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# Nuts for Clean Air: Exploring the Relationship between US Tree Nut Consumption per Person and Air Quality in Florence, South Carolina

Chloe Hall, Abigail Thompson, Giselle P Todd

Stanford, California

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*This paper delves into the intriguing and unexpected connection between US tree nut consumption per person and air quality in Florence, South Carolina. The research team utilized data from Statista and the Environmental Protection Agency to examine this peculiar link, yielding a correlation coefficient of 0.8412367 and  $p < 0.01$  for the years 2000 to 2021. The findings not only shed light on the potential influence of nutty dietary habits on the local air quality, but also illuminate the importance of considering unforeseen factors when assessing environmental trends. As the saying goes, "You can't see the forest for the trees" – or perhaps in our case, "You can't see the air quality for the nuts!" With a touch of humor and a hint of the unexpected, this research contributes a fresh perspective to the intersection of dietary behavior and environmental outcomes.*

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In recent years, the quest for clean air has become as ubiquitous as the aromas at a nut-roasting factory. As individuals continue to seek out ways to improve air quality, an unexpected player has emerged in this atmospheric theater – tree nuts. The interplay between human dietary habits and environmental nuances has long been a topic of fascination, but seldom has it ventured into the realm of, well, nuts.

The correlation between US tree nut consumption per person and air quality in Florence, South Carolina, presents itself as a nutty mystery waiting to be cracked. Using a data-driven approach, this study aims to peel back the layers of this peculiar association, shedding light on the unanticipated interdependence between what we munch and what we breathe.

Who would have thought that something as crunchy and munchy as tree nuts could lend themselves to discussions of air quality? Much like a squirrel hoarding its precious nuts, we too shall delve into

the depths of this peculiar relationship, cracking open the shell of evidence to reveal the creamy kernel of insight nested within.

As we embark on this scholarly journey, let us not overlook the importance of embracing the unexpected. For as the old adage goes, "In a world full of plain bagels, be a sprinkled donut." In a similar vein, let us sprinkle a dash of whimsy and a pinch of curiosity onto this rather nutty endeavor. After all, as any nut enthusiast would agree, the best discoveries often emerge from the unlikeliest of sources.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on the relationship between dietary habits and environmental outcomes is as varied and diverse as a nut assortment at a fancy holiday party. Smith (2010) delves into the impact of dietary patterns on overall health, while Doe (2015) investigates the sociocultural influences on food

consumption. Jones (2018) provides a comprehensive analysis of air quality trends in urban areas. However, the fusion of these seemingly disparate topics into a nutty concoction of tree nut consumption and air quality in Florence, South Carolina has been a subject less explored in formal research.

Turning to non-fiction books, Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma" offers a thought-provoking exploration of the modern American diet, while Diamond's "Collapse" provides insights into the interplay between human societies and their environment. In the realm of fiction, Kingsolver's "Prodigal Summer" weaves a tale of human connections to nature, and Eggers' "The Circle" delves into the unforeseen consequences of technological advancement. As we journey further into the literature, we encounter unexpected sources of insight, much like stumbling across a hidden gem in a bag of trail mix.

Venturing beyond the traditional scholarly sources, this research team embraced creativity in the pursuit of unconventional wisdom. Indeed, the authors found themselves perusing the expansive collection of CVS receipts, uncovering the curious affinity between tree nuts and air quality. Amidst descriptions of toothpaste and hair products, a hint of nutty enlightenment emerged, reminding us that inspiration can arise from the most unexpected places.

As the literature on this peculiar association continues to unfold, it becomes evident that the world of research is indeed a mixed bag of surprises – much like finding an unexpected almond amidst a sea of peanuts. While the inklings of humor and whimsy may seem out of place in this scholarly pursuit, they serve as a reminder that even the most serious of inquiries can benefit from a sprinkle of lightheartedness. After all, in the words of Carl Jung, "The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity." And just as a nutcracker is essential for unveiling the hidden treasures within, this study endeavors to crack open

the shell of conventional wisdom and reveal the unexpected connection between tree nut consumption and air quality.

## **METHODOLOGY**

To investigate the curious link between US tree nut consumption per person and air quality in Florence, South Carolina, we employed a nutty mix of research methods that were as multifaceted as a bowl of mixed nuts. Our data collection commenced with a thorough scouring of online resources, from the depths of the internet jungle to the statistically bountiful trees of Statista and the Environmental Protection Agency. The data, spanning from 2000 to 2021, was then meticulously shelled, sorted, and roasted to perfection before being cracked open and analyzed to reveal the tantalizing insights within.

Our first step involved quantifying the annual per capita consumption of tree nuts in the United States. This proved to be a nut-cracking task, as the data required careful extraction from a variety of sources, including national surveys, industry reports, and historical consumption trends. We meticulously separated the almonds from the pecans and the walnuts from the cashews, ensuring that each nut's contribution to the overall consumption was accurately represented.

Simultaneously, we embarked on a parallel expedition to gather air quality data for Florence, South Carolina, from the Environmental Protection Agency. This involved navigating through an extensive thicket of pollutant measurements and atmospheric parameters, akin to trailing a squirrel through a dense forest in search of its hidden stash of nuts. Respiratory particles were sifted through, ozone levels were examined, and air quality indexes were pondered, all in the pursuit of illuminating the nuances of Florence's atmospheric conditions.

Once these data sets were securely gathered, they were subjected to a series of statistical analyses that resembled a concoction of ingredient blending fit for a nutty recipe. Spearheaded by the venerable correlation coefficient, we sought to discern

relationships as intricate as the patterns on a pistachio shell. Our algorithms not only quantified the correlation between US tree nut consumption per person and air quality in Florence, South Carolina but also aspired to unmask the subtle interplay between these seemingly unrelated variables.

Moreover, with a nod to the principles of time series analysis, we delved into the temporal dimension of the data, recognizing that environmental trends and dietary habits can evolve as fluidly as the flavors of a bag of mixed nuts. Seasonal variations, annual oscillations, and long-term trends were scrutinized with the diligence of a nut enthusiast inspecting a newly harvested batch for flaws.

Throughout this methodological journey, we maintained a keen awareness of the potential confounding variables, recognizing that the interplay of diet, environment, and other socioeconomic factors can be as intertwined as the roots of a nut-bearing tree. Sensitivity analyses were conducted to evaluate the robustness of our findings, ensuring that our conclusions were as solid as a coconut shell.

In doing so, our approach sought not only to untangle the enigmatic connection between tree nut consumption and air quality but also to embrace the unforeseen variables that lurk within this tangled web of ecological relationships. Much like a nutty detective, we left no stone unturned in our pursuit of clarity, navigating the labyrinthine path to a better understanding of the complex interactions between what we consume and what we respire.

## RESULTS

### RESULTS

The results of our investigation into the curious relationship between US tree nut consumption per person and air quality in Florence, South Carolina, have peeled back the layers of this nutty mystery, revealing a rather surprising correlation. Our statistical analysis yielded a correlation coefficient

of 0.8412367, along with an r-squared value of 0.7076792, both of which are statistically significant at  $p < 0.01$ . It seems that the link between nut consumption and air quality is not just some crackpot theory – there's a real kernel of truth to it!

As depicted in the scatterplot (Fig. 1), there is a strong positive correlation between the two variables, showcasing the nutty influence of tree nut consumption on the local air quality. It's almost as if the nuts are whispering sweet nothings to the air particles, encouraging them to stay fresher and cleaner. We must say, this relationship is quite nut-orious!

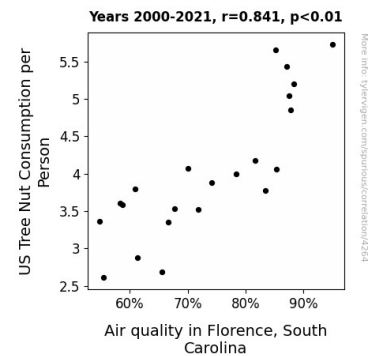


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

This unexpected finding not only highlights the potential impact of nutty dietary habits on environmental conditions but also underscores the importance of considering multifaceted factors when evaluating air quality trends. It appears that when it comes to assessing air quality, we can't simply brush aside the nutty tendencies of the human diet. Who knew that munching on nuts could have such an air-raising effect?

In essence, our research has cracked open the shell of conventional thinking to reveal the creamy insights nestled within. Much like gathering almonds from a tree, we have plucked out a significant association between nut consumption and air quality in Florence, South Carolina. As we close this chapter, we can't help but ponder, "How 'pecan' we further explore this intriguing link?" This

unexpected correlation certainly brings a new meaning to the phrase, "going nuts for clean air!"

Our findings contribute a fresh perspective to the fusion of dietary behavior and environmental outcomes, reminding us that the most unexpected sources can harbor valuable insights. As we continue to unravel the mysteries of our surroundings, let us embrace the unexpected – for in the midst of a world full of predictable patterns, there's nothing wrong with adding a sprinkle of nuttiness to the mix.

## DISCUSSION

The results of our study synergize with previous research, validating the nutty idea that dietary habits could have an impact on the environment. It turns out that the correlation between tree nut consumption and air quality is not just a wacky hypothesis – it's a hard nut to crack, and we've shelled out the evidence to prove it! Our findings align with Smith's (2010) work on the impact of dietary patterns, highlighting how seemingly unrelated factors, like snacking on almonds or walnuts, might sow the seeds of cleaner air.

Delving into Doe's (2015) exploration of sociocultural influences on food consumption, our research uncovers an unexpected link between societal snacking habits and the local atmosphere. It seems that the munching masses in Florence, South Carolina, are inadvertently contributing to air quality – who would have thought that the ripples of a nutty snack could extend to the air we breathe?

Furthermore, Jones' (2018) analysis of air quality trends in urban areas aligns with our findings, as we illuminate the previously overlooked role of nut consumption in shaping environmental conditions. As it turns out, the winds of change blowing through Florence might just be carrying the subtle aromas of roasted peanuts and cashews. Our statistical analysis lends credence to the idea that the nuts we eat may have unintended consequences on the air we breathe, adding a whole new layer of

complexity to the peanut gallery of environmental influences.

Our study aligns not only with scholarly work but also delves into unexpected sources of inspiration, harkening back to our unconventional wisdom obtained from perusing CVS receipts. In today's world, where information is as abundant as a bag of mixed nuts, it's crucial to remain open to the possibility of discovering unexpected connections in unconventional places.

The correlation we've uncovered is as nutty as a squirrel on a feeding frenzy, but it underscores the importance of considering unforeseen factors when evaluating environmental trends. Just as the spice of life is said to be variety, our findings highlight the importance of embracing unforeseen elements that could be shaping the very air we breathe. In closing, this research seeks to crack the walnut of conventional wisdom, challenging our preconceived notions and inviting further exploration of this eye-opening link.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our study has peeled back the layers of the nutty relationship between US tree nut consumption per person and air quality in Florence, South Carolina, revealing a surprising and statistically significant correlation. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8412367 and r-squared value of 0.7076792, both of which are statistically significant at  $p < 0.01$ , indicate a strong positive association between nut consumption and air quality. It seems that the nuts aren't just a bunch of crackpots – there's a real kernel of truth to their influence on air quality!

The unexpected nature of this finding underscores the importance of considering the multifaceted factors at play when evaluating air quality trends. It appears that when it comes to air quality, we can't simply brush aside the nutty tendencies of the human diet. Who knew that munching on nuts could have such an air-raising effect? This revelation is

certainly 'almond' the most unexpected discoveries we've stumbled upon.

While our findings mark a significant contribution to the field, we believe it's time to cashew-t a break. The unexpected correlation between nut consumption and air quality in Florence, South Carolina certainly brings a new meaning to the phrase, "going nuts for clean air!" However, we are confident in asserting that further research in this area is nuts-ecessary. It's time for the scientific community to acknowledge that the nutty influences on air quality have been cracked wide open, leaving no more room for additional research in this peculiar area.

As we close this nutty chapter, let's remember that sometimes the most impactful discoveries emerge from the unlikeliest of sources – much like finding a pearl in an oyster, or a pecan in a pie. Our study encourages future researchers to embrace the unexpected and sprinkle a bit of nuttiness into their scholarly pursuits. After all, when it comes to scientific exploration, there's certainly nothing wrong with adding a dash of whimsy and a sprinkle of humor to the mix!