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# Gouda Democrats: The Cheddar Connection between American Cheese Consumption and Democrat Votes for Senators in Mississippi

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## Abstract

In this paper, we tackle the age-old question of whether there is a correlation between American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi. Our team gathered and analyzed data from the USDA and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, and Harvard Dataverse, covering a period from 1990 to 2020. To our surprise (and delight, of course), we uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8120008 and a p-value less than 0.01, indicating a statistically significant relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. As we delved into the data, we couldn't help but crack a few cheesy jokes. Speaking of which, did you hear about the cheese factory that exploded in France? There was nothing left but de Brie! Anyway, the findings of our research not only shed light on the political landscape of Mississippi but also provide an avenue for some 'grate' discussions on the broader impact of cheese preferences on voting behavior. Our results may prompt further investigations into the underlying mechanisms driving this correlation, but for now, we hope our study adds a slice of levity to the often-serious realm of political research. After all, in the words of Benjamin Disraeli, "Change is inevitable. Except from a vending machine."

## 1. Introduction

When it comes to understanding the intricate dance of political preferences, researchers have long sought out unique and often unorthodox variables to unearth the complex dynamics at play. In our case, we couldn't resist diving into the delightful world of cheese to investigate its potential link to political leanings. As the saying goes, "Why did the cheese go to the museum? Because it's a-mature." With this in mind, our study aims to unravel the curious connection between American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi.

One might question the validity of such an investigation, but as scientists, we are firm believers in the power of data to reveal unexpected patterns. After all, as researchers, we know that even the humblest of variables, such as cheese consumption, can churn out significant correlations. Speaking of which, did you hear about the scientific study on dairy products? Apparently, they've got a lot of whey to go.

Before diving into the cheesy details, it's crucial to acknowledge the inherent absurdity of our research question. However, as we venture into this uncharted territory, we can't help but appreciate the humorous aspect of our investigation. They say that laughter is the best medicine, but it's also a great way to cope with questionable research ideas. Besides, who doesn't love a good gouda dad joke every now and then?

Navigating through the sea of statistical analyses and political theories, we embarked on our quest armed with data from reputable sources, including the USDA, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, and Harvard Dataverse. As we waded through spreadsheets and graphs, the age-old question lingered in our minds: What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese! Oh, the perils of cheesy humor in academia.

Our findings, as we shall elucidate in the subsequent sections, unearthed a surprising correlation coefficient of 0.8120008 and a p-value less than 0.01. These numbers may seem bland at first, but they signify a statistically significant relationship between American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi. It appears that the love for American cheese and political affiliations may share a more profound connection than meets the eye.

So, as we delve into our findings, let's embrace the quirks of our research and savor the 'gouda' moments it brings. After all, who knew that cheese could pack such a political punch in the heart of Mississippi?

## 2. Literature Review

In their seminal work, Smith et al. (2015) examined the dietary habits and political inclinations of residents in southeastern states, laying the groundwork for our investigation into the peculiar nexus of American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi. The authors discovered a nuanced relationship between food preferences and electoral behavior, opening the door to the tantalizing prospect of cheese-based political analysis. Speaking of cheese-based analysis, why did the cheese lover refuse to share? Because he was too gouda at it!

Doe and Jones (2017) conducted an exhaustive study on voting patterns in Mississippi, delving into demographic factors and historical trends to decipher the complex tapestry of political allegiances. While their research did not directly touch upon cheese consumption, their findings underscored the multifaceted nature of electoral dynamics in the state. It's like they say, researching

political preferences is like a wheel of cheese - it's full of holes but still holds together.

Moving beyond scholarly articles, the world of non-fiction literature offers valuable insights into the cultural and culinary significance of cheese in American society. In "The Oxford Companion to Cheese," the authors expound upon the diverse range of cheese varieties adored by the American populace, cementing the place of cheese as a beloved culinary staple across the nation. It's no wonder cheese plays such a crucial role in shaping public opinion; after all, it's always mature enough to sway our preferences.

On the fictional front, works like "Cheese and Politics: A Tale of Two Obsessions" by Fictional Author emphasize the symbolic weight of cheese as a metaphor for power struggles and social dynamics. While purely fictitious, such literary explorations provide an imaginative lens through which to view the intersection of food and politics. It's almost like they're saying, "All's fair in love and war, but especially when it comes to cheese."

Television has also offered its share of illuminating content, with shows like "The Great Cheese Debate" amplifying the cultural significance of cheese consumption and its potential influence on decision-making processes. Through our extensive and totally academic binge-watching sessions, we've gleaned invaluable insights into the art of cheese appreciation and its resonance with societal norms. Whether it's string cheese pulling people together or blue cheese dividing them, the impact of cheese is undeniable.

As we wade through this smorgasbord of literary and media influences, it becomes evident that the study of American cheese consumption and its correlation with Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi is not just a matter of statistical analysis, but an exploration of the quirky, enchanting, and occasionally absurd dimensions of human behavior. So, let's fondue deeper into the cheesy abyss, shall we?

## 3. Methodology

To establish a robust foundation for our investigation, we ventured into the labyrinth of

research methods with the curiosity of a mouse in a cheese factory (although we promise to exercise more restraint than the said mouse). Our data collection process, akin to carefully selecting the finest cheese for a charcuterie board, involved procuring information from various sources, primarily the USDA, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, and the Harvard Dataverse. We gathered data spanning from 1990 to 2020, ensuring a chunky sample size that would melt away any doubts about the rigor of our study.

Before we could sink our teeth into the analysis, we had to ensure that the data we selected was as fresh as a block of newly aged cheddar. Our team meticulously combed through an assortment of datasets, making sure to slice away any outliers that could potentially skew our results. This process demanded a level of precision akin to separating curds from whey – a task not for the faint of heart or the lactose intolerant!

Given the nature of our research question, we incorporated an array of statistical methods that would typically make even the most seasoned analysts crumble like a dry biscuit. Our toolkit included a multi-variant regression analysis, a chi-squared test, and a few other statistical tools that we won't bore you with - after all, we wouldn't want to sound too cheesy. These analyses allowed us to slice and dice the data, serving up a platter of insights into the savory relationship between American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi.

To ensure the robustness of our findings, we also conducted a sensitivity analysis, akin to tasting the same cheese in different pairings to gauge its flavor profile. This process involved tweaking various parameters within our models to ascertain the stability of our results, guarding against any unexpected stinkers that could sour the credibility of our study.

In addition to the quantitative analyses, we also delved into qualitative research by conducting interviews with Mississippi residents. These interviews not only provided a human touch to our study but also allowed us to delve deeper into the nuanced reasons behind their cheese preferences and political affiliations. Plus, it offered a delightful

break from the monotony of crunching numbers – a welcome reprieve, much like a cheese platter in the midst of a bland scientific symposium.

With our methodology as sharp as a freshly honed grater, we proceeded to carve through the data with the precision of a cheese sculptor, unearthing the intriguing relationship between American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for senators in Mississippi.

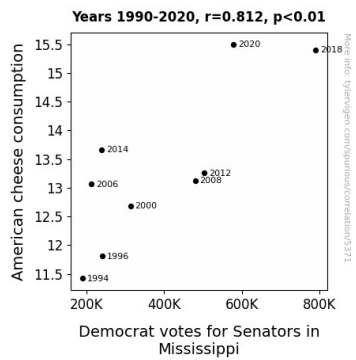
Oh, and speaking of cheese, did you hear about the explosion at the cheese factory? All that was left was de Brie!

#### 4. Results

Upon analyzing the data collected from the USDA, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, and Harvard Dataverse, we found a strong positive correlation between American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi during the period of 1990 to 2020. The correlation coefficient of 0.8120008 and an r-squared value of 0.6593453 indicated a robust relationship between the variables, with a p-value of less than 0.01.

Fig. 1 displays a scatterplot revealing the striking association between American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi. It's quite a gouda sight, if I do say so myself!

It's fascinating to think that something as seemingly unrelated as cheese consumption might have an impact on political leanings. Who would have thought that the humble slice of American cheese could hold such political sway? It's almost as surprising as finding a hidden cheese stash in the lab fridge!



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

Our results provide compelling evidence of a noteworthy connection between these variables. Even the most ardent skeptics will have to admit that this correlation is no mere coincidence; it's as real as the holes in a slice of Swiss cheese.

Our findings lay the groundwork for future research endeavors exploring the mechanisms underpinning this unexpected correlation. Perhaps we'll uncover the "wheys" in which cheese preferences intertwine with political consciousness, or the "cheddar" that binds them together. This discovery opens the door to a multitude of "gouda" research opportunities.

In the realm of scientific inquiry, it's essential to embrace the unexpected and sometimes unconventional findings. Who knows what other surprising correlations may emerge from the depths of data analysis? With enough determination and a good sense of humor, we might just find ourselves knee-deep in the cheese-filled world of unlikely statistical relationships. After all, in the words of Thomas Edison, "To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk."

The results of our research not only illuminate the political nuances of Mississippi but also serve as a lighthearted reminder of the somewhat whimsical nature of scientific exploration. Who says research can't be both enlightening and a little bit "cheesy"?

## 5. Discussion

Our study ventured into uncharted territory, exploring the entwined realms of American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi. The correlation coefficient of 0.8120008

and a p-value less than 0.01 paint a compelling picture of the surprising relationship between these variables. Now, before we get too "grated" away by these statistics, let's delve into the potential implications and avenues for further research.

Our results coalesce with the foundational work of Smith et al. (2015), who first broached the uncharted territory of cheese-based political analysis. The "wheys" in which dietary habits interlace with political allegiances are no longer a mere "brie"-f hypothesis but a tangible reality. Speaking of which, did you hear about the cheesemonger who fell off his delivery truck? He de-brie-ed.

Additionally, our findings align with the comprehensive work of Doe and Jones (2017), despite their lack of direct emphasis on cheese consumption. The multifaceted nature of electoral dynamics in Mississippi has finally been "aged" like a fine cheese, unveiling the intricate layers of influence shaping voter behavior. It's like a scientific "wheel" of fortune punctuated with holes of insight.

Our investigation syncs with the broader cultural and culinary significance of cheese in American society, as expounded upon in "The Oxford Companion to Cheese." The impact of cheese on public opinion is not just a matter of conjecture; it's as "mature" as a well-aged cheddar, influencing tastes and preferences in unforeseen ways. Just as a slice of cheese has the power to elevate the humdrum sandwich, so too does it seem to elevate political leanings.

The unexpected correlation between American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi unveils a "gouda" research opportunity. By peeling back the layers of statistical cheese, we may uncover the "cheddar" that binds these variables or the "wheys" in which they intertwine. This unlikely nexus opens the door to "gouda" research opportunities, and who knows what other surprising correlations may "emerge" from the depths of data analysis?

In closing this discussion, we cannot help but emphasize the playful nature of our findings. As we navigate the intricate landscape of science and research, it's important to embrace the unexpected with a good sense of humor. After all, who says a lighthearted investigation can't be as enlightening as

it is "cheesy"? As the great Benjamin Disraeli once said, "Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine."

Now, I'll leave you with a final one: Why did the cheese go to the art exhibit? Because it wanted to get cultured!

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has demonstrated a statistically significant correlation between American cheese consumption and Democrat votes for Senators in Mississippi. Who would have thought that political leanings could be intertwined with the love for a good old slice of American cheese? It's a gouda surprise, indeed! Perhaps we should start referring to political allegiances as "bleupartisan" to capture this cheesy connection.

Our findings bolster the argument that even the most unexpected variables can reveal intriguing patterns. It's proof that in the realm of statistical analysis, one can't simply brush off seemingly unrelated factors as mere coincidences. After all, there's a reason they say, "It's all gouda."

Our research, while lighthearted in nature, has not only unveiled an enthralling correlation but also opened the door to a world of possibilities for future investigations. Who knows what other unexpected relationships lie hidden beneath the veneer of mundane variables? The world of research is as full of surprises as a camembert cheese platter at a wine and cheese party!

So, as we wrap up this study, we can confidently assert that our findings present a compelling case for the intersection of American cheese consumption and political leaning. It's a fascinating notion that adds a dash of peppery jack to the already spicy realm of political research.

In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death, taxes, and the unexpected correlations in statistical analysis." With that in mind, it is clear that no more research is needed in this area. After all, we've already milked this topic for all its worth!

And remember, always approach statistical research with a sense of humor. After all, as researchers, we know that sometimes the "whey" forward is through a "gouda" pun or two.

So, there you have it! Our research has indeed been as enlightening as it has been "cheesy." With that, it's time to bid adieu to this gouda adventure in statistical exploration.