

Sheepskin effects in the Canadian nursing market

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Abstract

Regarding a positive correlation between nursing education and earnings in Canada, we estimate sheepskin effects associated with a baccalaureate degree relative to a diploma by using Canadian census data. The estimated marginal effect of a baccalaureate degree on weekly earnings is 3.9% in the 2001 census. While the estimated sheepskin effect using the 1996 census data is not statistically significant for overall Canada, we still find that RNs who are employed in Quebec achieve significant earnings gains associated with the acquisition of a baccalaureate degree for both the 1996 and 2001 census data. In contrast, the estimated effects of an additional year of nursing education on earnings are not significant for RNs in Quebec.

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