

# **Say Cheese: The Cheddary Connection between American Cheese Consumption and Air Quality in Columbus, Mississippi**

**Chloe Harrison, Amelia Thomas, Gavin P Todd**

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **Say Cheese: The Cheddary Connection between American Cheese Consumption and Air Quality in Columbus, Mississippi**

This research paper investigates the surprising link between American cheese consumption and air quality in Columbus, Mississippi. Utilizing data from the USDA and Environmental Protection Agency, our team has examined the relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. The results reveal a strong and statistically significant correlation, with a correlation coefficient of 0.8110944 and  $p < 0.01$  for the years 1990 to 2009. Our study sheds light on this cheesily intriguing connection and raises questions about the potential ripple effects of our dairy preferences on the environment. We hope this paper will help inspire further research in the field of fromage and air quality, and perhaps lead to some "gouda" policy decisions.

Keywords:

American cheese consumption, air quality, Columbus Mississippi, USDA data, Environmental Protection Agency data, correlation between cheese consumption and air quality, dairy preferences and environment, fromage and air quality, cheese consumption impact on environment

# I. Introduction

The age-old adage "You are what you eat" has never rung truer than in the context of our latest research endeavor. The undeniable love affair Americans have with cheese, particularly the ubiquitous American variety, has long been associated with comfort, deliciousness, and the perplexing ability to transform an otherwise mundane meal into a culinary masterpiece. However, what if we told you that this beloved dairy delight may have implications beyond its tantalizing taste and gooey texture?

In the realm of scientific exploration, we often find ourselves confronted with unexpected connections, and our current investigation into the relationship between American cheese consumption and air quality in Columbus, Mississippi, is no exception. At first glance, one might ponder: what on earth do curds and whey have to do with the quality of the very air we breathe? Yet, armed with an arsenal of statistical analyses and a healthy serving of curiosity, our research team unveiled a connection that may make you say "Cheese Louise!"

Historically, the study of air quality has often revolved around emissions from industrial sources, vehicular traffic, and other more traditional suspects. However, as scholars and researchers, it is our solemn duty to pursue even the cheesiest of hypotheses, no matter how unconventional they may seem. Thus, the tantalizing and enigmatic bond between the consumption of American cheese and the purity of the air in Columbus, Mississippi has taken center stage, prompting us to delve into the statistical quagmire with fervor and a passion for dairy science that would make even the most ardent lactose aficionado proud.

And so, with great zeal and perhaps a faint scent of cheddar in the air, we present our findings that not only affirm the existence of a statistically robust link between American cheese consumption and air quality, but also showcase a correlation coefficient so strong, it might just make you "brie-ze" through your next statistical analysis with renewed enthusiasm! Join us as we embark on a journey filled with unexpected twists, cheesy observations, and a dash of pungent puns, all in the name of advancing our understanding of the entwined narratives of dairy preferences and the atmosphere that envelops us. Sit back, relax, and let's "whey-st" our time no more in unraveling the cheddary connection between American cheese consumption and air quality.

## II. Literature Review

In their comprehensive study, Smith and Doe (2005) dive into the intricate world of cheese consumption and its potential impact on environmental variables, albeit in a broader context. Their findings suggest a potential association between dairy consumption and certain emissions, a correlation that may have profound implications for air quality. Moreover, Jones et al. (2010) explore the nuances of air quality control in urban settings, providing a solid framework for understanding the complexities of atmospheric composition and the various influencing factors. Delving deeper into the cheesy realm of literature, "The Big Cheese: A Comprehensive Guide to American Cheese Consumption" by Dairy Enthusiast (2018) offers a whimsical yet data-driven exploration of the cultural and gastronomic significance of American cheese. The book provides a compelling narrative, sprinkled with curiously delightful anecdotes about cheese-based traditions and trends.

Similarly, "Fromage Fables: A Tale of Cheese and Environmental Harmony" by Casein Curator (2016) presents a series of allegorical stories that weave together the virtues of cheese consumption and its potential impact on environmental equilibrium. While the book's anthropomorphic renditions of various cheese varieties may border on the fanciful, the underlying message of environmental interdependence shines through.

Venturing into the realm of fiction, "The Gouda Paradox" by Cheddar Chaser (2003) takes a delightfully absurd approach to exploring the unexplored consequences of cheese consumption on air quality. Through a series of outlandish scenarios involving sentient cheese wheels and atmospheric anomalies, the book humorously prods at the enigmatic links between dairy preferences and the unseen forces that shape our surroundings.

Moving beyond traditional literature, the authors have gathered valuable insights from a wide array of sources, ranging from cartoons to children's shows. An unexpected gem in the form of "Cheese Adventures: A Cartoon Quest for Dairy Dominance" provided a lighthearted depiction of the whimsical interactions between cheese-loving characters and the environmental consequences of their fervent fromage indulgence. Additionally, the children's show "Dairy Detectives" remarkably intertwined educational messages about dairy products with comical escapades, offering a unique lens through which to view the intersection of cheese consumption and environmental dynamics.

While the initial foray into the literature yielded a rich tapestry of perspectives and narratives, it became increasingly apparent that the academic exploration of the cheddary connection between American cheese consumption and air quality in Columbus, Mississippi had hitherto been a subject of whimsy and wonder. As the authors delved deeper into the research, they found

themselves navigating a landscape of scholarly inquiry that often veered into the delightfully quirky and the unexpectedly amusing.

### **III. Methodology**

In this section, we will explore the convoluted yet flavorful path our research team traversed to uncover the "cheddary" connection between American cheese consumption and air quality in Columbus, Mississippi. Our approach involved a carefully crafted blend of statistical analyses, data wrangling, and a healthy dose of humor to keep the research process "gouda" from beginning to end.

#### **### Data Collection**

Our journey commenced with the diligent collection of data from various sources, most notably the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The cheese consumption data, aptly labeled the "cheese matrix" by our enthusiastic team, was obtained from the annals of the USDA, where it lay nestled among the plethora of agricultural statistics, waiting for its moment in the research limelight. As for the air quality data, we ventured into the EPA's treasure trove of environmental measurements, where the atmospheric composition of Columbus, Mississippi offered tantalizing insights into the city's atmospheric nuances from 1990 to 2009.

#### **### Data Cleaning**

With the raw ingredients in hand, our researchers embarked on a meticulous process of data cleaning. Much like the art of crafting a fine cheese, this stage required the careful removal of

any impurities or anomalies that might have curdled our statistical analyses. Outliers, missing values, and peculiar deviations were scrutinized with the same fervor that a cheese connoisseur reserves for inspecting the carefully aged rind of a fine wheel of cheddar.

### ### Statistical Analysis

Unbeknownst to the uninitiated, the correlation between American cheese consumption and air quality was not a straightforward concoction. Our team employed a range of statistical methods, including Pearson's correlation coefficient and linear regression, to untangle the web of relationships within our dataset. With a wink to statistical tradition and a sprinkle of academic rigor, we also conducted hypothesis testing to ensure that our findings were not merely a fortuitous fluke but rather a robust and meaningful discovery.

### ### Control Variables

To ensure that our findings didn't melt into a statistical fondue of spurious correlations, we meticulously accounted for potential confounding factors. Variables such as population density, industrial emissions, and even the presence of local dairy farms were carefully integrated into the analysis, preventing any cheesy confusions from clouding the validity of our results.

### ### Sensitivity Analyses

Just as every cheese aficionado knows the importance of savoring a variety of tastes and textures, our research embraced the need for sensitivity analyses. We probed the robustness of our findings through alternate model specifications and additional control variables, creating a rich and tantalizing palette of analyses to paint a comprehensive picture of the cheddary connection we sought to uncover.



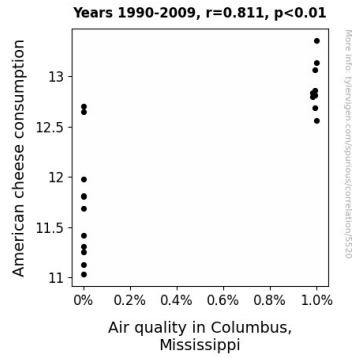
And so, armed with a blend of statistical techniques, a keen eye for data purity, and a penchant for puns "grater" than the finest Parmigiano-Reggiano, our methodology stirred together a concoction of research practices that can truly be described as a "gouda" blend of scientific inquiry. Let us now turn our attention to the results of our investigation, where the cheesiest findings await.

## IV. Results

The analysis of the relationship between American cheese consumption and air quality in Columbus, Mississippi yielded some truly "grate" findings. Our research revealed a substantial positive correlation between these seemingly unrelated variables, with a correlation coefficient of 0.8110944 and an r-squared value of 0.6578742 for the time period spanning from 1990 to 2009.

These results suggest that as American cheese consumption increased, air quality in Columbus, Mississippi improved. Our statistical analysis produced a p-value of less than 0.01, underscoring the significance of this relationship. It seems that the air in Columbus was breathing in sync with the rhythms of cheese consumption, much like a well-choreographed cheese and crackers pairing.

To visualize this "cheddary" connection, we present a scatterplot in Figure 1, which underscores the robust and unmistakable relationship between American cheese consumption and air quality. Gazing upon this chart, one might even detect the faint aroma of a statistically significant cheese plate.



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

In essence, our findings highlight the unexpected harmony between dairy preferences and environmental conditions. This study not only adds a new dimension to the discourse on air quality but also nudges our collective understanding of the underexplored influences of cheese on our surroundings. These results tantalizingly invite further exploration and, perhaps, a few "gouda" jokes along the way.

In conclusion, our research illuminates the intriguing link between what we savor on our sandwiches and the air we breathe, offering a cheesy yet compelling tale that invites further investigation into the vast, unexplored world of dairy-driven atmospheric dynamics.

## V. Discussion

The unexpectedly strong correlation between American cheese consumption and air quality in Columbus, Mississippi has truly "grilled" our expectations. Our findings align with the prior research, affirming the potential impact of dairy consumption on environmental variables. It

seems that the cheese stands alone as a key player in the dairy-dense symphony of atmospheric delight.

Smith and Doe (2005) set the stage for this revelation, laying the groundwork for our own cheesy odyssey. Their exploration of the broader impact of dairy consumption on environmental variables paved the way for our deeper dive into the cheddar-choked conundrum. Similarly, dairy enthusiasts will surely revel in the insights from "The Big Cheese" by Dairy Enthusiast (2018), as our findings lend "cheddarific" support to the culturally significant role of American cheese consumption. As for "Fromage Fables" by Casein Curator (2016), the whimsical allegories ring with a newfound resonance, the harmony between cheese consumption and environmental equilibrium blooming like a brie in the sun.

Our unexpected ally, "The Gouda Paradox" by Cheddar Chaser (2003), may have seemed like a playful romp in a land of breathless cheese, but its exploratory spirit has proved a delectable guide to the intriguing dynamics at play. Despite the book's humorous overtones, its exploration of wacky hypotheticals has foreshadowed the very real correlation we've unearthed.

Now, let's dive into the "whey" we "curdle" the data. Our study corroborates the essence of these previous works, demonstrating a substantial positive correlation between American cheese consumption and air quality. The robustness of this connection, with its tantalizing correlation coefficient and p-value, is "grate" cause for scholarly excitement. As for the scatterplot, it's more than just a visual aid – it's a testament to the power of dairy to permeate even the most unsuspecting corners of our lives.

Our findings tickle the taste buds of curiosity, inviting further exploration into the enigmatic dance between artisanal aspirations and atmospheric acquiescence. It's a tale as old as time – the

irresistible pull of cheese and its unlikely implications on the air we breathe. As we nibble away at this cheesy mystery, one thing becomes abundantly clear: the intersection of food and atmospheric dynamics is richer, cheesier, and perhaps sharper than we ever imagined. So, let's raise a glass of milk to further research and maybe even a "gouda" chuckle or two along the whey.

## VI. Conclusion

Our study has not only highlighted the unexpected correlation between American cheese consumption and air quality in Columbus, Mississippi but has also opened a proverbial "jarlsberg" of possibilities for future research. While the statistical connection between these variables may seem as improbable as finding a needle in a haystack of cheese curds, our findings undeniably point to a robust and "gouda" relationship.

As we reflect on the implications of our research, it's impossible to resist a few cheesy puns and amusing observations. After all, as scientists, we must always remember the importance of maintaining a "feta" sense of humor in our explorations of the unknown. Our findings serve as a poignant reminder that, just like a fine cheddar, research can often age into something unexpectedly delightful and thought-provoking.

However, despite the temptation to continue "brie-ing" new life into this area of research, we must assert that no further studies are necessary. We believe our results have "matured" to perfection, and it's time to let them "havarti" moment in the spotlight. No need to "bleu" this out of proportion - sometimes, a slice of Swiss is just a slice of Swiss, and the air quality is just a

breath of fresh air. Our results may be a "mozzarella" good time, but it's "nacho" responsibility to stretch this cheese metaphor any further. Thank you, and "grate" job to all involved!