



The President's Perspective

December 2011

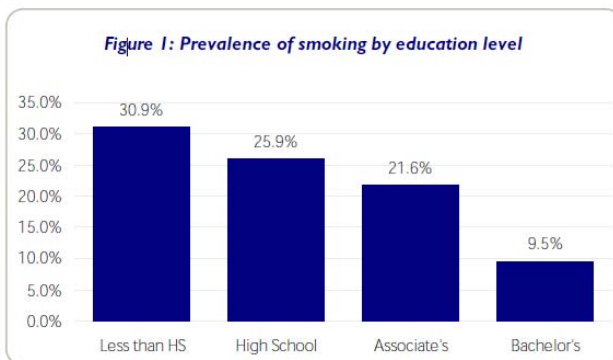
“Social Contributions of Halifax Community College to the Roanoke Valley Economy – Part II”

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In this column, I want to continue our discussion on the social contributions of Halifax Community College (HCC) to the state of North Carolina and the Roanoke Valley economy. Our economic impact study pointed out that education has a predictable and positive effect on a diverse array of social benefits. The charts below show that those people with more education are less likely to be smoke, be incarcerated, on welfare, unemployed and use alcohol. All the aforementioned obligations have a very high social cost to governmental agencies making the return on investment in Halifax Community College even greater.

Smoking

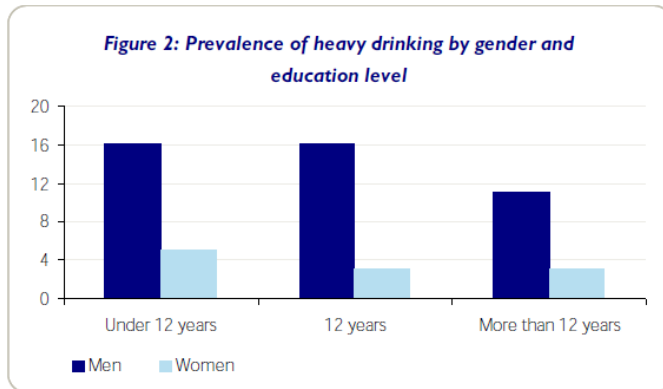
As indicated in the chart below, the percent of persons who smoke cigarettes begins to decline beyond the level of high school education.



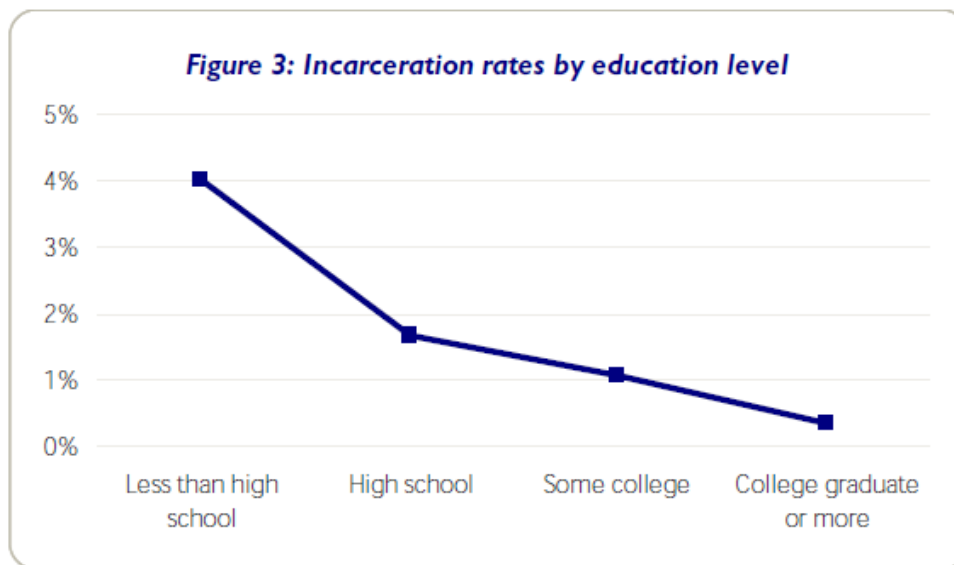
Alcohol

As indicated in Figure 2, heavy drinking among males falls from a 16% prevalence rate among individuals with fewer than 12 years of education, to an 11% prevalence rate among individuals with more than 12 years of education. The probability of being a

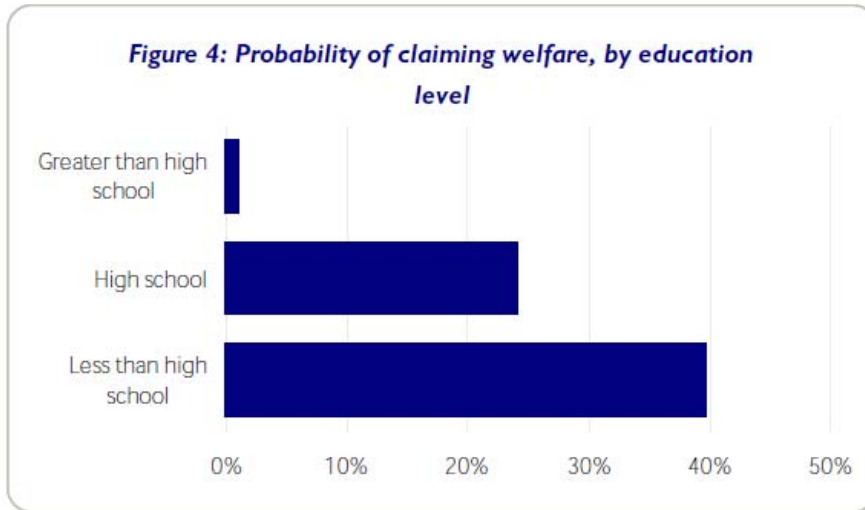
heavy drinker also falls on a sliding scale for women, from 5% to 3%. Note that women are less likely to be heavy drinkers than men.



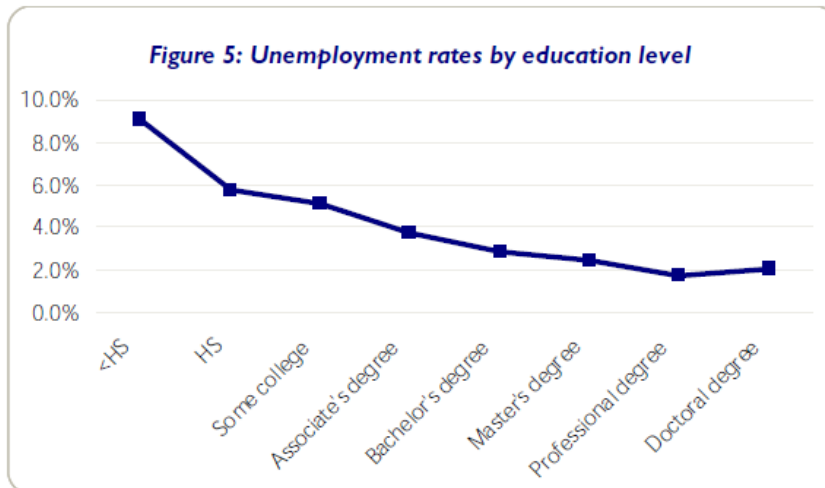
Incarceration Rates by Education Level - Figure 3 displays the probability that an individual will be incarcerated by education level. Data are derived from the breakdown of the inmate population by education level in state, federal and local prisons (as provided by the Bureau of Justice Statistics), divided by the total population. As indicated, incarceration drops on a sliding scale as education levels rise.



Probability of Claiming Welfare by Educational Level - Figure 4 relates the probabilities that an individual will apply for welfare by education level, derived from data supplied by the Department of Health and Human Services. As shown, the probability of claiming welfare drops significantly as individuals move to higher levels of education.



Unemployment Rates by education levels - Unemployment rates also decline with increasing levels of education, as illustrated in Figure 5. The Bureau of Labor Statistics supplies these data. As shown, unemployment rates range from 9% for those with less than a high school diploma to 2% for those at the doctoral degree level.



From the Presidents Perspective, this reminds us once again we have a “diamond” in Halifax Community College. These data by no means comprise the full range of benefits one possibly can link to education. Other social benefits certainly may be identified in the future as reliable statistical sources are published and data are incorporated into the analytical framework. However, the fact that these incidental benefits occur and can be measured is a bonus that enhances the economic attractiveness of our college operations. Again, if you would like to review the entire economic impact study, you may do so by going to our website at www.halifaxcc.edu.

Feel free to send me an e-mail message at president@halifaxcc.edu with your thoughts or ideas. Also, to learn about our current programs—stop by campus, call us at (252) 536-HCC1 (4221), or visit us online at www.halifaxcc.edu.

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