

The Effects of Private School Choice

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A Little About Me



- ✓ Born in Washington, DC, raised in St. Cloud, MN, educated at the University of St. Thomas & Harvard
- ✓ My 23rd year studying school choice – Distinguished Professor of Education Policy & Endowed Chair in School Choice
- ✓ “Wolf is a well-known advocate of school choice. He bases his advocacy on the research.” (AERA Newsletter)

Five Ways to Slice this Pie



What Do People Say About Private Schooling Effects?

“...there is no evidence that students in voucher schools get higher test scores.” (Diane Ravitch, May 3, 2016)

“The [private school] findings for both achievement and attainment are mixed, with no clear patterns.” (Lubienski & Brewer, NEPC, 2018)

“Public governance of our schools matters for the health of our democracy.” (Diane Ravitch and Carol Burris, *Washington Post*, November 4, 2018)

“...voucher programs could end up resembling the ethnic cleansing now occurring in Kosovo.” (David Berliner, Legislative Testimony, May 1999)

Participant Achievement Effects



Benefit	Experimental Study	City	Finding – Private School Choice
All Students (7)	Cowen (2008)	Charlotte	+8 pts in reading, +7 pts in math
	Greene (2001)	Charlotte	+ 6 pts on combined reading and math test
	Greene et al (1999)	Milwaukee	+6 pts in reading, +11 pts in math
	Rouse (1998)	Milwaukee	+8 pts in math, no difference in reading
	Howell et al (2002)	DC	+3 pts combined reading & math
	Wolf et al (2013)	DC	+4.8 pts in reading
	Anderson & Wolf (2017)	DC	+8.7 pts in reading
Some Students (4)	Barnard et al (2003)	New York	+5 pts in math for students leaving low-performing schools
	Jin et al (2010)	New York	+4 pts in math for students leaving low-performing schools
	Howell et al (2002)	New York	+4 pts for African-American students on combined reading/math test
	Howell et al (2002)	Dayton	+6.5 pts for African-American students on combined reading/math test
No Effects (4)	Webber et al. (2019)	DC	No difference in math or reading
	Krueger & Zhu (2004)	New York	No difference in math or reading
	Bitler et al (2013)	New York	No difference in math or reading by quartile
	Bettinger & Slonim (2006)	Toledo	No difference in math or reading
Negative (2)	Abdulkadiroglu et al. (2016)	Louisiana	-0.4 standard deviation 1-year effect on math
	Mills & Wolf (2019)	Louisiana	4-year effects on math, reading & science of -.21 to -.39 SD

Educational Attainment



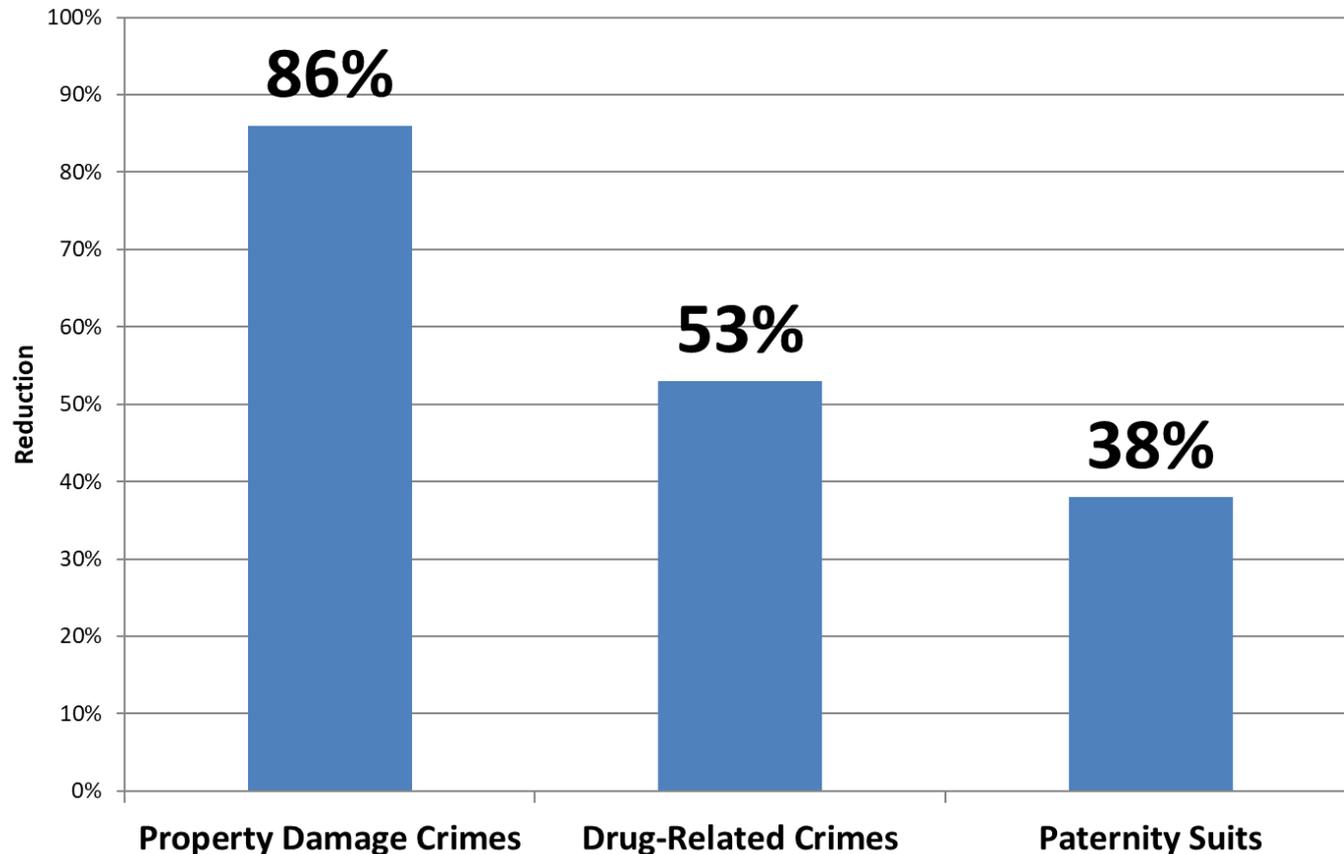
Attainment Effects of Choice

Study	City/State	Effect
Wolf et al (2010; 2013)	Washington DC	+21 pts
Chingos/Kuehn (2019)	Florida	+6-10 pts
Wolf et al (2018)	Milwaukee	+3-6 pts
Cowen et al (2012)	Milwaukee	+4-7 pts
Warren (2011)	Milwaukee	+12 pts
Chingos/Peterson (2012)	New York City	+8 pts for African-American Students
Cheng et al (2019)	New York City	+6-8 pts for moderately disadvantaged
Erickson, Mills & Wolf (2021)	Louisiana	+8 pts for high school cohort
Chingos (2018)	Washington DC	Null

Crime



Reductions in Crime & Paternity Suits Due to Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (DeAngelis & Wolf 2020)



Civic Values



School Choice Rally

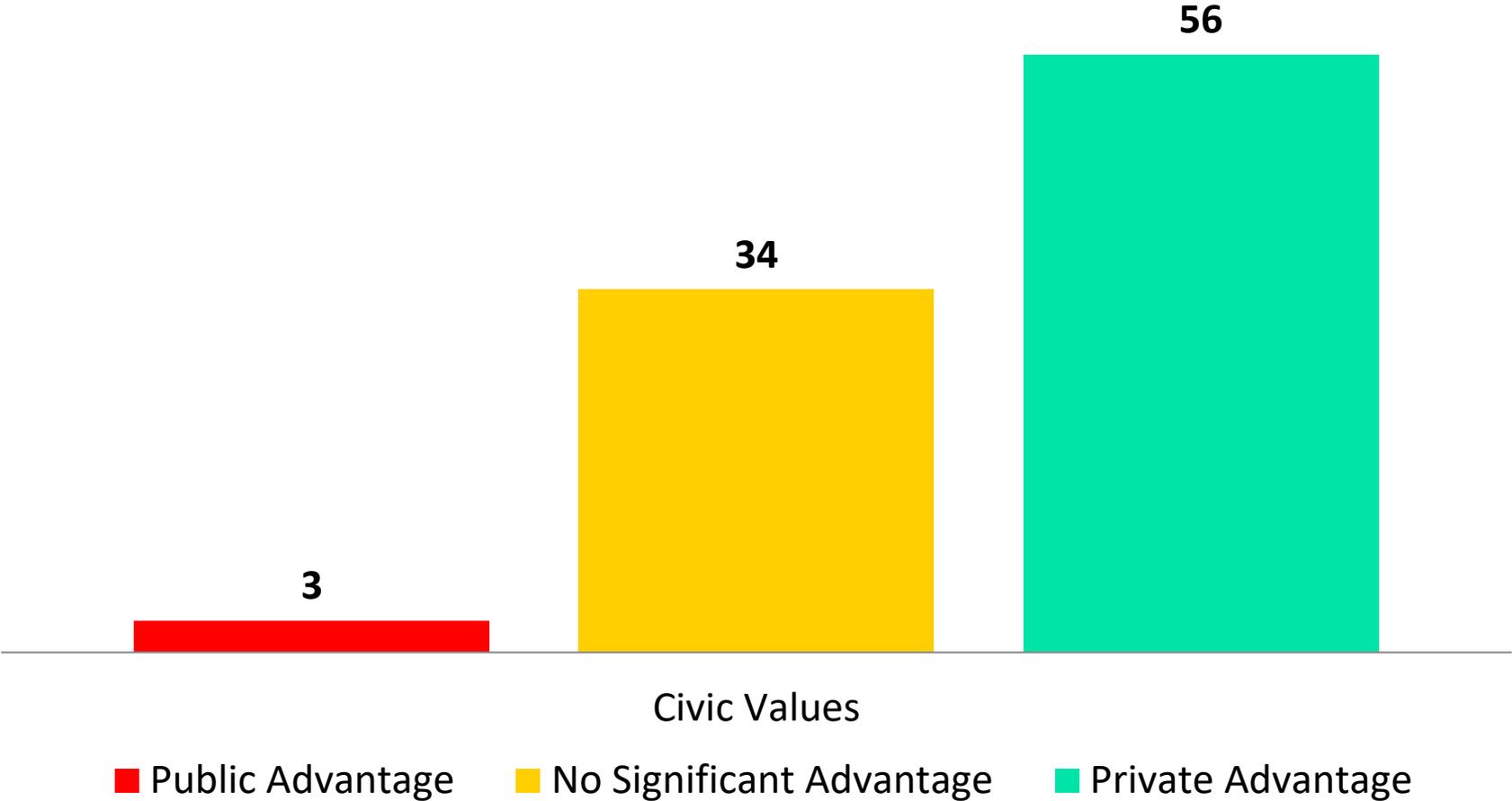
Statehouse

abc COLUMBIA

Civic Outcomes

- **Political Tolerance** – willingness to extend constitutional rights to disliked groups
- **Political Participation** – involvement in civic activities
- **Civic Knowledge and Skills** – familiarity with the workings of government & the ability to communicate with officials
- **Voluntarism and Social Capital** – unpaid involvement in improving one's community

All Findings on Private School Choice & Civic Outcomes



Integration Effects of Choice

Study	City/State	Finding
Egalite, Mills & Wolf (2016)	Louisiana	Positive
Forster (2006)	Milwaukee	Positive
Forster (2006)	Cleveland	Positive
Greene and Winters (2005)	D.C.	Positive
Fuller and Greiveldinger (2002)	Milwaukee	Positive
Fuller and Mitchell (2000)	Milwaukee	Positive
Fuller and Mitchell (2000)	Milwaukee	Positive
Greene (1999)	Cleveland	Positive
Greene, Mills, and Buck (2010)	Milwaukee	No effect

For More Information

Electronic versions of nearly 100 school choice reports at:
<https://scdp.uark.edu/>

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