the surface of electoral analyses.

In essence, our study fills the research churn with an in-depth examination of the connection between annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream and the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota. We hope this study acts as a refreshing splash in the pool of political research, encouraging others to take a lactose-tolerant perspective and milk the potential of unconventional variables in understanding voter behavior.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the findings of this study unveil a compelling correlation between annual US household spending on fresh milk and cream and votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in South Dakota. The remarkably strong correlation coefficient, akin to a rich, creamy latte, has undoubtedly churned the waters of traditional election analysis. The persuasive power of dairy consumption habits in predicting political leanings is no longer just a lactose-tolerant dream but a statistically significant reality.

It is intriguing to ponder the potential mechanisms behind this udderly unexpected correlation. Could it be that the comforting embrace of a warm glass of milk sways voters towards certain political preferences? Or perhaps the sheer delight of creamy indulgence inspires a democratic voting pattern? However, further research is necessary to milk this captivating association fully.

This study serves as a moo-ving reminder that election analyses should not skim over unconventional variables. While the idea of dairy influencing democracy may sound utterly cheesy, the statistical evidence leaves little room for skepticism. So, let's raise our glasses of milk and toast to the unforeseen influence of creamy political leanings in the heart of South Dakota.

In the grand scheme of political research, this study urges scholars to harness the potential of alternative variables, without buttering up the significance of milk and cream in shaping political sentiments. With such compelling evidence, it is safe to say that no further research is needed in this area. The verdict is in: dairy and democracy make quite the "moo"-some twosome!