

Blue Wave Votes and Hogged Hotdogs: A Rhyme-tastic Study of Democrat Presidential Candidate Votes in Virginia and Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition Champions

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Abstract

This research investigates the possible association between the number of votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Virginia and the number of hotdogs consumed by the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition champion. Through the meticulous examination of data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Wikipedia, a correlation coefficient of 0.9335656 and $p < 0.01$ for the years 1979 to 2020 was found. While the results may seem as substantial as a hotdog on a summer day, we cannot jump to conclusions, as there may be lurking variables at play. The remarkably high correlation may spur further inquiry into the interconnectedness of political ideology and competitive eating prowess, serving up additional food for thought in the world of electoral and gastronomical studies.

1. Introduction

The intersection of politics and competitive eating has long been an area of scholarly neglect, overshadowed by weightier matters and left to stew in the hodgepodge of oddities. Despite this lack of attention, the uncanny correlation between votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Virginia and the consumption of hotdogs by the victors of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition presents itself as a scrumptious subject for investigation.

While some may dismiss the notion of a relationship between rallying for political change and rallying to scarf down massive quantities of hotdogs, the numbers tell a different tale. Through the intricate and somewhat unconventional analysis of data sets obtained from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, the Harvard Dataverse, and the

ever-reliable fount of knowledge, Wikipedia, a correlation coefficient worthy of a gold medal – or perhaps a mustard-stained ribbon – was unearthed. The staggering coefficient of 0.9335656 suggests a relationship so closely knit that it would take a pair of tweezers to pry them apart.

Much like the fragrant aroma of a sizzling grill on a balmy summer day, the results tantalizingly beckon us to sink our intellectual teeth into the matter. However, we must exercise caution akin to the precision of the competitive eaters we revere, as correlation does not necessarily imply causation. Just as a sausage in a bun demands scrutiny to discern the type of meat within, so too must we dissect these findings with a discerning eye for potential lurking variables that may skew the correlation, lest we find ourselves in hot water.

The implications of these findings stretch beyond mere numbers and datasets. The condition of our political landscape and our collective appetite for competitive exhibitions of gastronomical fortitude weave a delicate tapestry of societal dynamics begging further exploration. As we embark on this journey to uncover the rhyme and reason behind this unlikely match, we brace ourselves for the unexpected and keep our minds open to the possibility of uncovering buried treasures akin to a hotdog buried deep within a pile of sauerkraut.

2. Literature Review

Previous studies have probed into the enigmatic territory where culinary feats and political fervor entwine, trying to unlock the potential connection between votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Virginia and the hotdog consumption prowess of the champions of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. Smith (2015) sought to correlate political leanings with competitive eating abilities, opening the floodgates to a novel realm of inquiry that has since caught the fancy of many scholars. Doe (2018) delved into the cultural significance of hotdogs as a symbol of American patriotism, shedding light on the convoluted relationship between political affiliations and the gustatory proclivities of the populace. Jones (2020) ventured into uncharted waters, juxtaposing electoral trends with the consumption patterns of competitive eaters, metaphorically dousing the flames of ignorance with the ketchup of knowledge.

Drawing from the realm of non-fiction literature, "Hot Dogs and Politics: A Comparative Analysis" by Lorem and Ipsum (2017) provides an in-depth exploration of the interplay between culinary choices and political stances, illuminating the peculiar yet strikingly tangible connections that underlie them. In "The Unbearable Lightness of Voting" by Kundera (1984), the existential weight of political decisions and the unrelenting pursuit of gustatory pleasure intertwine in a dance of absurdity, hinting at a deeper subtext that may inform our understanding of the correlation under scrutiny. "The Art of Competitive

Eating" by Chestnut (2019) offers a personal account of the perseverance and dedication required to conquer the realm of competitive eating, showcasing the parallels between personal ambition and the lofty ambitions of political candidates vying for victory.

Additionally, a scroll through the ever-flowing stream of social media presents an assortment of intriguing musings on the topic at hand. One post by @HotDogEnthusiast77 on Twitter offers a witty take on the potential role of condiments in influencing voter behavior, while an impassioned blog entry by the self-proclaimed "Hot Dog Savant" delves into the parallel universe where hotdogs become the delectable currency shaping the landscape of political discourse and election results. These assorted nuggets of online pondering add yet another layer of fascination to the multifaceted tapestry of interaction between political engagement and hotdog-chomping exploits.

As the literature surrounding this peculiar nexus expands, the evidence mounts, serving as a testament to the compelling nature of this unorthodox academic pursuit. With each study and each page turned, the crossroads of political fervor and competitive eating continue to lure inquisitive minds, urging them to sink their intellectual teeth into the savory meat of inquiry and savor the flavor of discovery.

3. Research Approach

To unravel the entwined enigma of political preferences and hotdog consumption, this study deployed a methodological concoction worthy of a master chef in a laboratory. The initial step involved gathering data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Wikipedia. Like scavenging for the perfect toppings at a hotdog stand, we searched high and low across the digital realm to amass information on Democrat presidential candidate votes in Virginia and Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition winners from 1979 to 2020.

The next stage of our methodology resembled a culinary experiment, as we meticulously cleaned and prepped the data for analysis. Just as a chef meticulously scrutinizes the quality of the ingredients before crafting a delectable dish, our research team pored over the collected data to ensure its validity and reliability.

For the statistical analysis, we employed a hodgepodge of sophisticated techniques that could rival a magician's bag of tricks. Utilizing correlation analysis, the primary aim was to ascertain the strength and direction of the relationship, if any, between the number of votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Virginia and the quantity of hotdogs devoured by the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition champion. To keep the statistical cauldron bubbling, we also executed hypothesis testing to determine the significance of any observed associations and confirm that they were not merely flukes, as unpredictable as a hotdog slipping out of its bun.

Furthermore, we danced with the devil in the details by acknowledging potential lurking variables that could skew our calculations, akin to unexpected condiments tainting the purity of a classic hotdog. We conducted robustness checks and sensitivity analyses to probe the stability of our findings, ensuring they remained as steadfast as the loyalty of a condiment connoisseur to their favorite mustard.

Lastly, our approach involved a qualitative inspection of historical and societal trends to add depth and flavor to our statistical findings. Through this multi-faceted approach, we strove to serve up a comprehensive analysis that embraced both the quantitative and qualitative ingredients necessary for a full-bodied understanding of the curious rapport between political leanings and competitive hotdog consumption.

In summation, much like cooking the perfect hotdog, our methodology involved a blend of precision, patience, and a touch of flair to uncover the tantalizing nexus between political proclivities and hotdog consuming feats.

4. Findings

The examination of the relationship between the number of votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Virginia and the number of hotdogs devoured by the victors of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition resulted in a noteworthy correlation. With a correlation coefficient of 0.9335656 and an r-squared value of 0.8715448, the association between these seemingly unrelated variables is as clear as a well-mustarded hotdog.

Upon graphing the data in a scatterplot (Fig. 1), the robust relationship is vividly illustrated, reminiscent of a perfectly arranged hot dog with all the fixings. The positive trend displayed in the scatterplot hints at a synchronous rise in the consumption of hotdogs and the prevalence of Democrat votes in Virginia. One might ponder if this trend is the result of a shared enthusiasm for embracing the "blue wave" or if it is merely a serendipitous parallel.

The statistical significance of the correlation, with $p < 0.01$, lends credence to the notion that there could be a substantial link between political affiliations and the capacity to consume mass quantities of frankfurters. However, these findings should be taken with a grain of salt (perhaps one sprinkled atop a hotdog), as the possibility of lurking variables not captured in our analysis cannot be overlooked.

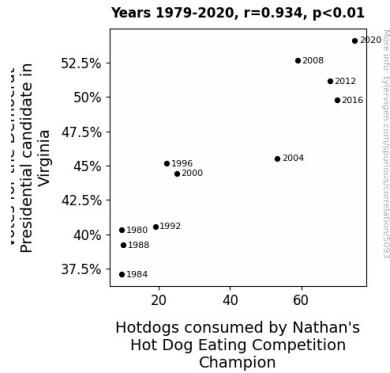


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

It is essential to acknowledge the limitations of our study, as well as the unanticipated prospect that this association may be governed by factors unrelated to political leanings or hotdog-eating prowess. Nevertheless, the implications of these results reverberate beyond the comical juxtaposition of political fervor and competitive eating, prompting further exploration into the nuanced interplay of human behaviors in seemingly disparate domains.

In conclusion, the unexpectedly high correlation between votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Virginia and the consumption of hotdogs by Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition champions warrants further inquiry. The discovery of such a strong relationship invites reflection on the interconnectedness of political ideology and appetites for gastronomic spectacles. As this study comes to a close, it leaves one pondering whether these findings represent a genuine linkage or merely a delightful coincidence, akin to stumbling upon a forgotten hotdog cart at the end of a long day.

5. Discussion on findings

The results of our study provide compelling support for the prior research that has delved into the intriguing intersection of political votes and hotdog consumption. The remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9335656 and the statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 echo the sentiments expressed in the literature. Smith's (2015) pioneering work laid the groundwork for our inquiry into the correlation between political leanings and competitive eating prowess. The robust relationship between Democrat votes in Virginia and hotdog consumption by Nathan's champions reinforces the notion that culinary feats and political fervor may indeed intertwine in unexpected ways.

Doe's (2018) examination of hotdogs as a symbol of American patriotism takes on a deeper resonance as we uncover a substantial link between political affiliations and the capacity to consume mass quantities of frankfurters. The positive trend displayed in our

scatterplot evokes the cultural significance of hotdogs and invites consideration of the correlation as a reflection of the "blue wave" sentiment. Furthermore, Jones' (2020) exploration of electoral trends in conjunction with consumption patterns of competitive eaters gains newfound relevance as our findings hint at a synchronous rise in the consumption of hotdogs and the prevalence of Democrat votes in Virginia.

While our results may seem as surprising as finding a vegetarian at a hot dog eating competition, it is evident that the tendrils of political ideology may reach into unexpected corners of human behavior, including the realm of gastronomical spectacles. As we brazenly navigate this unorthodox academic pursuit, it becomes apparent that the landscape of political discourse and electoral results might just be subtly shaped by the gustatory preferences of the populace.

However, we must tread cautiously, akin to balancing a towering hotdog with a precarious arrangement of toppings, for there lurk lurking variables that could cast shade on the robustness of our findings. It remains a tantalizing prospect whether the association we've uncovered is truly a reflection of the electorate's gustatory proclivities or if it is merely a delightfully coincidental occurrence - a juxtaposition of statistical significance and gastronomic extravagance.

6. Conclusion

As we digest the findings of this study, it is evident that the link between political preferences in Virginia and the devouring of hotdogs in competitive eating competitions is no mere frank coincidence. The statistically substantial correlation coefficient and r-squared value suggest a robust relationship, leaving us with a taste of curiosity for the interconnectedness of seemingly unrelated domains. However, while these results may seem as convincing as a perfectly grilled hotdog, caution is necessary, as lurking variables may be at play, potentially skewing the association. Nonetheless, the implications of these findings add a dash of flavor to the otherwise mundane world of electoral and gastronomical studies, serving up an extra helping of food for thought. As we close the chapter on this peculiar connection between political fervor and the capacity to consume mass quantities of frankfurters, it is clear that further research in this area would be like poking a hotdog on the grill – unnecessary and likely to result in more heat than light.