

The effect of Quebec's CEGEPs on total years of schooling

Fortin, Pierre. "The Effect of Quebec's CEGEPs on Total Years of Schooling." *CRDCN research-policy snapshots*. Volume 2, July 2023

Context

The researchers described the CEGEP (collèges d'enseignement général et professionnel) innovation of the late 1960s in Quebec and its effect on total years of schooling in the province, using Ontario as a control. They used various Statistics Canada microdata sets to compare the broad trends in post-secondary enrolment and credentials in Quebec and Ontario from 1960 to 2018. The researchers used 2001 Census microdata to estimate the effect of the CEGEP reform on total years of schooling of the initial cohorts of Francophones and Anglophones.

Key finding(s) from the research

The Quebec-specific postsecondary CEGEP system is estimated to have increased the total years of schooling of young Francophones in the late 1960s and early 1970s by six months on average. The long-term comparisons and the census-based comparison of initial cohorts both suggest that the effect of CEGEPs on total years of schooling of young Quebecers has been positive and significant. For the Francophone sample, the estimates suggest an increase of at least six months in total years of schooling. For the much smaller sample of Anglophones, women had similar total years of schooling as that of Francophones, and men varied positively and negatively in their total years of schooling.

Population(s) studied: Quebec and Ontario Francophone and Anglophone populations of postsecondary age

Research dataset(s) used: Canada Census microdata, various years; Labour Force Survey; 20-percent microdata from the 2001 Census long form

Policy implications for this research

Quebec's postsecondary CEGEP innovation, consisting of a two-year mandatory preuniversity stream and a three-year career stream, has accelerated educational attainment in the province. However, this kind of dual institution would be politically hard to establish in other Canadian provinces and the United States.

Policy area(s) this research can inform: Education, training and learning; Children and youth

Read the full article

Fortin, P., N. Mishagina and J. Royer (2022). "The Effect of Quebec's CEGEPs on Total Years of Schooling." *Canadian Public Policy* 43 (3)386-402. Fortin, P., N. Mishagina et J. Royer (2022). « L'effet des cégeps du Québec sur le nombre total d'années de scolarité. » *Analyse de politiques* 43 (3)386-402.