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Background

- Impact of parental choice on economic development is a subject that has been understudied.
- Why? Addressing the question is an enormous and complex task.
- Lack of data is a caveat – not a deal killer.
- Goal of WF Option project is to provide preliminary research and to jumpstart a conversation.

WF Option Project Conducts Two Analyses

1. Wake Forest comparison to other similar municipalities.
    i. We compared income and housing values. Both grew at greater rates since 2000 in Wake than did in the comparison municipalities.
    ii. Wake also has a greater percentage of students attending choice schools.
2. To corroborate we did a robust statistical regression on all 100 counties in NC to test whether parental choice is correlated with income.
    i. Positive correlation between parental choice and income.
    ii. Give point estimate of our highest quality regression.
    iii. Cannot establish causation.

- Both analyses suggest that parental choice could be an indication of greater economic growth if parental choice does indeed lead to better quality schooling.
- Better data and further investigation can likely provide a better answer to this important question.