Effect of Grandparent's Place of Origin

on Individual and Family Income

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Data Exploration and Analysis

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When I initially went searching for data for this project, the election was in full swing, and politics was at the forefront of my mind. Originally, my intent was to determine whether left and right political stereotypes held true. Unfortunately, I quickly realized that working with ordered categorical variables was going to be exceedingly difficult, based on the examples we were working on in the textbook. Because of this, I ultimately ended up using the same GSS data source but chose quantitative variables that I could work with.

One of the variables available in the data set was the number of the respondent's grandparents who were born outside of the US, ranging from 0 (all born in the US) to 4 (none born in the US). This brought to mind the line from *Hamilton*, "Immigrants, we get the job done" and I thought, I wonder what kind of effect having immigrant grandparents has on an individual's income. Ultimately, I found that those with grandparents from outside the US earned higher income. However, while this effect was statistically significant, it only explained a small portion of income variability.

There was definitely more digging to do around what variables did affect an individual's income, but overall, these were outside the scope of this project. It would also be interesting to see what other variables are impacted by grandparental origin, such as hours worked per week or possibly variables related to family groupings, like number of working individuals in a household.

When dividing incomes and other variables into low and high groups, I typically used median as a starting place. While this generally seemed to suit my needs, I don't know whether this was always the most appropriate solution. Another issue I wasn't sure about was that the overwhelming majority of respondents had all of their grandparents born within the US, so this may have weighted the analysis in places.

While I dreaded the final project throughout the class, it ultimately proved to be a helpful tool in reviewing the learnings from throughout the course and helped to clarify and solidify some of the materials that were taught.