



a STRONGER NATION through HIGHER EDUCATION

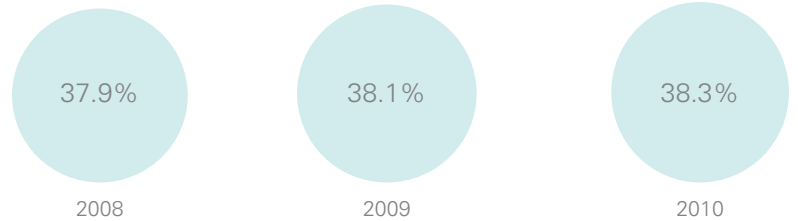
An annual report from Lumina Foundation

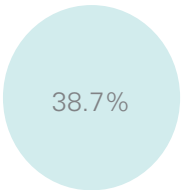
## In this report:

- The higher education attainment rate of the U.S. and every state, showing how rates have changed since last year's report.
- The attainment rate for every county and the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the U.S.
- Breakdowns of the attainment data, including by race and ethnicity.
- One scenario for how to reach Goal 2025.
- An update on other metrics Lumina uses to track progress toward increasing college attainment.

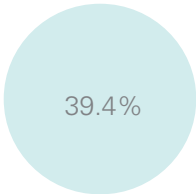
## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the country's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

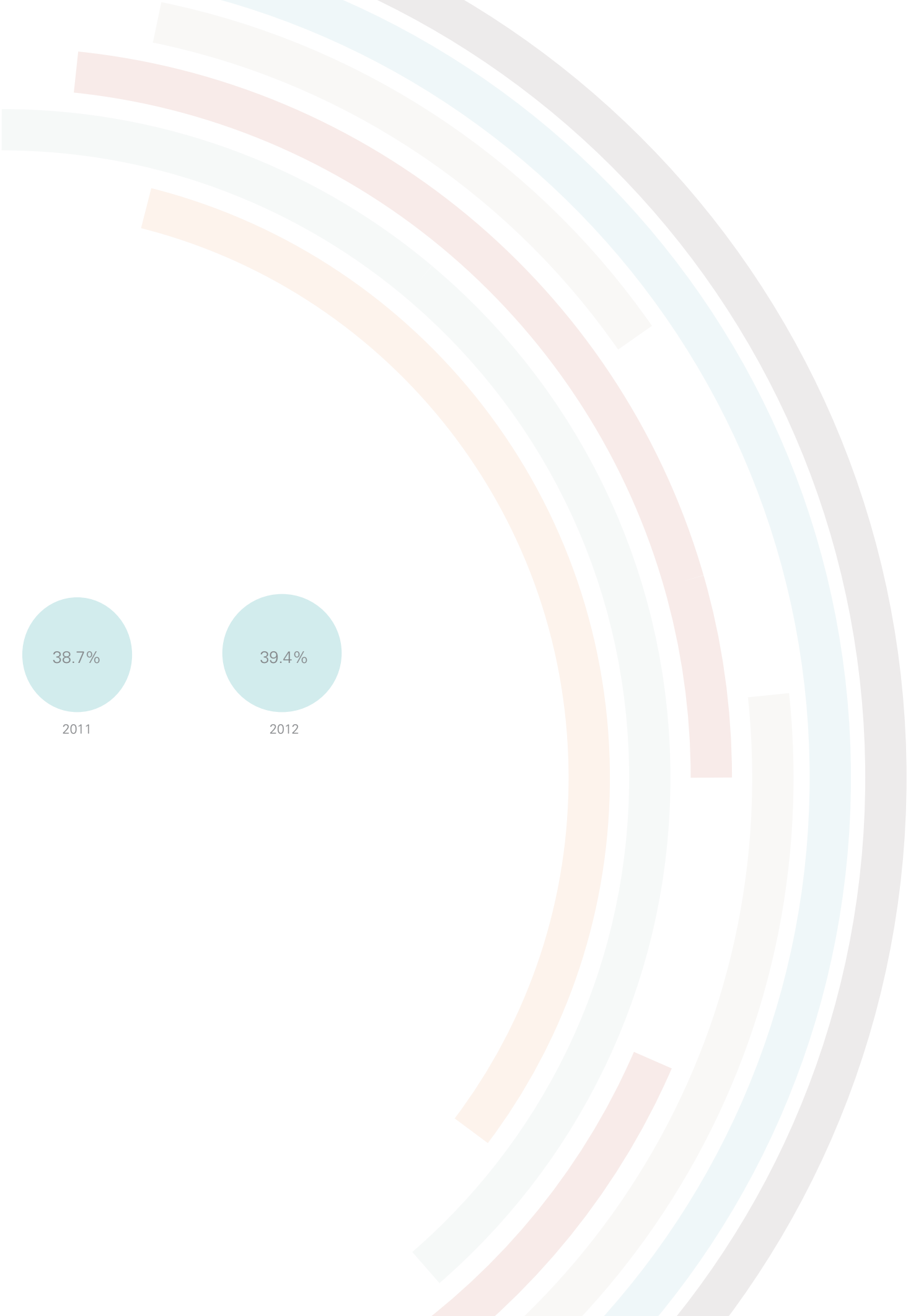




2011



2012





# The goal is big, but the desire for change is growing

As we at Lumina Foundation release a new edition of our signature report, *A Stronger Nation through Higher Education*, our central message is the same one we've conveyed since issuing the first of these reports in 2009.

We remain convinced — are more certain than ever, in fact — that significantly increasing college attainment is the key to ensuring a bright future for our nation and its citizens. That's why we are more committed than ever to our central aim — what we call Goal 2025: By the year 2025, we want 60 percent of Americans to hold a college degree, certificate or other high-quality postsecondary credential.

This fifth edition of *Stronger Nation*, much like earlier editions, is designed specifically to track progress toward that vital goal — from a national perspective, in the nation's largest metro areas, in each of the 50 states, even down to the county level. And this 2014 edition reports what appears to be modest progress in most areas — again, much like its predecessors.

And yet, something is noticeably different this year: Momentum is building. It's there in the numbers. Not only are postsecondary attainment rates generally increasing, the *rate* of that increase is rising as well. It's certainly too soon to declare that we are on track to meet the goal, but the data do show that the nation is quickening its pace in the effort to increase college attainment, and that is encouraging news.

And as we look behind and beyond the numbers, we see even more encouraging signs — unmistakable signals that the need, the *hunger*, for higher education is stronger than ever. One striking example: A recent Gallup/Lumina Foundation poll shows that three of four Americans, 74 percent, believe a postsecondary degree or credential is important to attaining a better quality of life, while fully 90 percent believe it's important

for the nation to increase college attainment rates.

And there's another revelation in that survey, one that we also see as a positive: Though more and more Americans see vast potential in college-level learning, they don't believe the current system is unlocking that potential as well as it should. According to the poll, 89 percent of Americans say that higher education institutions **need to change** to better serve today's students.

From our perspective, this is the surest and most important sign of momentum: the growing acceptance of the need for change in American higher education — the type of fundamental change that we believe is absolutely necessary to make Goal 2025 a reality.

Without question, there is a growing sense of urgency — both inside and outside the higher education community — to increase student success rates, close attainment gaps and ensure high-quality learning. More and more stakeholders — from faculty members and administrators to employers to policymakers to growing numbers of students and families — are embracing the change agenda. In fact, each day seems to bring more evidence that fundamental redesign is already under way.

For instance, within the higher-ed system, there is growing acceptance of learning obtained outside the classroom, such as in the workplace or the military. In addition, many new competency-based approaches are being pioneered nationally. These programs and institutions award credit, not merely because students have spent a certain amount of time enrolled in courses, but because they have demonstrated genuine learning.

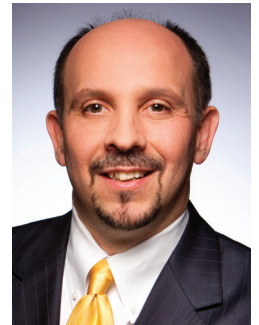
Sectors beyond higher ed are responding to the challenge and embracing change as well. Industry groups are stepping up efforts to offer or refine their own

methods for assessing and certifying students' learning and fitness for jobs. Policymakers in a growing number of states are enacting outcomes-based funding formulas, tying higher-ed funding not to mere *enrollment* of students, but to the *success* of those students. Other states and systems are experimenting with innovative ways to provide financial aid to low-income students; they're also exploring ways to reduce remediation, accelerate student progress and increase attainment for all types of students.

These are just a few examples, and all are welcome signs of progress. But the attainment challenge is formidable, and there is still much to do.

That's why we continue to offer the *Stronger Nation* report. The information on these pages has tremendous potential to enhance your understanding of the attainment challenge. Even more important, the data in *Stronger Nation* can help you *meet* that challenge. It can be a powerful tool, a lever you can use to boost college attainment right where you live and work — in your state, your county, your metro area.

We urge you to use this report — and the additional tools available online at [www.luminafoundation.org/stronger\\_nation](http://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger_nation) — as you tackle the vital task of increasing postsecondary attainment. Seize the growing momentum, and add your own energy to the Goal 2025 effort.



Beyond the numbers,  
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Jamie P. Merisotis  
President and CEO  
Lumina Foundation

# Progress in increasing college attainment is accelerating; can it be sustained?

**W**hen and if the history of Lumina Foundation's goal to increase higher education attainment is written, 2014 may be a watershed — the first year it could be reported that reaching the goal that 60 percent of Americans obtain a high-quality postsecondary credential by 2025 — Goal 2025 — is coming within reach.

This is Lumina's fifth annual issue of *A Stronger Nation through Higher Education*, our signature report on progress toward Goal 2025. In this report, we measure progress in the higher education attainment rate — the percentage of the nation's adult, working-age population holding a high-quality postsecondary credential.<sup>1</sup> Lumina defines high-quality credentials as those that have clear and transparent learning outcomes leading to further education and employment. Most of these credentials are two- and four-year college degrees, and this report includes a detailed breakdown of their attainment by Americans.

In 2012, the most recent year for which data are available, the proportion of Americans between the ages of 25 and 64 with a two- or four-year college degree was 39.4 percent — an increase of 0.7 of a percentage point from last year's reported rate of 38.7 percent. This is the largest year-over-year increase in degree attainment since Lumina began these reports. Last year, the rate was 0.4 of a percentage point higher than the prior year; the two years before that, it increased by only 0.2 of a percentage point per year. Clearly, the rate at which degree attainment is increasing is accelerating.

The degree attainment rate of young adults (ages 25-34) is the best leading indicator of what will happen to the overall attainment rates in the future, and this year, it tells an even more optimistic story. In 2012, degree attainment for young adults was 40.9 percent — a percentage-point increase of 0.8, and more than three percentage points higher than in 2008.

Various efforts are under way to develop reliable long-term statistics on postsecondary certificates that can allow those with economic and educational value — which therefore meet Lumina's

definition of high-quality credentials — to be identified and tracked over time. One such effort is a recent decision by the U.S. Census Bureau to include certificates in its reporting of educational attainment. In the meantime, the best statistics on certificate attainment are produced by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. According to the Center's recent estimates, 5.2 percent of American adults hold a postsecondary certificate of significant economic value.<sup>2</sup> When these certificates are added to the totals for two- and four-year college degrees — and, assuming attainment rates continue to increase at their current pace — the nation's working-age population (ages 25-64) will reach a higher education attainment rate of 56 percent in 2025. The nation's young-adult population (ages 25-34) will reach an attainment rate of 60 percent by 2025 — again, assuming the rate of increase from 2011 to 2012 continues.

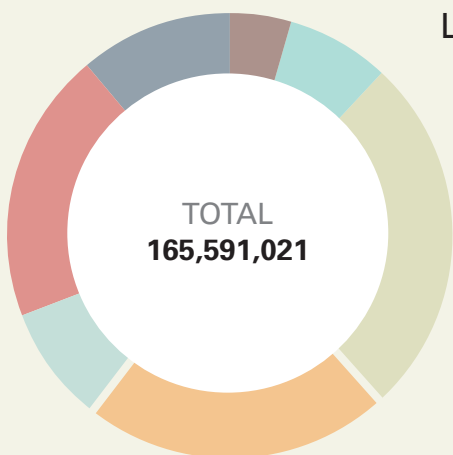
Of course, sustaining current increases in attainment is by no means assured. Indeed, it is unlikely they can be sustained without significant changes in higher education, particularly as more underserved students pursue their dreams of postsecondary success.

## The students of tomorrow

What will the U.S. adult population look like in 2025? It's surprisingly easy to find out — most of the 25- to 64-year-old population of 2025 is all around us. They are Americans between the ages of 14 and 51 today.

Here's a comparison of the two populations in terms of their racial and ethnic composition:

	Ages 25-64	Ages 14-51	% Change by 2025
White, non-Hispanic	63.5%	58.9%	Down 5.4%
Black	12.3%	13.2%	Up 9.5%
Hispanic	16.3%	19.4%	Up 21.3%
American Indian	0.7%	0.8%	Up 9.9%
Asian and Pacific Islander	5.8%	5.8%	Up 2.8%



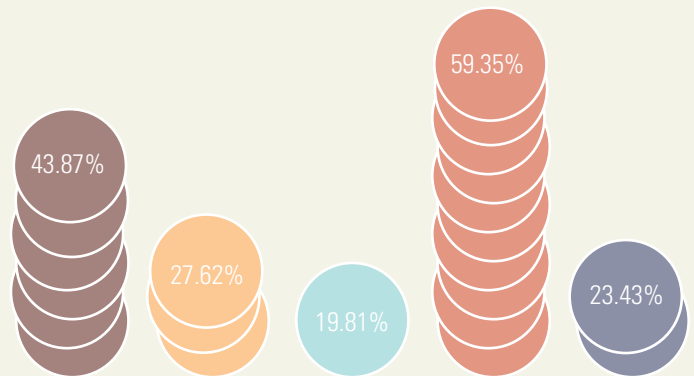
Levels of education for United States residents, ages 25-64

Less than ninth grade	7,742,535	4.68%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	12,106,780	7.31%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	44,058,025	26.61%
Some college, no degree	36,439,822	22.01%
Associate degree	14,518,398	8.77%
Bachelor's degree	32,410,007	19.57%
Graduate or professional degree	18,315,454	11.06%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

# Degree-attainment rates among United States adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	43.87%
Black	27.62%
Hispanic	19.81%
Asian	59.35%
Native American	23.43%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

As the nation's population becomes more diverse, increasing the higher education attainment of underrepresented groups becomes critically important. If attainment rates for different racial and ethnic groups do not change, only about 37.8 percent of today's 14- to 51-year-olds will have college degrees in 2025 — almost a full percentage point less than the current rate. Of course, race and ethnicity are not the only factors that affect higher education attainment. Low-income and first-generation college students and adults are also underrepresented in higher education; left unaddressed, these inequities will have disastrous consequences — for affected individuals and for the nation. Reaching Goal 2025 requires that all of these gaps in attainment be dramatically reduced.

## Closing attainment gaps

Recent increases in attainment reflect the fact that more Americans understand that postsecondary education has become a near necessity for economic security. Between 2010 and 2011, the most recent years for which data are available, the college-going rate for recent high school graduates increased modestly — from 68.1 percent to 68.2 percent.<sup>3</sup> More encouraging is the fact that the college-going rate for blacks increased from 62.0 percent to 67.1 percent — an impressively large increase for a single year. The college-going rate for Hispanics shot up even more — from 59.7 percent to 66.6 percent. If these rates can be sustained and further increased, the nation will go a long way toward increasing overall attainment and closing the gaps based on race and ethnicity. Unfortunately, participation rates still differ significantly based on income. While 82.4 percent of potential students in the top third of the income scale enroll in college, only 53.5 percent of those in the bottom third do so.<sup>4</sup>

The statistics regarding completion are also discouraging. While the six-year graduation rate numbers admittedly paint an incomplete picture of overall college completion, they are useful to show how rates are changing over time and to highlight differences between populations. The data for 2011 show that only 58.8

percent of students who began college full-time six years earlier had graduated from the institution they entered. Encouragingly, the rates are increasing — they were 58.3 percent in 2010 and have been rising steadily. Of course, the overall completion rate is a bit higher; after all, some students transfer to other institutions and graduate, while others take longer than six years to finish. But there are serious and persistent gaps between graduation rates for different student groups. The six-year graduation rate in 2011 for black students was only 39.9 percent, and for Hispanics it was 51.0 percent. Both of these rates are far below those achieved by whites (62.1 percent) and Asians (69.2 percent).<sup>5</sup> Increasing completion rates for nonwhite students is absolutely essential to increasing the nation's higher education attainment rate, just as it is for realizing the promise represented by the increased college enrollment of these students.

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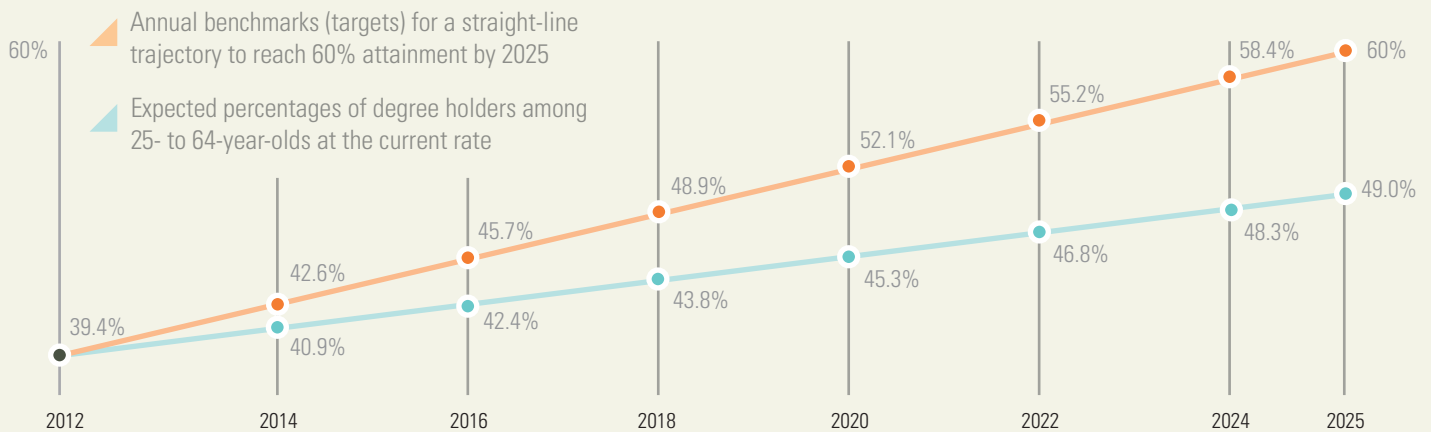
## A system designed for students and learning

While recent progress is encouraging, reaching much higher levels of attainment will require significant changes to higher education systems, and the outline of these changes has become clear. The push to increase attainment is driven by the need for many more people to obtain postsecondary skills and knowledge.

Until now, quality in higher education has typically been seen as a characteristic of institutions, and it has been measured by inputs such as selectivity and cost per student (with higher costs indicating higher quality).

These definitions, perhaps always dubious, are now obsolete. They are being replaced by a more student-centered approach, a focus on the true *outcomes* of higher education. Colleges and universities that help students learn and complete degrees, particularly those that succeed with underrepresented students, embody this emerging definition of quality. These institutions point us toward a much-needed redesign — a comprehensive effort to reshape American higher education so that it better serves the needs of students and the complex, global society in which they must live and work.

# The path to 60% degree attainment in the U.S.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

This redesign effort is in its early stages, of course, but we're convinced that it is under way. We also believe that, for any such effort to be successful, it must meet three basic requirements:

- 1. Base postsecondary credentials, including degrees, on learning.** At the heart of the drive to increase higher education attainment is the fact that postsecondary skills are needed by an increasing number of Americans. That means that postsecondary learning outcomes must be transparent to employers, to educational institutions, and to students themselves. Unfortunately, this cannot be said of college degrees today. It is simply not clear what a degree — or any postsecondary credential — actually represents in terms of learning. The lack of transparency about learning does more than undermine efforts to align educational outcomes with workforce and societal needs. It also complicates efforts to innovate and improve educational programs so that we increase the number of graduates with postsecondary skills.  
Lumina Foundation is working to develop the tools that are needed in a learning-based higher education system. One such tool is the Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP), which is a common framework for defining the learning outcomes of higher education across all programs, institutions and degrees. Other tools, including alternatives to the time-based credit hour, will also be needed.
- 2. Create smarter pathways for all students.** All learning should count, and all students should know what they can do next with the skills and knowledge they have acquired — whenever and however they did so. With a better understanding of the meaning of degrees and other postsecondary credentials, clear and flexible pathways to these credentials can be created and provided to students. These pathways should align with the changing needs of the society and economy; they should recognize and validate learning obtained in other settings, such as the

military and in the workforce; they should facilitate students' smooth transfer between and among various institutions. Finally, these smarter pathways should also guide students in making choices about courses and credits to accelerate progress and shorten the time it takes to earn a degree.

- 3. Make higher education accessible and affordable to all who need it.** The promise of higher education is empty if students and families can't afford it or can't find the programs of study they need. Innovative, new approaches to delivery of higher education — such as competency-based education, online education, and open courseware — can help break this logjam, but significant regulatory and financial barriers prevent these approaches from reaching their potential.

The basic problem is that current models of financing higher education are based on time rather than learning. Tuition, financial aid and public funding are all built around the cost of delivering instruction in traditional ways. As innovative approaches are developed — approaches that focus on the student and learning, not on institutions and seat time — new, sustainable financial models are needed as well to assure education systems can meet demand.

But it's not just financing systems that need to adapt to this changing environment. Systems of quality assurance — including accreditation — will also need to adapt to permit new delivery models to emerge and grow.

## Making success a reality

For five years, the *Stronger Nation* reports have been calling attention to the need to increase higher education attainment in the U.S. It is clear that the message has been received. In fact, the impetus for change in American higher education has never been stronger, and it's coming from nearly every quarter.



States, higher education systems, and many colleges and universities are working to increase student success by focusing on the quality of learning and the needs and characteristics of their students. Federal policymakers are beginning to understand how obsolete policies and regulations stifle innovation and hamper the large-scale adoption of new models of delivery. Competency-based programs — those in which students earn credits and credentials, not merely for time on task, but for actual learning outcomes — are increasing in number and efficacy. Innovative ideas for financing

higher education continue to surface, including performance-based funding at the state level and income-contingent loan programs for students.

Amidst all of these changes, what's most important is that tens of thousands — perhaps millions — of potential students and their families recognize the importance of higher education. They are seeking an opportunity for success. It is time to step up our efforts to redesign higher education so that it can make their success a reality.

<sup>1</sup> In addition to two- and four-year college degrees, high-value postsecondary certificates and certifications are included in Lumina's goal provided they meet our definition of high-quality credentials — those that have clear and transparent learning outcomes leading to further education and employment. We have begun tracking other types of postsecondary credentials and will include them in our reports when we are confident they meet this definition.

<sup>2</sup> <https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/w6bzsdovxqcywwoog6yl>

<sup>3</sup> Digest of Education Statistics 2012, NCES<sup>2</sup> <https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/w6bzsdovxqcywwoog6yl>

<sup>4</sup> The college-going rate for the middle third of the income distribution is 66.2 percent.

<sup>5</sup> Digest of Education Statistics 2012, NCES

## U.S. performance in the global context

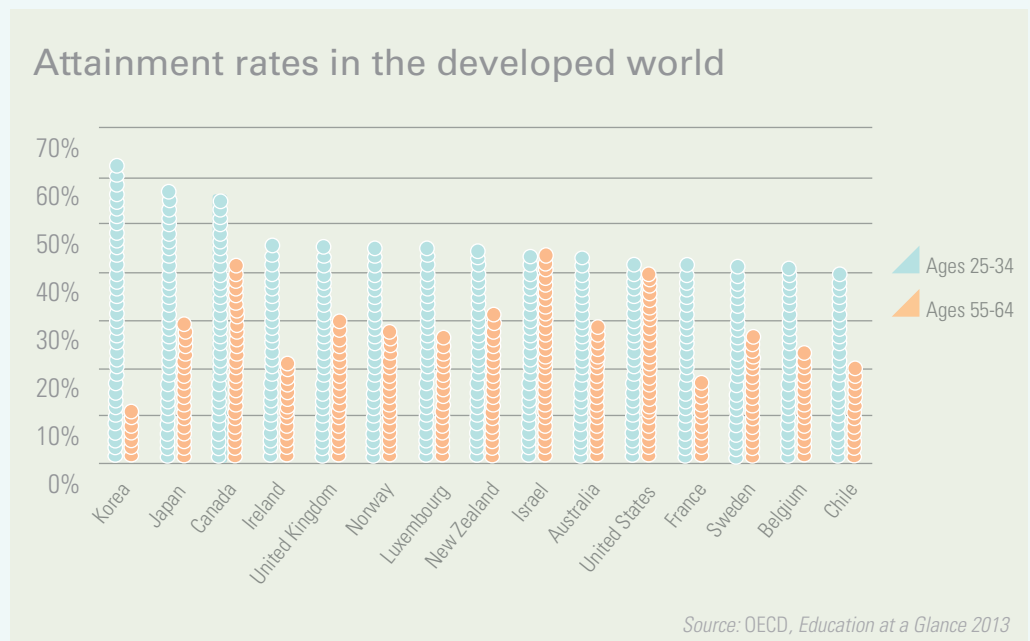
Lumina's initial focus on higher education attainment rates came from an examination of international comparative data produced by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its annual *Education at a Glance* reports.

As is now well known, but was at the time unrecognized, these data point toward a disturbing trend in terms of attainment in the U.S. versus that in other countries. Specifically, rates in the U.S. have been mostly flat for at least six years, while rates in other economically advanced countries have increased substantially, particularly among young adults. As these data became better known, the headline story was that the ranking of the U.S. in terms of higher education attainment has fallen over time.

While interesting, our national ranking is not the most important lesson to be learned from the international data. The real news is that the dynamic global economy is fueling an ever-increasing demand for skills and talent, and that most countries around the world are responding to this demand by increasing the higher education attainment of their people.

These increases are seen most dramatically in the differences in attainment between older and younger adults. In the U.S. about 41 percent of older adults (ages 55-64) have completed postsecondary education, while 43 percent of younger adults (ages 25-34) have done so. In South Korea, by comparison, only 13 percent of older

adults have completed postsecondary education, compared to an astounding 64 percent of younger adults. While Korea's increase is exceptional, the average difference in attainment between younger and older adults across all 33 OECD countries is 7 percent, and



overall attainment has increased 10 percent since 2000. The U.S. lags on both measures.

This is the most important lesson to be taken from the international data — that most of the world has responded to the global demand for postsecondary skills by increasing attainment, and the U.S. has not. Attainment rates in the U.S. are edging up, but other countries have shown that much more significant increases are both possible and can be sustained over time.

# Quantifying progress toward Goal 2025: Lumina's metrics

**A**s an organization focused on outcomes, Lumina uses metrics to guide the foundation's work and measure its impact. In last year's *Stronger Nation* report, we began reporting on metrics for the factors that are critical to increasing attainment, including enrollment, completion and gaps in attainment for underrepresented groups. An additional metric measures the degree to which the public recognizes the need to increase attainment. This reflects our belief that a broad awareness of the urgency to improve higher education access and success is essential to reaching Goal 2025.

This year, progress is reported on each metric for the 2012 baseline year and the current year (2013). Also included are our targets for 2014 and 2016.

## Progress report

The most striking change among the metrics can be found in the one that measures the degree to which Americans believe that increasing attainment is necessary for the nation. That percentage jumped from 43 percent to 51 percent in a single year, as measured by the annual Gallup/Lumina poll. What explains this huge increase in the number of Americans who believe increasing attainment is important? Certainly it reflects understanding of the changing job market and the importance of postsecondary skills. It may also reflect the fact that higher education issues — such as the challenge of college costs and the opportunities for innovation in delivery — are receiving more attention from policymakers and the media.

Several metrics relate to enrollment in postsecondary education, and the story they tell is not as encouraging. Overall enrollment

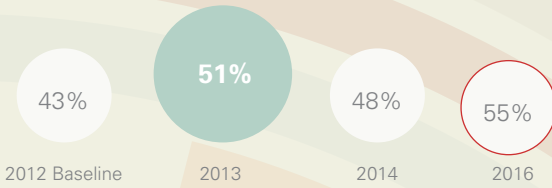
decreased from 2012 to 2013, from 18 million to 17.7 million students. This reflects a reduction in the size of the traditional college-age cohort as the rate of college enrollment directly from high school remained flat. Nonetheless, this is not good news and suggests that more needs to be done to improve the progression of students from K-12 education into higher education. The modest recovery of the job market is also a likely contributor to the overall decline in enrollment and to the reduction in the number of students who begin college as adults.

The news on completion is better. In a single year, the number of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded increased an impressive 150,000 to 2.8 million. College completion rates are improving; they increased by more than two percentage points in a single year.

Finally, the metrics tell a mixed story regarding addressing gaps in attainment for Hispanics and African Americans. Enrollment by Hispanics registered a substantial increase of 200,000 to 2.7 million, but enrollment for African Americans remained flat.

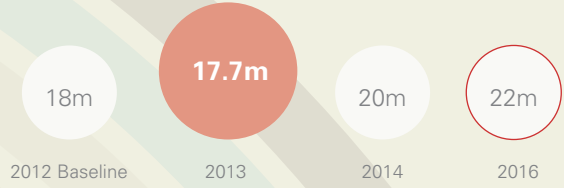
Because we are only reporting changes in the metrics over a single year (from 2012 to 2013), it would be a mistake to read too much into any of these measures. However, our experience with the attainment data shows that a clear picture of trends emerges quite quickly from the data, and we expect the same here. By next year, we will know whether we are moving in the right direction on the key factors that lead to increased attainment, or whether new or redoubled efforts will be necessary to break through the logjams that are hindering progress.

1. Increase the percentage of Americans who believe increasing higher education attainment is necessary to the nation to 55%



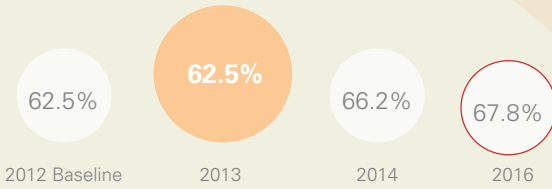
Source: Gallup Poll

6. Increase total higher education enrollment by 4 million students to 22 million (5% annual increase)



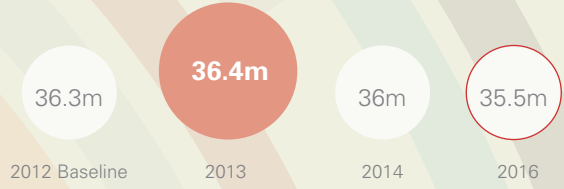
Source: National Center for Education Statistics

2. Increase the percentage of students who pursue postsecondary education directly from high school to 67.8%



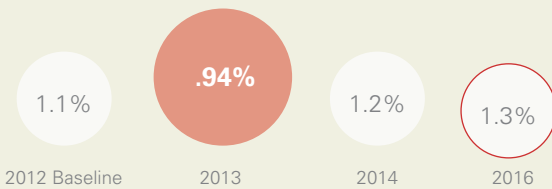
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Tom Mortenson, Postsecondary Opportunity

7. Reduce by 800,000 the number of adults ages 25-64 who have attended college but not earned a degree



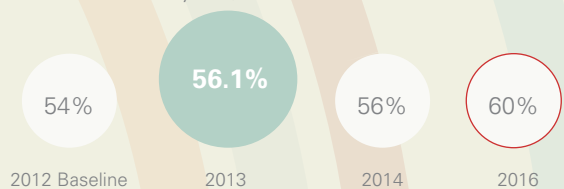
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

3. Increase the first-time participation rates of older adults to 1.3%



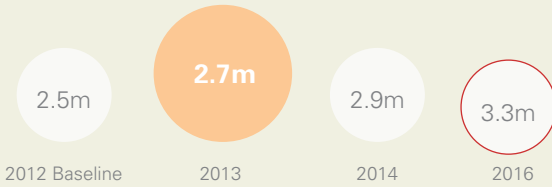
Source 1: NCES, IPEDS Fall 2010 Residency and Migration File;  
Source 2: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division; State Characteristics Population Estimates

8. Increase the overall higher education completion rate (first-time enrollment within 6 years) to 60%



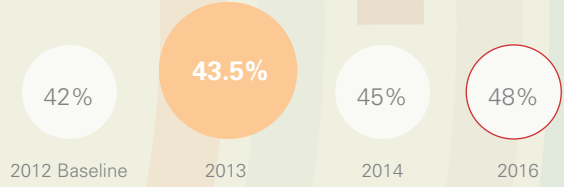
Source: National Student Clearinghouse

4. Increase total higher education enrollment among Hispanic students to 3.3 million (7% annual increase)



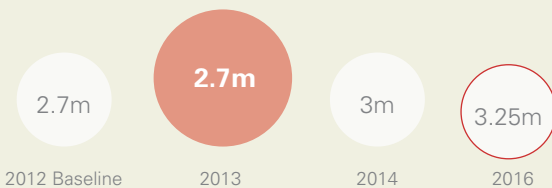
Source: National Center for Education Statistics

9. Increase the higher education completion rate to 48% for adult learners (ages 25-64)



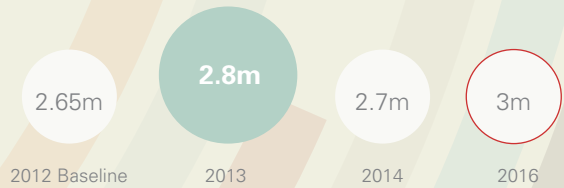
Source: National Student Clearinghouse

5. Increase total higher education enrollment among African American students to 3.25 million (5% annual increase)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

10. Increase the number of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded annually by 500,000 (to 3 million)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics 2013 update from the 2011-12 IPEDS File

**Key:**

- Exceeds 2014 target
- In line with 2014 target
- Not in line with 2014 target

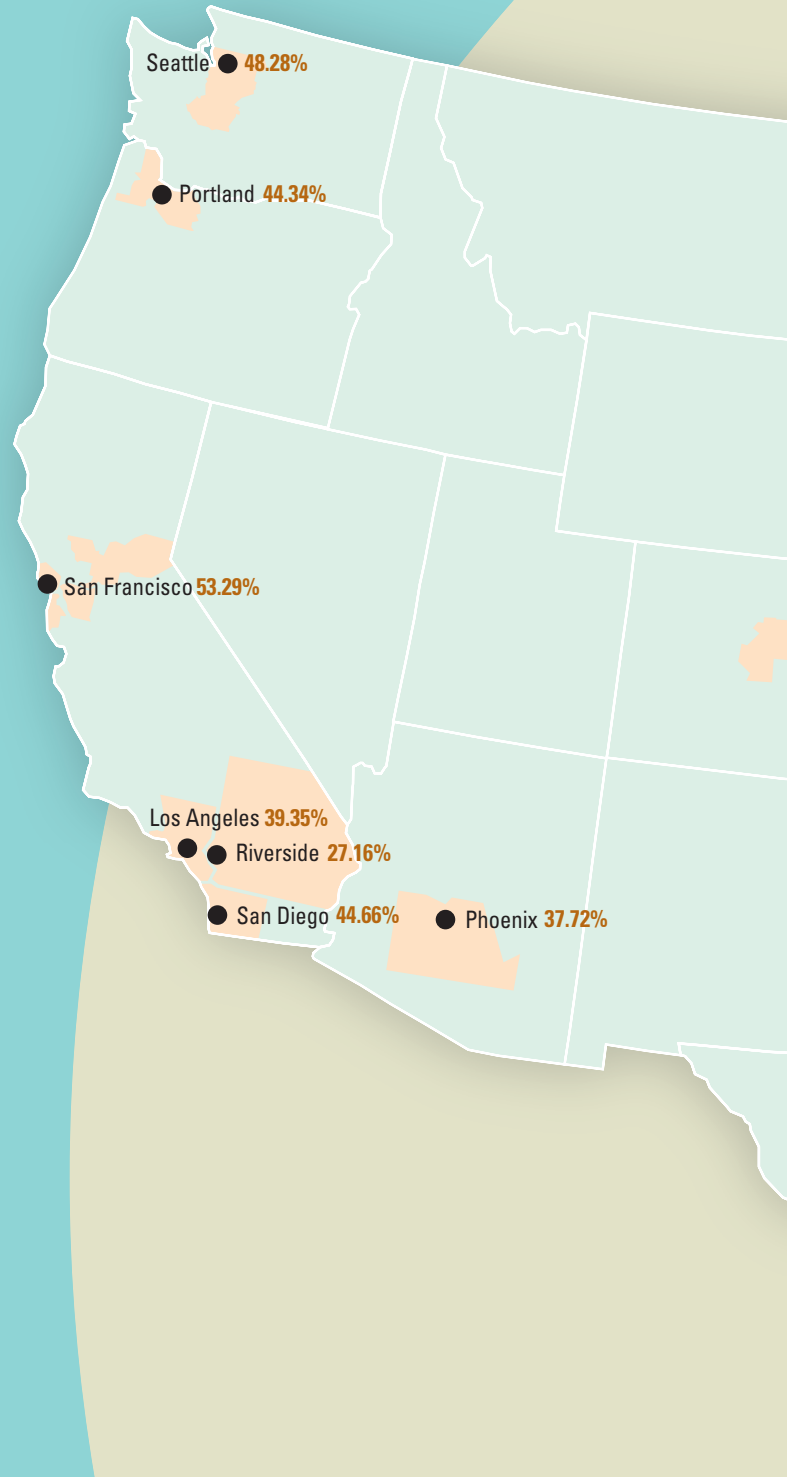
NOTE: Sizes of circles do not accurately represent the values assigned.

## Rank by population

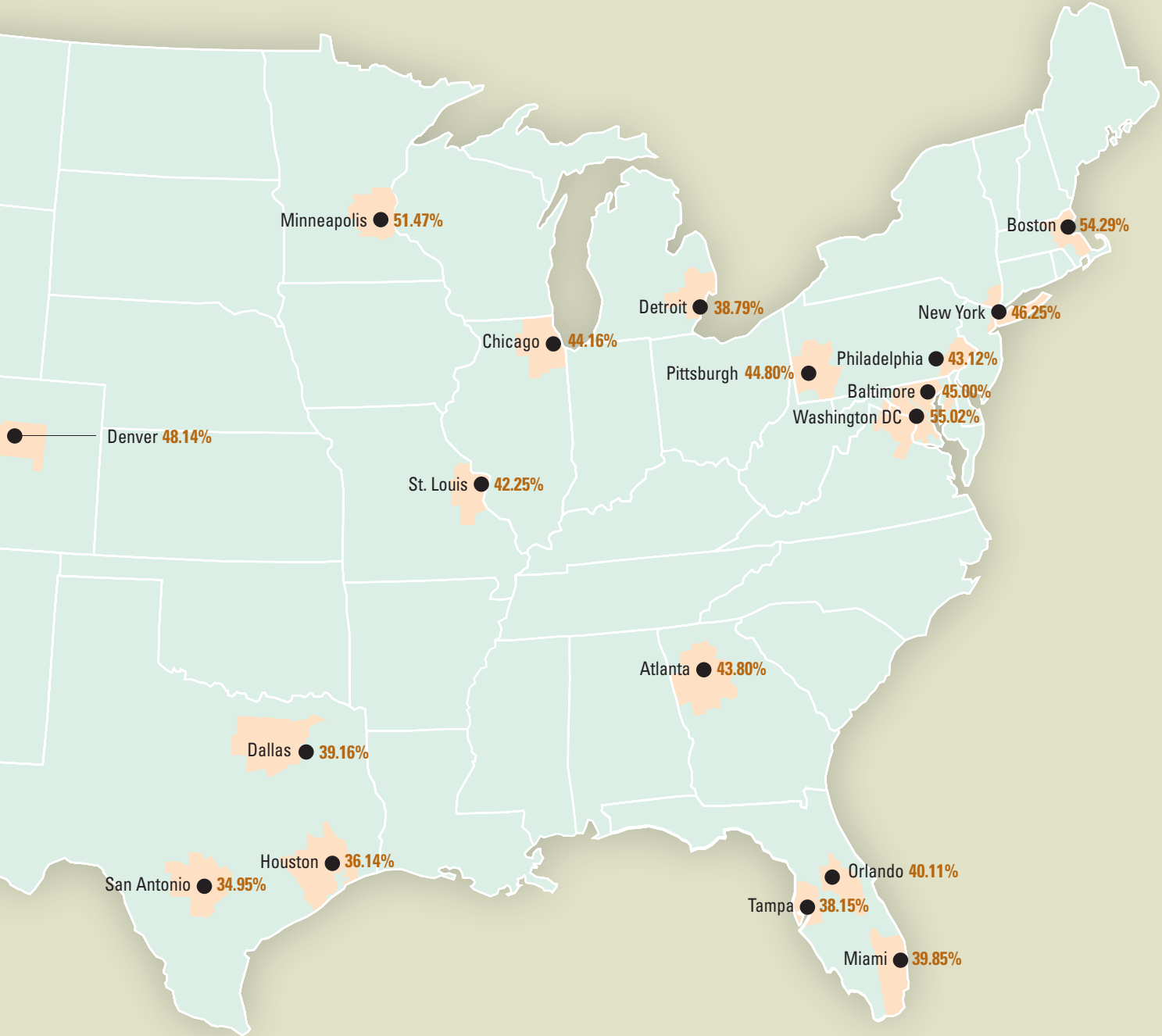
1	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.	19.0 million
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.	12.9 million
3	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, Ill.	9.5 million
4	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	6.5 million
5	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, Texas	6.1 million
6	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.	6.0 million
7	Washington, D.C./Arlington-Alexandria, Va.	5.7 million
8	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, Fla.	5.7 million
9	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga.	5.4 million
10	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass.	4.6 million
11	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif.	4.4 million
12	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, Calif.	4.3 million
13	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	4.3 million
14	Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, Ariz.	4.3 million
15	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash.	3.5 million
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn.	3.3 million
17	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, Calif.	3.1 million
18	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla.	2.8 million
19	St. Louis, Mo.	2.8 million
20	Baltimore-Towson, Md.	2.7 million
21	Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, Colo.	2.6 million
22	Pittsburgh, Pa.	2.4 million
23	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, Ore.	2.3 million
24	San Antonio-New Braunfels, Texas	2.2 million
25	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Fla.	2.2 million

## Rank by degree attainment

1	Washington, D.C./Arlington-Alexandria, Va.	55.02
2	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass.	54.29
3	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif.	53.29
4	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn.	51.47
5	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash.	48.28
6	Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, Colo.	48.14
7	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.	46.25
8	Baltimore-Towson, Md.	45.00
9	Pittsburgh, Pa.	44.80
10	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, Calif.	44.66
11	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, Ore.	44.34
12	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, Ill.	44.16
13	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga.	43.80
14	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.	43.12
15	St. Louis, Mo.	42.25
16	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Fla.	40.11
17	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, Fla.	39.85
18	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.	39.35
19	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	39.16
20	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	38.79
21	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla.	38.15
22	Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, Ariz.	37.72
23	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, Texas	36.14
24	San Antonio-New Braunfels, Texas	34.95
25	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, Calif.	27.16



# College attainment in the 25 most populous metropolitan regions in the continental U.S.



Note: This map denotes Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The term MSA refers to a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of social and economic integration with that core. MSAs comprise one or more entire counties, except in New England, where cities and towns are the basic geographic units. The federal Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs for purposes of collecting, tabulating and publishing federal data. These definitions result from applying published standards to Census Bureau data.

## Percentage of adults (25-64) with at least an associate degree, by metropolitan area

	Percent with at least an associate degree	Avg. Population 2010-12	2010-12 Population Rank		Percent with at least an associate degree	Avg. Population 2010-12	2010-12 Population Rank
Akron, OH	39.34	702,724	76	Madison, WI	55.50	576,845	90
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	49.63	872,935	60	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	21.99	793,312	69
Albuquerque, NM	38.49	896,196	58	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	34.55	1,325,160	42
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	38.95	824,846	65	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	39.85	5,677,408	8
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	43.80	5,361,152	9	Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	43.34	1,561,707	40
Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	33.96	563,401	92	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	51.47	3,320,190	16
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX	47.83	1,780,890	35	Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	39.79	1,618,819	38
Bakersfield-Delano, CA	22.12	849,101	62	New Haven-Milford, CT	42.93	862,776	61
Baltimore-Towson, MD	45.00	2,734,138	20	New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	33.88	1,190,162	47
Baton Rouge, LA	33.15	809,427	67	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	46.25	19,048,167	1
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	37.54	1,132,696	51	North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota, FL	37.64	710,883	73
Boise City-Nampa, ID	39.63	627,845	86	Ogden-Clearfield, UT	41.15	555,816	94
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	54.29	4,602,669	10	Oklahoma City, OK	36.44	1,276,771	44
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	53.62	926,739	57	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	44.51	876,971	59
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	45.60	1,135,105	50	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	40.11	2,179,420	26
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	31.83	632,499	85	Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	40.68	830,828	64
Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC	41.59	682,244	79	Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	39.56	545,202	96
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC	43.89	1,796,759	34	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	43.12	5,996,101	6
Chattanooga, TN-GA	32.49	533,491	99	Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ	37.72	4,263,663	14
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI	44.16	9,496,587	3	Pittsburgh, PA	44.80	2,359,225	23
Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	40.24	2,138,136	28	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	44.34	2,261,148	24
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	39.33	2,069,316	29	Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, NY	42.40	671,926	80
Colorado Springs, CO	46.78	659,419	82	Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	40.98	1,601,208	39
Columbia, SC	40.88	777,119	71	Provo-Orem, UT	47.30	540,458	98
Columbus, OH	43.56	1,859,697	33	Raleigh-Cary, NC	52.63	1,162,869	48
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	39.16	6,519,849	4	Richmond, VA	41.14	1,270,735	45
Dayton, OH	36.62	842,693	63	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	27.16	4,298,641	12
Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO	48.14	2,599,275	21	Rochester, NY	47.61	1,056,072	52
Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	48.35	580,572	89	Sacramento-Arden-Arcade-Roseville, CA	40.67	2,175,903	27
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	38.79	4,290,618	13	Salt Lake City, UT	40.52	1,144,789	49
El Paso, TX	29.94	816,295	66	San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	34.95	2,192,939	25
Fresno, CA	27.56	940,493	56	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	44.66	3,139,726	17
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	38.84	779,682	70	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	53.29	4,399,211	11
Greensboro-High Point, NC	36.65	730,577	72	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	54.91	1,868,165	32
Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC	38.24	645,542	84	San Juan-Caguas-Guaynabo, PR	39.16	2,460,222	22
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	39.87	551,934	95	Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, PA	35.65	563,722	91
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	46.85	1,214,120	46	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	48.28	3,499,632	15
Honolulu, HI	44.84	966,405	54	Springfield, MA	41.90	696,247	77
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	36.14	6,085,873	5	St. Louis, MO-IL	42.25	2,818,187	19
Indianapolis-Carmel, IN	41.74	1,779,439	36	Stockton, CA	27.81	695,251	78
Jackson, MS	39.05	544,739	97	Syracuse, NY	44.23	662,095	81
Jacksonville, FL	37.60	1,362,650	41	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	38.15	2,819,382	18
Kansas City, MO-KS	43.19	2,051,795	30	Toledo, OH	35.83	650,637	83
Knoxville, TN	40.00	704,397	75	Tucson, AZ	38.38	987,294	53
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	27.87	609,775	88	Tulsa, OK	36.48	945,744	55
Lancaster, PA	32.36	523,676	100	Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	39.30	1,684,011	37
Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	29.48	1,974,036	31	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	55.02	5,710,843	7
Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	36.57	710,321	74	Wichita, KS	37.54	625,940	87
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	39.35	12,947,334	2	Worcester, MA	46.48	803,429	68
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	36.13	1,293,831	43	Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	30.09	561,578	93

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 Census 3-Year Estimates

Note: This chart lists Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The term MSA refers to a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of social and economic integration with that core. MSAs comprise one or more entire counties, except in New England, where cities and towns are the basic geographic units. The federal Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs for purposes of collecting, tabulating and publishing federal data. These definitions result from applying published standards to Census Bureau data.

# State profiles

The Yellowhammer State The Ocean State The Land of Enchantment The Hoosier State The Last Frontier The Badger State The Beehive State The Palmetto State The Empire State The Grand Canyon State The Cowboy State The Green Mountain State The Sooner State The Natural State The Tar Heel State The Sunflower State The Bluegrass State The Golden State The Beaver State The Silver State The Pelican State The Centennial State The Keystone State The Granite State The Pine Tree State The Old Line State The Constitution State The Mount Rushmore State The Old Dominion State The Volunteer State The Garden State The Peach State The Great Lakes State The Bay State The First State The Sunshine State The Gem State The North Star State The Treasure State The Lone Star State The Evergreen State The Peace Garden State The Aloha State The Magnolia State The Cornhusker State The Buckeye State The Mountain State





# Alabama



Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Alabama, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 33.1 percent of Alabama's 2.5 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 31.9 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Alabama was 34.4 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Alabama and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

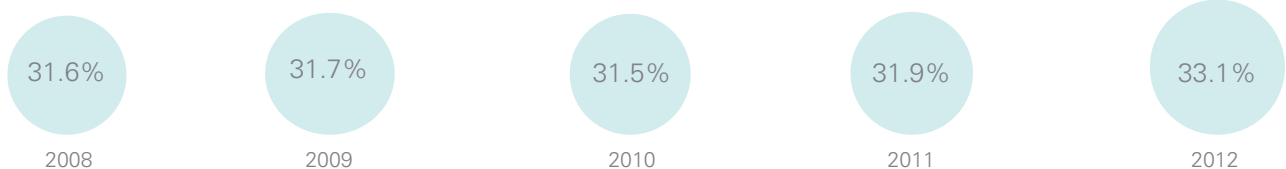
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

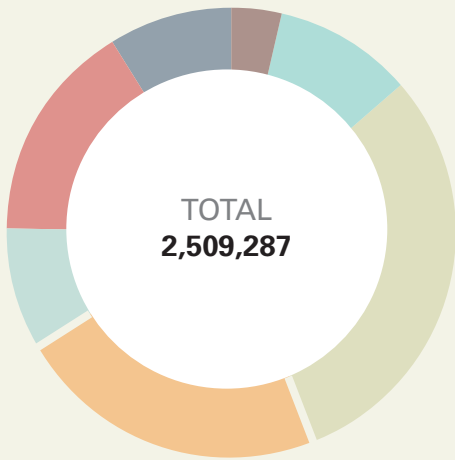
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Alabama.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Alabama residents, ages 25-64

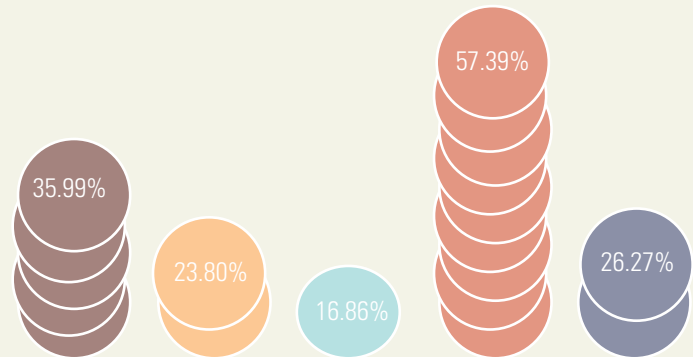


Less than ninth grade	96,797	<b>3.86%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	246,264	<b>9.81%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	758,871	<b>30.24%</b>
Some college, no degree	577,924	<b>23.03%</b>
Associate degree	211,278	<b>8.42%</b>
Bachelor's degree	401,975	<b>16.02%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	216,178	<b>8.62%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

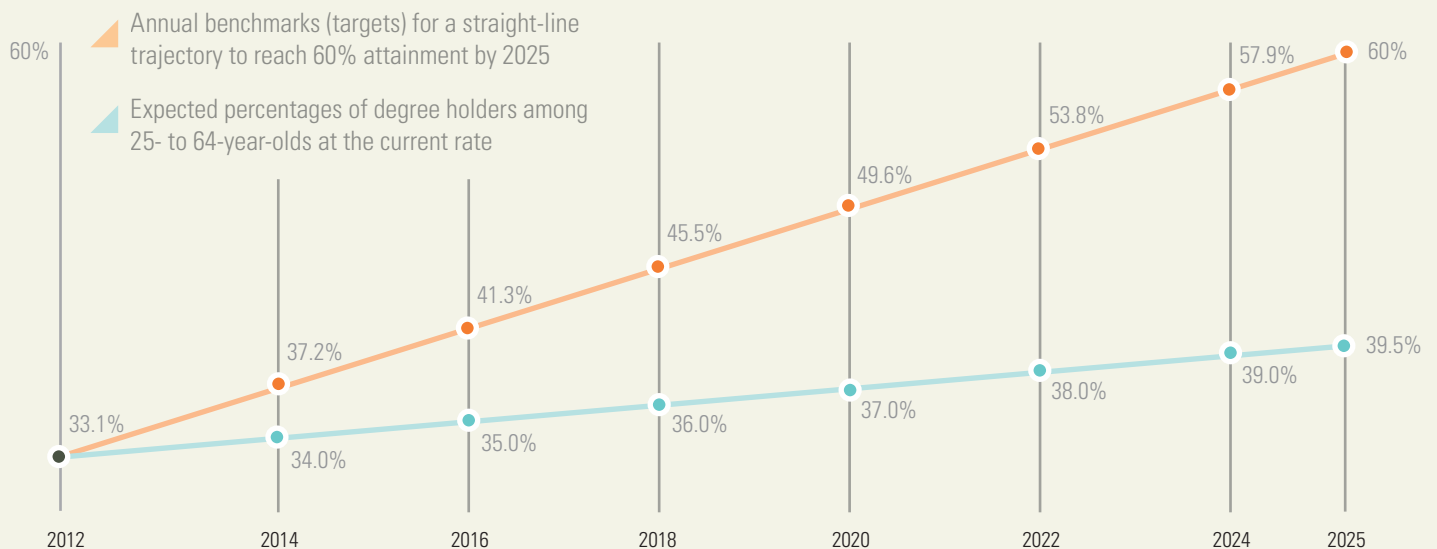
## Degree-attainment rates among Alabama adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>35.99%</b>
Black	<b>23.80%</b>
Hispanic	<b>16.86%</b>
Asian	<b>57.39%</b>
Native American	<b>26.27%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Alabama



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey.

## Percentage of Alabama adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Autauga	32.87	Clarke	23.11	DeKalb	18.82	Jefferson	39.84	Mobile	29.81	Talladega	21.32
Baldwin	37.80	Clay	18.06	Elmore	29.82	Lamar	18.23	Monroe	17.65	Tallapoosa	24.18
Barbour	22.40	Cleburne	18.07	Escambia	22.09	Lauderdale	30.06	Montgomery	38.32	Tuscaloosa	34.49
Bibb	16.66	Coffee	34.46	Etowah	25.99	Lawrence	22.22	Morgan	28.33	Walker	19.94
Blount	21.74	Colbert	27.37	Fayette	21.73	Lee	40.65	Perry	19.22	Washington	15.68
Bullock	17.89	Conecuh	21.11	Franklin	19.70	Limestone	30.59	Pickens	17.26	Wilcox	18.86
Butler	22.04	Coosa	15.00	Geneva	20.18	Lowndes	20.26	Pike	27.07	Winston	20.81
Calhoun	23.79	Covington	24.90	Greene	12.52	Macon	25.84	Randolph	18.56		
Chambers	19.59	Crenshaw	18.66	Hale	20.07	Madison	47.34	Russell	25.84		
Cherokee	20.90	Cullman	26.12	Henry	25.65	Marengo	27.40	St. Clair	24.79		
Chilton	20.90	Dale	30.71	Houston	30.33	Marion	18.41	Shelby	51.03		
Choctaw	22.04	Dallas	21.39	Jackson	21.69	Marshall	24.93	Sumter	23.00		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Alaska

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Alaska, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 37 percent of Alaska's 402,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 34.4 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Alaska was 32.2 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and well below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Alaska and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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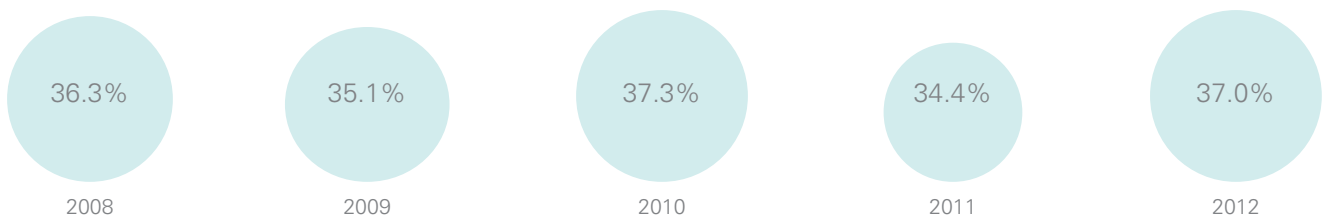
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A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

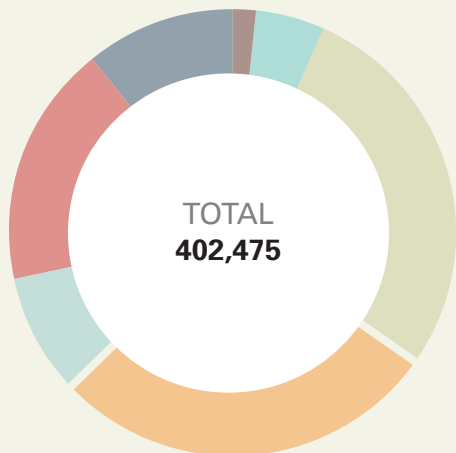
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Alaska.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Alaska residents, ages 25-64

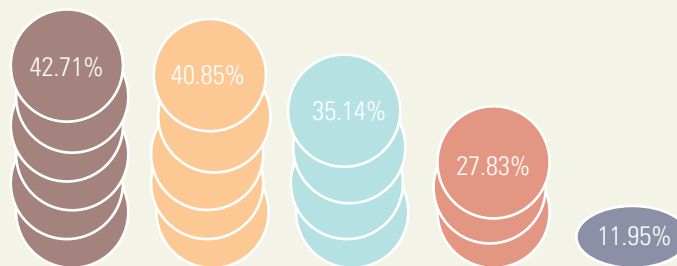


Less than ninth grade	7,277	<b>1.81%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	20,153	<b>5.01%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	112,712	<b>28.00%</b>
Some college, no degree	113,300	<b>28.15%</b>
Associate degree	35,588	<b>8.84%</b>
Bachelor's degree	70,652	<b>17.55%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	42,793	<b>10.63%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

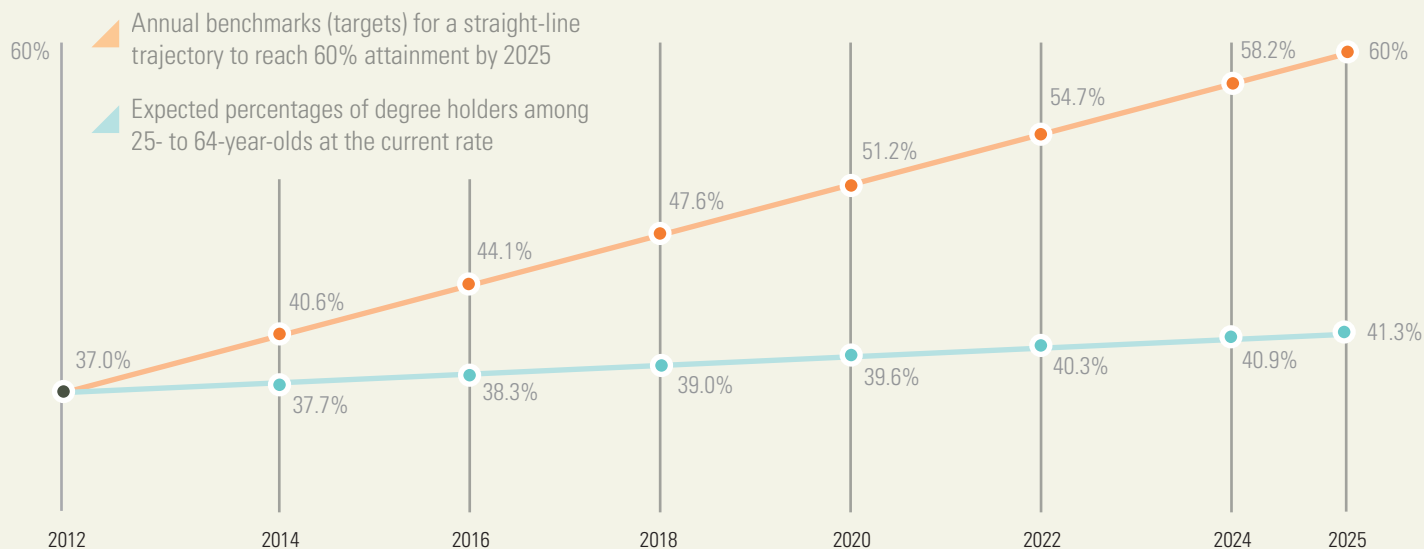
## Degree-attainment rates among Alaska adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>42.71%</b>
Black	<b>40.85%</b>
Hispanic	<b>35.14%</b>
Asian	<b>27.83%</b>
Native American	<b>11.95%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Alaska



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Alaska adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by borough

Aleutians East Borough	18.35	Juneau City and Borough	42.45	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	21.67
Aleutians West Census Area	17.66	Kenai Peninsula Borough	30.58	Sitka City and Borough	43.66
Anchorage Municipality	42.07	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	32.60	Skagway Municipality	25.62
Bethel Census Area	16.17	Kodiak Island Borough	33.54	Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	30.34
Bristol Bay Borough	27.20	Lake and Peninsula Borough	24.32	Valdez-Cordova Census Area	31.63
Denali Borough	38.49	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	31.40	Wade Hampton Census Area	8.42
Dillingham Census Area	25.57	Nome Census Area	21.02	Wrangell City and Borough	33.54
Fairbanks North Star Borough	38.32	North Slope Borough	26.07	Yakutat City and Borough	41.98
Haines Borough	39.19	Northwest Arctic Borough	13.97	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	15.35
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	33.56	Petersburg Census Area	36.89		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Arizona

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Arizona, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 36.7 percent of Arizona's 3.3 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 35.8 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Arizona was 34.6 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Arizona and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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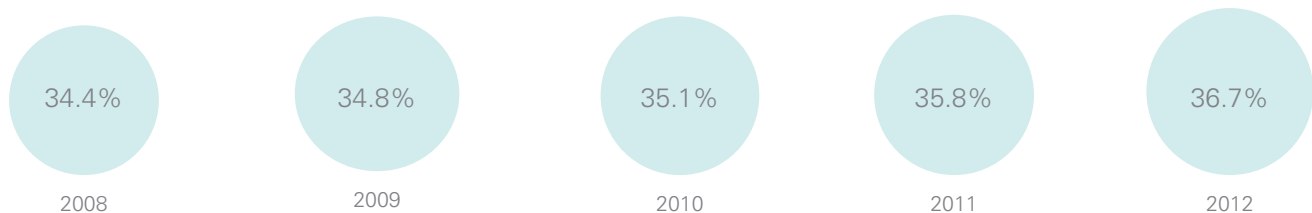
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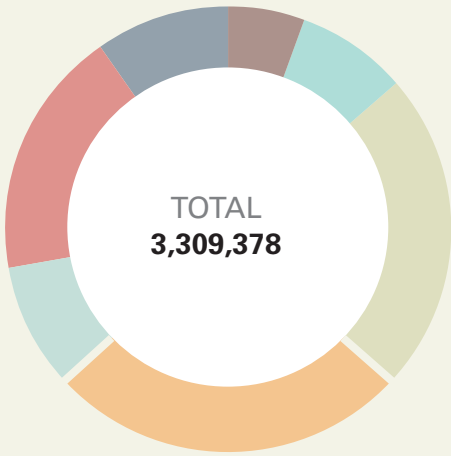
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## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Arizona residents, ages 25-64

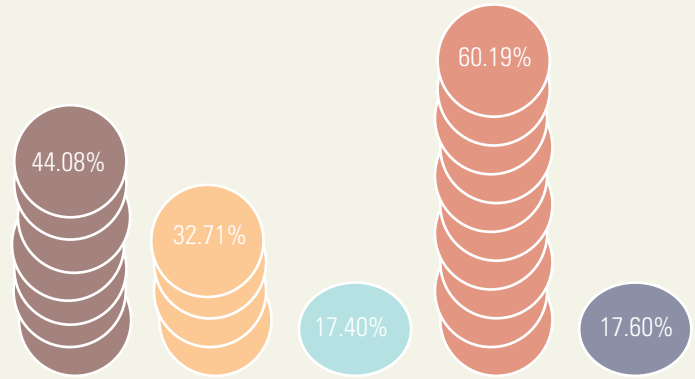


Less than ninth grade	192,261	<b>5.81%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	263,856	<b>7.97%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	773,016	<b>23.36%</b>
Some college, no degree	866,491	<b>26.18%</b>
Associate degree	300,600	<b>9.08%</b>
Bachelor's degree	593,215	<b>17.93%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	319,939	<b>9.67%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

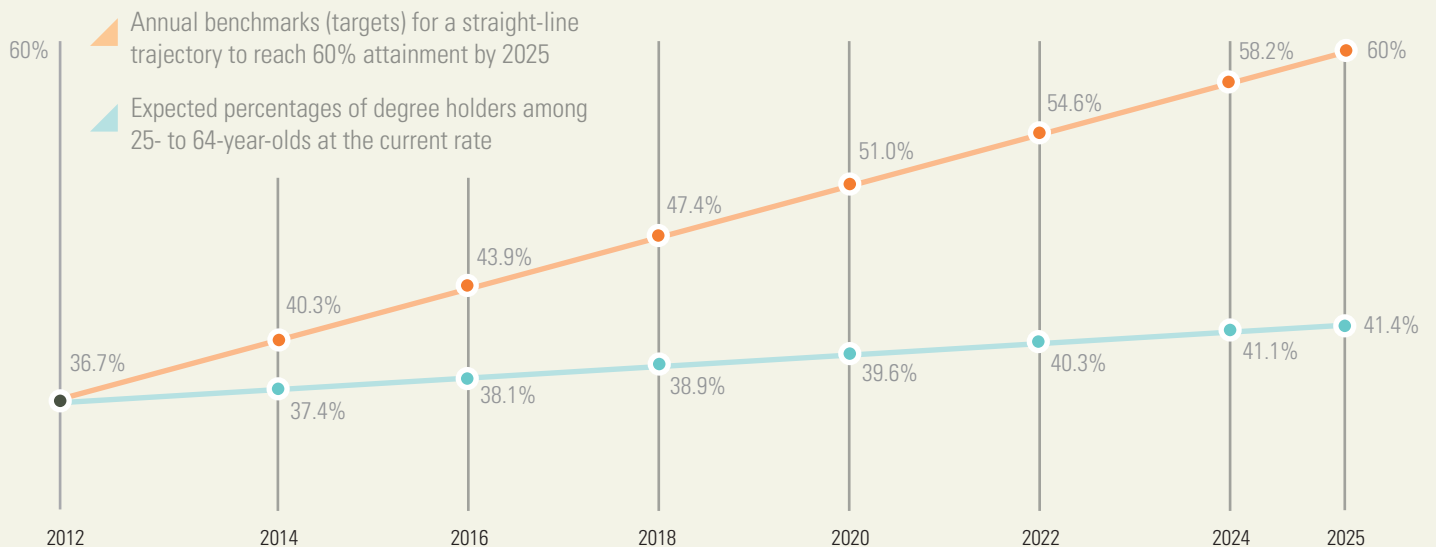
## Degree-attainment rates among Arizona adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>44.08%</b>
Black	<b>32.71%</b>
Hispanic	<b>17.40%</b>
Asian	<b>60.19%</b>
Native American	<b>17.60%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Arizona



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Arizona adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Apache	18.69	Gila	26.09	La Paz	16.29	Navajo	23.67	Santa Cruz	25.54
Cochise	33.10	Graham	21.51	Maricopa	38.89	Pima	38.26	Yavapai	32.40
Coconino	39.66	Greenlee	22.76	Mohave	20.78	Pinal	27.65	Yuma	22.55

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Arkansas

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Arkansas, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 29.3 percent of Arkansas’ 1.5 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year’s rate of 28.2 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is well below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Arkansas was 29.8 percent, slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole but well below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Arkansas and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

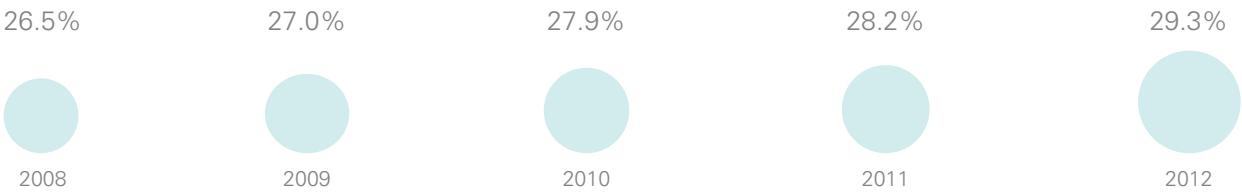
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

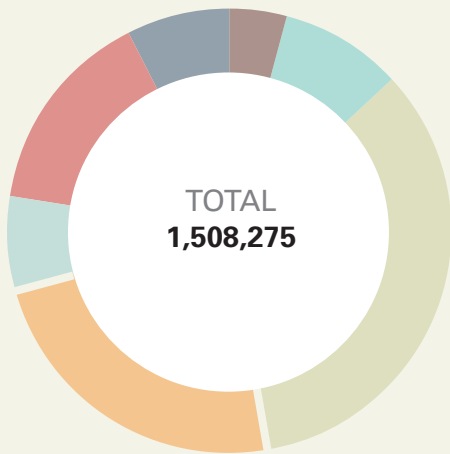
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Arkansas.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Arkansas residents, ages 25-64

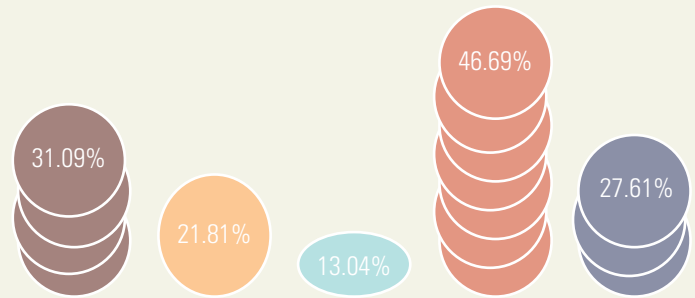


Less than ninth grade	62,998	<b>4.18%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	135,031	<b>8.95%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	515,245	<b>34.16%</b>
Some college, no degree	353,046	<b>23.41%</b>
Associate degree	106,304	<b>7.05%</b>
Bachelor's degree	225,180	<b>14.93%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	110,471	<b>7.32%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

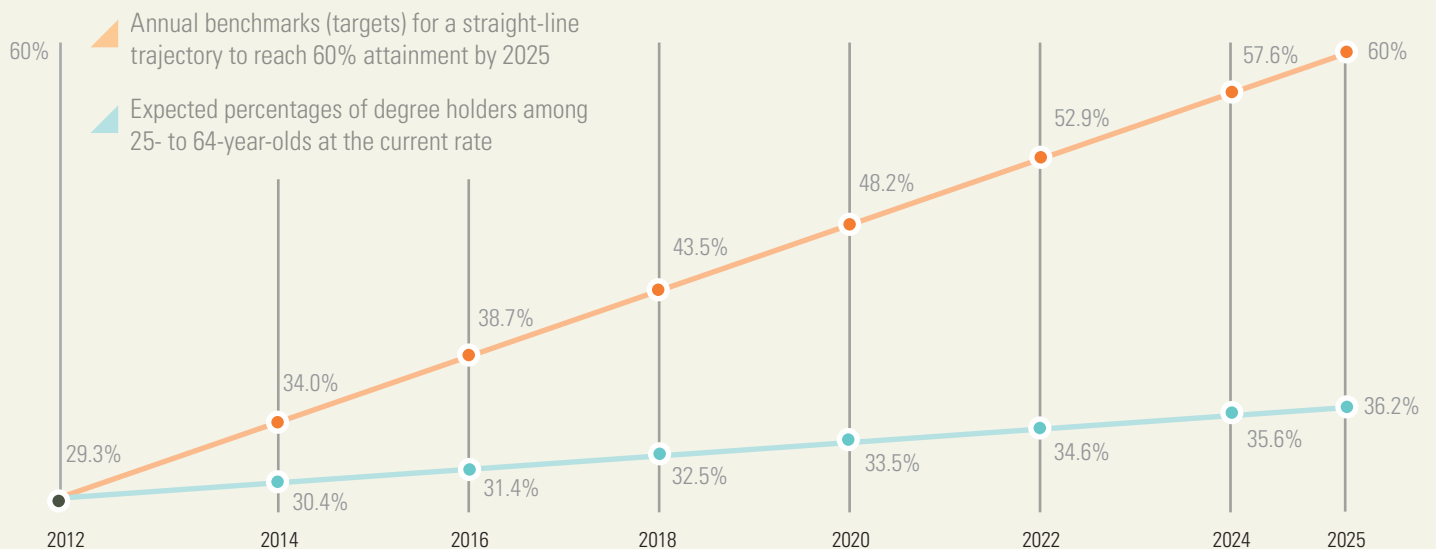
## Degree-attainment rates among Arkansas adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>31.09%</b>
Black	<b>21.81%</b>
Hispanic	<b>13.04%</b>
Asian	<b>46.69%</b>
Native American	<b>27.61%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Arkansas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Arkansas adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Arkansas	21.49	Columbia	29.05	Grant	26.17	Lincoln	14.74	Perry	14.24	Sebastian	27.46
Ashley	19.19	Conway	21.18	Greene	18.71	Little River	21.28	Phillips	25.26	Sevier	14.25
Baxter	25.06	Craighead	30.98	Hempstead	21.12	Logan	20.33	Pike	19.21	Sharp	18.35
Benton	35.73	Crawford	24.38	Hot Spring	24.32	Lonoke	28.45	Poinsett	14.45	Stone	21.71
Boone	24.64	Crittenden	22.09	Howard	15.58	Madison	14.38	Polk	20.66	Union	26.26
Bradley	17.31	Cross	19.45	Independence	20.29	Marion	19.95	Pope	26.93	Van Buren	21.69
Calhoun	16.54	Dallas	16.58	Izard	17.49	Miller	18.78	Prairie	15.73	Washington	34.43
Carroll	23.45	Desha	18.49	Jackson	16.04	Mississippi	19.65	Pulaski	40.18	White	26.28
Chicot	16.93	Drew	28.75	Jefferson	24.16	Monroe	23.81	Randolph	22.52	Woodruff	15.11
Clark	32.19	Faulkner	34.91	Johnson	20.66	Montgomery	23.24	St. Francis	17.87	Yell	13.11
Clay	16.87	Franklin	20.34	Lafayette	16.70	Nevada	20.72	Saline	32.39		
Cleburne	24.99	Fulton	19.43	Lawrence	16.75	Newton	18.42	Scott	18.06		
Cleveland	23.56	Garland	29.09	Lee	11.77	Ouachita	25.00	Searcy	19.50		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# California



Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in California, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 39.7 percent of California's 20.2 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 38.9 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is slightly above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in California was 39.7 percent, equal to that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can California and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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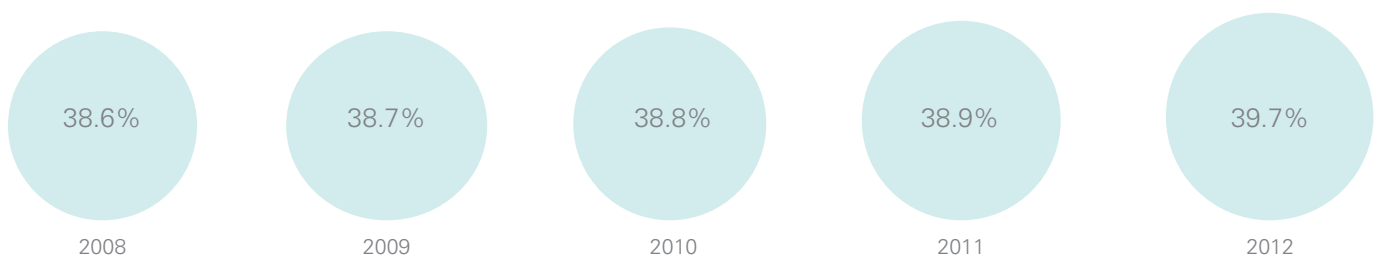
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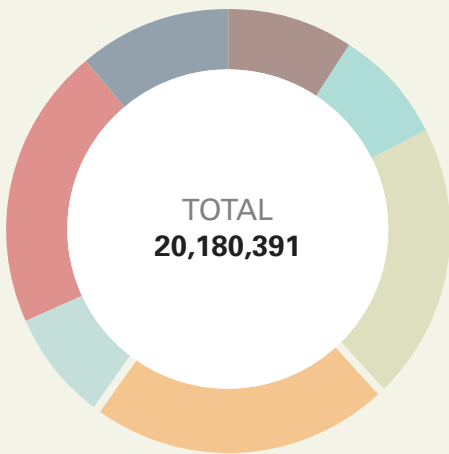
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in California.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for California residents, ages 25-64

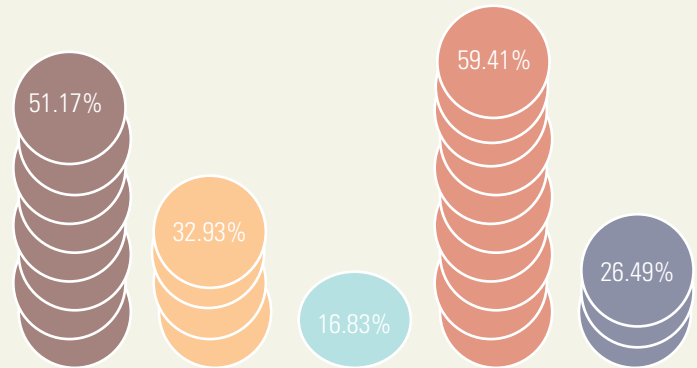


Less than ninth grade	1,850,964	<b>9.17%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	1,726,260	<b>8.55%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	4,054,754	<b>20.09%</b>
Some college, no degree	4,537,886	<b>22.49%</b>
Associate degree	1,636,522	<b>8.11%</b>
Bachelor's degree	4,132,623	<b>20.48%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	2,241,382	<b>11.11%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

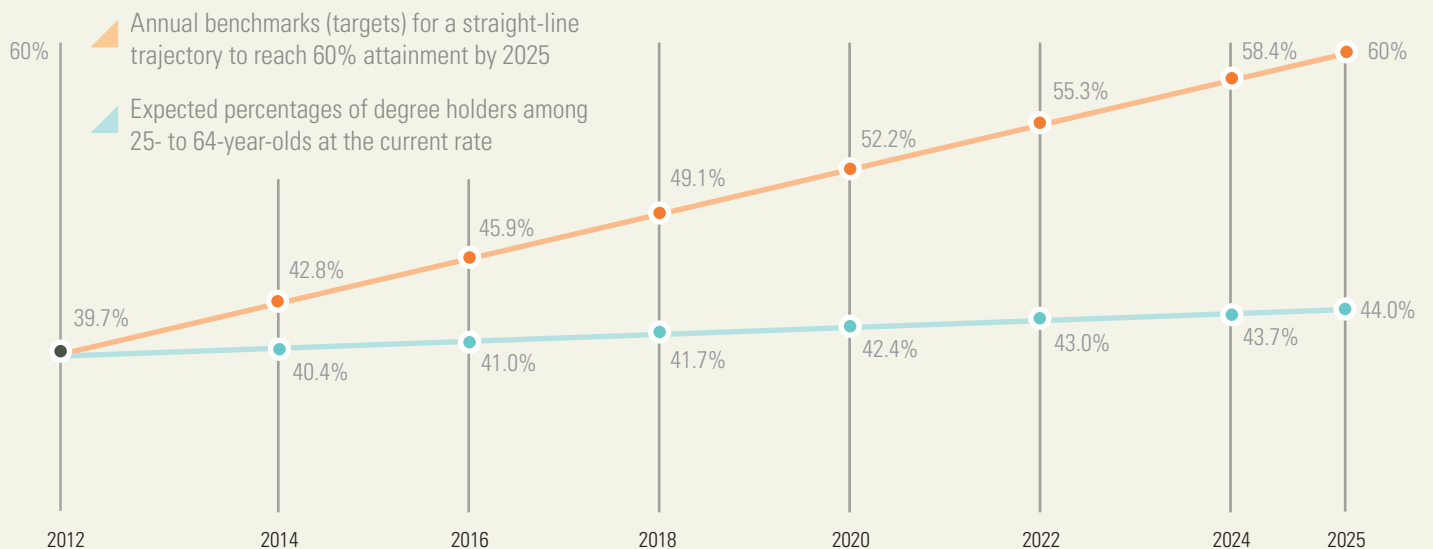
## Degree-attainment rates among California adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>51.17%</b>
Black	<b>32.93%</b>
Hispanic	<b>16.83%</b>
Asian	<b>59.41%</b>
Native American	<b>26.49%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in California



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of California adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Alameda	50.35	Glenn	22.15	Marin	61.68	Placer	48.48	San Mateo	54.08	Sutter	29.94
Alpine	37.16	Humboldt	36.92	Mariposa	28.47	Plumas	35.97	Santa Barbara	39.82	Tehama	21.35
Amador	27.66	Imperial	21.34	Mendocino	30.17	Riverside	28.01	Santa Clara	55.53	Trinity	29.80
Butte	34.64	Inyo	30.36	Merced	19.91	Sacramento	38.26	Santa Cruz	46.40	Tulare	21.23
Calaveras	30.08	Kern	21.82	Modoc	31.06	San Benito	26.94	Shasta	31.78	Tuolumne	25.81
Colusa	23.26	Kings	20.44	Mono	40.90	San Bernardino	27.17	Sierra	26.75	Ventura	40.65
Contra Costa	47.83	Lake	26.59	Monterey	29.16	San Diego	44.63	Siskiyou	33.19	Yolo	47.78
Del Norte	20.21	Lassen	23.85	Napa	40.28	San Francisco	61.74	Solano	34.85	Yuba	24.07
El Dorado	42.75	Los Angeles	37.51	Nevada	44.22	San Joaquin	27.15	Sonoma	40.80		
Fresno	27.97	Madera	21.21	Orange	45.57	San Luis Obispo	41.21	Stanislaus	24.16		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Colorado

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Colorado, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 47.5 percent of Colorado's 2.8 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year's rate of 47 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Colorado was 45.8 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole but above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Colorado and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
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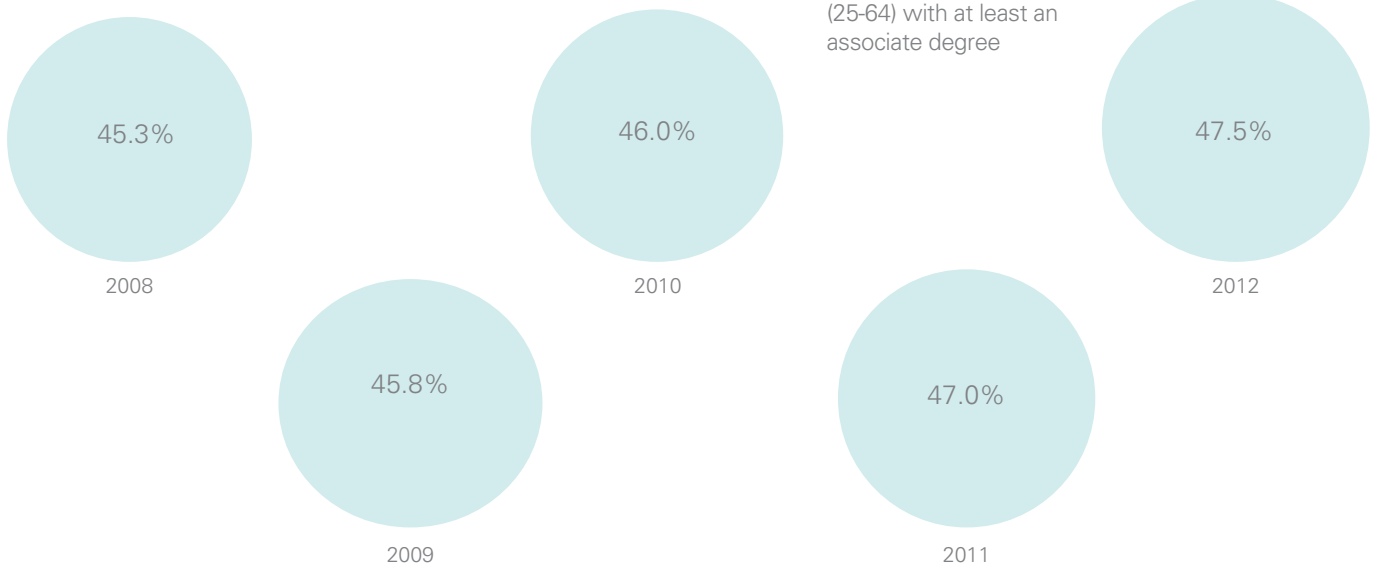
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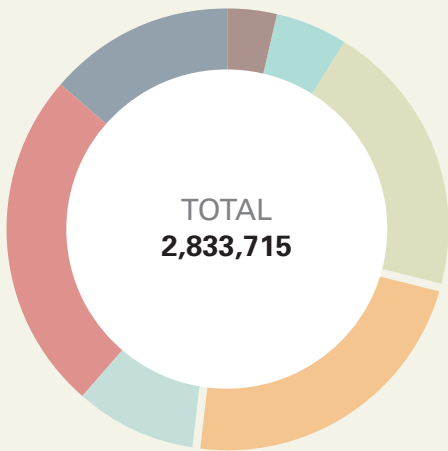
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Colorado.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Colorado residents, ages 25-64

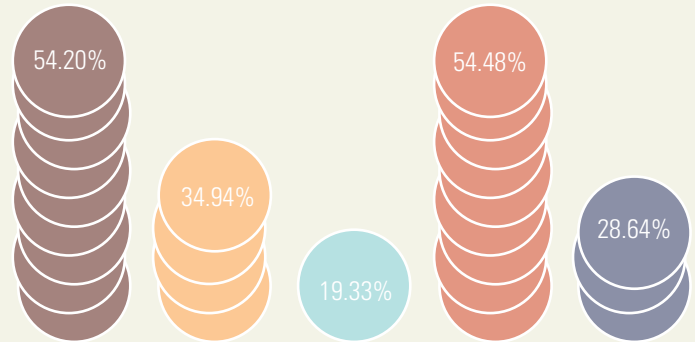


Less than ninth grade	104,299	<b>3.68%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	148,979	<b>5.26%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	584,183	<b>20.62%</b>
Some college, no degree	651,179	<b>22.98%</b>
Associate degree	254,402	<b>8.98%</b>
Bachelor's degree	708,540	<b>25.00%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	382,133	<b>13.49%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

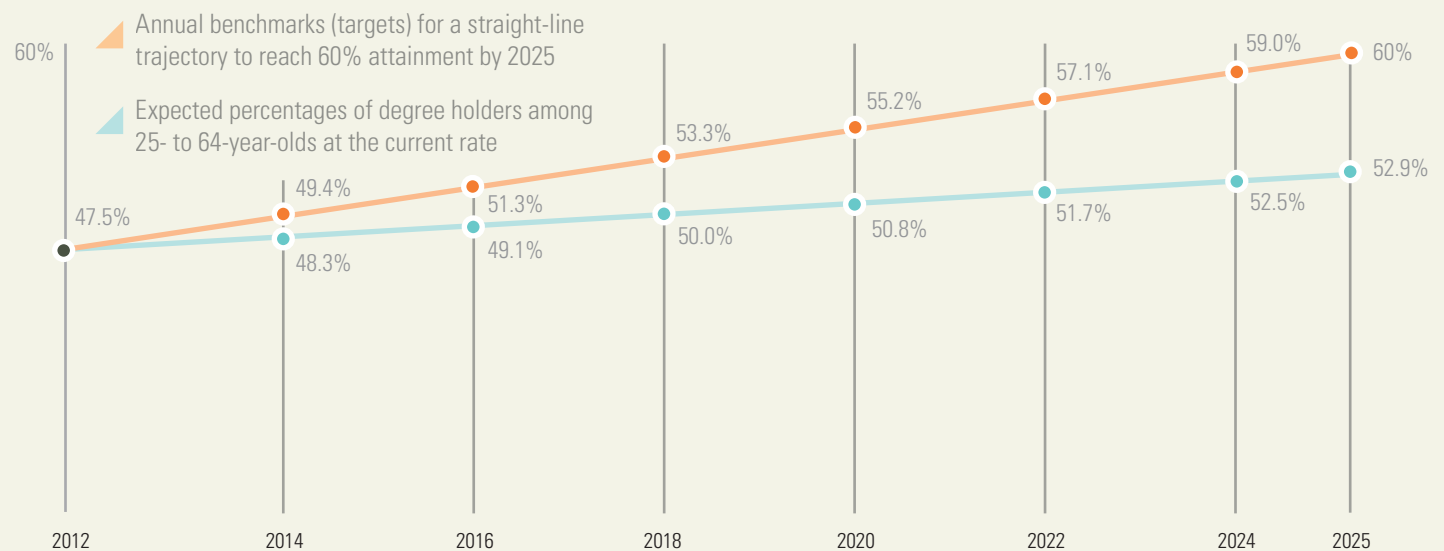
## Degree-attainment rates among Colorado adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>54.20%</b>
Black	<b>34.94%</b>
Hispanic	<b>19.33%</b>
Asian	<b>54.48%</b>
Native American	<b>28.64%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Colorado



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Colorado adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	30.26	Conejos	29.34	Fremont	22.94	Lake	38.77	Morgan	27.43	Saguache	27.57
Alamosa	29.88	Costilla	19.58	Garfield	33.22	La Plata	48.69	Otero	31.14	San Juan	31.49
Arapahoe	48.06	Crowley	17.95	Gilpin	40.34	Larimer	55.08	Ouray	51.58	San Miguel	55.96
Archuleta	41.10	Custer	39.39	Grand	39.40	Las Animas	31.58	Park	41.96	Sedgwick	28.77
Baca	33.81	Delta	27.83	Gunnison	58.81	Lincoln	23.66	Phillips	34.93	Summit	56.07
Bent	16.78	Denver	49.69	Hinsdale	40.67	Logan	30.12	Pitkin	62.59	Teller	39.58
Boulder	65.68	Dolores	28.59	Huerfano	27.10	Mesa	36.16	Prowers	29.53	Washington	34.55
Broomfield	59.04	Douglas	64.90	Jackson	29.02	Mineral	47.24	Pueblo	33.22	Weld	36.28
Chaffee	40.50	Eagle	52.22	Jefferson	50.96	Moffat	23.78	Rio Blanco	32.44	Yuma	29.19
Cheyenne	35.56	Elbert	42.81	Kiowa	44.62	Montezuma	36.11	Rio Grande	27.17		
Clear Creek	41.77	El Paso	47.09	Kit Carson	28.75	Montrose	29.76	Routt	53.44		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Connecticut

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Connecticut, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 47.5 percent of Connecticut's 1.9 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 46.4 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Connecticut was 46.8 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole but above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Connecticut and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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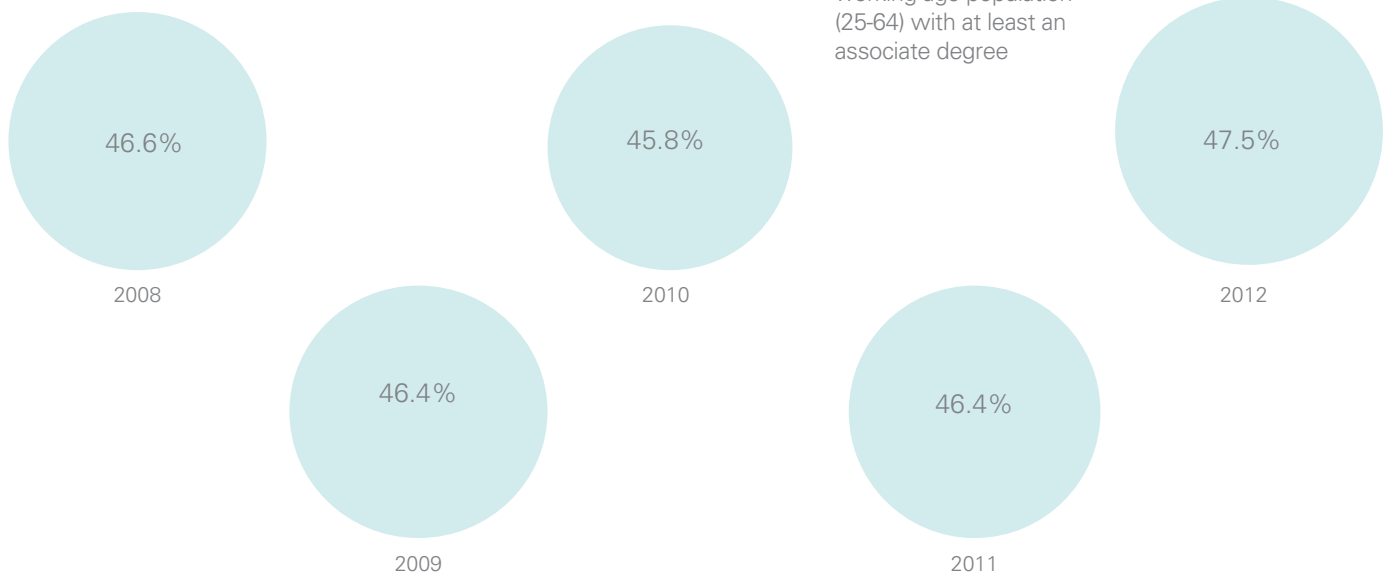
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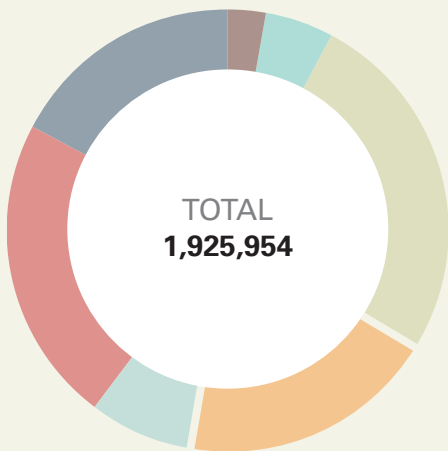
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Connecticut.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Connecticut residents, ages 25-64

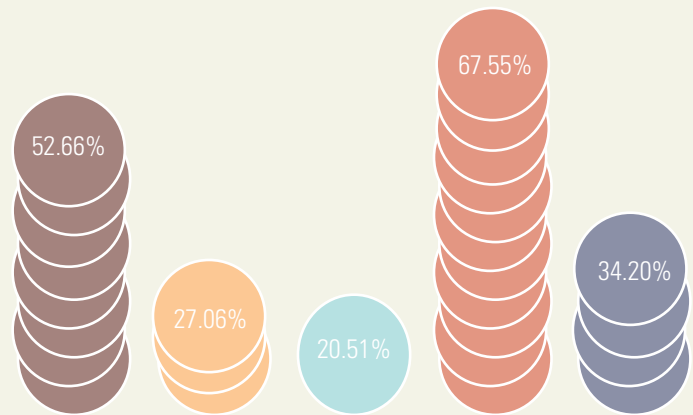


Less than ninth grade	54,976	<b>2.85%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	98,701	<b>5.12%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	501,941	<b>26.06%</b>
Some college, no degree	356,366	<b>18.50%</b>
Associate degree	154,325	<b>8.01%</b>
Bachelor's degree	428,983	<b>22.27%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	330,662	<b>17.17%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

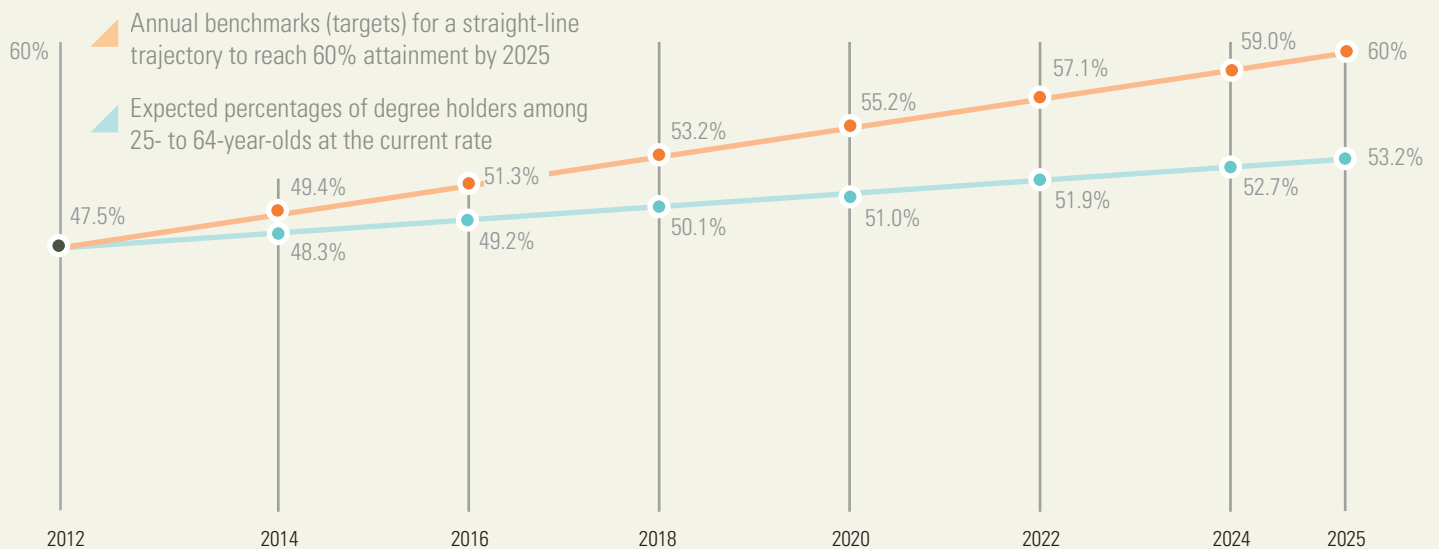
## Degree-attainment rates among Connecticut adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>52.66%</b>
Black	<b>27.06%</b>
Hispanic	<b>20.51%</b>
Asian	<b>67.65%</b>
Native American	<b>34.20%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Connecticut



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Connecticut adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Fairfield	53.96	Litchfield	43.46	New Haven	43.39	Tolland	50.22
Hartford	45.51	Middlesex	50.92	New London	41.45	Windham	31.29

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Delaware

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Delaware, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 38.4 percent of Delaware’s 478,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year’s rate of 37.6 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34— because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Delaware was 41 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and just above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Delaware and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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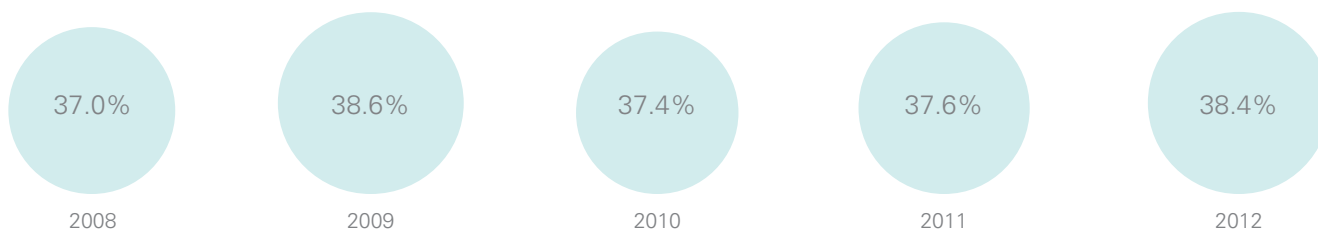
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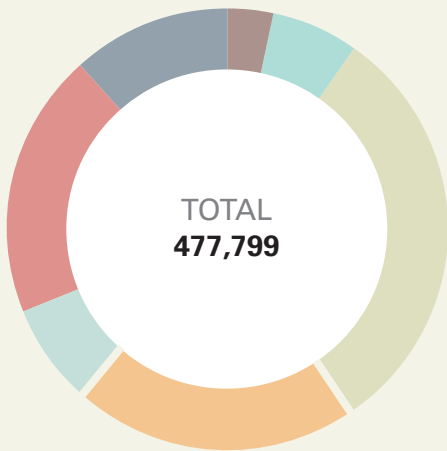
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Delaware.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Delaware residents, ages 25-64

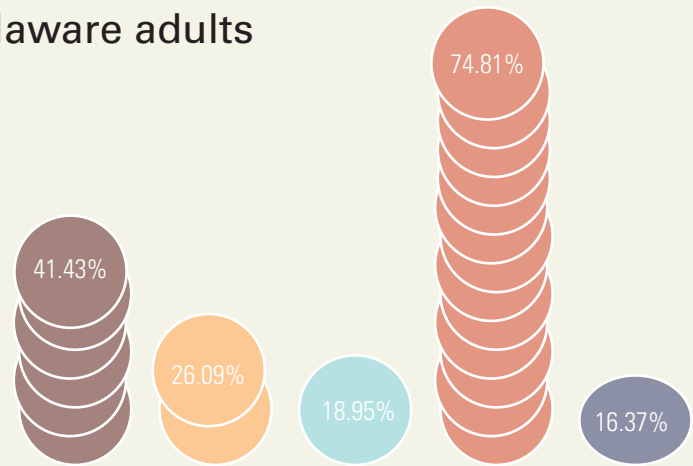


Less than ninth grade	16,116	<b>3.37%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	31,358	<b>6.56%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	146,977	<b>30.76%</b>
Some college, no degree	99,962	<b>20.92%</b>
Associate degree	35,796	<b>7.49%</b>
Bachelor's degree	92,711	<b>19.40%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	54,879	<b>11.49%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

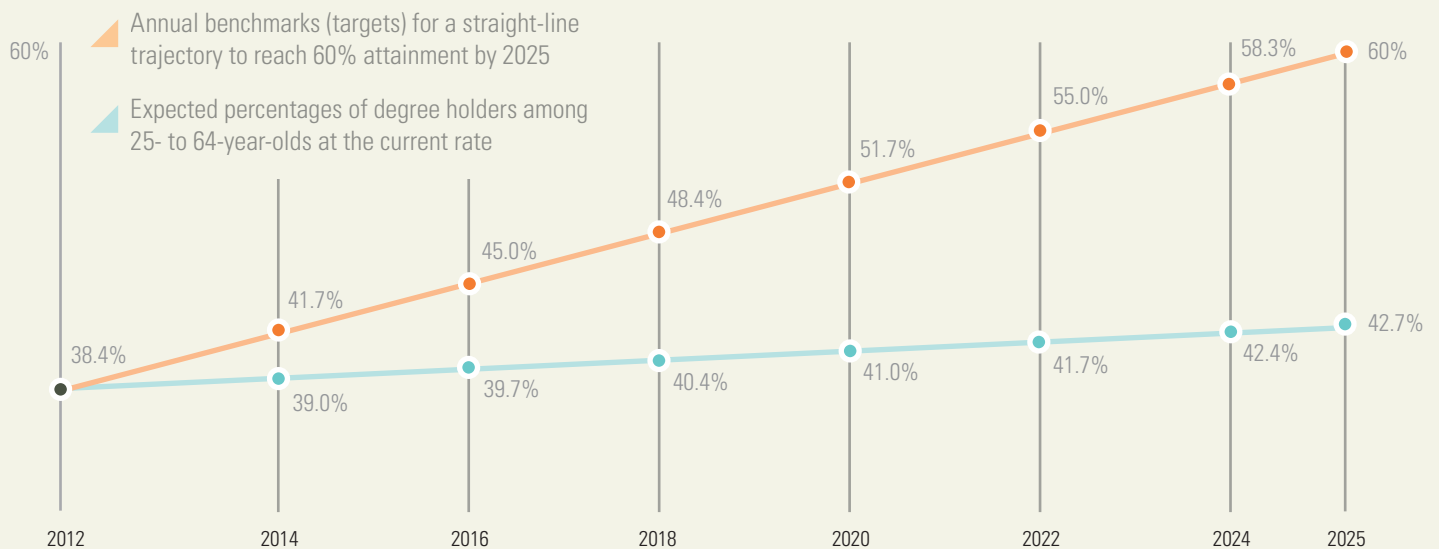
## Degree-attainment rates among Delaware adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>41.43%</b>
Black	<b>26.09%</b>
Hispanic	<b>18.95%</b>
Asian	<b>74.81%</b>
Native American	<b>16.37%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Delaware



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Delaware adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

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Kent	30.50	New Castle	42.66	Sussex	30.31
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Florida

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Florida, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 38.1 percent of Florida's 10 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 37 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Florida was 37.9 percent, slightly lower than that of the adult population as a whole and also below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Florida and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

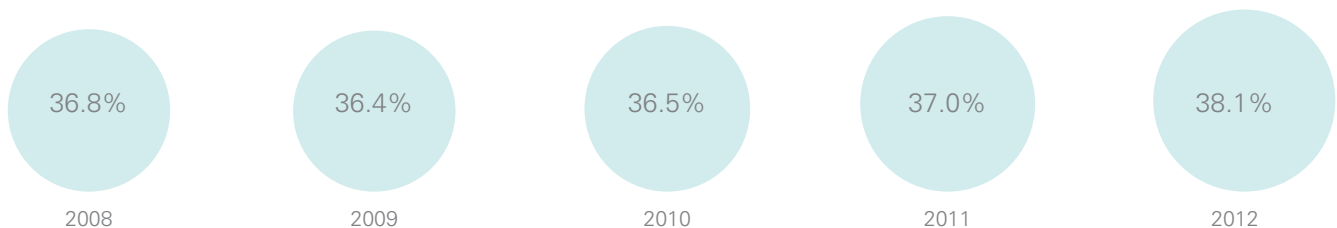
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

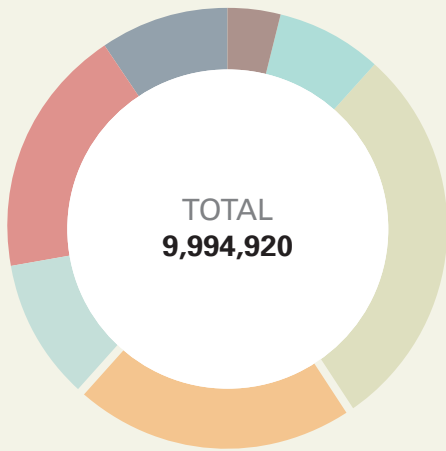
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Florida.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Florida residents, ages 25-64

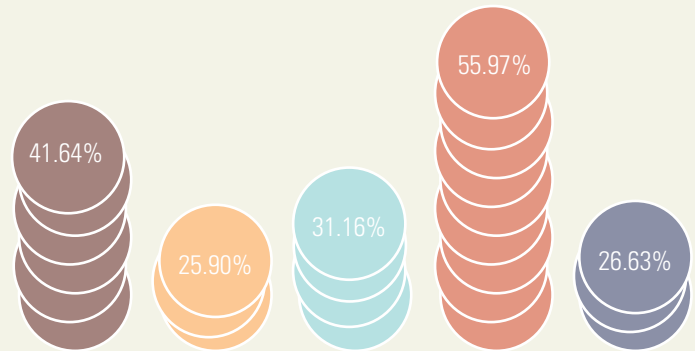


Less than ninth grade	401,151	<b>4.01%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	772,918	<b>7.73%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,887,296	<b>28.89%</b>
Some college, no degree	2,127,081	<b>21.28%</b>
Associate degree	1,037,381	<b>10.38%</b>
Bachelor's degree	1,837,753	<b>18.39%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	931,340	<b>9.32%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

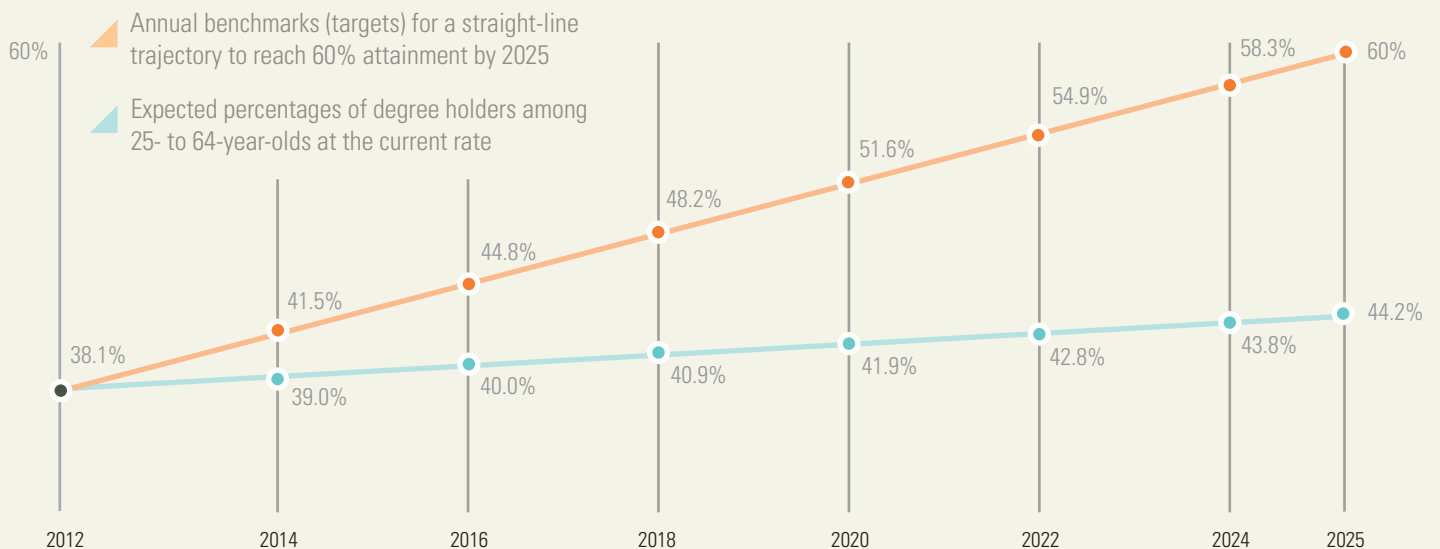
## Degree-attainment rates among Florida adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>41.64%</b>
Black	<b>25.90%</b>
Hispanic	<b>31.16%</b>
Asian	<b>55.97%</b>
Native American	<b>26.63%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Florida



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Florida adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Alachua	54.36	DeSoto	13.71	Hendry	15.42	Levy	20.40	Osceola	29.96	Suwannee	17.07
Baker	16.13	Dixie	12.85	Hernando	25.90	Liberty	15.86	Palm Beach	42.26	Taylor	17.59
Bay	33.58	Duval	36.13	Highlands	24.70	Madison	16.34	Pasco	33.49	Union	15.91
Bradford	14.70	Escambia	35.55	Hillsborough	40.64	Manatee	36.87	Pinellas	39.41	Volusia	32.71
Brevard	40.29	Flagler	33.58	Holmes	17.08	Marion	27.54	Polk	27.78	Wakulla	25.60
Broward	42.09	Franklin	19.28	Indian River	34.95	Martin	40.75	Putnam	18.39	Walton	30.90
Calhoun	13.92	Gadsden	19.27	Jackson	21.97	Miami-Dade	37.75	St. Johns	50.83	Washington	16.74
Charlotte	31.61	Gilchrist	20.78	Jefferson	20.90	Monroe	37.61	St. Lucie	28.01		
Citrus	25.31	Glades	16.62	Lafayette	20.44	Nassau	31.60	Santa Rosa	38.98		
Clay	34.81	Gulf	21.22	Lake	29.93	Okaloosa	38.52	Sarasota	38.54		
Collier	35.52	Hamilton	14.27	Lee	32.64	Okeechobee	16.64	Seminole	46.55		
Columbia	22.93	Hardee	12.78	Leon	53.83	Orange	42.14	Sumter	25.88		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Georgia

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Georgia, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 37.4 percent of Georgia's 5.3 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 36.4 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Georgia was 36 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and also below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Georgia and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
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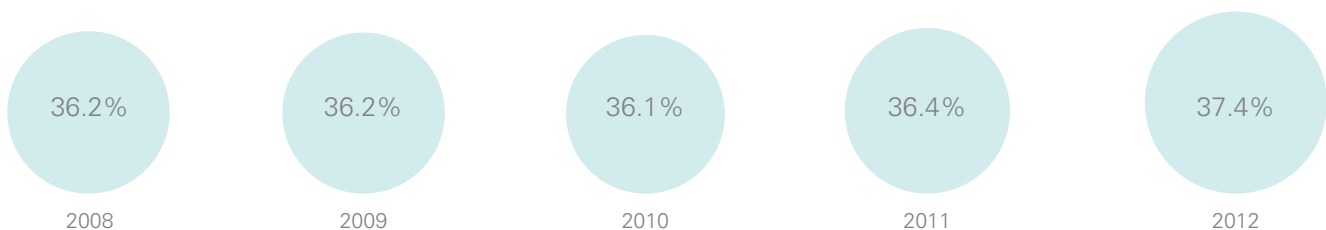
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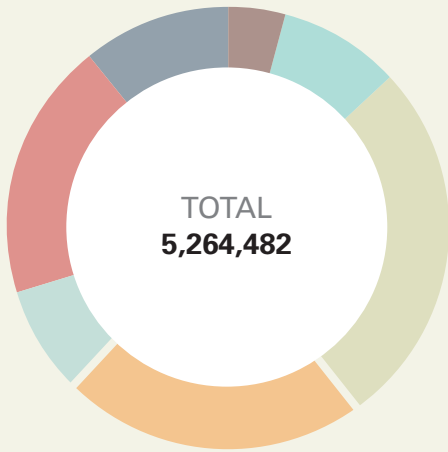
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Georgia.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Georgia residents, ages 25-64

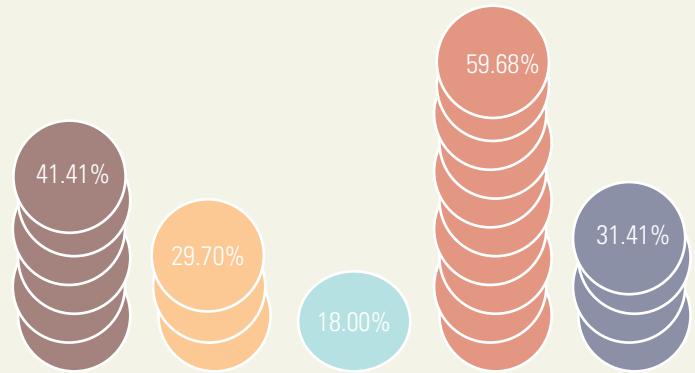


Less than ninth grade	228,980	<b>4.35%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	464,955	<b>8.83%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,434,606	<b>27.25%</b>
Some college, no degree	1,168,441	<b>22.19%</b>
Associate degree	405,741	<b>7.71%</b>
Bachelor's degree	1,001,469	<b>19.02%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	560,290	<b>10.64%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

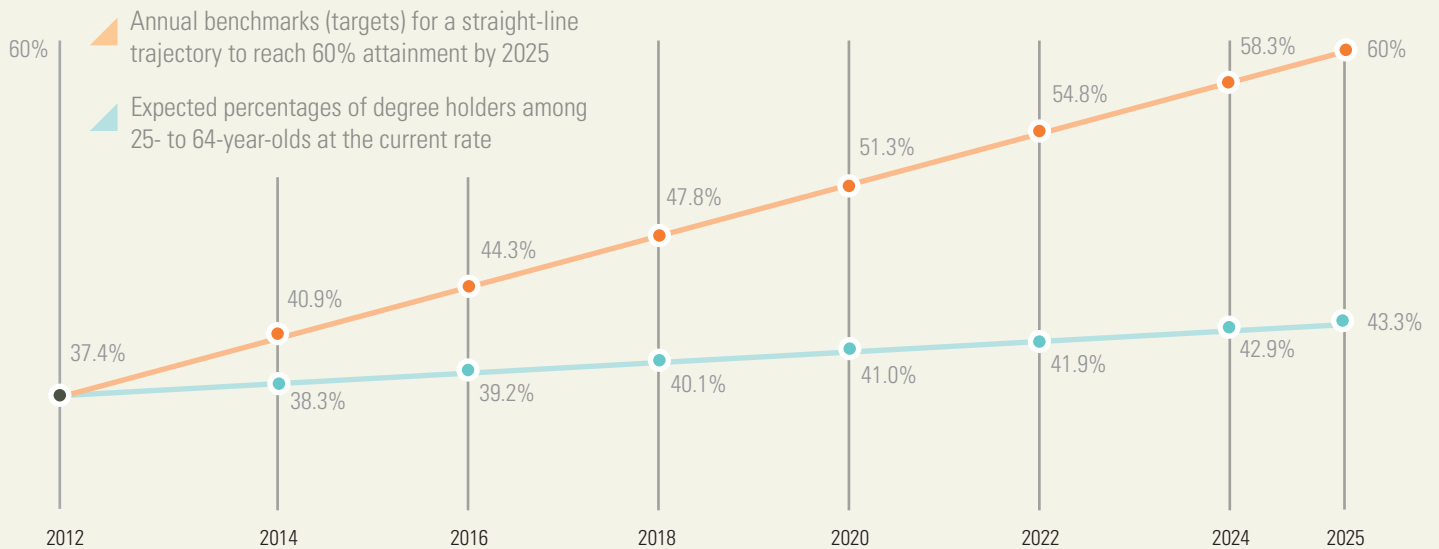
## Degree-attainment rates among Georgia adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>41.41%</b>
Black	<b>29.70%</b>
Hispanic	<b>18.00%</b>
Asian	<b>59.68%</b>
Native American	<b>31.41%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Georgia



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Georgia adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Appling	20.03	Cherokee	44.29	Fannin	22.00	Jenkins	22.47	Oglethorpe	25.79	Thomas	24.18
Atkinson	13.29	Clarke	45.98	Fayette	54.49	Johnson	19.68	Paulding	32.07	Tift	27.82
Bacon	15.87	Clay	15.91	Floyd	26.69	Jones	27.79	Peach	26.48	Toombs	23.16
Baker	16.08	Clayton	26.24	Forsyth	54.33	Lamar	19.51	Pickens	27.24	Towns	27.64
Baldwin	25.24	Clinch	21.49	Franklin	19.53	Lanier	24.21	Pierce	17.88	Treutlen	16.09
Banks	18.94	Cobb	52.99	Fulton	55.72	Laurens	22.32	Pike	24.23	Troup	26.03
Barrow	26.30	Coffee	18.27	Gilmer	19.82	Lee	28.11	Polk	17.04	Turner	22.13
Bartow	22.72	Colquitt	19.80	Glascocock	15.34	Liberty	29.15	Pulaski	16.67	Twiggs	16.68
Ben Hill	17.84	Columbia	46.41	Glynn	33.14	Lincoln	20.82	Putnam	27.79	Union	29.82
Berrien	23.24	Cook	17.38	Gordon	19.62	Long	21.00	Quitman	10.58	Upson	15.03
Bibb	30.92	Coweta	36.18	Grady	19.68	Lowndes	31.58	Rabun	28.62	Walker	21.26
Bleckley	22.75	Crawford	18.17	Greene	18.74	Lumpkin	29.35	Randolph	21.70	Walton	28.69
Brantley	12.89	Crisp	22.18	Gwinnett	45.16	McDuffie	21.84	Richmond	29.56	Ware	20.29
Brooks	17.85	Dade	25.18	Habersham	25.75	McIntosh	18.21	Rockdale	35.12	Warren	15.49
Bryan	39.70	Dawson	28.07	Hall	28.94	Macon	14.38	Schley	21.96	Washington	16.64
Bulloch	34.78	Decatur	23.77	Hancock	14.58	Madison	20.22	Screven	18.04	Wayne	19.38
Burke	15.48	DeKalb	47.67	Haralson	19.90	Marion	9.56	Seminole	21.26	Webster	22.29
Butts	13.94	Dodge	23.44	Harris	39.76	Meriwether	13.81	Spalding	21.45	Wheeler	13.85
Calhoun	15.80	Dooley	16.56	Hart	24.27	Miller	18.95	Stephens	24.97	White	28.17
Camden	29.83	Dougherty	24.87	Heard	16.06	Mitchell	16.13	Stewart	10.68	Whitfield	20.92
Candler	19.97	Douglas	34.28	Henry	36.06	Monroe	24.27	Sumter	25.62	Wilcox	13.23
Carroll	25.43	Early	21.36	Houston	36.54	Montgomery	26.23	Talbot	20.96	Wilkes	18.59
Catoosa	29.69	Echols	13.52	Irwin	15.49	Morgan	28.95	Taliaferro	18.85	Wilkinson	18.61
Charlton	14.81	Effingham	27.00	Jackson	27.75	Murray	14.58	Tattnall	16.86	Worth	17.55
Chatham	38.26	Elbert	17.93	Jasper	23.78	Muscogee	31.32	Taylor	15.50		
Chattahoochee	36.98	Emanuel	18.21	Jeff Davis	21.32	Newton	27.47	Telfair	17.59		
Chattooga	15.93	Evans	20.60	Jefferson	15.26	Oconee	53.51	Terrell	13.20		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Hawaii

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Hawaii, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 42.6 percent of Hawaii's 742,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 41.6 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Hawaii was 40.8 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and just below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Hawaii and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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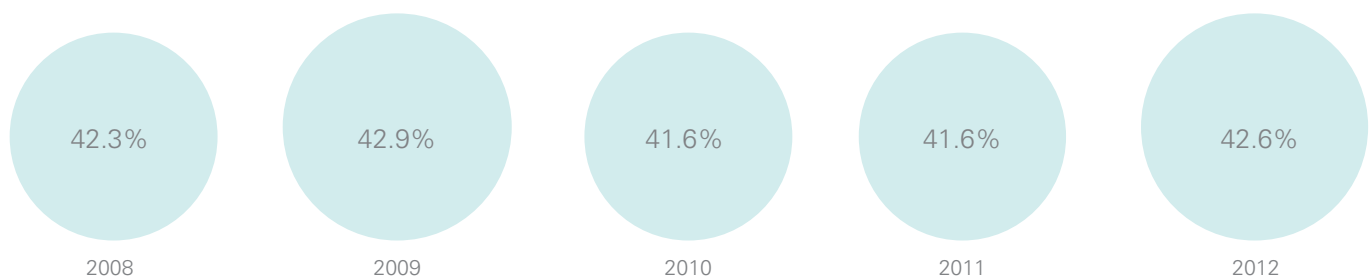
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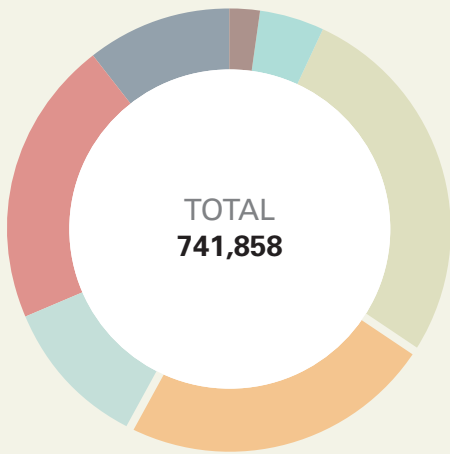
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Hawaii.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Hawaii residents, ages 25-64

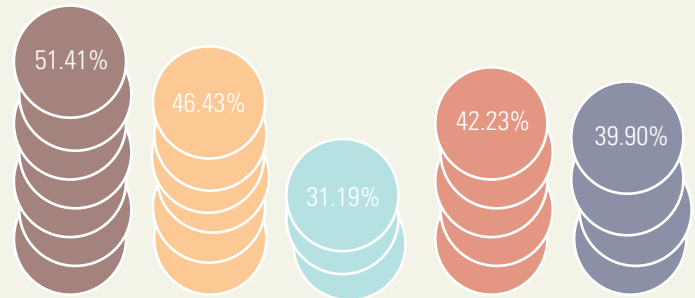


Less than ninth grade	18,155	<b>2.45%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	33,874	<b>4.57%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	203,228	<b>27.39%</b>
Some college, no degree	170,502	<b>22.98%</b>
Associate degree	84,152	<b>11.34%</b>
Bachelor's degree	155,608	<b>20.98%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	76,339	<b>10.29%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

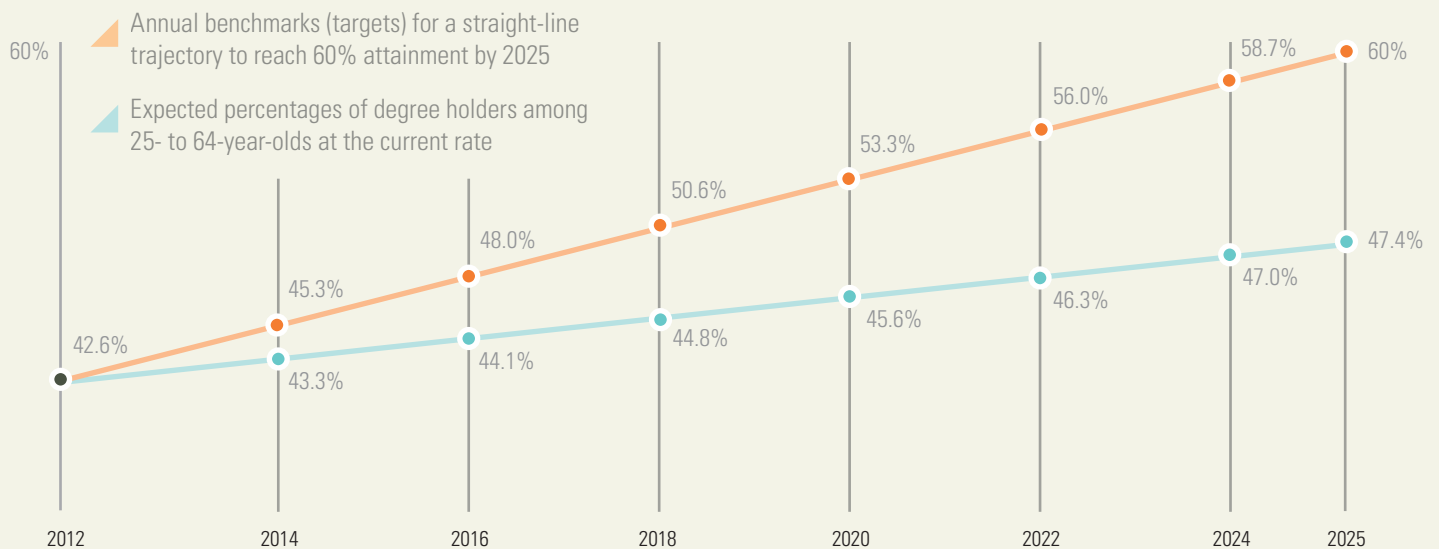
## Degree-attainment rates among Hawaii adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>51.41%</b>
Black	<b>46.43%</b>
Hispanic	<b>31.19%</b>
Asian	<b>42.23%</b>
Native American	<b>39.90%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Hawaii



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Hawaii adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Hawaii	35.98	Honolulu	44.88	Kalawao	81.82	Kauai	38.70	Maui	35.34
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Idaho

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Idaho, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 36.1 percent of Idaho's 802,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight decrease from last year's rate of 36.5 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Idaho was 35 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and also below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Idaho and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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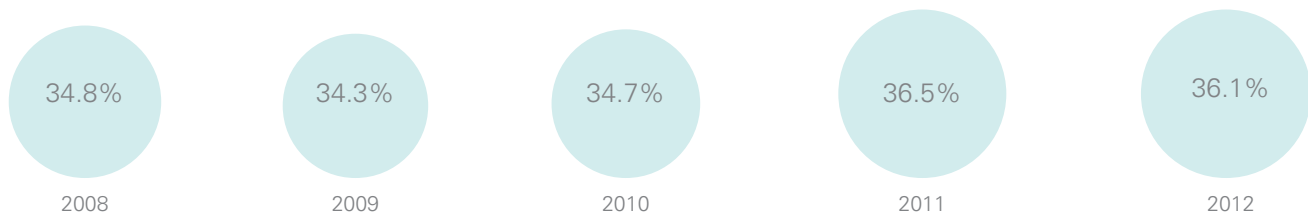
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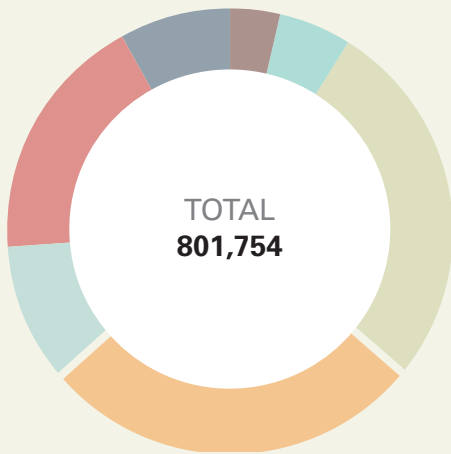
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Idaho.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Idaho residents, ages 25-64

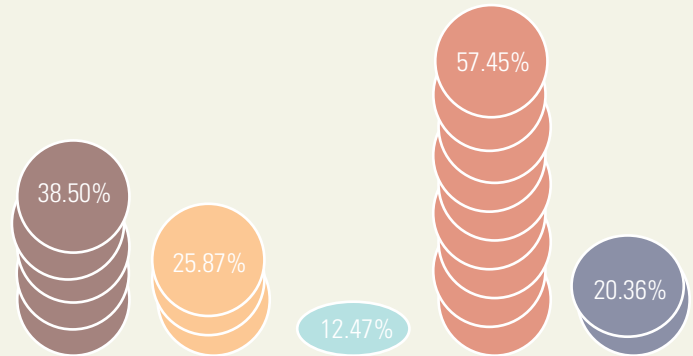


Less than ninth grade	30,512	<b>3.81%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	42,448	<b>5.29%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	215,582	<b>26.89%</b>
Some college, no degree	223,947	<b>27.93%</b>
Associate degree	80,810	<b>10.08%</b>
Bachelor's degree	144,424	<b>18.01%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	64,031	<b>7.99%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

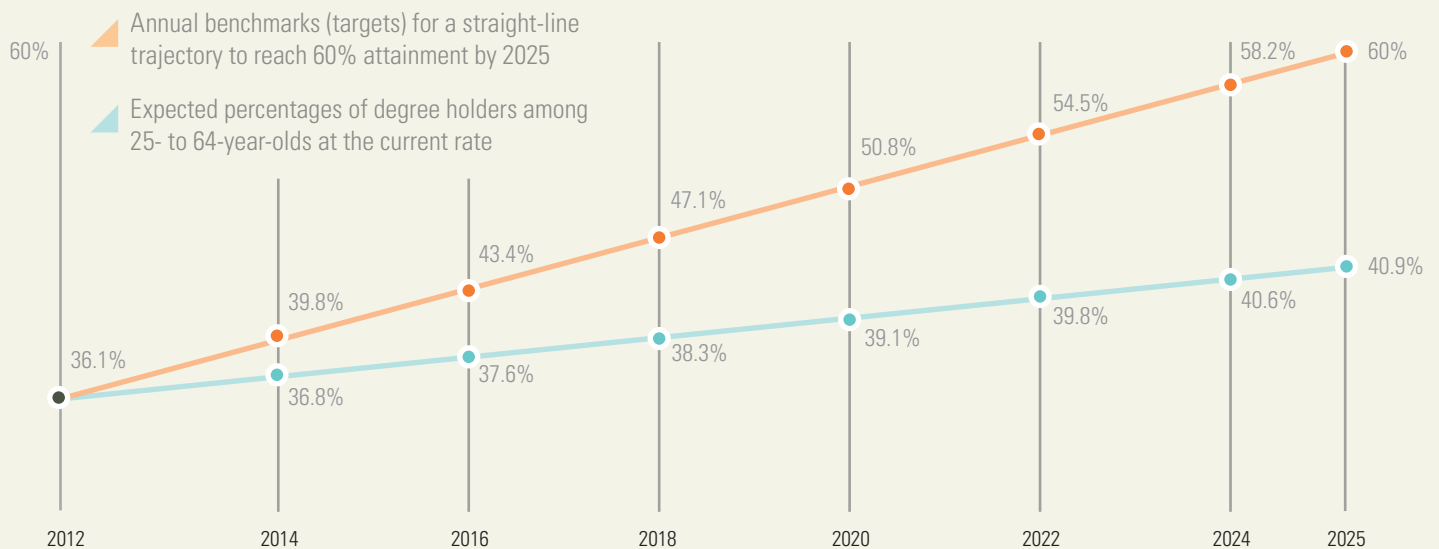
## Degree-attainment rates among Idaho adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>38.50%</b>
Black	<b>25.87%</b>
Hispanic	<b>12.47%</b>
Asian	<b>57.45%</b>
Native American	<b>20.36%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Idaho



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Idaho adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Ada	46.09	Bonner	30.55	Clark	16.76	Idaho	23.09	Madison	48.38	Teton	41.37
Adams	30.40	Bonneville	38.07	Clearwater	26.17	Jefferson	33.81	Minidoka	20.48	Twin Falls	28.76
Bannock	38.70	Boundary	19.76	Custer	32.00	Jerome	21.11	Nez Perce	34.25	Valley	41.09
Bear Lake	23.49	Butte	26.71	Elmore	28.22	Kootenai	35.23	Oneida	24.05	Washington	22.74
Benewah	20.89	Camas	21.33	Franklin	27.30	Latah	52.42	Owyhee	14.84		
Bingham	27.85	Canyon	25.56	Fremont	28.22	Lemhi	29.95	Payette	25.09		
Blaine	47.35	Caribou	27.30	Gem	22.29	Lewis	31.21	Power	22.31		
Boise	31.14	Cassia	27.39	Gooding	20.24	Lincoln	17.10	Shoshone	21.50		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Illinois



Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Illinois, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 42.5 percent of Illinois' 6.9 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 41.7 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Illinois was 46.4 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

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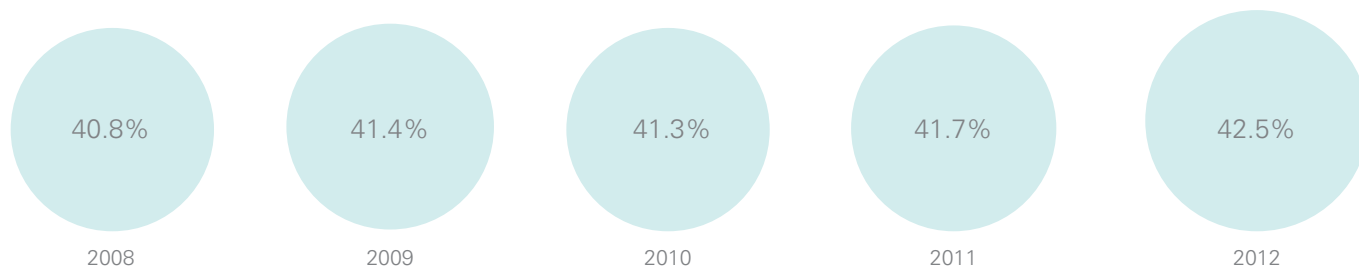
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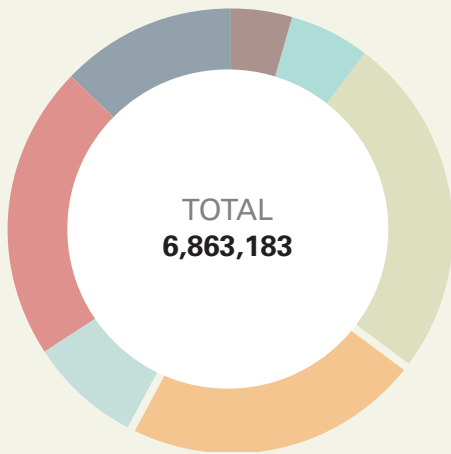
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## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Illinois residents, ages 25-64

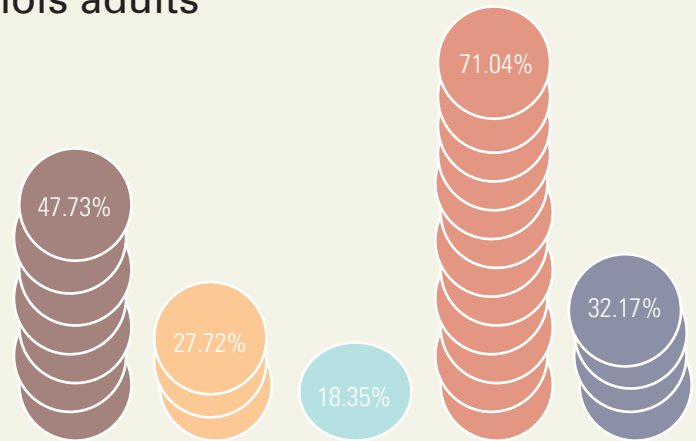


Less than ninth grade	307,194	<b>4.48%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	416,639	<b>6.07%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,711,321	<b>24.93%</b>
Some college, no degree	1,509,719	<b>22.00%</b>
Associate degree	576,024	<b>8.39%</b>
Bachelor's degree	1,483,173	<b>21.61%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	859,113	<b>12.52%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

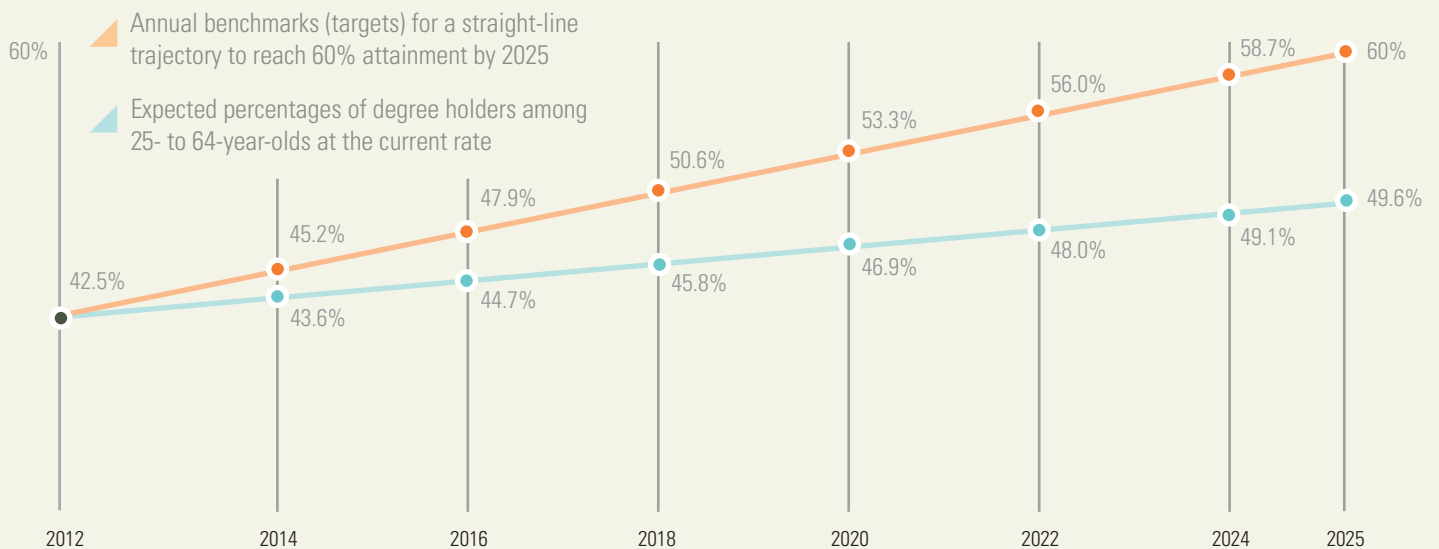
## Degree-attainment rates among Illinois adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>47.73%</b>
Black	<b>27.72%</b>
Hispanic	<b>18.35%</b>
Asian	<b>71.04%</b>
Native American	<b>32.17%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Illinois



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Illinois adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	34.43	Cumberland	30.85	Hardin	25.60	Lee	27.55	Morgan	30.79	Scott	24.97
Alexander	15.39	DeKalb	41.18	Henderson	27.83	Livingston	23.80	Moultrie	26.59	Shelby	29.99
Bond	34.89	De Witt	27.37	Henry	33.80	Logan	26.23	Ogle	31.39	Stark	29.99
Boone	30.11	Douglas	25.44	Iroquois	26.75	McDonough	45.12	Peoria	41.56	Stephenson	30.38
Brown	22.62	DuPage	56.60	Jackson	47.67	McHenry	43.39	Perry	29.78	Tazewell	38.42
Bureau	27.90	Edgar	27.66	Jasper	32.73	McLean	51.90	Piatt	39.04	Union	33.10
Calhoun	31.67	Edwards	33.98	Jefferson	28.41	Macon	32.62	Pike	21.60	Vermilion	26.09
Carroll	27.24	Effingham	38.07	Jersey	30.81	Macoupin	27.72	Pope	24.98	Wabash	38.61
Cass	16.94	Fayette	26.02	Jo Daviess	34.13	Madison	36.11	Pulaski	26.89	Warren	28.97
Champaign	53.68	Ford	31.48	Johnson	28.26	Marion	29.10	Putnam	29.03	Washington	37.57
Christian	22.89	Franklin	28.50	Kane	40.85	Marshall	29.88	Randolph	20.70	Wayne	29.83
Clark	33.44	Fulton	26.94	Kankakee	28.67	Mason	25.53	Richland	40.81	White	31.46
Clay	30.07	Gallatin	22.38	Kendall	44.82	Massac	30.36	Rock Island	34.26	Whiteside	27.96
Clinton	38.06	Greene	22.26	Knox	30.97	Menard	34.27	St. Clair	38.52	Will	42.93
Coles	38.44	Grundy	29.23	Lake	50.32	Mercer	28.07	Saline	29.24	Williamson	35.27
Cook	43.67	Hamilton	25.98	LaSalle	28.43	Monroe	40.85	Sangamon	44.15	Winnebago	30.49
Crawford	33.98	Hancock	30.65	Lawrence	23.03	Montgomery	23.03	Schuyler	27.76	Woodford	42.08

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Indiana

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Indiana, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 34.4 percent of Indiana's 3.4 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 33.8 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Indiana was 38.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Indiana and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

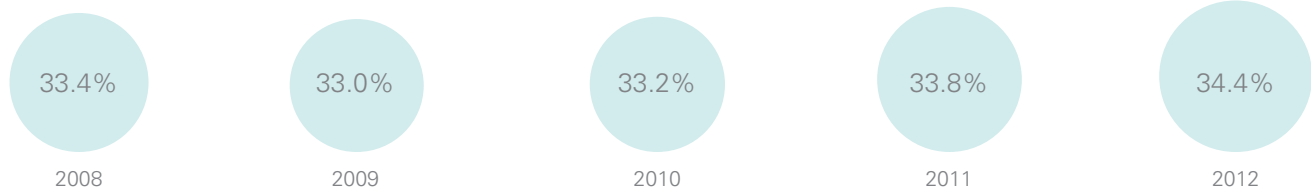
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

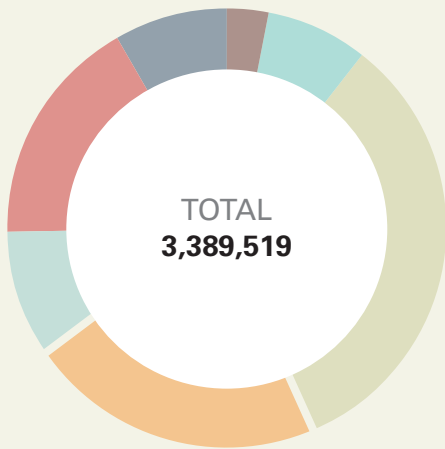
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Indiana.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Indiana residents, ages 25-64

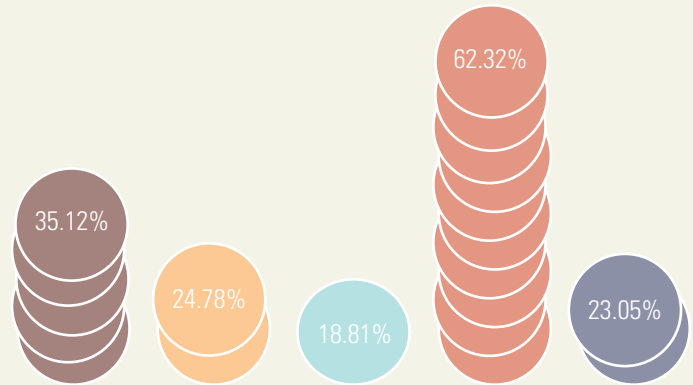


Less than ninth grade	108,391	<b>3.20%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	256,485	<b>7.57%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,121,489	<b>33.09%</b>
Some college, no degree	737,448	<b>21.76%</b>
Associate degree	317,157	<b>9.36%</b>
Bachelor's degree	569,006	<b>16.79%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	279,543	<b>8.25%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

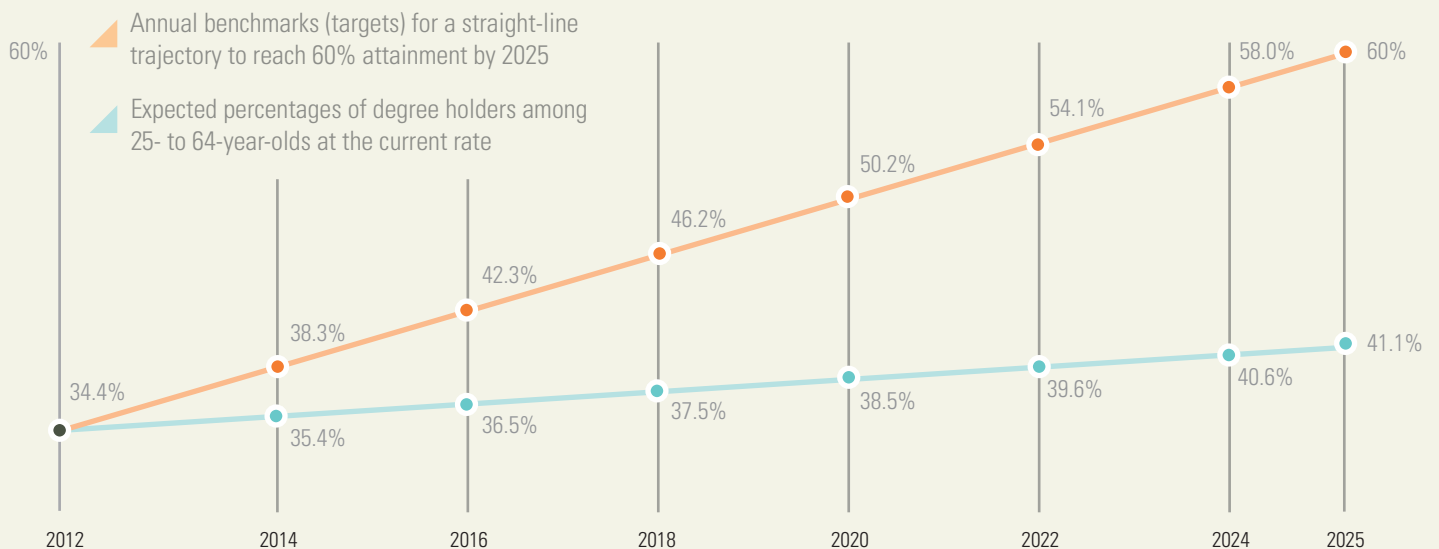
## Degree-attainment rates among Indiana adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>35.12%</b>
Black	<b>24.78%</b>
Hispanic	<b>18.81%</b>
Asian	<b>62.32%</b>
Native American	<b>23.05%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Indiana



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Indiana adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	24.98	DeKalb	27.56	Henry	24.05	Marion	36.53	Posey	32.60	Union	27.55
Allen	38.32	Delaware	32.18	Howard	29.31	Marshall	25.17	Pulaski	23.37	Vanderburgh	32.81
Bartholomew	38.51	Dubois	32.63	Huntington	27.42	Martin	25.64	Putnam	25.03	Vermillion	27.57
Benton	25.74	Elkhart	25.17	Jackson	21.63	Miami	19.14	Randolph	24.78	Vigo	31.42
Blackford	19.70	Fayette	16.53	Jasper	25.66	Monroe	52.81	Ripley	26.92	Wabash	25.64
Boone	51.88	Floyd	33.76	Jay	21.18	Montgomery	24.83	Rush	21.84	Warren	23.54
Brown	30.72	Fountain	22.41	Jefferson	23.57	Morgan	26.00	St. Joseph	37.04	Warrick	42.37
Carroll	27.30	Franklin	30.09	Jennings	19.14	Newton	19.36	Scott	18.47	Washington	20.58
Cass	21.37	Fulton	24.10	Johnson	38.78	Noble	23.41	Shelby	27.35	Wayne	26.63
Clark	29.89	Gibson	30.17	Knox	32.43	Ohio	24.29	Spencer	26.98	Wells	30.50
Clay	26.18	Grant	27.47	Kosciusko	27.87	Orange	21.93	Starke	21.16	White	28.25
Clinton	21.67	Greene	24.17	LaGrange	15.80	Owen	18.32	Steuben	29.71	Whitley	27.31
Crawford	20.76	Hamilton	65.15	Lake	30.19	Parke	23.78	Sullivan	26.34		
Daviess	23.67	Hancock	38.31	LaPorte	26.98	Perry	19.81	Switzerland	17.92		
Dearborn	29.20	Harrison	25.17	Lawrence	23.89	Pike	18.67	Tippecanoe	46.24		
Decatur	23.25	Hendricks	45.19	Madison	28.32	Porter	36.80	Tipton	27.50		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates







# Iowa

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Iowa, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 41.8 percent of Iowa’s 1.6 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year’s rate of 41.1 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Iowa was 48.4 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Iowa and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

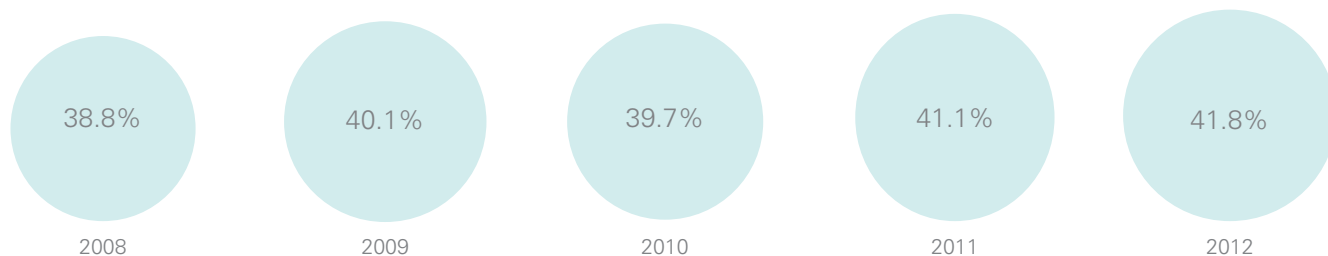
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A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

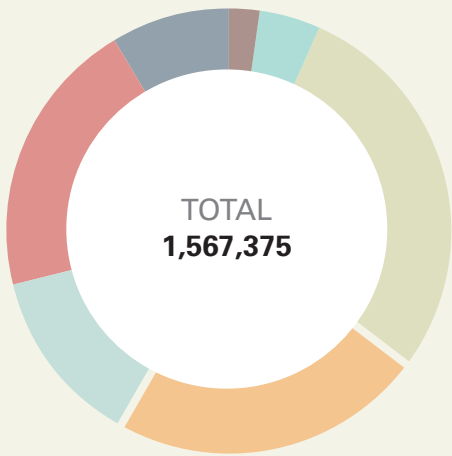
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Iowa.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Iowa residents, ages 25-64

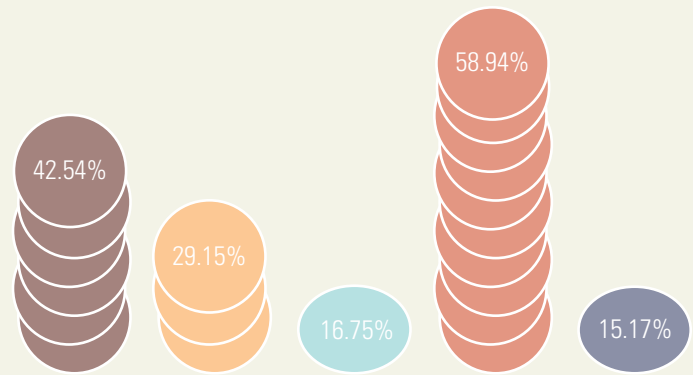


Less than ninth grade	36,006	<b>2.30%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	70,275	<b>4.48%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	449,215	<b>28.66%</b>
Some college, no degree	356,567	<b>22.75%</b>
Associate degree	205,569	<b>13.12%</b>
Bachelor's degree	314,696	<b>20.08%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	135,047	<b>8.62%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

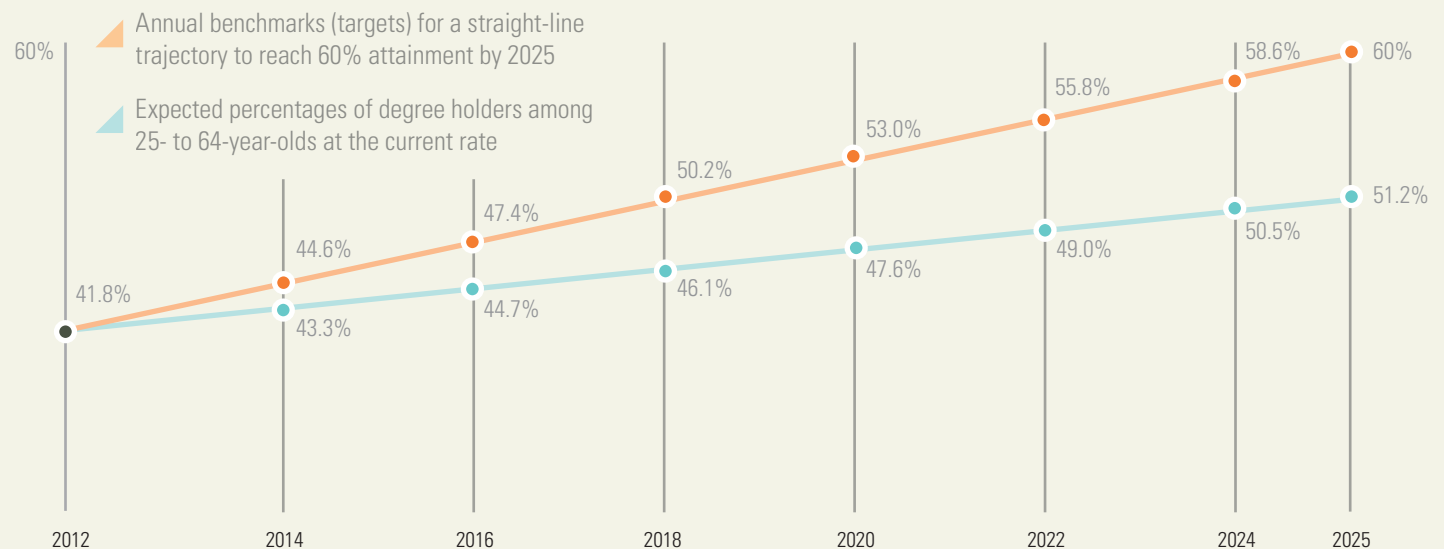
## Degree-attainment rates among Iowa adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>42.54%</b>
Black	<b>29.15%</b>
Hispanic	<b>16.75%</b>
Asian	<b>58.94%</b>
Native American	<b>15.17%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Iowa



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Iowa adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adair	34.40	Cherokee	35.68	Franklin	30.83	Johnson	63.08	Montgomery	32.71	Tama	32.35
Adams	34.02	Chickasaw	30.13	Fremont	30.13	Jones	32.13	Muscatine	30.26	Taylor	27.16
Allamakee	27.23	Clarke	26.09	Greene	34.62	Keokuk	26.90	O'Brien	35.93	Union	31.72
Appanoose	32.87	Clay	35.33	Grundy	41.07	Kossuth	38.40	Osceola	28.58	Van Buren	24.23
Audubon	33.94	Clayton	27.33	Guthrie	34.02	Lee	27.61	Page	31.47	Wapello	28.16
Benton	35.20	Clinton	34.03	Hamilton	32.08	Linn	46.94	Palo Alto	32.83	Warren	43.01
Black Hawk	38.59	Crawford	22.89	Hancock	35.85	Louisa	23.81	Plymouth	35.82	Washington	33.86
Boone	36.36	Dallas	59.28	Hardin	38.50	Lucas	21.71	Pocahontas	34.27	Wayne	30.00
Bremer	46.31	Davis	31.70	Harrison	29.27	Lyon	32.64	Polk	47.68	Webster	35.83
Buchanan	35.02	Decatur	29.07	Henry	32.86	Madison	36.64	Pottawattamie	31.96	Winnebago	35.25
Buena Vista	31.52	Delaware	30.63	Howard	26.71	Mahaska	35.00	Poweshiek	34.89	Winneshie	41.43
Butler	31.59	Des Moines	33.59	Humboldt	34.50	Marion	39.10	Ringgold	39.24	Woodbury	31.61
Calhoun	37.67	Dickinson	42.76	Ida	33.90	Marshall	32.69	Sac	34.30	Worth	31.29
Carroll	33.48	Dubuque	39.64	Iowa	39.18	Mills	38.78	Scott	45.50	Wright	30.46
Cass	29.02	Emmet	33.50	Jackson	26.55	Mitchell	31.46	Shelby	37.16		
Cedar	36.64	Fayette	32.79	Jasper	30.17	Monona	27.50	Sioux	39.78		
Cerro Gordo	42.12	Floyd	34.19	Jefferson	44.63	Monroe	35.41	Story	61.18		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Kansas

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Kansas, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 41.3 percent of Kansas’ 1.5 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year’s rate of 40.7 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Kansas was 43 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Kansas and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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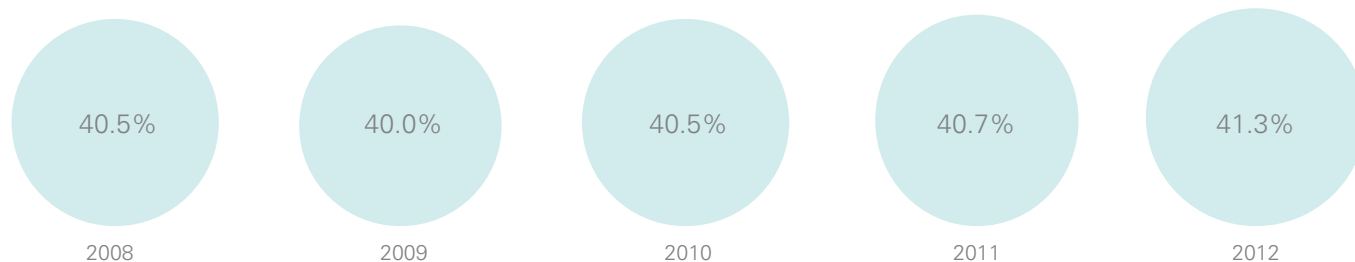
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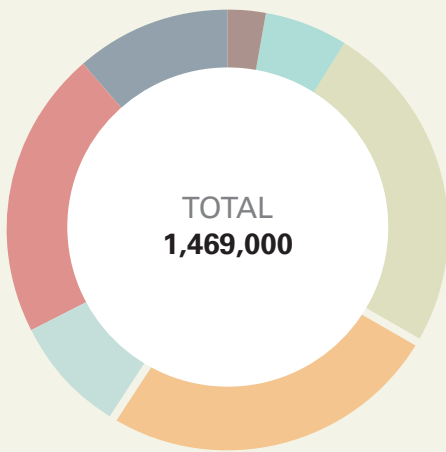
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Kansas.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Kansas residents, ages 25-64

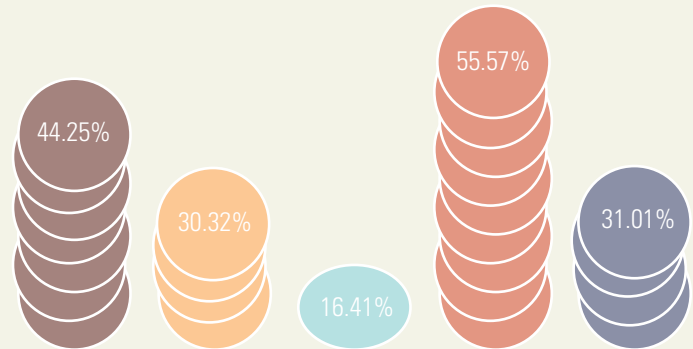


Less than ninth grade	44,711	<b>3.04%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	86,695	<b>5.90%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	364,469	<b>24.81%</b>
Some college, no degree	365,931	<b>24.91%</b>
Associate degree	132,463	<b>9.02%</b>
Bachelor's degree	310,298	<b>21.12%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	164,433	<b>11.19%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

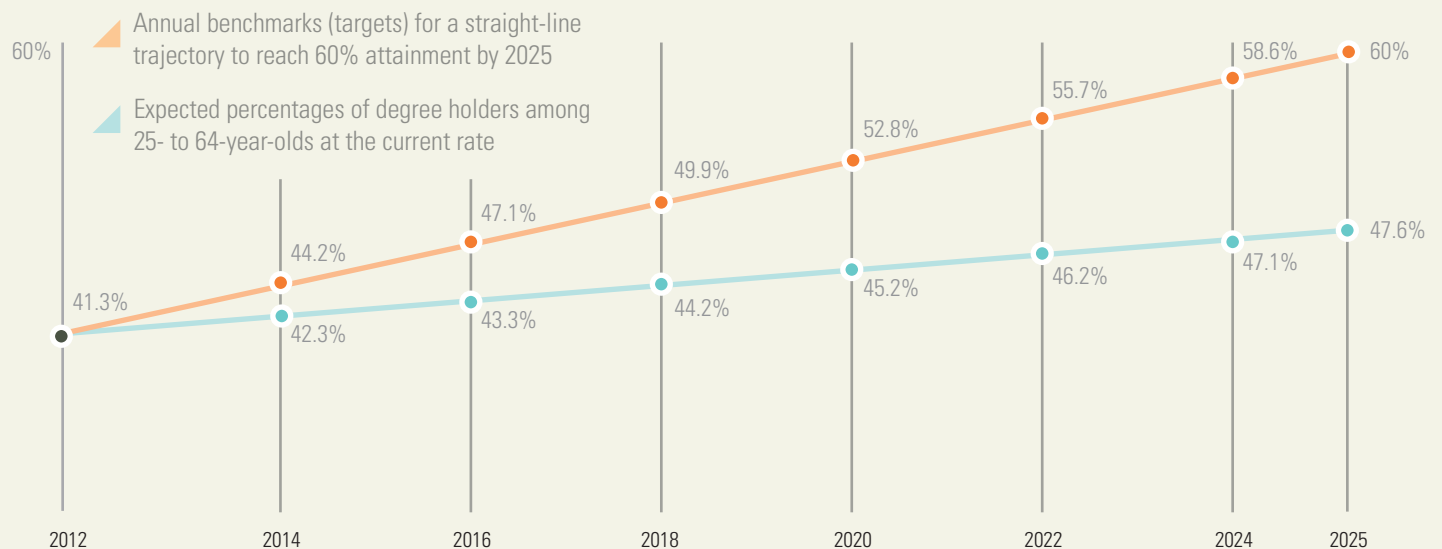
## Degree-attainment rates among Kansas adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>44.25%</b>
Black	<b>30.32%</b>
Hispanic	<b>16.41%</b>
Asian	<b>55.57%</b>
Native American	<b>31.01%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Kansas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Kansas adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Allen	31.71	Crawford	36.98	Greenwood	24.85	Logan	35.31	Pawnee	31.84	Sherman	30.19
Anderson	31.09	Decatur	35.83	Hamilton	25.71	Lyon	29.66	Phillips	33.97	Smith	34.13
Atchison	29.94	Dickinson	30.16	Harper	29.51	McPherson	34.89	Pottawatomie	39.65	Stafford	32.06
Barber	31.67	Doniphan	29.15	Harvey	37.16	Marion	31.87	Pratt	36.65	Stanton	20.88
Barton	30.39	Douglas	56.89	Haskell	24.04	Marshall	22.53	Rawlins	37.00	Stevens	23.23
Bourbon	39.40	Edwards	32.76	Hodgeman	36.34	Meade	33.27	Reno	32.07	Sumner	29.35
Brown	26.34	Elk	33.88	Jackson	31.02	Miami	37.01	Republic	36.15	Thomas	44.68
Butler	39.64	Ellis	43.00	Jefferson	34.02	Mitchell	38.62	Rice	28.99	Trego	30.63
Chase	25.24	Ellsworth	31.03	Jewell	38.40	Montgomery	30.34	Riley	53.99	Wabaunsee	30.98
Chautauqua	31.18	Finney	27.42	Johnson	61.95	Morris	26.70	Rooks	33.52	Wallace	35.85
Cherokee	25.01	Ford	25.45	Kearny	25.06	Morton	31.70	Rush	28.88	Washington	34.87
Cheyenne	35.08	Franklin	30.42	Kingman	33.78	Nemaha	29.42	Russell	34.81	Wichita	34.60
Clark	41.10	Geary	31.16	Kiowa	39.66	Neosho	31.46	Saline	33.54	Wilson	22.14
Clay	31.05	Gove	33.28	Labette	35.04	Ness	32.66	Scott	39.15	Woodson	25.93
Cloud	32.41	Graham	34.09	Lane	27.26	Norton	28.27	Sedgwick	37.40	Wyandotte	23.69
Coffey	31.52	Grant	27.97	Leavenworth	39.50	Osage	29.58	Seward	19.40		
Comanche	34.47	Gray	32.46	Lincoln	39.37	Osborne	33.44	Shawnee	38.09		
Cowley	32.49	Greeley	31.26	Linn	28.52	Ottawa	31.33	Sheridan	35.08		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Kentucky

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Kentucky, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 31.7 percent of Kentucky's 2.3 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 30.8 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Kentucky was 34.6 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Kentucky and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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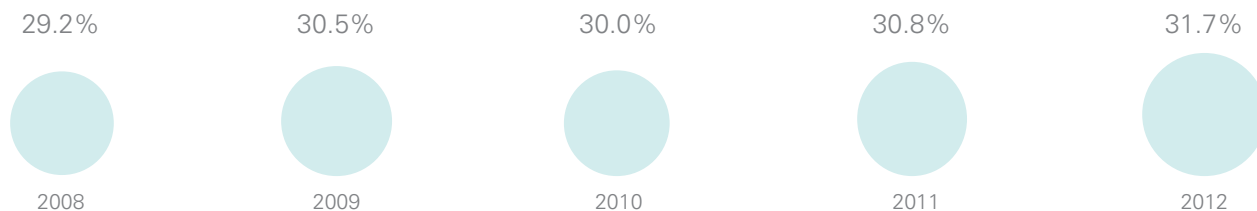
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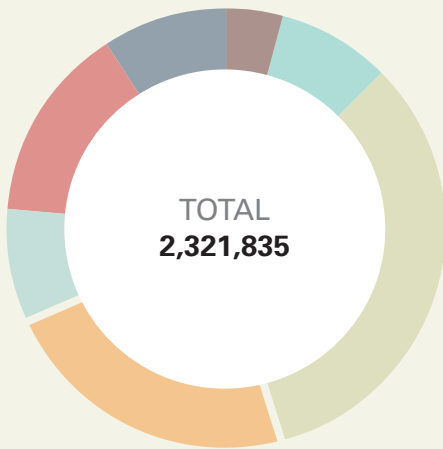
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Kentucky.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Kentucky residents, ages 25-64

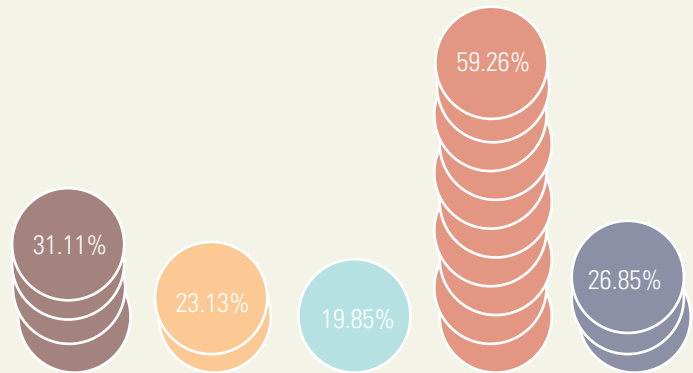


Less than ninth grade	101,293	<b>4.36%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	192,776	<b>8.30%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	781,007	<b>33.64%</b>
Some college, no degree	511,015	<b>22.01%</b>
Associate degree	190,911	<b>8.22%</b>
Bachelor's degree	332,327	<b>14.31%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	212,506	<b>9.15%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

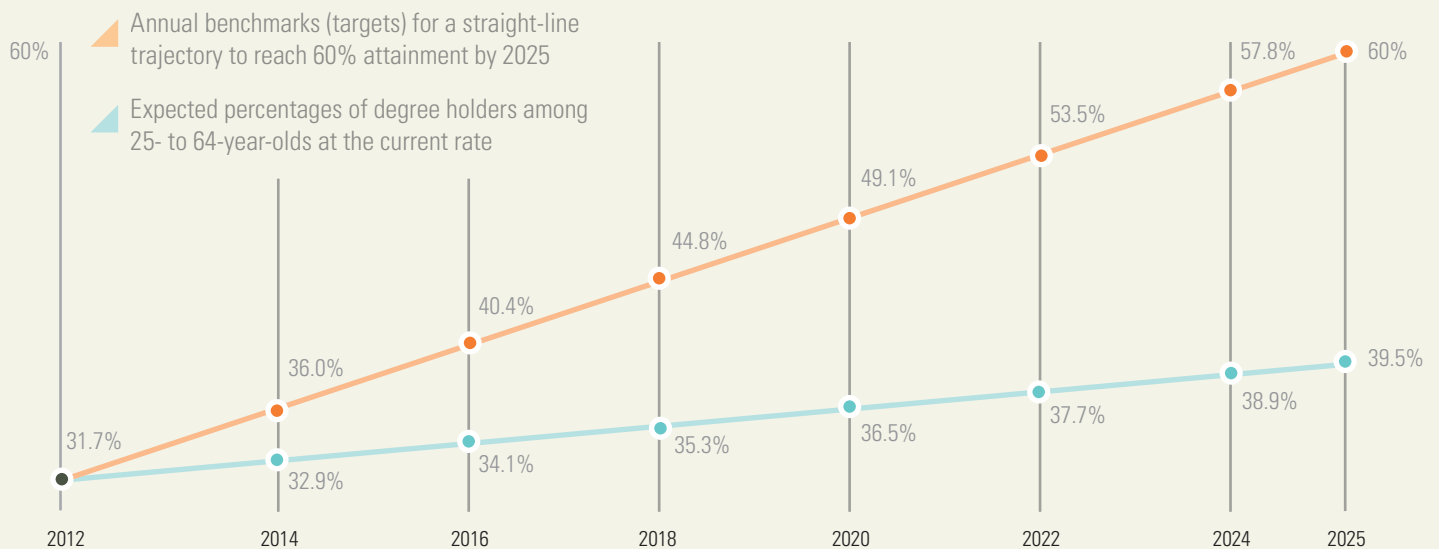
## Degree-attainment rates among Kentucky adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>31.11%</b>
Black	<b>23.13%</b>
Hispanic	<b>19.85%</b>
Asian	<b>59.26%</b>
Native American	<b>26.85%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Kentucky



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Kentucky adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adair	23.95	Carroll	15.41	Grant	19.12	Knox	12.98	Mason	24.65	Robertson	16.81
Allen	20.72	Carter	17.88	Graves	26.68	Larue	20.16	Meade	21.99	Rockcastle	20.04
Anderson	29.05	Casey	17.68	Grayson	15.55	Laurel	21.41	Menifee	16.83	Rowan	31.53
Ballard	23.00	Christian	23.05	Green	18.66	Lawrence	17.96	Mercer	28.36	Russell	21.73
Barren	23.01	Clark	27.71	Greenup	28.22	Lee	9.70	Metcalfe	13.22	Scott	35.52
Bath	21.16	Clay	12.38	Hancock	18.63	Leslie	13.66	Monroe	19.26	Shelby	30.78
Bell	18.91	Clinton	13.30	Hardin	32.04	Letcher	21.07	Montgomery	22.57	Simpson	24.05
Boone	41.02	Crittenden	19.95	Harlan	20.73	Lewis	17.33	Morgan	15.81	Spencer	25.87
Bourbon	24.76	Cumberland	21.67	Harrison	21.69	Lincoln	15.62	Muhlenberg	22.18	Taylor	22.11
Boyd	27.58	Daviess	29.48	Hart	13.12	Livingston	19.12	Nelson	25.14	Todd	15.54
Boyle	33.49	Edmonson	19.65	Henderson	28.16	Logan	17.84	Nicholas	25.48	Trigg	29.63
Bracken	27.37	Elliott	11.76	Henry	20.45	Lyon	23.12	Ohio	18.15	Trimble	23.70
Breathitt	17.73	Estill	14.13	Hickman	24.51	McCracken	35.48	Oldham	49.27	Union	24.62
Breckinridge	18.08	Fayette	49.69	Hopkins	24.91	McCreary	14.87	Owen	23.52	Warren	37.56
Bullitt	22.86	Fleming	25.59	Jackson	12.88	McLean	20.87	Owsley	16.24	Washington	25.54
Butler	17.96	Floyd	18.40	Jefferson	39.87	Madison	35.97	Pendleton	22.86	Wayne	13.19
Caldwell	23.61	Franklin	33.48	Jessamine	36.43	Magoffin	14.55	Perry	22.55	Webster	16.84
Calloway	38.27	Fulton	16.84	Johnson	16.12	Marion	20.88	Pike	19.58	Whitley	16.27
Campbell	39.26	Gallatin	17.50	Kenton	38.02	Marshall	26.66	Powell	19.15	Wolfe	17.67
Carlisle	27.44	Garrard	25.02	Knott	20.78	Martin	15.77	Pulaski	25.22	Woodford	40.45

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Louisiana

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Louisiana, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 29.1 percent of Louisiana’s 2.4 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year’s rate of 27.9 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is well below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Louisiana was 32.1 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Louisiana and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
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3. Create smarter pathways for students.

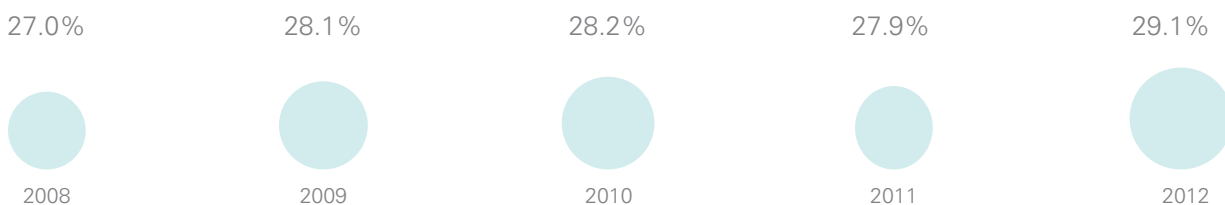
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

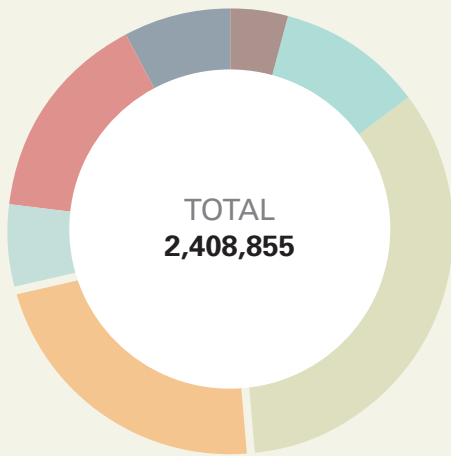
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Louisiana.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Louisiana residents, ages 25-64

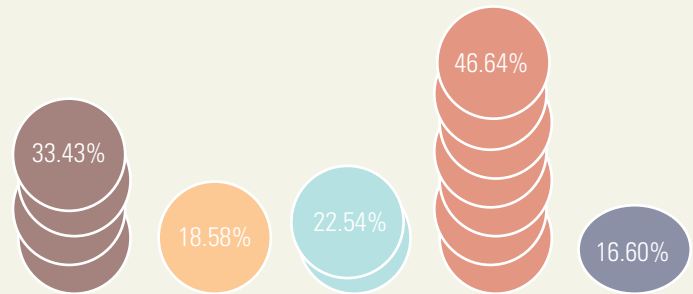


Less than ninth grade	104,249	<b>4.33%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	251,827	<b>10.45%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	812,113	<b>33.71%</b>
Some college, no degree	540,505	<b>22.44%</b>
Associate degree	147,565	<b>6.13%</b>
Bachelor's degree	370,638	<b>15.39%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	181,958	<b>7.55%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

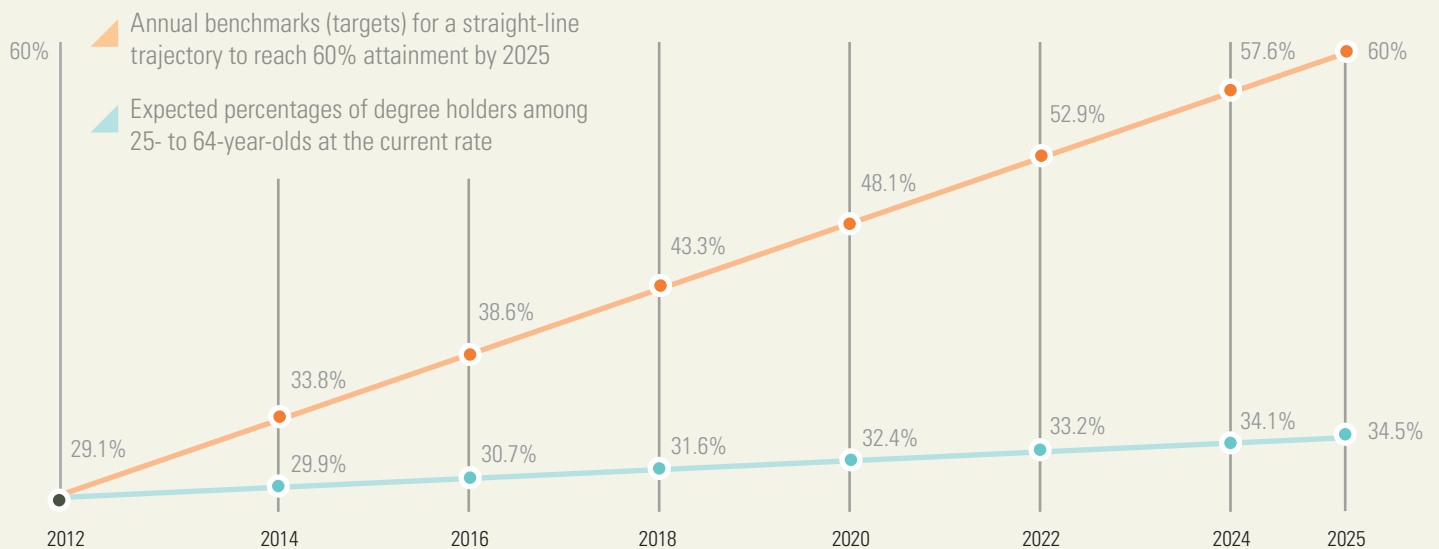
## Degree-attainment rates among Louisiana adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>33.43%</b>
Black	<b>18.58%</b>
Hispanic	<b>22.54%</b>
Asian	<b>46.64%</b>
Native American	<b>16.60%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Louisiana



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Louisiana adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by parish

Acadia	17.67	Claiborne	15.53	Jefferson Davis	17.85	Rapides	25.13	Tangipahoa	25.62
Allen	15.53	Concordia	15.92	Lafayette	34.12	Red River	17.06	Tensas	10.16
Ascension	30.93	De Soto	18.89	Lafourche	21.12	Richland	16.59	Terrebonne	18.42
Assumption	15.62	East Baton Rouge	39.95	La Salle	18.35	Sabine	17.44	Union	21.49
Avoyelles	15.12	East Carroll	14.06	Lincoln	40.39	St. Bernard	18.30	Vermilion	19.04
Beauregard	22.68	East Feliciana	18.51	Livingston	23.92	St. Charles	30.76	Vernon	25.42
Bienville	17.78	Evangeline	17.12	Madison	16.01	St. Helena	11.53	Washington	17.04
Bossier	33.49	Franklin	14.60	Morehouse	16.05	St. James	21.67	Webster	19.27
Caddo	29.79	Grant	15.44	Natchitoches	25.36	St. John the Baptist	20.93	West Baton Rouge	24.46
Calcasieu	28.62	Iberia	17.89	Orleans	39.08	St. Landry	19.10	West Carroll	12.12
Caldwell	16.19	Iberville	17.29	Ouachita	28.48	St. Martin	16.69	West Feliciana	20.87
Cameron	20.88	Jackson	20.00	Plaquemines	23.59	St. Mary	15.01	Winn	18.34
Catahoula	13.07	Jefferson	31.08	Pointe Coupee	19.02	St. Tammany	39.08		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Maine

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Maine, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 39 percent of Maine's 721,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a decrease from last year's rate of 40 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Maine was 37.7 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and also below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Maine and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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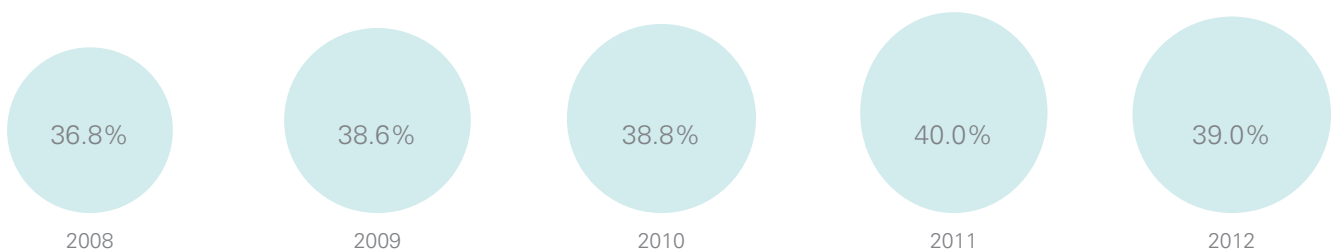
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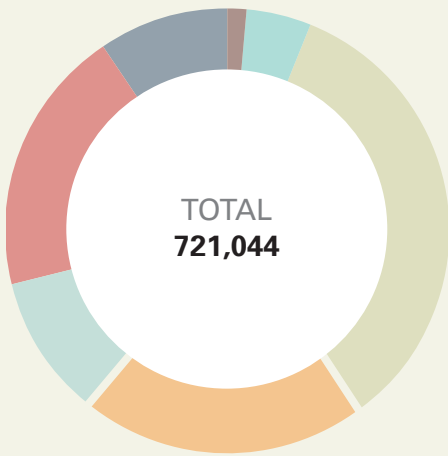
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Maine.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Maine residents, ages 25-64

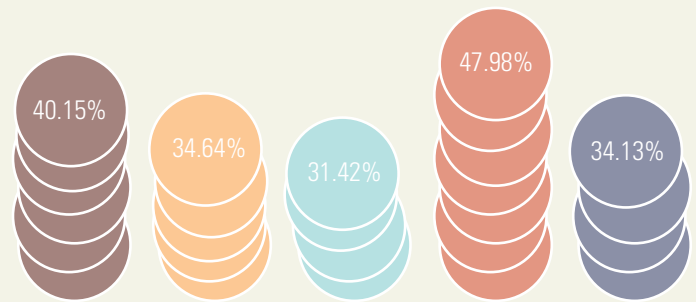


Less than ninth grade	11,917	<b>1.65%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	32,560	<b>4.52%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	243,854	<b>33.82%</b>
Some college, no degree	151,786	<b>21.05%</b>
Associate degree	74,591	<b>10.34%</b>
Bachelor's degree	138,372	<b>19.19%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	67,964	<b>9.43%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

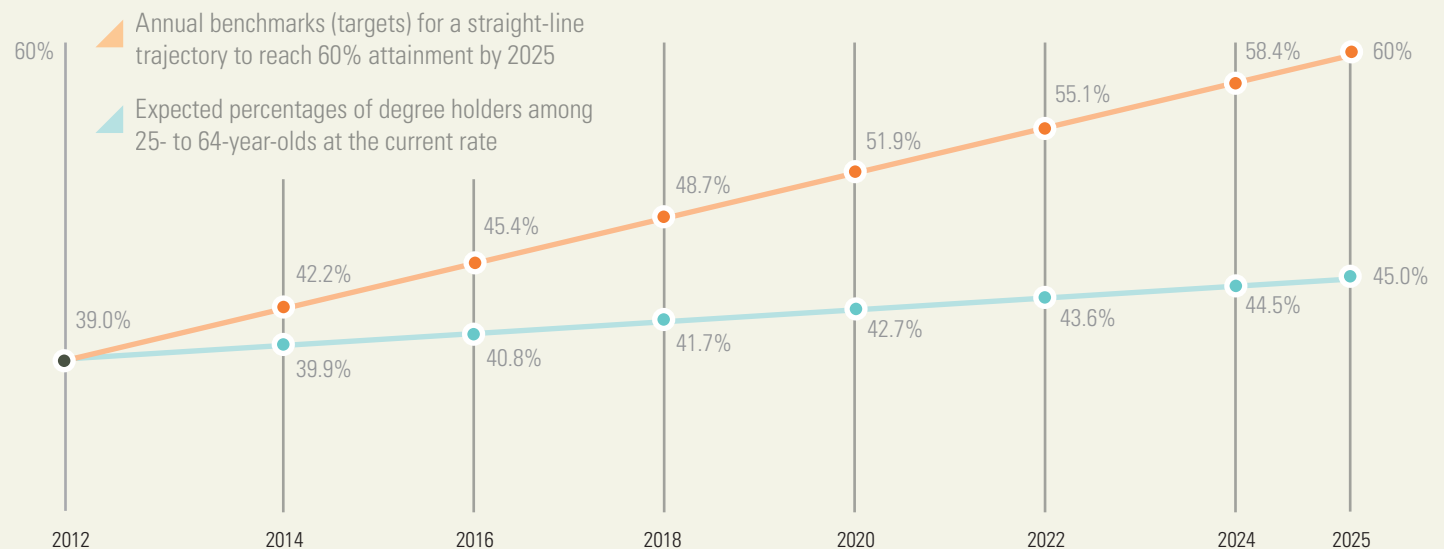
## Degree-attainment rates among Maine adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>40.15%</b>
Black	<b>34.64%</b>
Hispanic	<b>31.42%</b>
Asian	<b>47.98%</b>
Native American	<b>34.13%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Maine



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Maine adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Androscoggin	31.50	Franklin	33.50	Knox	35.93	Penobscot	36.97	Somerset	26.31	York	40.76
Aroostook	29.17	Hancock	40.28	Lincoln	38.45	Piscataquis	28.71	Waldo	35.04		
Cumberland	52.31	Kennebec	36.73	Oxford	26.67	Sagadahoc	41.05	Washington	28.87		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Maryland

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Maryland, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 45.5 percent of Maryland's 3.2 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year's rate of 45.4 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Maryland was 46.6 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Maryland and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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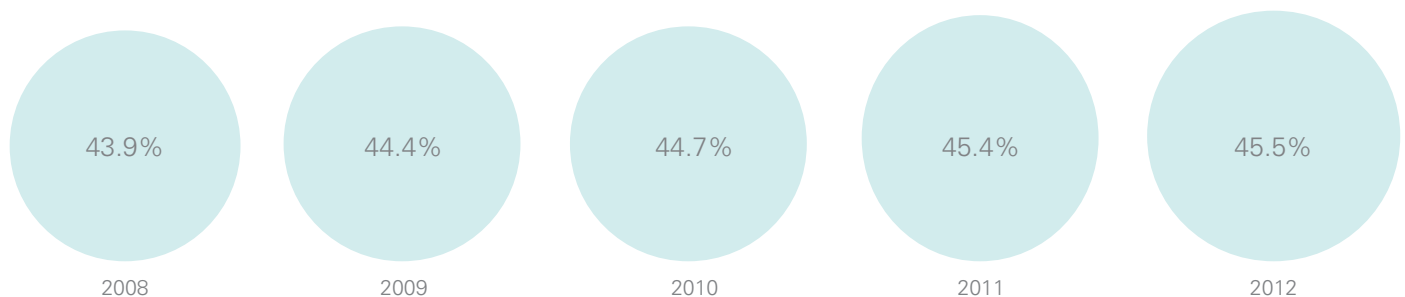
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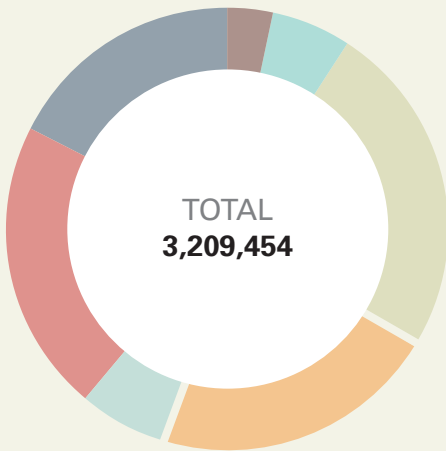
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## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Maryland residents, ages 25-64

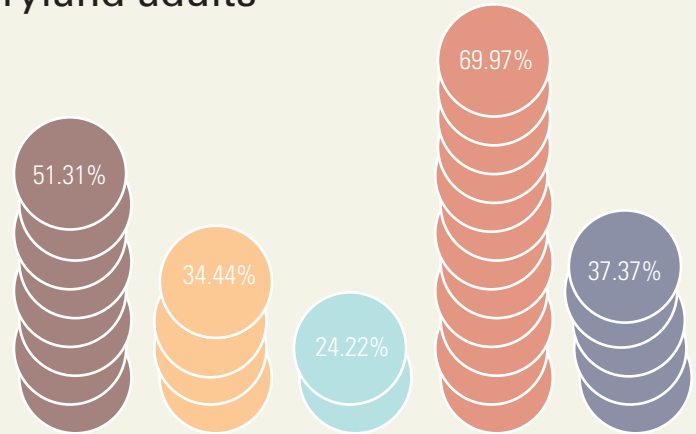


Less than ninth grade	111,231	<b>3.47%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	183,877	<b>5.73%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	797,672	<b>24.85%</b>
Some college, no degree	655,117	<b>20.41%</b>
Associate degree	220,904	<b>6.88%</b>
Bachelor's degree	685,800	<b>21.37%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	554,853	<b>17.29%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

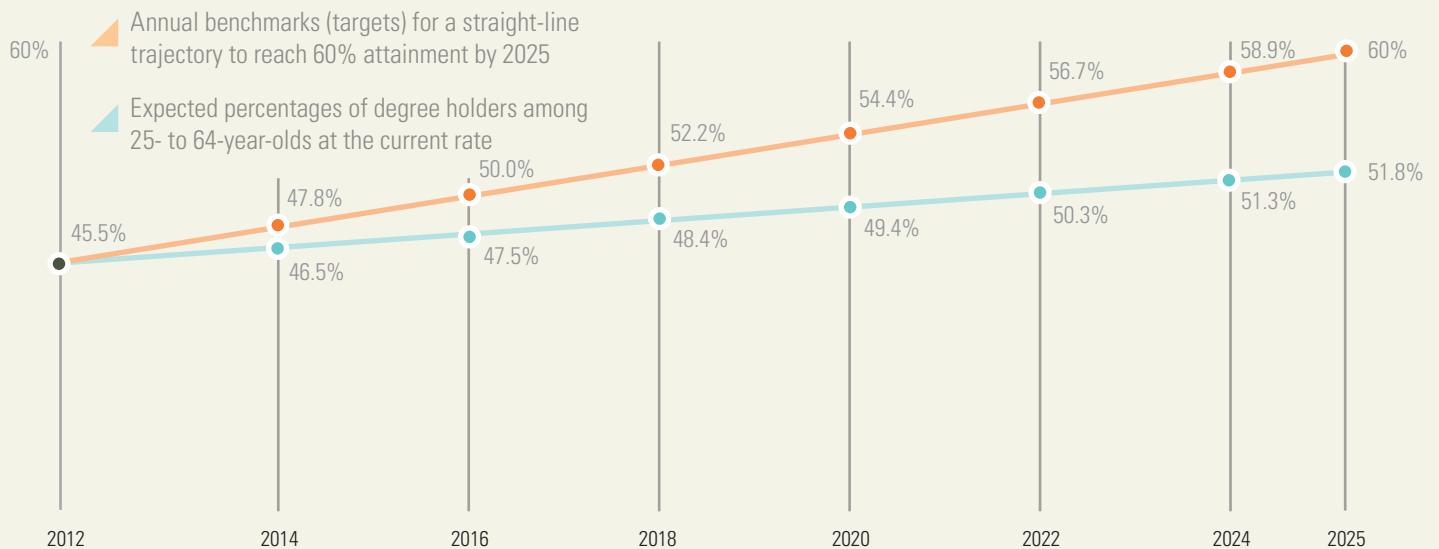
## Degree-attainment rates among Maryland adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>51.31%</b>
Black	<b>34.44%</b>
Hispanic	<b>24.22%</b>
Asian	<b>69.97%</b>
Native American	<b>37.37%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Maryland



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Maryland adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Allegany	27.42	Caroline	22.05	Dorchester	24.56	Howard	68.07	Queen Anne's	40.20	Washington	29.13
Anne Arundel	46.54	Carroll	43.68	Frederick	48.23	Kent	40.04	St. Mary's	37.69	Wicomico	34.34
Baltimore	45.05	Cecil	30.44	Garrett	27.33	Montgomery	63.57	Somerset	19.88	Worcester	37.16
Calvert	39.02	Charles	36.69	Harford	43.27	Prince George's	36.84	Talbot	39.73	Baltimore city	32.66

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates







# Massachusetts

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Massachusetts, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 50.5 percent of Massachusetts’ 3.6 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight decrease from last year’s rate of 50.8 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is well above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Massachusetts was 54.8 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and well above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Massachusetts and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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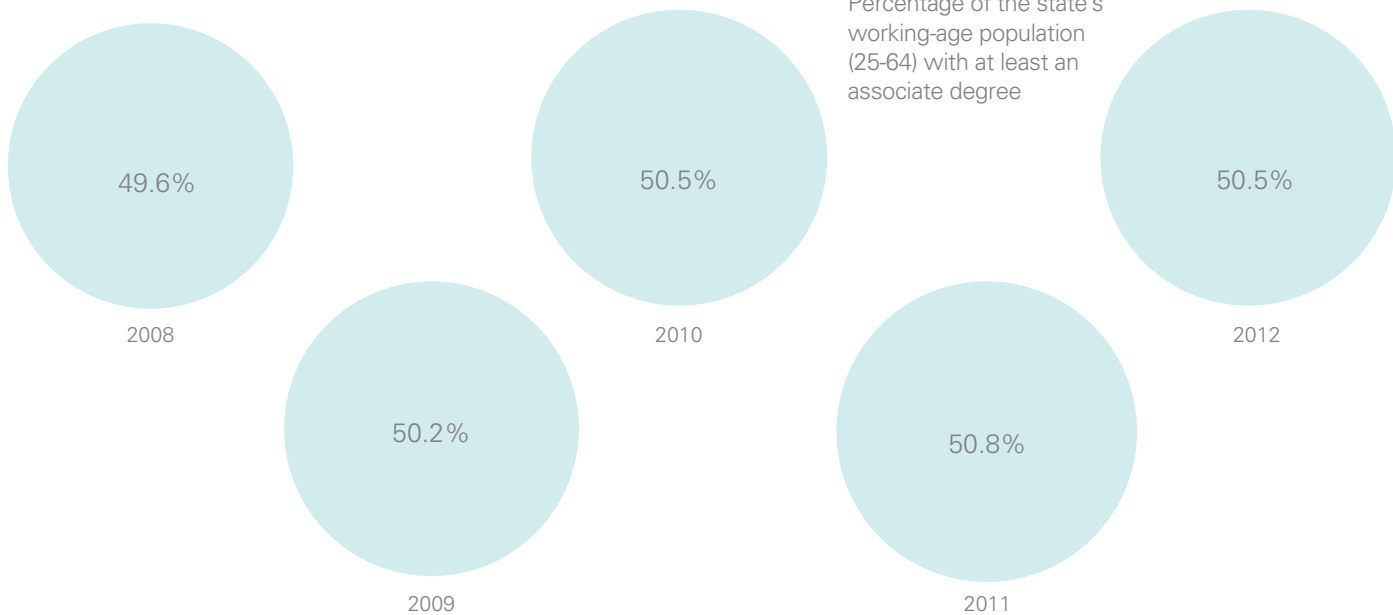
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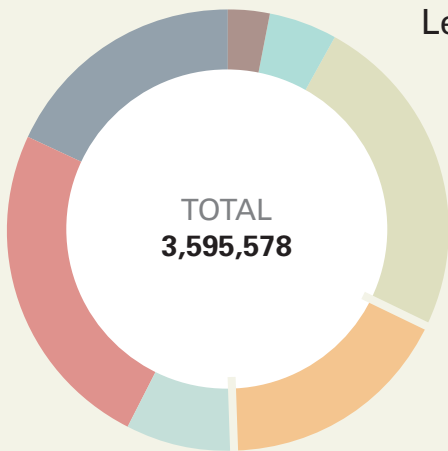
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Massachusetts.

## Track the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Massachusetts residents, ages 25-64

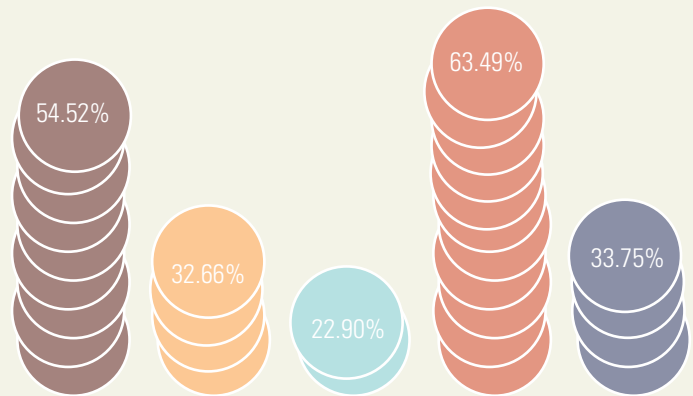


Less than ninth grade	119,151	<b>3.31%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	175,782	<b>4.89%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	862,279	<b>23.98%</b>
Some college, no degree	624,111	<b>17.36%</b>
Associate degree	290,690	<b>8.08%</b>
Bachelor's degree	882,879	<b>24.55%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	640,686	<b>17.82%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

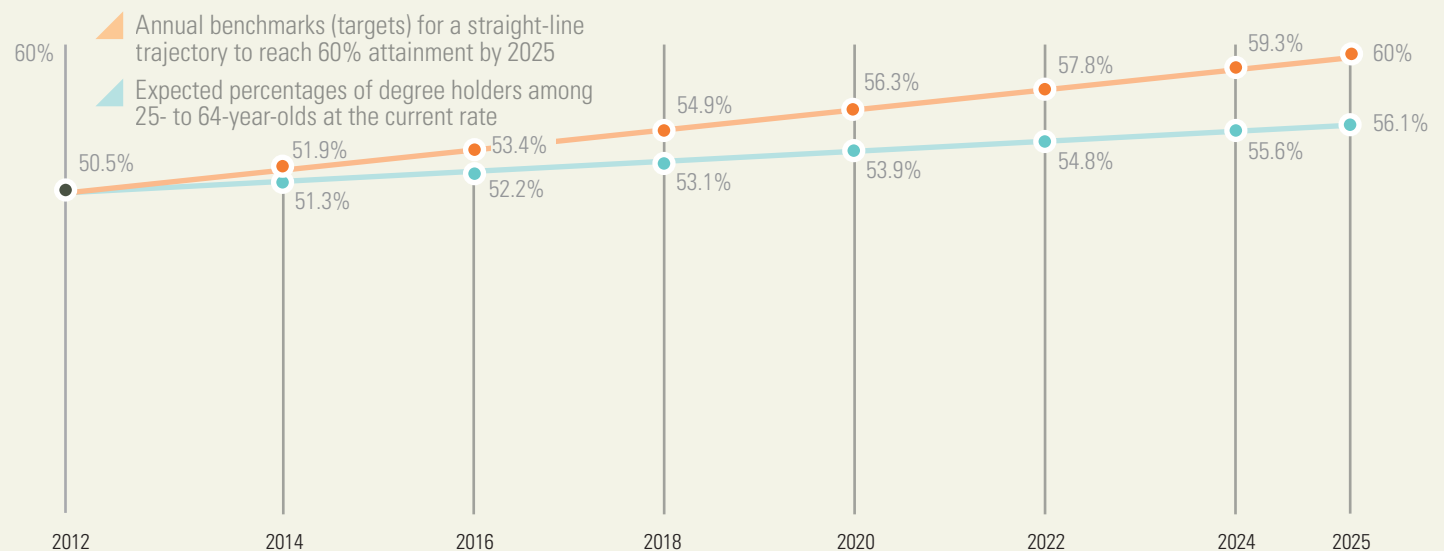
## Degree-attainment rates among Massachusetts adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>54.52%</b>
Black	<b>32.66%</b>
Hispanic	<b>22.90%</b>
Asian	<b>63.49%</b>
Native American	<b>33.75%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Massachusetts



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Massachusetts adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Barnstable	49.76	Dukes	47.01	Hampden	36.66	Nantucket	50.97	Suffolk	48.43
Berkshire	40.66	Essex	48.47	Hampshire	55.12	Norfolk	61.73	Worcester	46.79
Bristol	37.73	Franklin	45.18	Middlesex	60.83	Plymouth	45.55		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Michigan

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Michigan, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 37.4 percent of Michigan's 5.2 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 36.8 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Michigan was 38.5 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Michigan and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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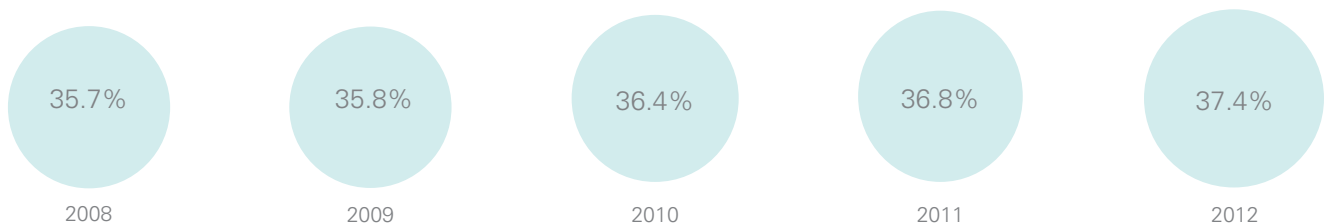
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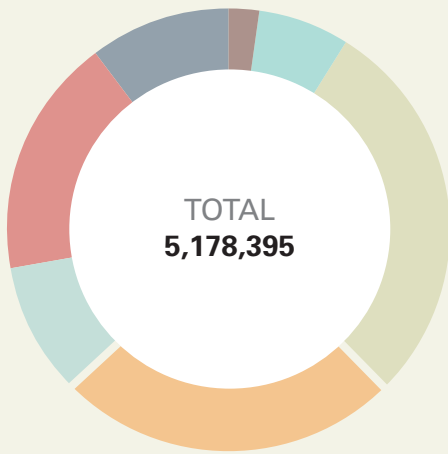
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## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Michigan residents, ages 25-64

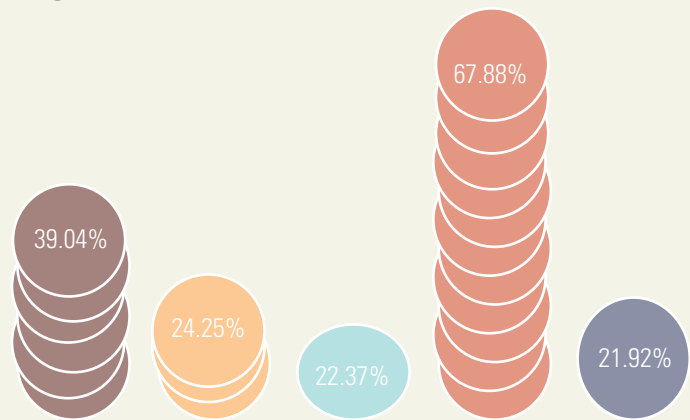


Less than ninth grade	119,333	<b>2.30%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	344,402	<b>6.65%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,483,503	<b>28.65%</b>
Some college, no degree	1,294,065	<b>24.99%</b>
Associate degree	505,214	<b>9.76%</b>
Bachelor's degree	907,438	<b>17.52%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	524,440	<b>10.13%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

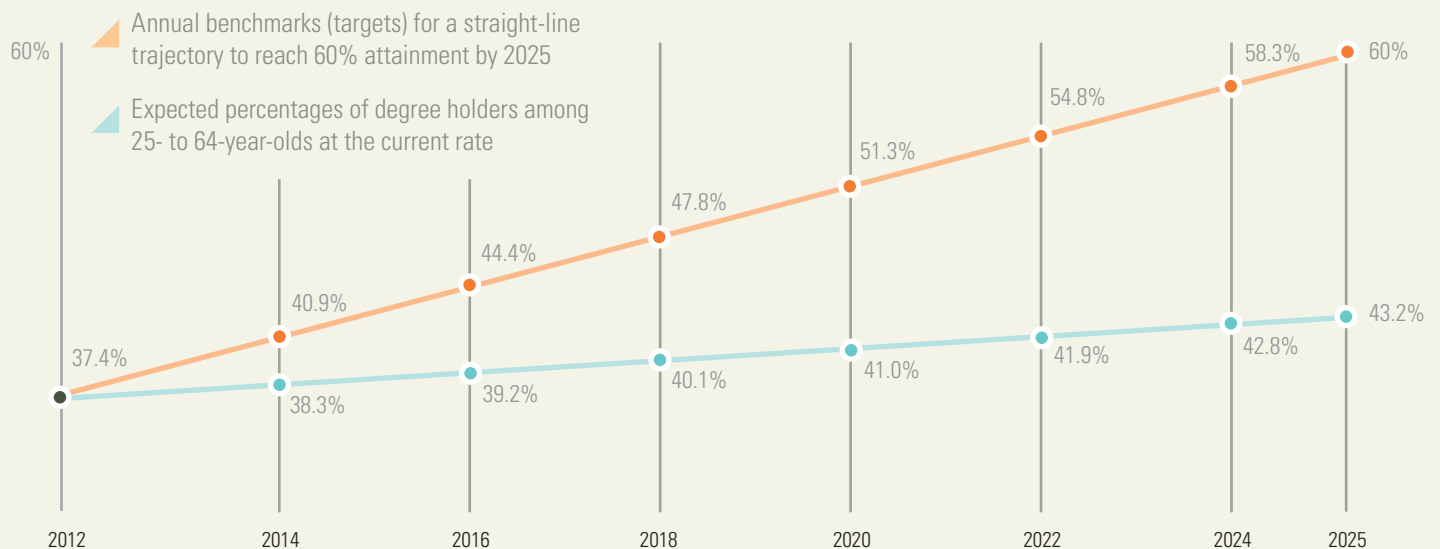
## Degree-attainment rates among Michigan adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>39.04%</b>
Black	<b>24.25%</b>
Hispanic	<b>22.37%</b>
Asian	<b>67.88%</b>
Native American	<b>21.92%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Michigan



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Michigan adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

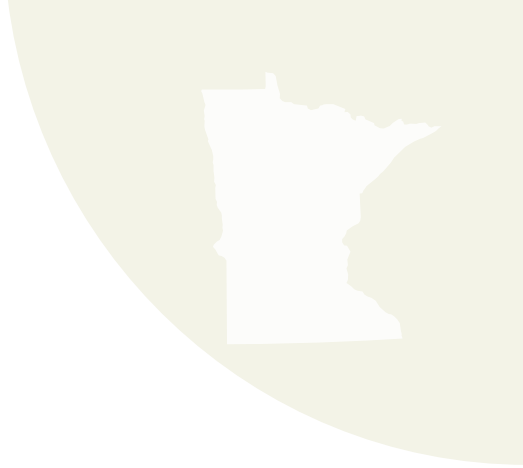
Alcona	23.05	Charlevoix	34.62	Gratiot	23.03	Lake	15.88	Missaukee	24.22	Presque Isle	28.24
Alger	24.52	Cheboygan	26.88	Hillsdale	23.26	Lapeer	28.71	Monroe	29.63	Roscommon	25.08
Allegan	29.39	Chippewa	25.38	Houghton	41.69	Leelanau	48.19	Montcalm	23.06	Saginaw	31.08
Alpena	32.56	Clare	21.41	Huron	26.38	Lenawee	29.94	Montmorency	23.13	St. Clair	27.67
Antrim	30.64	Clinton	41.87	Ingham	46.33	Livingston	44.23	Muskegon	28.70	St. Joseph	24.08
Arenac	20.67	Crawford	25.69	Ionia	24.42	Luce	22.76	Newaygo	23.20	Sanilac	21.80
Baraga	17.59	Delta	33.58	Iosco	22.87	Mackinac	26.90	Oakland	53.93	Schoolcraft	24.84
Barry	29.27	Dickinson	31.24	Iron	27.61	Macomb	35.52	Oceana	25.41	Shiawassee	27.36
Bay	32.84	Eaton	38.77	Isabella	35.39	Manistee	28.49	Ogemaw	21.52	Tuscola	25.12
Benzie	31.87	Emmet	42.09	Jackson	28.90	Marquette	39.78	Ontonagon	28.68	Van Buren	28.29
Berrien	35.54	Genesee	30.51	Kalamazoo	45.21	Mason	31.63	Osceola	24.00	Washtenaw	60.21
Branch	22.97	Gladwin	22.10	Kalkaska	18.03	Mecosta	31.71	Oscoda	18.33	Wayne	30.27
Calhoun	30.38	Gogebic	32.32	Kent	42.27	Menominee	26.62	Otsego	28.58	Wexford	26.34
Cass	28.45	Grand Traverse	41.11	Keweenaw	32.96	Midland	46.46	Ottawa	40.71		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Minnesota



Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Minnesota, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 47.7 percent of Minnesota's 2.9 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 46.6 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Minnesota was 51.9 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and well above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Minnesota and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

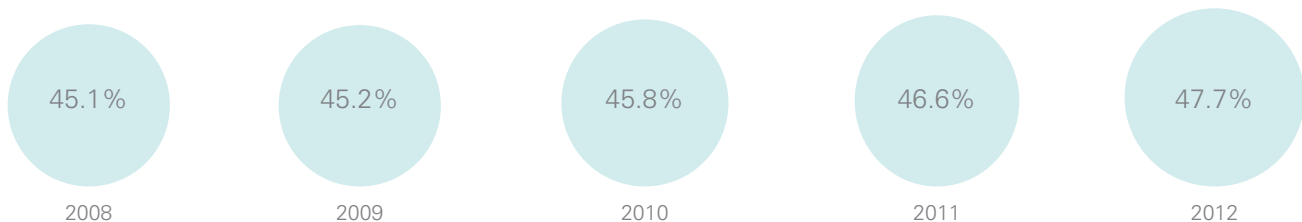
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

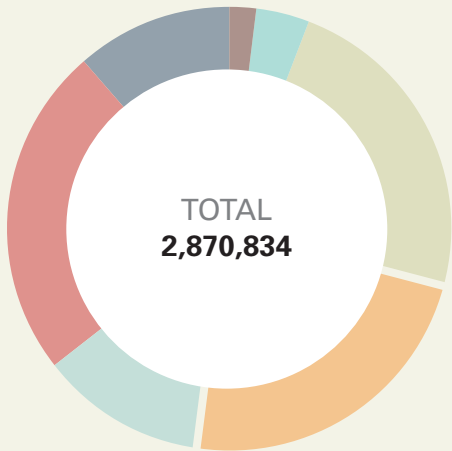
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Minnesota.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Minnesota residents, ages 25-64

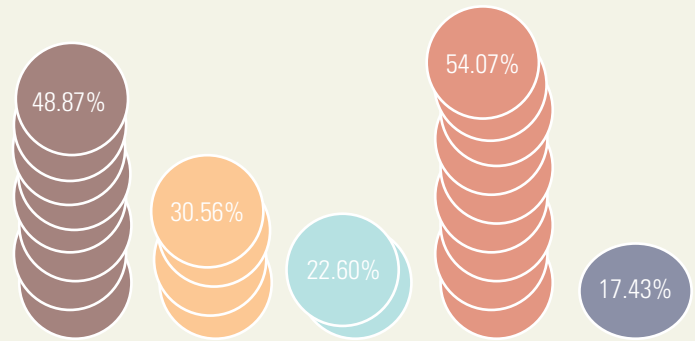


Less than ninth grade	59,697	<b>2.08%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	111,539	<b>3.89%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	670,233	<b>23.35%</b>
Some college, no degree	660,827	<b>23.02%</b>
Associate degree	347,915	<b>12.12%</b>
Bachelor's degree	697,973	<b>24.31%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	322,650	<b>11.24%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

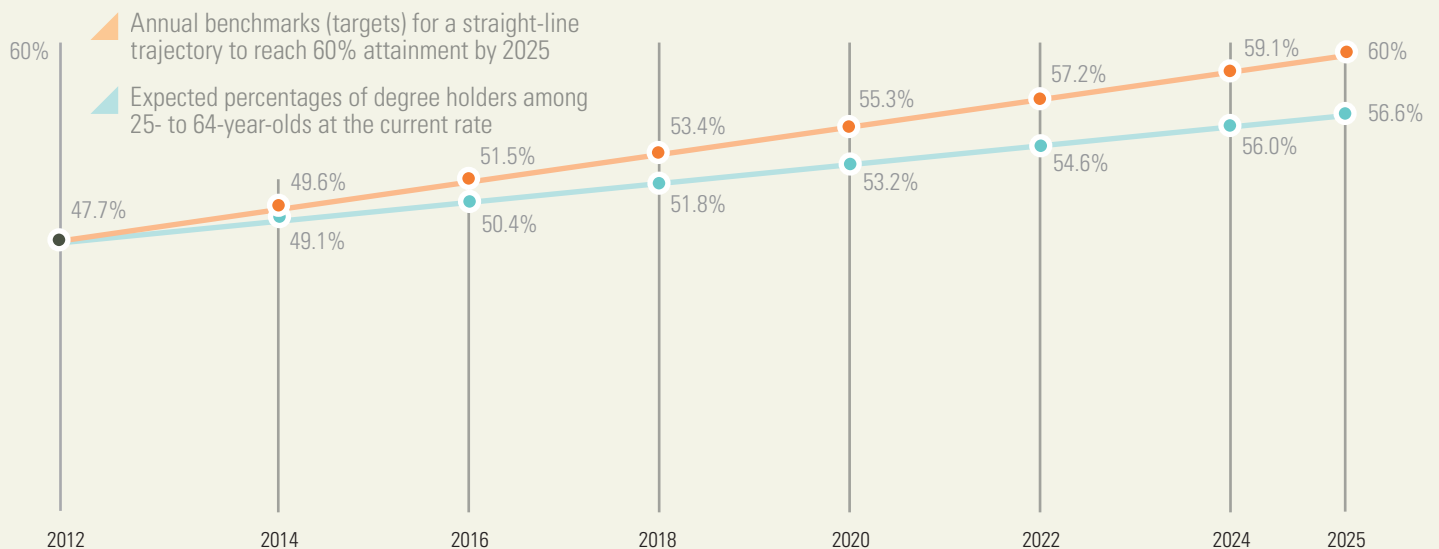
## Degree-attainment rates among Minnesota adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>48.87%</b>
Black	<b>30.56%</b>
Hispanic	<b>22.60%</b>
Asian	<b>54.07%</b>
Native American	<b>17.43%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Minnesota adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Aitkin	29.61	Dakota	52.63	Lac qui Parle	36.62	Olmsted	55.67	Stearns	39.35
Anoka	40.37	Dodge	39.26	Lake	34.04	Otter Tail	38.74	Steele	39.20
Becker	35.19	Douglas	44.45	Lake of the Woods	26.16	Pennington	35.15	Stevens	45.19
Beltrami	39.86	Faribault	32.61	Le Sueur	34.90	Pine	23.33	Swift	31.41
Benton	35.13	Fillmore	34.20	Lincoln	35.01	Pipestone	29.84	Todd	26.66
Big Stone	32.48	Freeborn	30.67	Lyon	40.12	Polk	39.86	Traverse	40.07
Blue Earth	44.72	Goodhue	38.38	McLeod	36.45	Pope	37.68	Wabasha	35.32
Brown	33.43	Grant	36.91	Mahnomen	26.87	Ramsey	49.59	Wadena	32.85
Carlton	35.78	Hennepin	56.75	Marshall	34.00	Red Lake	30.08	Waseca	30.81
Carver	57.19	Houston	42.67	Martin	34.38	Redwood	29.89	Washington	54.53
Cass	29.88	Hubbard	35.29	Meeker	31.57	Renville	31.10	Watonwan	28.58
Chippewa	36.18	Isanti	29.31	Mille Lacs	28.12	Rice	38.22	Wilkin	39.80
Chisago	33.12	Itasca	34.88	Morrison	29.07	Rock	35.29	Winona	42.17
Clay	47.48	Jackson	37.77	Mower	32.49	Roseau	29.09	Wright	41.95
Clearwater	29.38	Kanabec	25.40	Murray	31.37	St. Louis	40.90	Yellow Medicine	33.96
Cook	44.15	Kandiyohi	38.66	Nicollet	46.77	Scott	51.20		
Cottonwood	31.80	Kittson	35.64	Nobles	26.65	Sherburne	39.43		
Crow Wing	37.45	Koochiching	31.31	Norman	33.25	Sibley	27.38		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Mississippi

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Mississippi, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 31.1 percent of Mississippi's 1.5 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 30.3 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Mississippi was 33 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Mississippi and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
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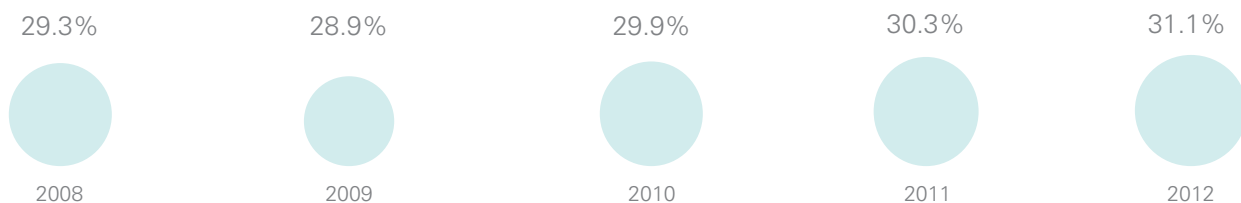
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A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

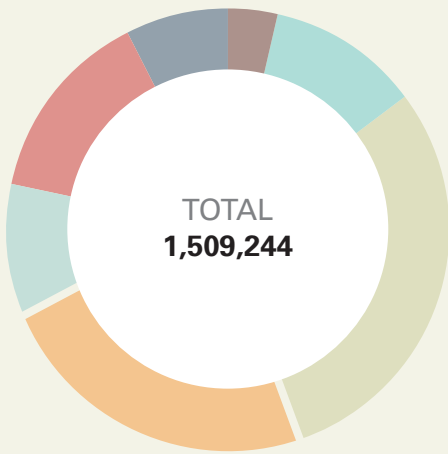
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Mississippi.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Mississippi residents, ages 25-64

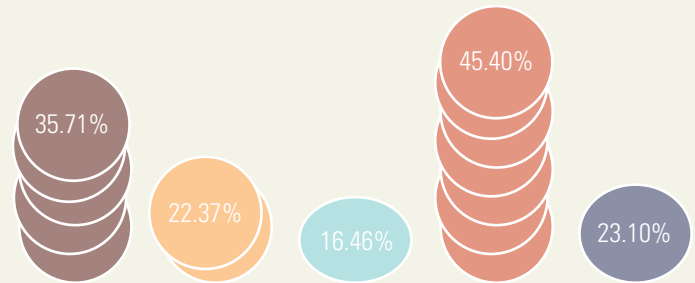


Less than ninth grade	56,618	<b>3.75%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	169,382	<b>11.22%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	453,093	<b>30.02%</b>
Some college, no degree	361,446	<b>23.95%</b>
Associate degree	145,208	<b>9.62%</b>
Bachelor's degree	211,382	<b>14.01%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	112,115	<b>7.43%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

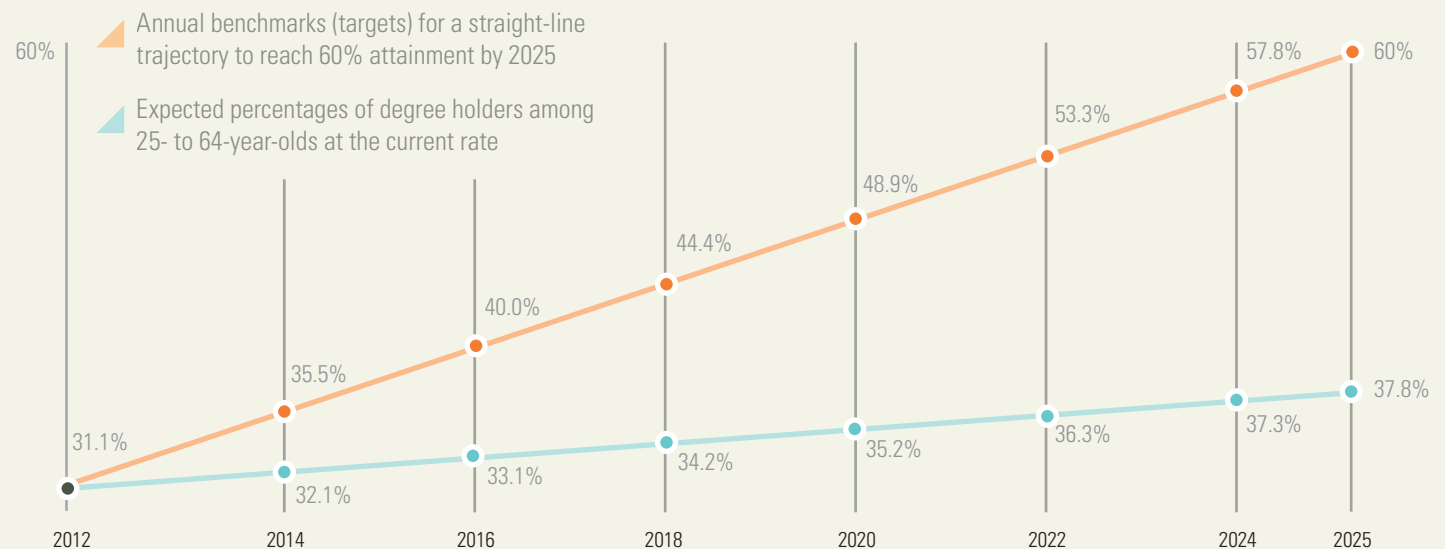
## Degree-attainment rates among Mississippi adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>35.71%</b>
Black	<b>22.37%</b>
Hispanic	<b>16.46%</b>
Asian	<b>45.40%</b>
Native American	<b>23.10%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Mississippi



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Mississippi adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	27.26	Copiah	22.29	Itawamba	25.52	Lincoln	28.54	Pike	25.32	Tishomingo	21.83
Alcorn	28.58	Covington	22.18	Jackson	30.83	Lowndes	29.53	Pontotoc	22.69	Tunica	27.31
Amite	17.38	DeSoto	33.53	Jasper	24.33	Madison	55.37	Prentiss	23.64	Union	23.44
Attala	26.35	Forrest	35.18	Jefferson	25.95	Marion	21.65	Quitman	22.14	Walthall	23.73
Benton	18.63	Franklin	21.20	Jefferson Davis	21.26	Marshall	16.09	Rankin	40.47	Warren	34.14
Bolivar	28.41	George	19.30	Jones	29.92	Monroe	22.33	Scott	16.18	Washington	25.89
Calhoun	17.49	Greene	15.30	Kemper	20.40	Montgomery	18.11	Sharkey	28.25	Wayne	16.81
Carroll	21.96	Grenada	25.89	Lafayette	48.71	Neshoba	25.14	Simpson	22.10	Webster	25.22
Chickasaw	16.31	Hancock	31.38	Lamar	43.65	Newton	26.89	Smith	22.99	Wilkinson	15.95
Choctaw	23.39	Harrison	32.21	Lauderdale	29.61	Noxubee	19.84	Stone	27.76	Winston	28.48
Claiborne	24.33	Hinds	36.52	Lawrence	22.05	Oktibbeha	50.65	Sunflower	18.70	Yalobusha	21.26
Clarke	19.20	Holmes	17.91	Leake	20.53	Panola	27.62	Tallahatchie	16.79	Yazoo	17.62
Clay	25.00	Humphreys	18.53	Lee	32.27	Pearl River	27.65	Tate	27.32		
Coahoma	28.29	Issaquena	7.83	Leflore	22.56	Perry	20.79	Tippah	22.93		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Missouri



Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Missouri, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 36.6 percent of Missouri's 3.1 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year's rate of 36.4 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Missouri was 40.7 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but slightly below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Missouri and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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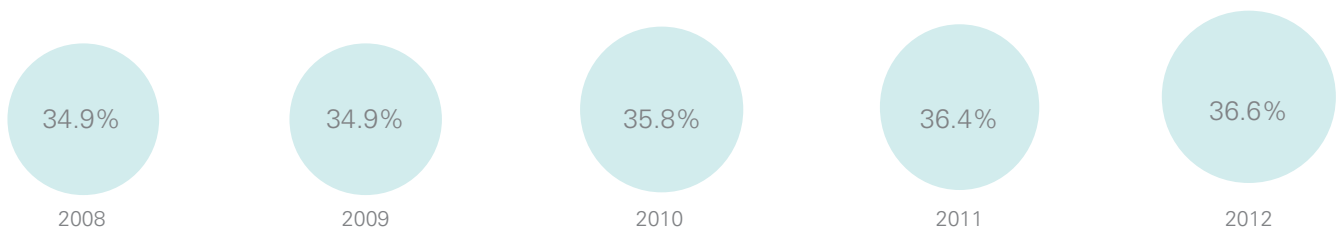
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A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

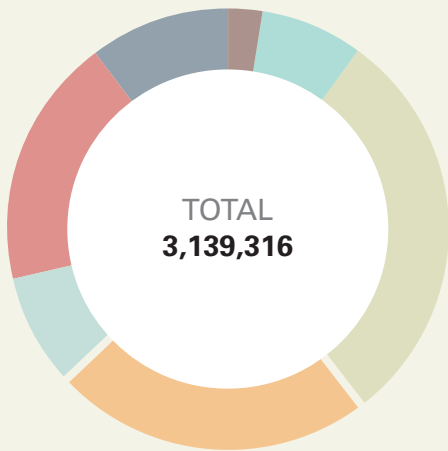
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Missouri.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Missouri residents, ages 25-64

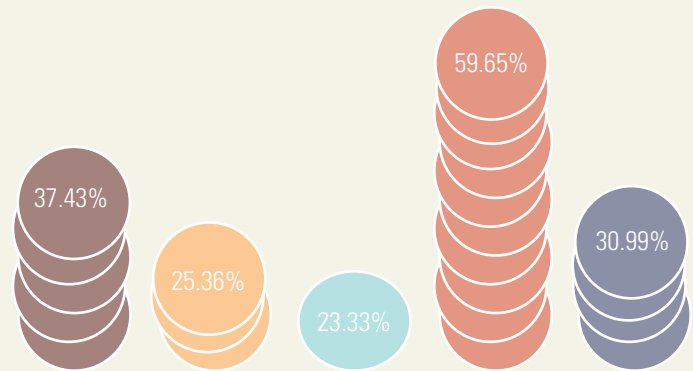


Less than ninth grade	80,211	<b>2.56%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	235,563	<b>7.50%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	928,680	<b>29.58%</b>
Some college, no degree	745,896	<b>23.76%</b>
Associate degree	252,964	<b>8.06%</b>
Bachelor's degree	575,780	<b>18.34%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	320,222	<b>10.20%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

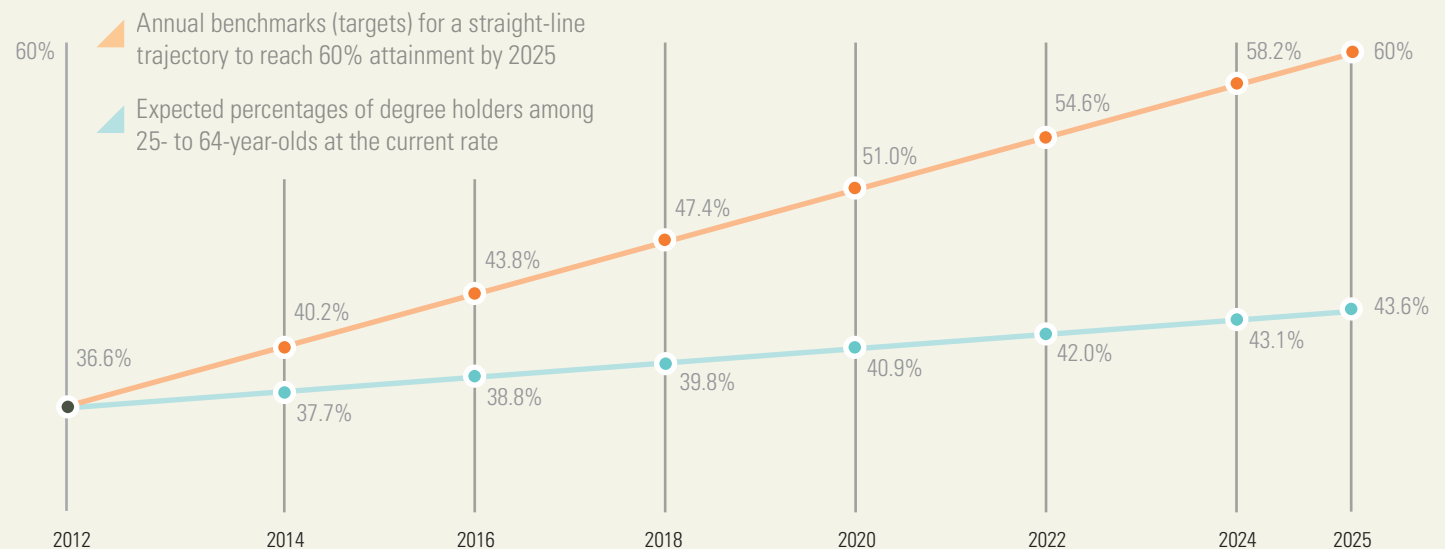
## Degree-attainment rates among Missouri adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>37.43%</b>
Black	<b>25.36%</b>
Hispanic	<b>23.33%</b>
Asian	<b>59.65%</b>
Native American	<b>30.99%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Missouri



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Missouri adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adair	36.32	Chariton	25.27	Harrison	19.97	Macon	26.90	Phelps	33.92	Shannon	19.74
Andrew	28.23	Christian	37.54	Henry	23.44	Madison	19.64	Pike	16.24	Shelby	23.35
Atchison	31.93	Clark	23.10	Hickory	17.01	Maries	27.27	Platte	49.16	Stoddard	20.99
Audrain	19.86	Clay	41.59	Holt	23.66	Marion	27.26	Polk	25.53	Stone	21.94
Barry	19.51	Clinton	26.55	Howard	30.25	Mercer	23.66	Pulaski	33.56	Sullivan	19.40
Barton	26.40	Cole	41.26	Howell	24.72	Miller	19.67	Putnam	21.08	Taney	27.17
Bates	20.97	Cooper	27.83	Iron	18.06	Mississippi	15.53	Ralls	23.75	Texas	17.59
Benton	20.72	Crawford	20.32	Jackson	36.42	Moniteau	24.54	Randolph	23.63	Vernon	22.04
Bollinger	16.30	Dade	21.31	Jasper	28.37	Monroe	20.32	Ray	22.18	Warren	24.95
Boone	56.70	Dallas	21.88	Jefferson	29.65	Montgomery	22.40	Reynolds	10.83	Washington	13.58
Buchanan	27.74	Daviess	26.87	Johnson	36.41	Morgan	20.65	Ripley	14.75	Wayne	13.86
Butler	24.45	DeKalb	18.46	Knox	25.04	New Madrid	17.41	St. Charles	47.18	Webster	21.49
Caldwell	23.92	Dent	19.89	Laclede	19.35	Newton	28.56	St. Clair	20.17	Worth	22.77
Callaway	31.30	Douglas	17.77	Lafayette	25.71	Nodaway	31.63	Ste. Genevieve	22.48	Wright	17.81
Camden	29.19	Dunklin	16.36	Lawrence	23.57	Oregon	16.77	St. Francois	23.43	St. Louis city	37.93
Cape Girardeau	35.68	Franklin	28.43	Lewis	20.67	Osage	28.18	St. Louis	51.13		
Carroll	23.34	Gasconade	25.40	Lincoln	22.42	Ozark	20.04	Saline	24.02		
Carter	28.00	Gentry	21.31	Linn	20.86	Pemiscot	17.93	Schuyler	18.05		
Cass	33.16	Greene	37.39	Livingston	27.83	Perry	23.86	Scotland	28.65		
Cedar	20.69	Grundy	27.30	McDonald	13.95	Pettis	28.64	Scott	20.58		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Montana

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Montana, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 39.8 percent of Montana's 528,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 39.2 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is just above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Montana was 41.7 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Montana and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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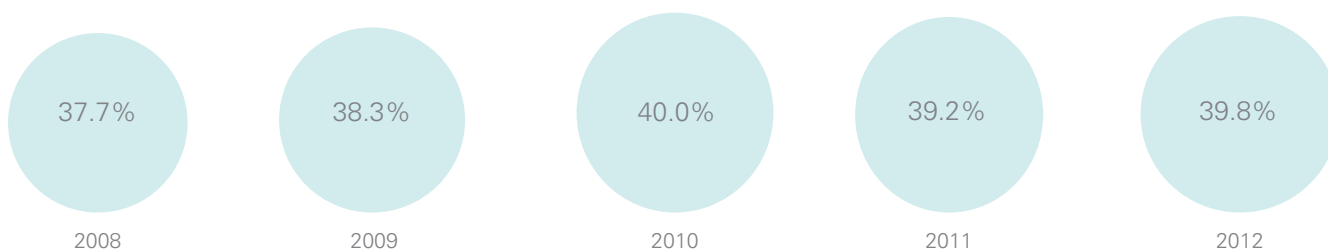
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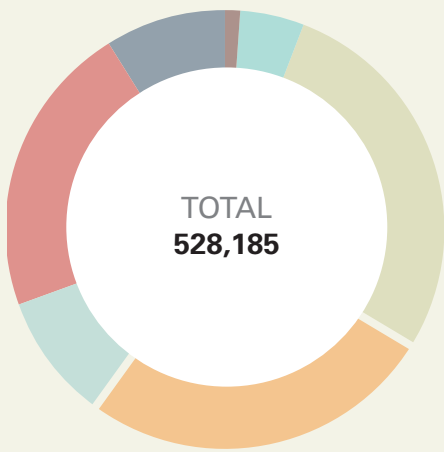
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## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Montana residents, ages 25-64

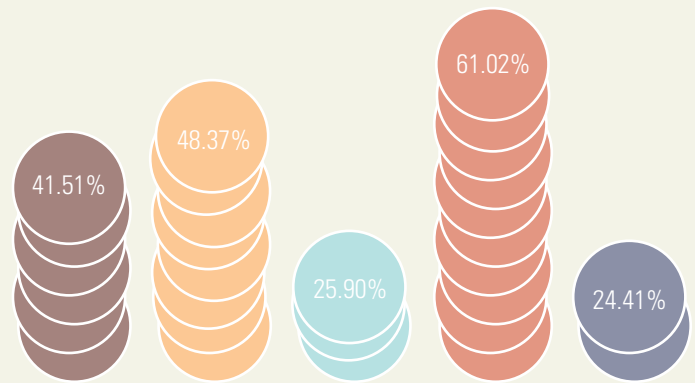


Less than ninth grade	6,727	<b>1.27%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	24,476	<b>4.63%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	148,643	<b>28.14%</b>
Some college, no degree	137,962	<b>26.12%</b>
Associate degree	49,758	<b>9.42%</b>
Bachelor's degree	113,987	<b>21.58%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	46,632	<b>8.83%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

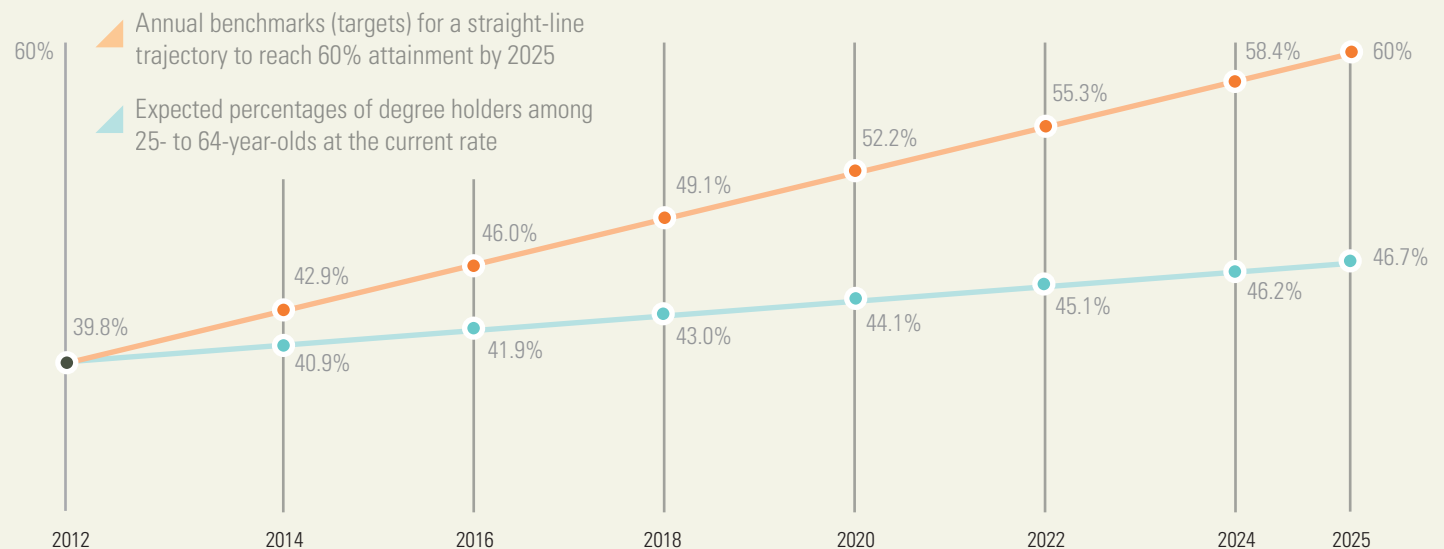
## Degree-attainment rates among Montana adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>41.51%</b>
Black	<b>48.37%</b>
Hispanic	<b>25.90%</b>
Asian	<b>61.02%</b>
Native American	<b>24.41%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Montana



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Montana adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Beaverhead	41.53	Dawson	39.82	Hill	34.82	Mineral	19.87	Ravalli	32.39	Toole	25.88
Big Horn	24.22	Deer Lodge	29.21	Jefferson	43.64	Missoula	49.72	Richland	28.13	Treasure	25.89
Blaine	28.02	Fallon	31.43	Judith Basin	38.74	Musselshell	22.10	Roosevelt	25.61	Valley	30.24
Broadwater	24.20	Fergus	38.60	Lake	35.00	Park	39.15	Rosebud	32.07	Wheatland	25.05
Carbon	39.66	Flathead	36.95	Lewis and Clark	48.74	Petroleum	29.04	Sanders	23.41	Wibaux	37.69
Carter	26.24	Gallatin	53.36	Liberty	28.22	Phillips	29.93	Sheridan	36.32	Yellowstone	39.20
Cascade	35.33	Garfield	24.95	Lincoln	30.29	Pondera	36.10	Silver Bow	34.33		
Chouteau	32.83	Glacier	29.95	McCone	30.09	Powder River	28.89	Stillwater	30.43		
Custer	36.55	Golden Valley	37.32	Madison	40.84	Powell	28.03	Sweet Grass	32.86		
Daniels	45.09	Granite	40.51	Meagher	22.51	Prairie	37.82	Teton	38.96		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Nebraska

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Nebraska, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 43 percent of Nebraska's 950,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 41.5 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Nebraska was 46.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Nebraska and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
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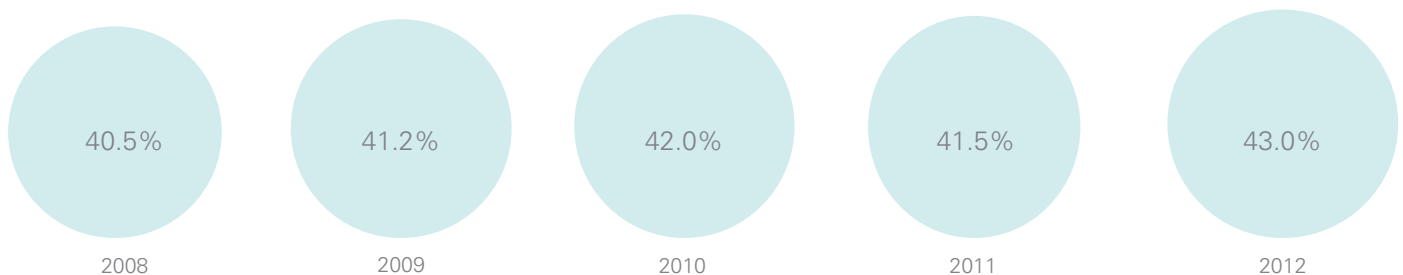
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

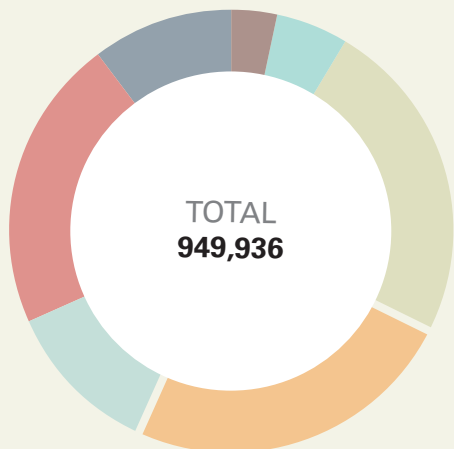
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Nebraska.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Nebraska residents, ages 25-64

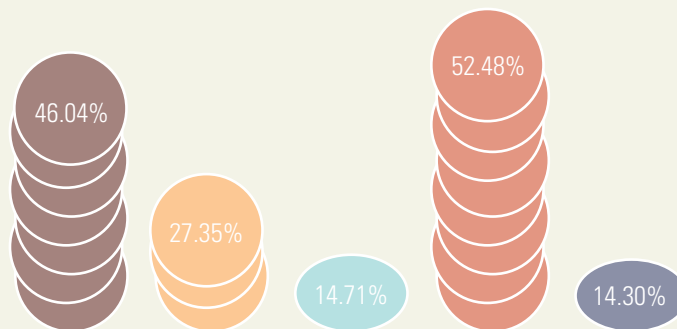


Less than ninth grade	33,124	<b>3.49%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	49,087	<b>5.17%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	228,916	<b>24.10%</b>
Some college, no degree	230,779	<b>24.29%</b>
Associate degree	107,774	<b>11.35%</b>
Bachelor's degree	203,667	<b>21.44%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	96,589	<b>10.17%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

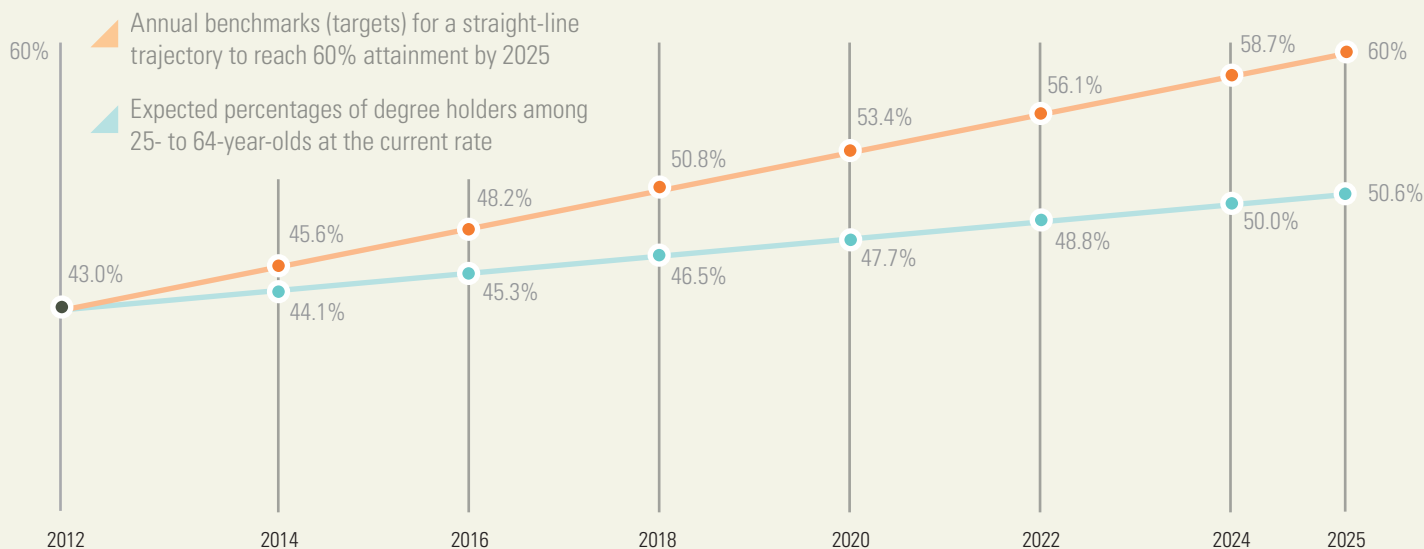
## Degree-attainment rates among Nebraska adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>46.04%</b>
Black	<b>27.35%</b>
Hispanic	<b>14.71%</b>
Asian	<b>52.48%</b>
Native American	<b>14.30%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Nebraska



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Nebraska adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	35.34	Cheyenne	39.47	Furnas	33.75	Johnson	23.97	Nuckolls	28.91	Sheridan	33.12
Antelope	32.89	Clay	34.81	Gage	35.55	Kearney	38.99	Otoe	38.24	Sherman	30.45
Arthur	50.83	Colfax	22.82	Garden	33.21	Keith	35.20	Pawnee	29.82	Sioux	44.06
Banner	39.90	Cuming	35.36	Garfield	25.00	Keya Paha	30.03	Perkins	32.93	Stanton	38.99
Blaine	35.87	Custer	35.59	Gosper	34.28	Kimball	29.71	Phelps	37.77	Thayer	36.22
Boone	29.07	Dakota	19.82	Grant	33.22	Knox	34.16	Pierce	35.88	Thomas	37.08
Box Butte	29.62	Dawes	46.14	Greeley	32.38	Lancaster	50.05	Platte	32.21	Thurston	29.99
Boyd	26.43	Dawson	23.15	Hall	29.57	Lincoln	34.32	Polk	38.24	Valley	35.97
Brown	35.84	Deuel	32.88	Hamilton	37.99	Logan	28.81	Red Willow	40.45	Washington	42.60
Buffalo	45.43	Dixon	31.75	Harlan	37.09	Loup	33.46	Richardson	26.75	Wayne	48.39
Burt	36.10	Dodge	29.74	Hayes	39.75	McPherson	31.61	Rock	37.65	Webster	32.20
Butler	31.74	Douglas	46.38	Hitchcock	36.78	Madison	39.95	Saline	29.59	Wheeler	37.43
Cass	37.75	Dundy	42.29	Holt	35.24	Merrick	28.60	Sarpy	48.23	York	37.81
Cedar	34.83	Fillmore	39.62	Hooker	44.11	Morrill	32.87	Saunders	42.19		
Chase	32.83	Franklin	30.35	Howard	27.25	Nance	26.15	Scotts Bluff	33.42		
Cherry	39.82	Frontier	41.97	Jefferson	30.99	Nemaha	37.78	Seward	46.59		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Nevada

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Nevada, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 30.1 percent of Nevada's 1.5 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year's rate of 30 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Nevada was 29.8 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and well below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Nevada and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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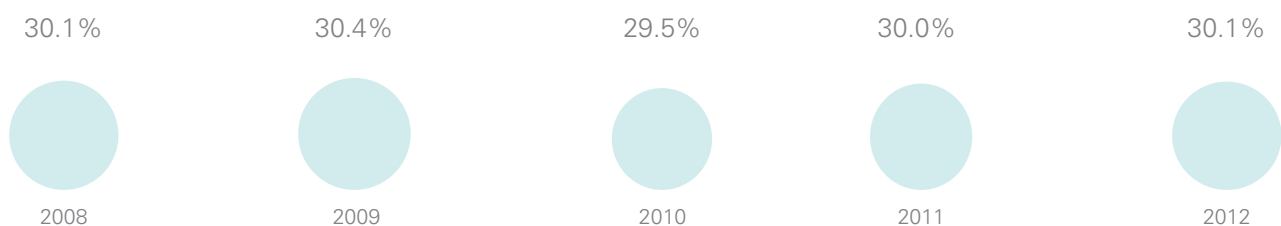
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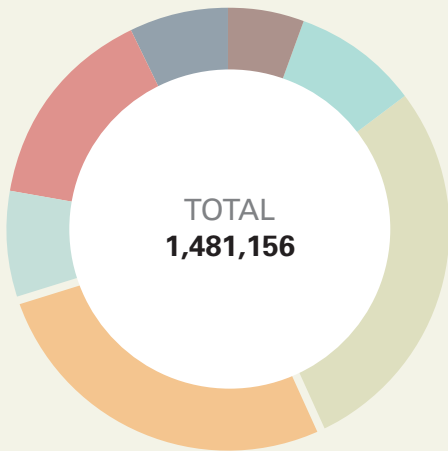
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Nevada.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Nevada residents, ages 25-64

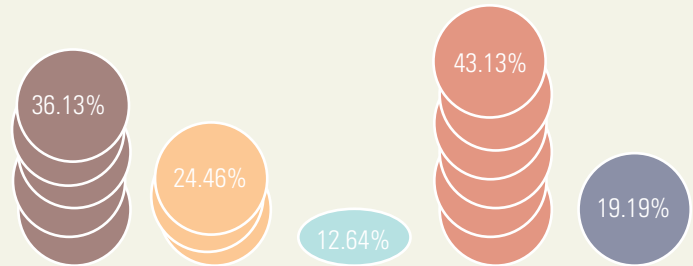


Less than ninth grade	84,121	<b>5.68%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	134,882	<b>9.11%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	420,792	<b>28.41%</b>
Some college, no degree	396,105	<b>26.74%</b>
Associate degree	116,526	<b>7.87%</b>
Bachelor's degree	224,515	<b>15.16%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	104,215	<b>7.04%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

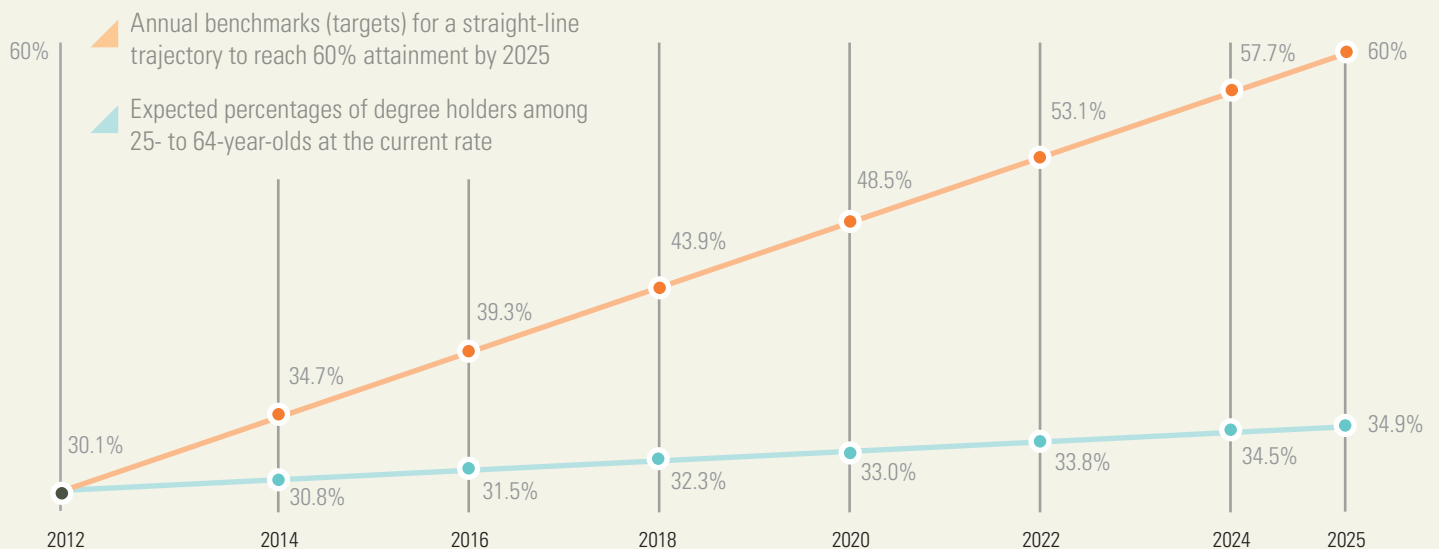
## Degree-attainment rates among Nevada adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>36.13%</b>
Black	<b>24.46%</b>
Hispanic	<b>12.64%</b>
Asian	<b>43.13%</b>
Native American	<b>19.19%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Nevada



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Nevada adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Churchill	25.28	Elko	26.50	Humboldt	23.56	Lyon	22.58	Pershing	15.67	White Pine	21.56
Clark	29.81	Esmeralda	19.53	Lander	20.17	Mineral	17.97	Storey	28.90	Carson City	28.17
Douglas	37.63	Eureka	38.60	Lincoln	25.16	Nye	17.28	Washoe	35.34		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# New Hampshire

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in New Hampshire, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 46.7 percent of New Hampshire's 726,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 45.8 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in New Hampshire was 47.8, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can New Hampshire and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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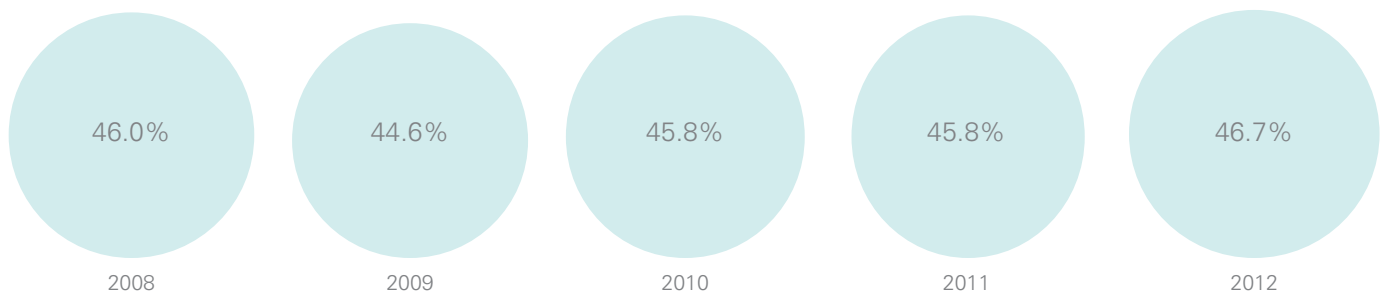
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A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

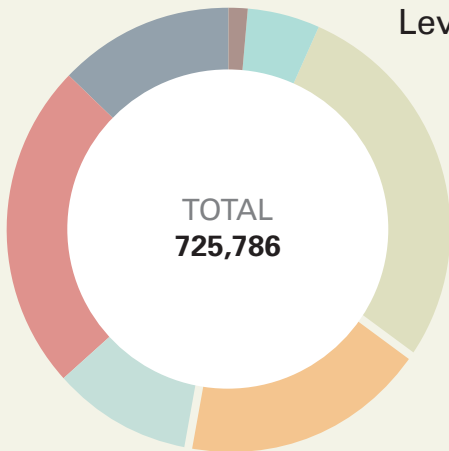
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in New Hampshire.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for New Hampshire residents, ages 25-64

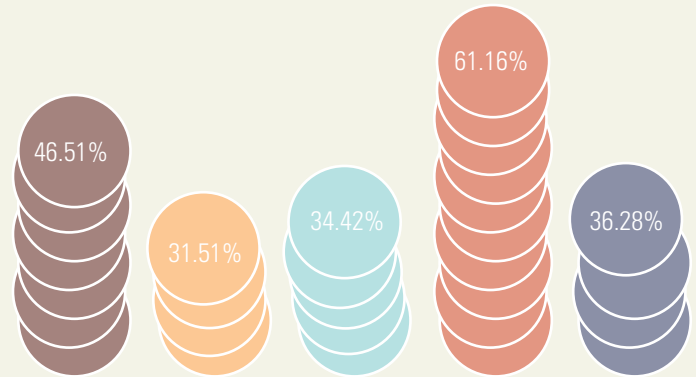


Less than ninth grade	10,934	<b>1.51%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	37,655	<b>5.19%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	201,965	<b>27.83%</b>
Some college, no degree	136,380	<b>18.79%</b>
Associate degree	74,703	<b>10.29%</b>
Bachelor's degree	172,242	<b>23.73%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	91,907	<b>12.66%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

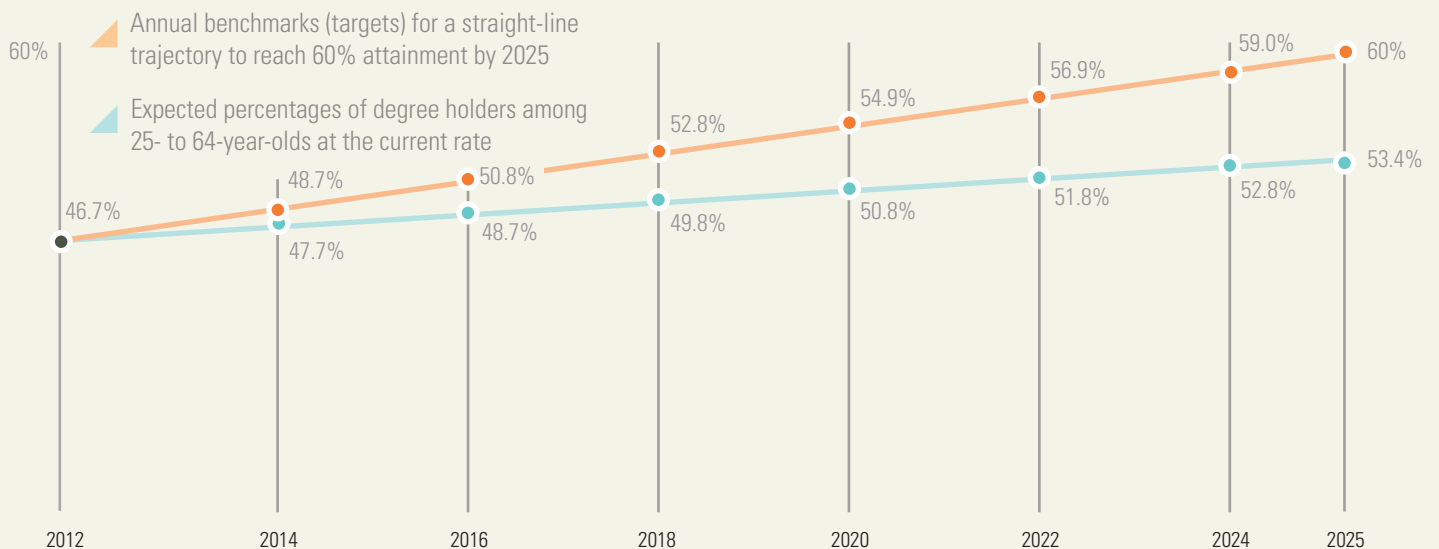
## Degree-attainment rates among New Hampshire adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>46.51%</b>
Black	<b>31.51%</b>
Hispanic	<b>34.42%</b>
Asian	<b>61.16%</b>
Native American	<b>36.28%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in New Hampshire



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of New Hampshire adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Belknap	40.30	Cheshire	39.50	Grafton	45.72	Merrimack	45.95	Strafford	45.03
Carroll	41.08	Coos	29.83	Hillsborough	48.22	Rockingham	50.33	Sullivan	36.32

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# New Jersey

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in New Jersey, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 45.8 percent of New Jersey's 4.8 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 45.1 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in New Jersey was 48.6 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and well above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can New Jersey and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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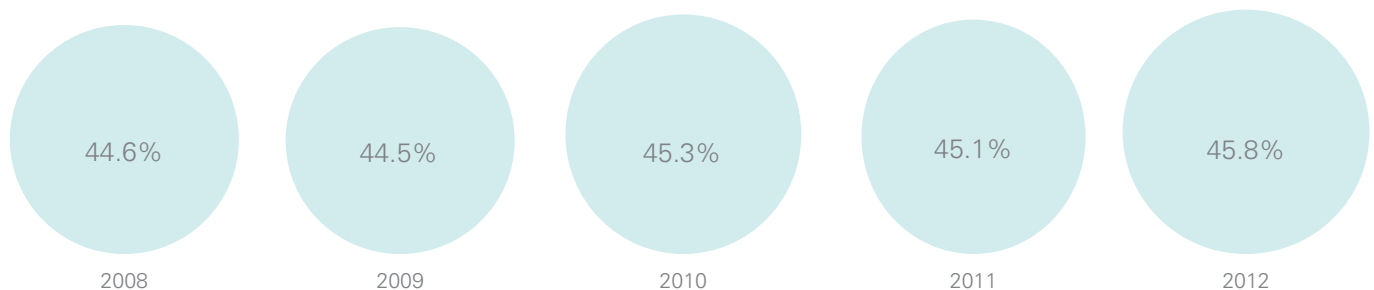
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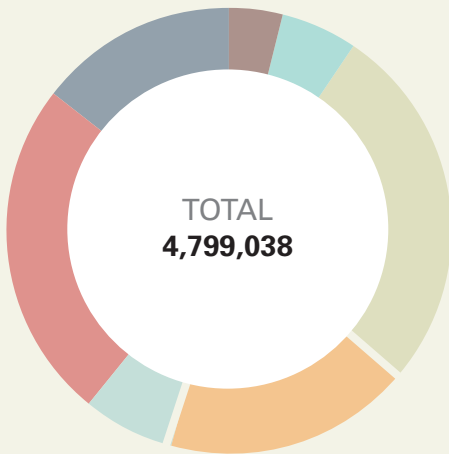
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in New Jersey.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for New Jersey residents, ages 25-64

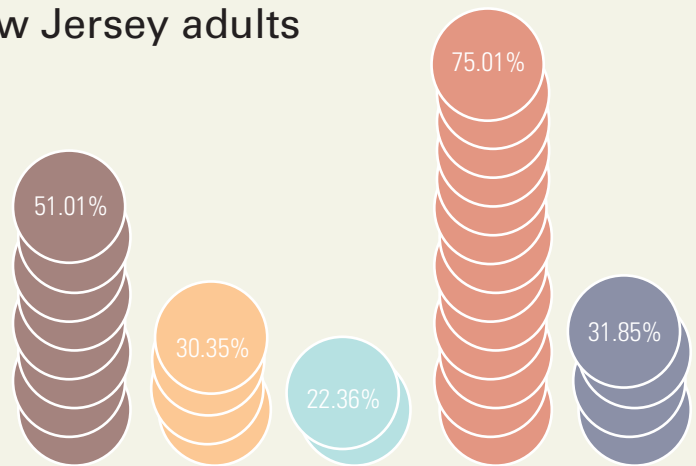


Less than ninth grade	198,442	<b>4.14%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	256,334	<b>5.34%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,282,069	<b>26.72%</b>
Some college, no degree	863,410	<b>17.99%</b>
Associate degree	326,578	<b>6.81%</b>
Bachelor's degree	1,181,231	<b>24.61%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	690,974	<b>14.40%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

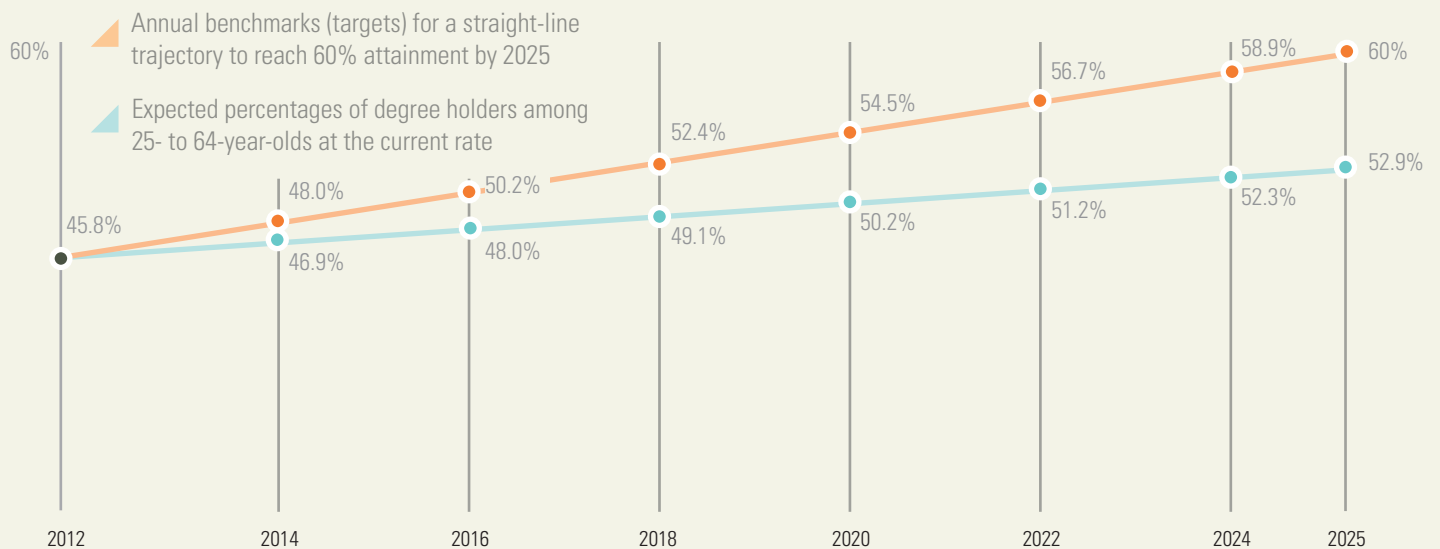
## Degree-attainment rates among New Jersey adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>51.01%</b>
Black	<b>30.35%</b>
Hispanic	<b>22.36%</b>
Asian	<b>75.01%</b>
Native American	<b>31.85%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in New Jersey



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of New Jersey adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Atlantic	33.04	Cape May	36.80	Hudson	44.20	Monmouth	52.02	Salem	30.33	Warren	40.92
Bergen	55.73	Cumberland	21.47	Hunterdon	59.14	Morris	59.49	Somerset	60.36		
Burlington	45.71	Essex	39.47	Mercer	47.55	Ocean	36.56	Sussex	42.55		
Camden	38.53	Gloucester	40.20	Middlesex	50.25	Passaic	33.98	Union	40.26		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# New Mexico

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in New Mexico, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 35.1 percent of New Mexico's 1.1 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 33.9 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in New Mexico was 31.3 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can New Mexico and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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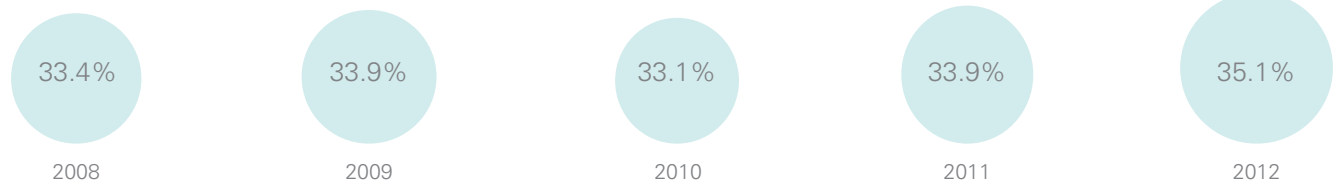
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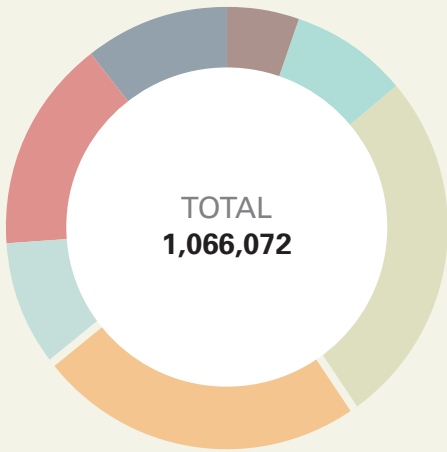
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in New Mexico.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for New Mexico residents, ages 25-64

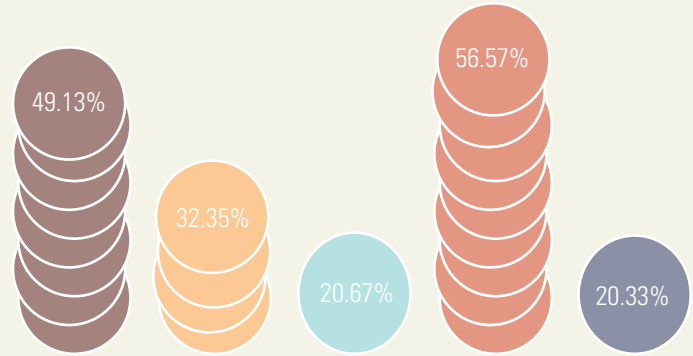


Less than ninth grade	57,093	<b>5.36%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	92,054	<b>8.63%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	281,007	<b>26.36%</b>
Some college, no degree	261,832	<b>24.56%</b>
Associate degree	97,853	<b>9.18%</b>
Bachelor's degree	164,079	<b>15.39%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	112,154	<b>10.52%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

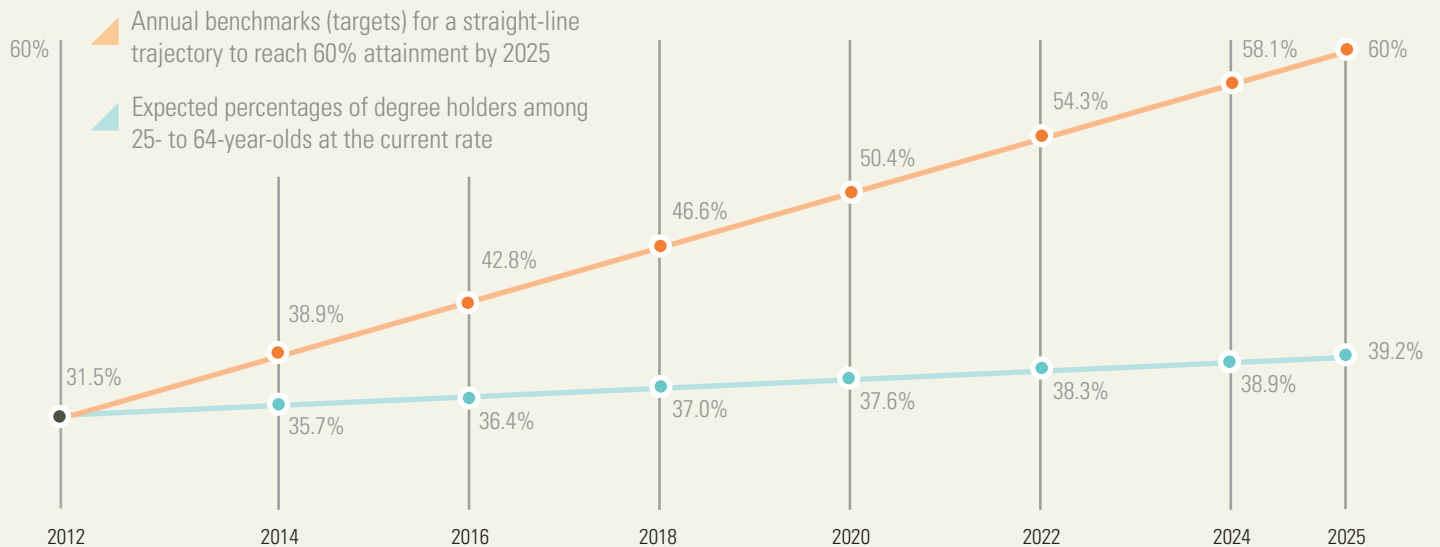
## Degree-attainment rates among New Mexico adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>49.13%</b>
Black	<b>32.35%</b>
Hispanic	<b>20.67%</b>
Asian	<b>56.57%</b>
Native American	<b>20.33%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in New Mexico



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of New Mexico adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Bernalillo	40.27	De Baca	34.38	Hidalgo	22.44	Mora	26.24	San Juan	26.20	Torrance	19.14
Catron	21.82	Doña Ana	34.13	Lea	21.79	Otero	28.19	San Miguel	27.96	Union	18.53
Chaves	25.47	Eddy	24.48	Lincoln	32.49	Quay	22.79	Santa Fe	44.32	Valencia	25.28
Cibola	17.24	Grant	32.79	Los Alamos	70.98	Rio Arriba	24.20	Sierra	27.65		
Colfax	28.23	Guadalupe	19.83	Luna	18.52	Roosevelt	27.45	Socorro	26.43		
Curry	31.38	Harding	29.71	McKinley	19.97	Sandoval	38.85	Taos	38.66		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# New York

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in New York, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 45.1 percent of New York's 10.6 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year's rate of 44.6 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in New York was 50.5 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and well above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can New York and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

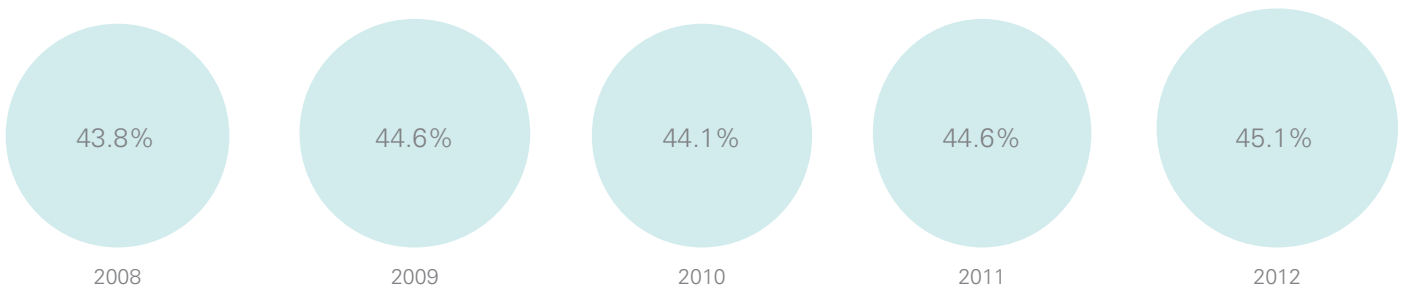
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

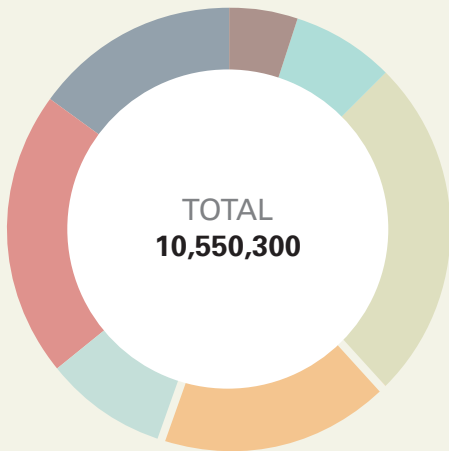
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in New York.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for New York residents, ages 25-64

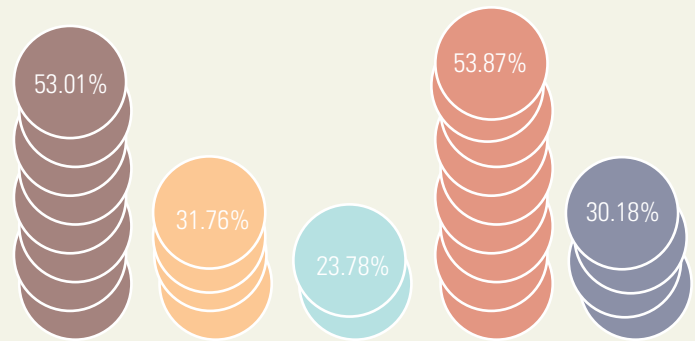


Less than ninth grade	554,040	<b>5.25%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	777,215	<b>7.37%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,635,400	<b>24.98%</b>
Some college, no degree	1,825,775	<b>17.31%</b>
Associate degree	989,502	<b>9.38%</b>
Bachelor's degree	2,200,271	<b>20.86%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	1,568,097	<b>14.86%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

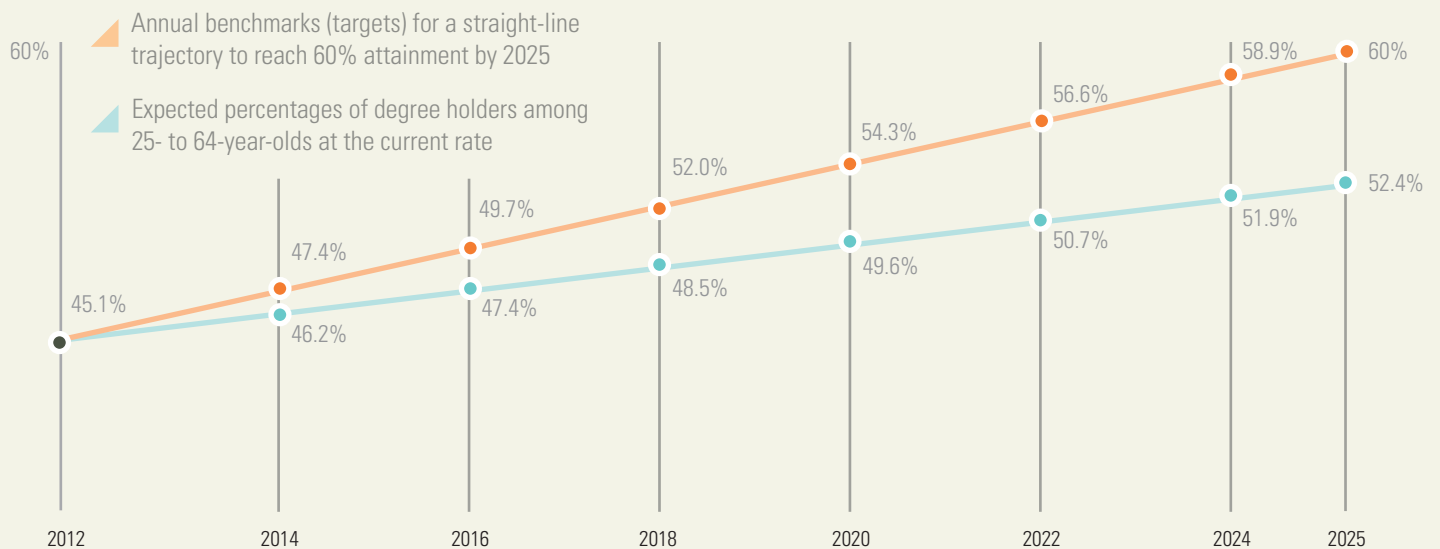
## Degree-attainment rates among New York adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>53.01%</b>
Black	<b>31.76%</b>
Hispanic	<b>23.78%</b>
Asian	<b>53.87%</b>
Native American	<b>30.18%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in New York



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of New York adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Albany	52.75	Cortland	39.91	Jefferson	34.02	Onondaga	48.43	St. Lawrence	34.95	Ulster	42.10
Allegany	34.18	Delaware	31.09	Kings	39.41	Ontario	48.04	Saratoga	53.22	Warren	41.29
Bronx	26.80	Dutchess	45.60	Lewis	25.96	Orange	40.27	Schenectady	44.08	Washington	28.16
Broome	42.28	Erie	46.83	Livingston	40.43	Orleans	27.30	Schoharie	35.47	Wayne	35.94
Cattaraugus	30.71	Essex	36.98	Madison	41.61	Oswego	28.75	Schuyler	32.40	Westchester	54.70
Cayuga	34.41	Franklin	30.84	Monroe	50.53	Otsego	40.43	Seneca	33.09	Wyoming	29.04
Chautauqua	36.38	Fulton	27.91	Montgomery	31.65	Putnam	50.78	Steuben	36.84	Yates	33.12
Chemung	35.00	Genesee	37.74	Nassau	54.32	Queens	40.37	Suffolk	44.85		
Chenango	30.70	Greene	31.45	New York	65.89	Rensselaer	45.06	Sullivan	32.32		
Clinton	33.65	Hamilton	39.66	Niagara	37.41	Richmond	40.28	Tioga	39.25		
Columbia	42.74	Herkimer	37.19	Oneida	38.10	Rockland	51.34	Tompkins	61.34		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates







# North Carolina

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in North Carolina, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 38.4 percent of North Carolina’s 5.1 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year’s rate of 38.2 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in North Carolina was 39 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can North Carolina and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

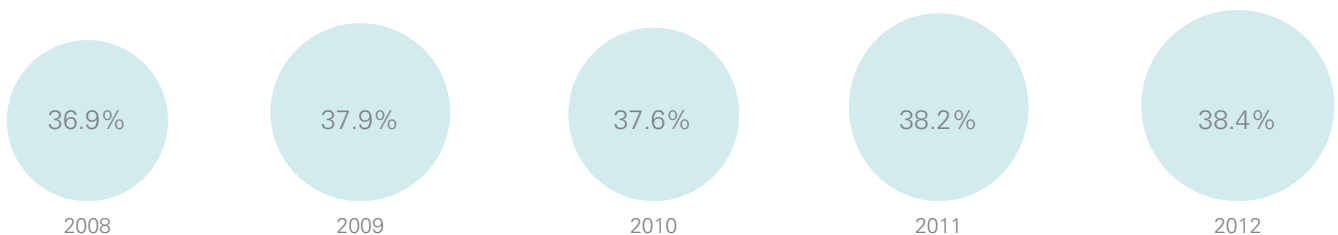
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A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

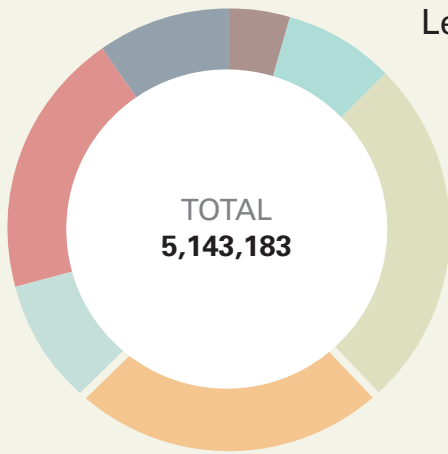
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in North Carolina.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for North Carolina residents, ages 25-64

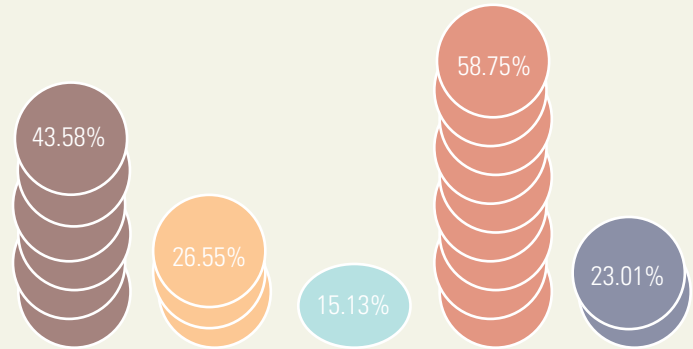


Less than ninth grade	235,472	<b>4.58%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	419,899	<b>8.16%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,326,149	<b>25.78%</b>
Some college, no degree	1,184,557	<b>23.03%</b>
Associate degree	491,645	<b>9.56%</b>
Bachelor's degree	998,633	<b>19.42%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	486,828	<b>9.47%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

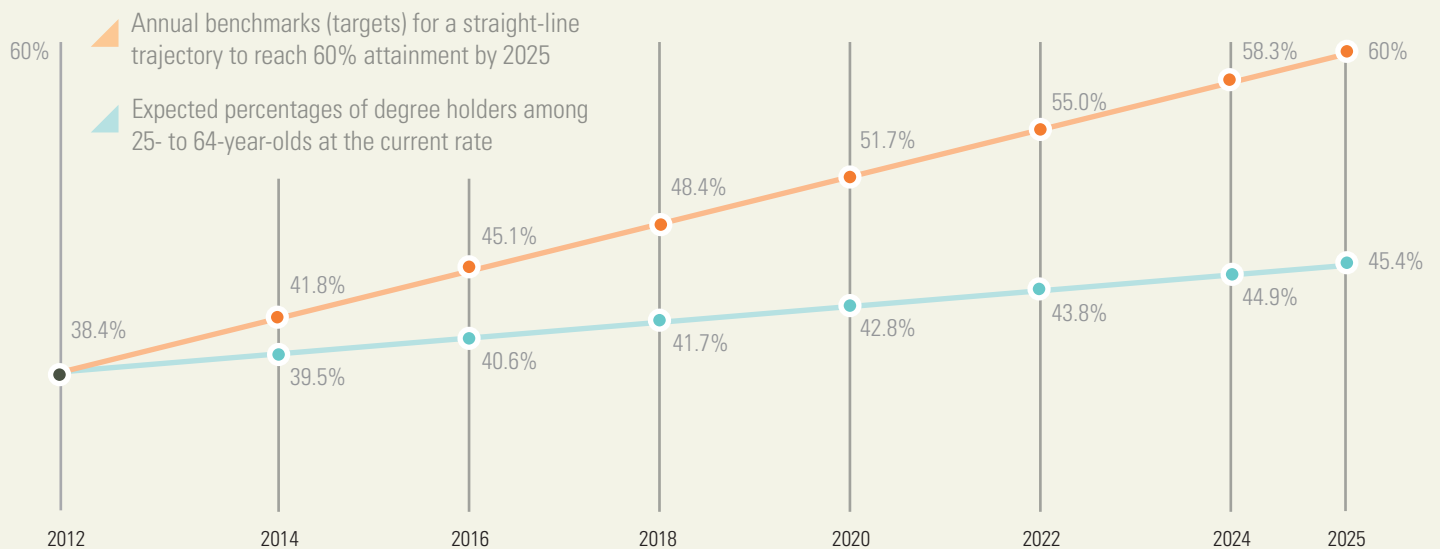
## Degree-attainment rates among North Carolina adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>43.58%</b>
Black	<b>26.55%</b>
Hispanic	<b>15.13%</b>
Asian	<b>58.75%</b>
Native American	<b>23.01%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in North Carolina



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of North Carolina adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Alamance	32.98	Catawba	32.17	Franklin	26.46	Jones	24.68	Pamlico	30.69	Surry	26.69
Alexander	22.18	Chatham	44.42	Gaston	28.90	Lee	31.61	Pasquotank	32.94	Swain	34.44
Alleghany	27.25	Cherokee	27.05	Gates	23.70	Lenoir	25.58	Pender	30.63	Transylvania	37.86
Anson	17.48	Chowan	26.16	Graham	20.54	Lincoln	31.02	Perquimans	26.23	Tyrrell	16.47
Ashe	29.89	Clay	30.15	Granville	26.71	McDowell	26.67	Person	27.03	Union	42.18
Avery	28.70	Cleveland	28.48	Greene	23.40	Macon	29.16	Pitt	40.88	Vance	19.49
Beaufort	29.11	Columbus	23.59	Guilford	42.27	Madison	29.72	Polk	30.86	Wake	58.32
Bertie	19.57	Craven	33.13	Halifax	21.56	Martin	24.87	Randolph	24.74	Warren	22.64
Bladen	22.36	Cumberland	35.09	Harnett	29.88	Mecklenburg	50.22	Richmond	23.05	Washington	24.42
Brunswick	34.73	Currituck	26.29	Haywood	35.76	Mitchell	28.18	Robeson	20.96	Watauga	49.02
Buncombe	43.80	Dare	38.50	Henderson	38.07	Montgomery	25.27	Rockingham	22.87	Wayne	27.88
Burke	29.44	Davidson	28.03	Hertford	26.70	Moore	43.72	Rowan	27.81	Wilkes	24.08
Cabarrus	37.75	Davie	35.37	Hoke	30.07	Nash	28.97	Rutherford	28.53	Wilson	28.91
Caldwell	24.13	Duplin	21.09	Hyde	22.38	New Hanover	49.20	Sampson	22.95	Yadkin	26.10
Camden	33.54	Durham	53.34	Iredell	35.63	Northampton	18.21	Scotland	23.74	Yancey	22.94
Carteret	35.13	Edgecombe	20.29	Jackson	37.72	Onslow	29.81	Stanly	27.69		
Caswell	19.25	Forsyth	41.53	Johnston	32.58	Orange	62.97	Stokes	21.28		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# North Dakota

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in North Dakota, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 45.6 percent of North Dakota’s 357,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year’s rate of 44.7 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in North Dakota was 49.4 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and well above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can North Dakota and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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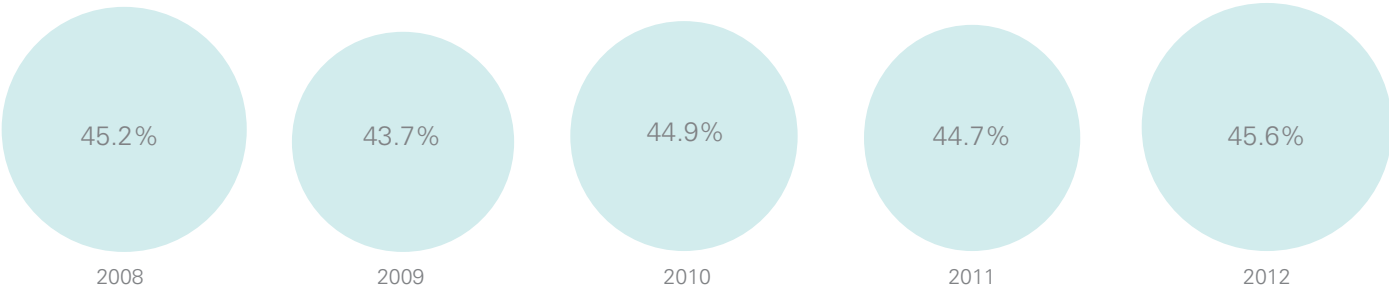
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A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

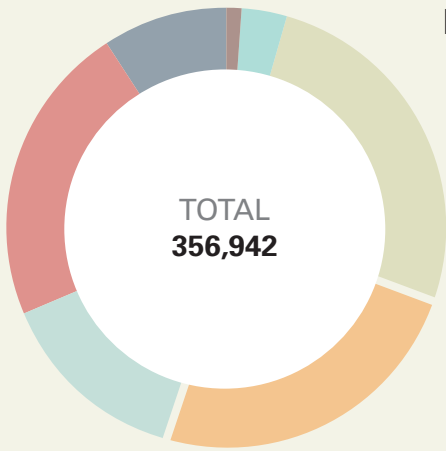
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in North Dakota.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for North Dakota residents, ages 25-64

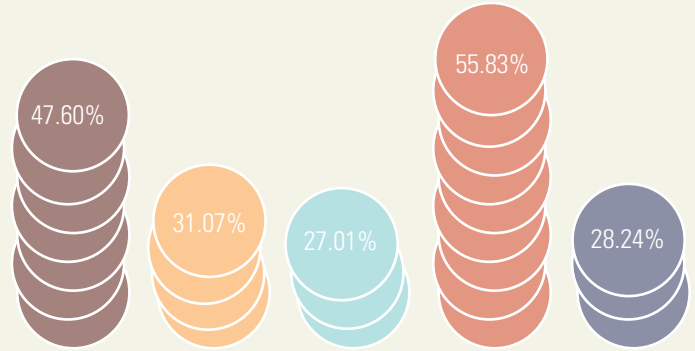


Less than ninth grade	4,423	<b>1.24%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	12,363	<b>3.46%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	91,355	<b>25.59%</b>
Some college, no degree	85,866	<b>24.06%</b>
Associate degree	51,622	<b>14.46%</b>
Bachelor's degree	78,722	<b>22.05%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	32,591	<b>9.13%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

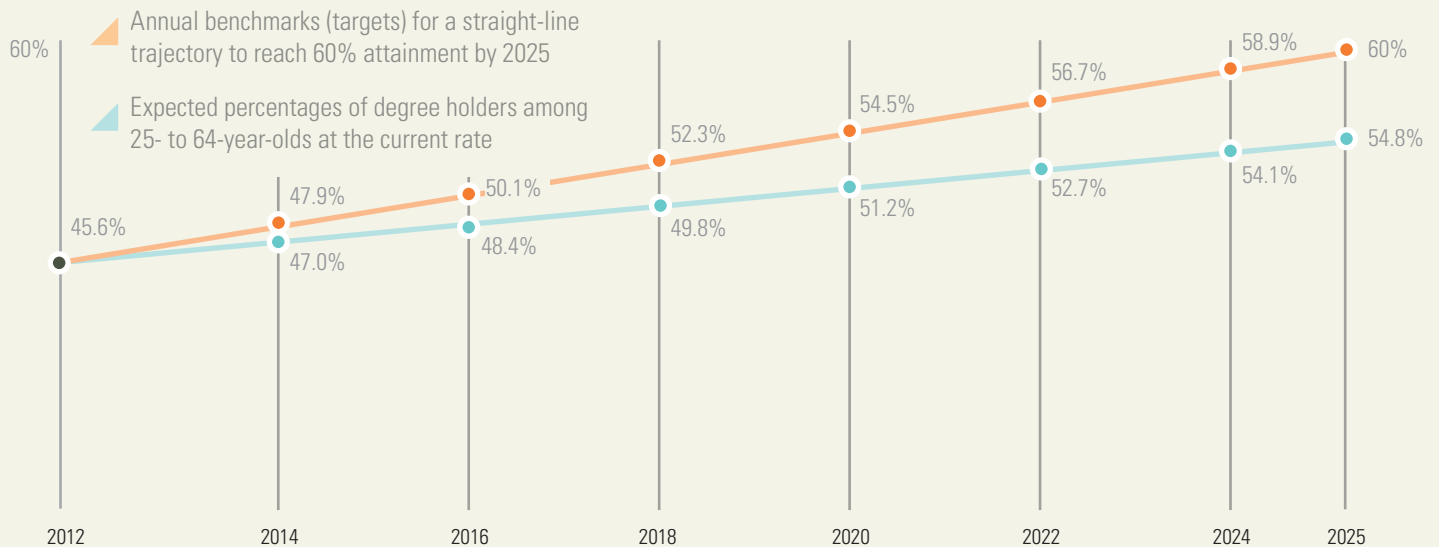
## Degree-attainment rates among North Dakota adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>47.60%</b>
Black	<b>31.07%</b>
Hispanic	<b>27.01%</b>
Asian	<b>55.83%</b>
Native American	<b>28.24%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in North Dakota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of North Dakota adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	34.20	Cavalier	42.86	Grant	37.15	McLean	39.25	Ransom	33.61	Steele	37.36
Barnes	41.90	Dickey	46.94	Griggs	30.36	Mercer	43.38	Renville	37.57	Stutsman	37.42
Benson	29.00	Divide	43.81	Hettinger	33.12	Morton	40.88	Richland	43.49	Towner	39.32
Billings	39.44	Dunn	34.50	Kidder	33.46	Mountrail	34.74	Rolette	38.96	Trail	47.96
Bottineau	41.06	Eddy	38.81	LaMoure	44.67	Nelson	48.03	Sargent	38.47	Walsh	32.33
Bowman	41.78	Emmons	37.75	Logan	27.73	Oliver	28.43	Sheridan	29.78	Ward	42.41
Burke	32.83	Foster	42.13	McHenry	28.14	Pembina	37.06	Sioux	27.00	Wells	37.85
Burleigh	52.22	Golden Valley	38.73	McIntosh	39.79	Pierce	35.67	Slope	37.26	Williams	40.87
Cass	53.26	Grand Forks	48.46	McKenzie	40.54	Ramsey	39.68	Stark	39.50		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Ohio

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Ohio, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 36.5 percent of Ohio's 6.1 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 35.5 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Ohio was 40.1 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Ohio and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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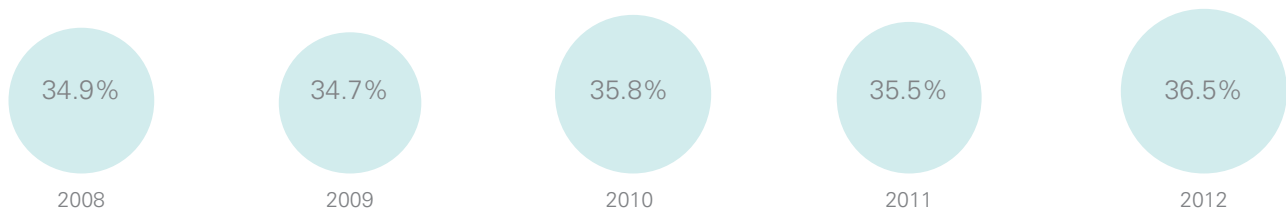
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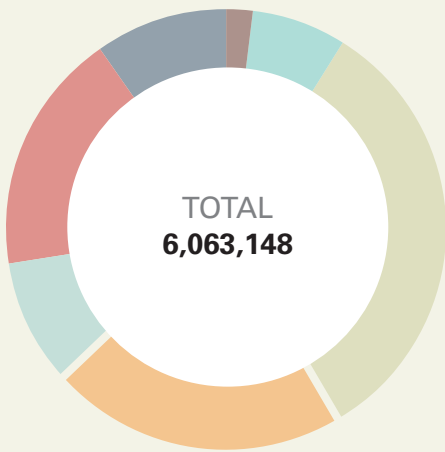
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Ohio.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Ohio residents, ages 25-64

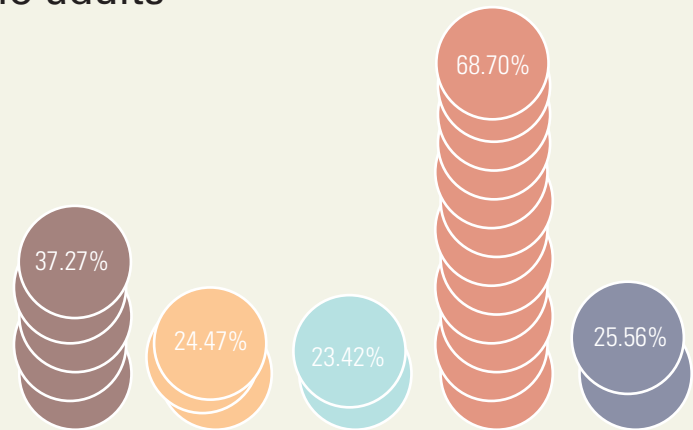


Less than ninth grade	126,397	<b>2.08%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	418,708	<b>6.91%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,973,010	<b>32.54%</b>
Some college, no degree	1,329,396	<b>21.93%</b>
Associate degree	559,311	<b>9.22%</b>
Bachelor's degree	1,067,474	<b>17.61%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	588,852	<b>9.71%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

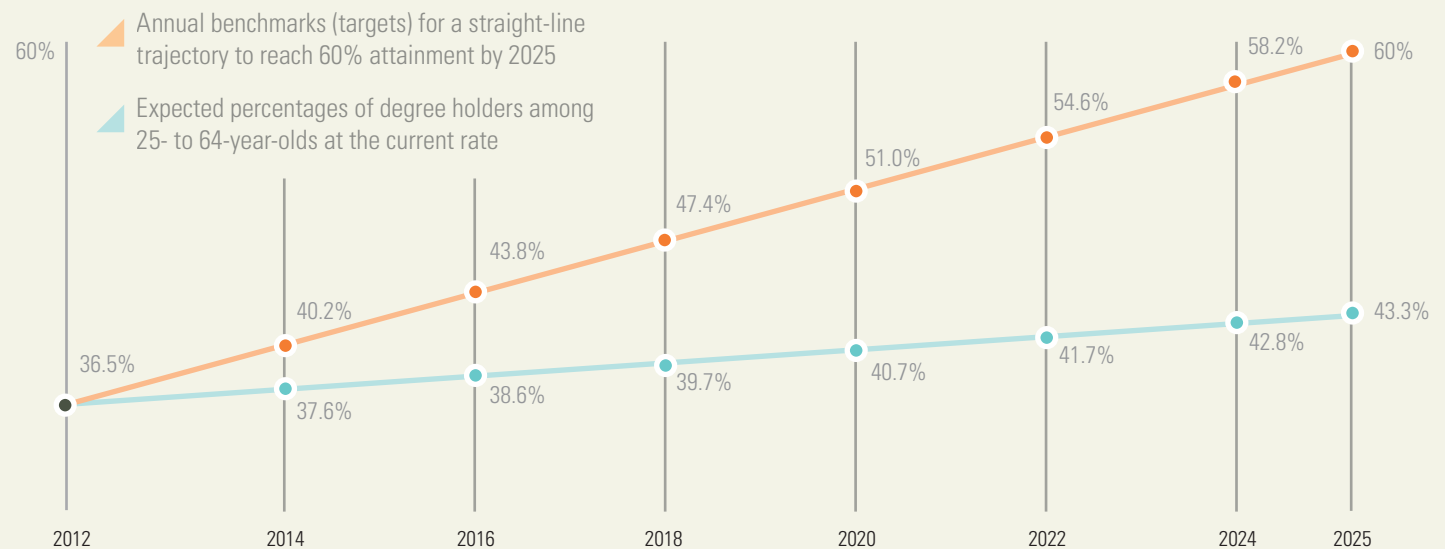
## Degree-attainment rates among Ohio adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>37.27%</b>
Black	<b>24.47%</b>
Hispanic	<b>23.42%</b>
Asian	<b>68.70%</b>
Native American	<b>25.56%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Ohio



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Ohio adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	18.62	Coshocton	22.23	Hamilton	43.68	Logan	23.30	Noble	16.62	Stark	31.99
Allen	28.50	Crawford	22.88	Hancock	37.25	Lorain	33.33	Ottawa	32.97	Summit	41.19
Ashland	29.73	Cuyahoga	39.63	Hardin	22.26	Lucas	34.07	Paulding	24.29	Trumbull	26.22
Ashtabula	20.95	Darke	22.16	Harrison	20.32	Madison	27.95	Perry	20.45	Tuscarawas	23.55
Athens	40.21	Defiance	28.79	Henry	25.77	Mahoning	31.57	Pickaway	24.83	Union	38.19
Auglaize	28.87	Delaware	60.90	Highland	21.48	Marion	21.36	Pike	21.17	Van Wert	26.88
Belmont	27.32	Erie	30.77	Hocking	25.54	Medina	43.13	Portage	33.17	Vinton	18.03
Brown	19.53	Fairfield	38.17	Holmes	13.12	Meigs	25.37	Preble	20.64	Warren	48.63
Butler	36.87	Fayette	21.09	Huron	21.56	Mercer	29.11	Putnam	37.15	Washington	28.46
Carroll	19.34	Franklin	45.47	Jackson	24.02	Miami	32.19	Richland	26.21	Wayne	28.14
Champaign	24.10	Fulton	29.10	Jefferson	29.84	Monroe	22.20	Ross	23.51	Williams	24.62
Clark	27.29	Gallia	26.29	Knox	28.74	Montgomery	35.75	Sandusky	26.57	Wood	43.11
Clermont	36.09	Geauga	46.71	Lake	37.01	Morgan	18.86	Scioto	24.42	Wyandot	25.42
Clinton	24.12	Greene	47.65	Lawrence	24.81	Morrow	23.79	Seneca	27.20		
Columbiana	24.37	Guernsey	23.41	Licking	32.59	Muskingum	24.86	Shelby	24.27		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Oklahoma

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Oklahoma, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 32.9 percent of Oklahoma's 1.95 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight decrease from last year's rate of 33 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Oklahoma was 34.1 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Oklahoma and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

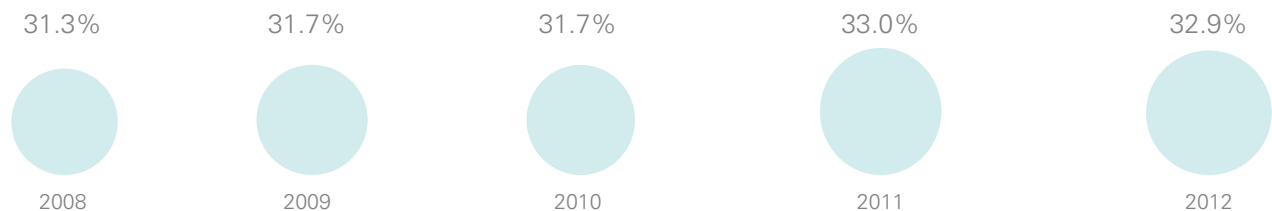
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

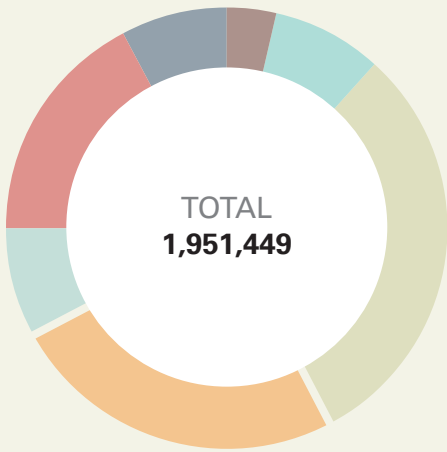
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Oklahoma.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Oklahoma residents, ages 25-64

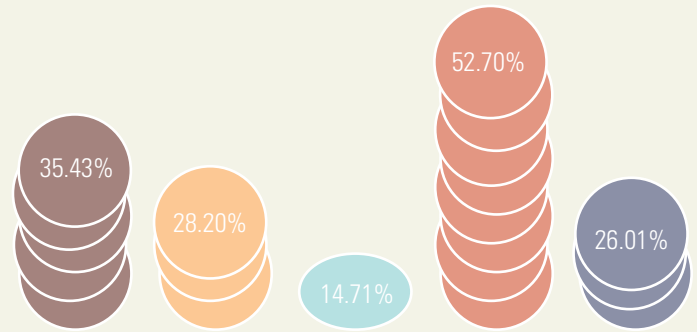


Less than ninth grade	73,069	<b>3.74%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	157,637	<b>8.08%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	598,389	<b>30.66%</b>
Some college, no degree	480,269	<b>24.61%</b>
Associate degree	157,304	<b>8.06%</b>
Bachelor's degree	334,792	<b>17.16%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	149,989	<b>7.69%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

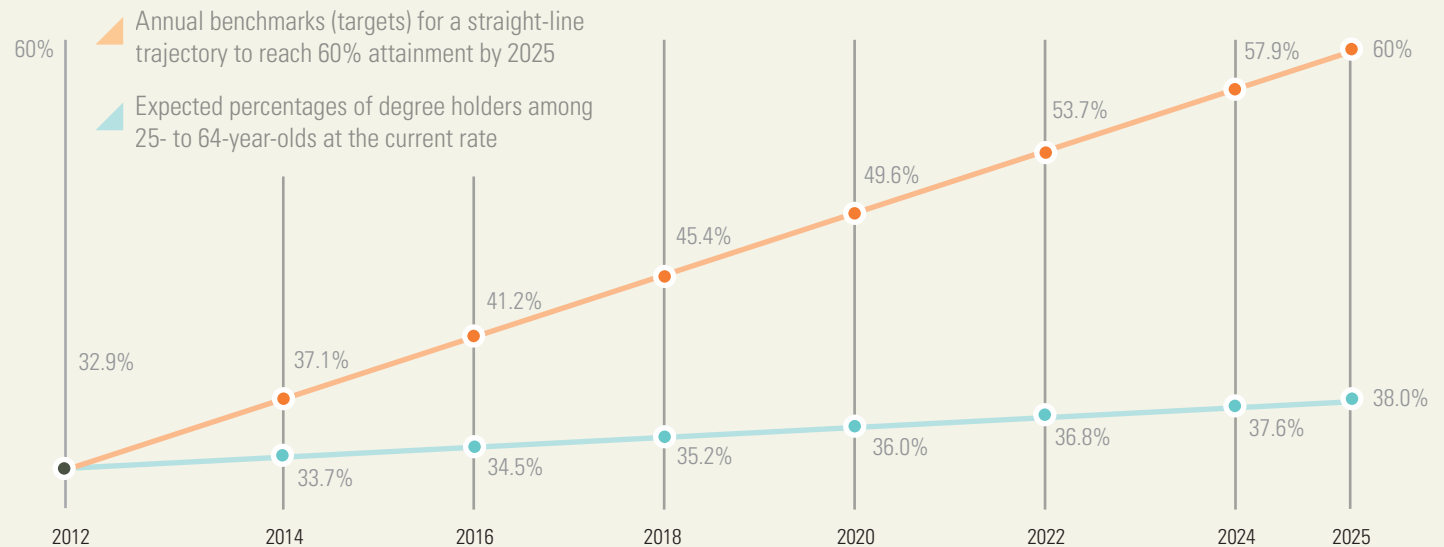
## Degree-attainment rates among Oklahoma adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>35.43%</b>
Black	<b>28.20%</b>
Hispanic	<b>14.71%</b>
Asian	<b>52.70%</b>
Native American	<b>26.01%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Oklahoma



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Oklahoma adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adair	15.58	Cleveland	41.24	Grant	28.87	Le Flore	22.37	Nowata	20.38	Rogers	35.44
Alfalfa	25.97	Coal	18.73	Greer	22.07	Lincoln	21.25	Okfuskee	21.90	Seminole	21.50
Atoka	18.70	Comanche	27.97	Harmon	20.20	Logan	31.38	Oklahoma	36.96	Sequoyah	21.44
Beaver	25.21	Cotton	22.06	Harper	20.26	Love	20.42	Okmulgee	27.47	Stephens	22.24
Beckham	24.93	Craig	22.64	Haskell	24.99	McClain	28.04	Osage	25.69	Texas	25.54
Blaine	24.01	Creek	24.30	Hughes	17.64	McCurtain	21.02	Ottawa	25.26	Tillman	25.34
Bryan	30.34	Custer	32.80	Jackson	33.26	McIntosh	21.12	Pawnee	26.11	Tulsa	39.82
Caddo	18.87	Delaware	22.10	Jefferson	16.12	Major	21.45	Payne	43.67	Wagoner	32.10
Canadian	35.88	Dewey	27.12	Johnston	26.36	Marshall	22.44	Pittsburg	26.01	Washington	35.24
Carter	24.37	Ellis	32.01	Kay	28.88	Mayes	22.89	Pontotoc	32.81	Washita	24.27
Cherokee	29.60	Garfield	29.28	Kingfisher	27.83	Murray	24.93	Pottawatomie	26.03	Woods	35.65
Choctaw	20.03	Garvin	20.87	Kiowa	23.21	Muskogee	26.39	Pushmataha	19.18	Woodward	24.56
Cimarron	25.51	Grady	24.99	Latimer	28.72	Noble	30.21	Roger Mills	27.54		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Oregon

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Oregon, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 39.8 percent of Oregon's 2.1 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 39 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is slightly above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Oregon was 39.4 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and also below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Oregon and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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3. Create smarter pathways for students.

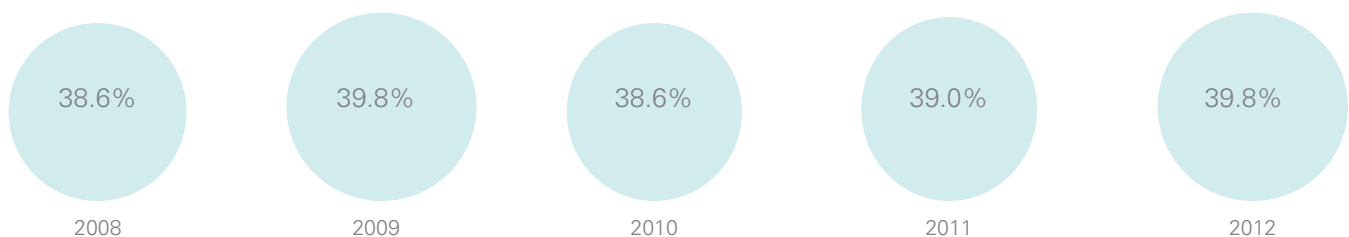
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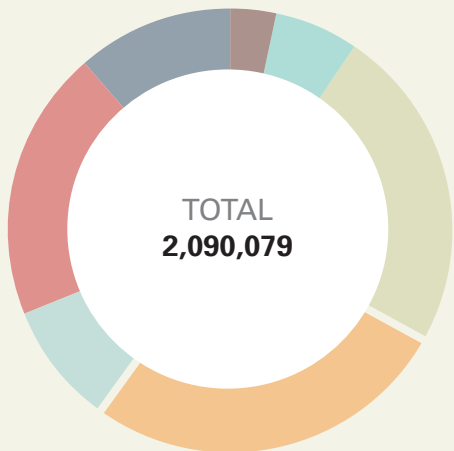
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Oregon.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Oregon residents, ages 25-64

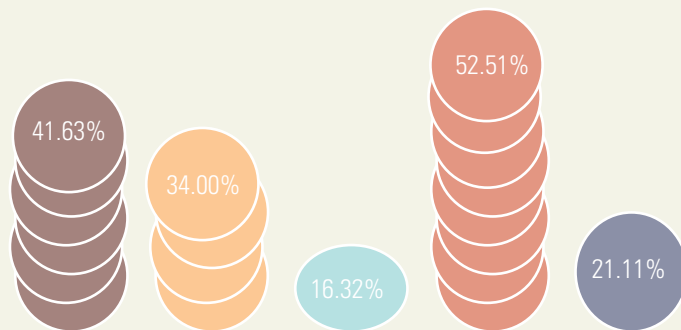


Less than ninth grade	71,985	<b>3.44%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	130,238	<b>6.23%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	492,083	<b>23.54%</b>
Some college, no degree	563,858	<b>26.98%</b>
Associate degree	186,615	<b>8.93%</b>
Bachelor's degree	410,979	<b>19.66%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	234,321	<b>11.21%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

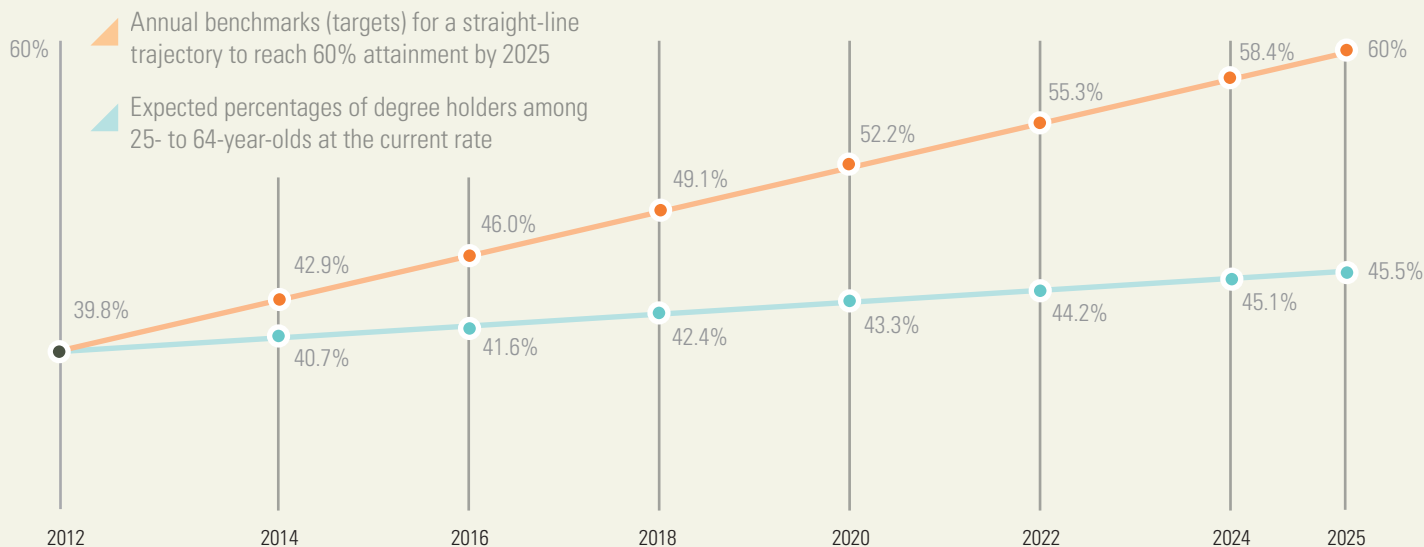
## Degree-attainment rates among Oregon adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>41.63%</b>
Black	<b>34.00%</b>
Hispanic	<b>16.32%</b>
Asian	<b>52.51%</b>
Native American	<b>21.11%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Oregon



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Oregon adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Baker	32.02	Crook	23.32	Harney	29.73	Lake	29.29	Morrow	18.06	Union	32.77
Benton	58.23	Curry	24.87	Hood River	35.03	Lane	37.58	Multnomah	48.11	Wallowa	33.74
Clackamas	41.77	Deschutes	42.33	Jackson	32.24	Lincoln	30.59	Polk	39.07	Wasco	29.97
Clatsop	30.99	Douglas	25.82	Jefferson	22.97	Linn	27.64	Sherman	29.27	Washington	50.08
Columbia	28.70	Gilliam	30.78	Josephine	28.63	Malheur	21.19	Tillamook	25.16	Wheeler	26.02
Coos	26.60	Grant	32.86	Klamath	30.50	Marion	30.22	Umatilla	25.45	Yamhill	31.57

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Pennsylvania

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Pennsylvania, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 39.7 percent of Pennsylvania's 6.7 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 38.6 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is slightly above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Pennsylvania was 45.4 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Pennsylvania and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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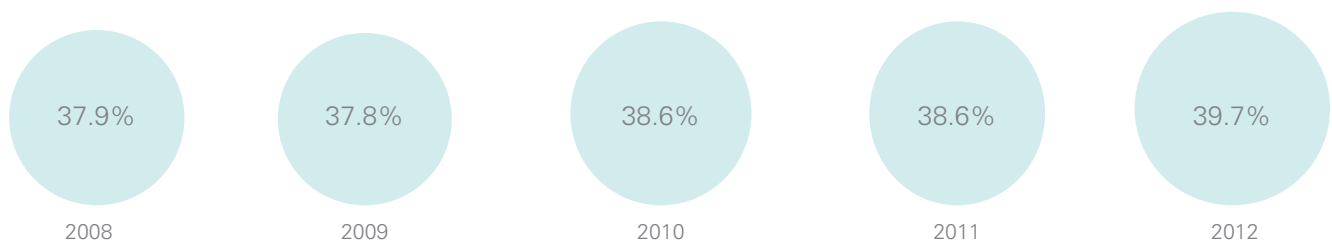
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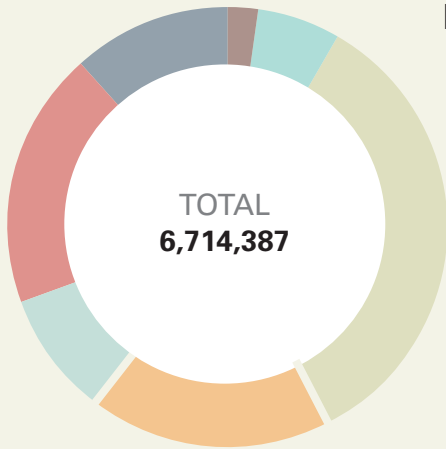
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Pennsylvania.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Pennsylvania residents, ages 25-64

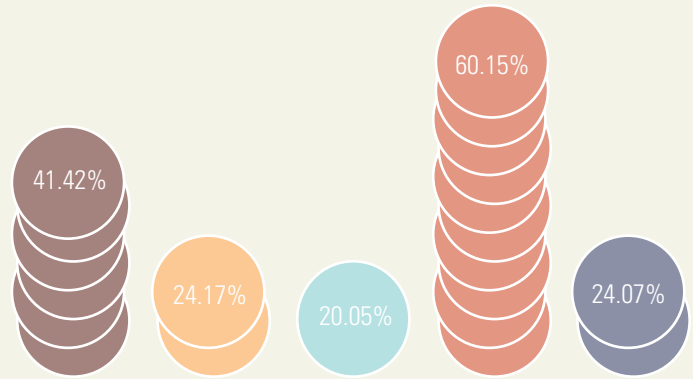


Less than ninth grade	159,328	<b>2.37%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	404,923	<b>6.03%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,304,745	<b>34.33%</b>
Some college, no degree	1,182,107	<b>17.61%</b>
Associate degree	614,782	<b>9.16%</b>
Bachelor's degree	1,274,116	<b>18.98%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	774,386	<b>11.53%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

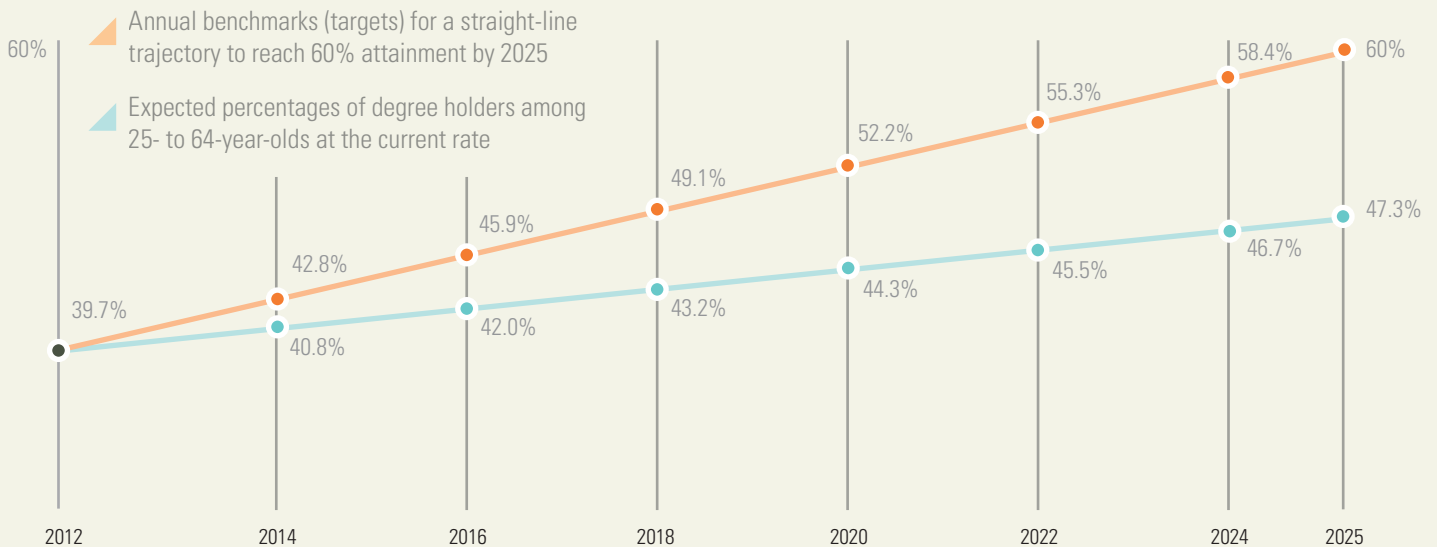
## Degree-attainment rates among Pennsylvania adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>41.42%</b>
Black	<b>24.17%</b>
Hispanic	<b>20.05%</b>
Asian	<b>60.15%</b>
Native American	<b>24.07%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Pennsylvania



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Pennsylvania adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	28.82	Carbon	28.55	Erie	35.03	Lawrence	32.24	Northumberland	24.54	Venango	27.81
Allegheny	50.39	Centre	50.78	Fayette	25.30	Lebanon	29.05	Perry	25.29	Warren	29.41
Armstrong	26.36	Chester	58.08	Forest	14.60	Lehigh	40.01	Philadelphia	31.18	Washington	40.09
Beaver	37.33	Clarion	30.18	Franklin	29.22	Luzerne	33.25	Pike	32.34	Wayne	28.44
Bedford	22.94	Clearfield	25.41	Fulton	19.48	Lycoming	32.52	Potter	24.38	Westmoreland	40.19
Berks	32.70	Clinton	28.27	Greene	25.24	McKean	25.99	Schuylkill	26.18	Wyoming	28.39
Blair	30.23	Columbia	30.42	Huntingdon	22.78	Mercer	31.36	Snyder	27.87	York	32.84
Bradford	27.62	Crawford	28.37	Indiana	33.04	Mifflin	20.99	Somerset	25.07		
Bucks	46.51	Cumberland	43.84	Jefferson	25.00	Monroe	34.44	Sullivan	26.41		
Butler	44.78	Dauphin	39.14	Juniata	19.93	Montgomery	56.33	Susquehanna	26.88		
Cambria	31.80	Delaware	46.20	Lackawanna	39.35	Montour	37.34	Tioga	29.18		
Cameron	25.61	Elk	29.44	Lancaster	32.46	Northampton	39.49	Union	29.97		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Rhode Island

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Rhode Island, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 43.2 percent of Rhode Island's 553,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, unchanged from last year's rate. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Rhode Island was 43.2 percent, equal to that of the adult population as a whole and above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Rhode Island and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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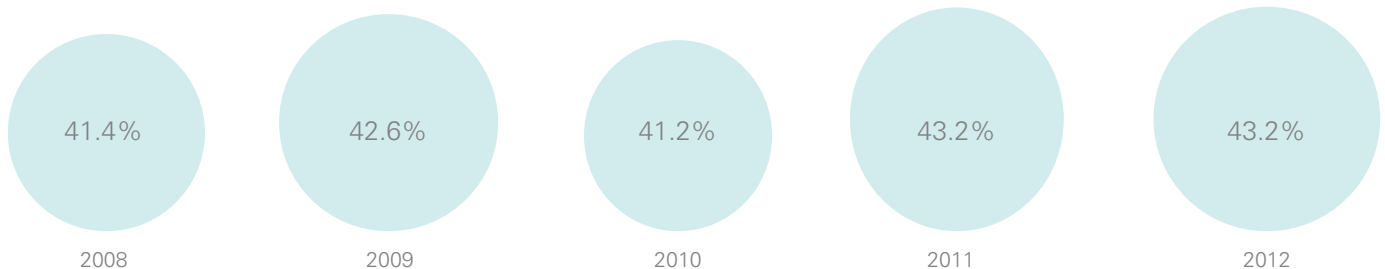
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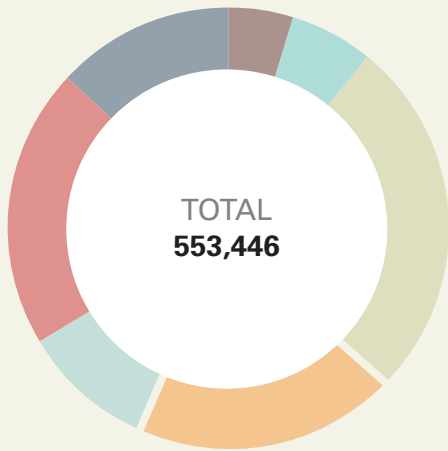
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Rhode Island.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Rhode Island residents, ages 25-64

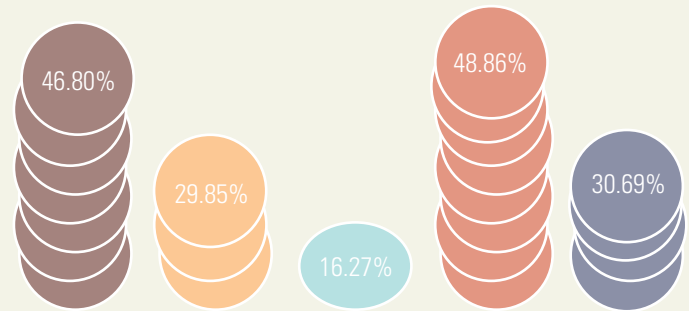


Less than ninth grade	27,522	<b>4.97%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	33,302	<b>6.02%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	146,935	<b>26.55%</b>
Some college, no degree	106,499	<b>19.24%</b>
Associate degree	54,577	<b>9.86%</b>
Bachelor's degree	113,641	<b>20.53%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	70,970	<b>12.82%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

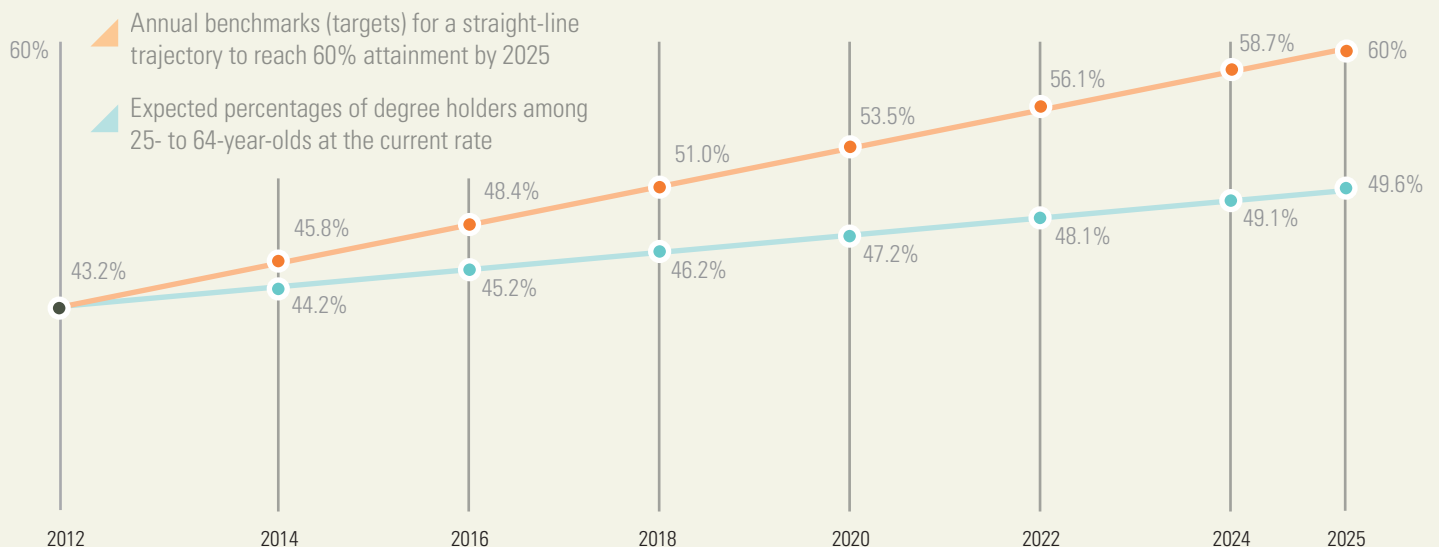
## Degree-attainment rates among Rhode Island adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>46.80%</b>
Black	<b>29.85%</b>
Hispanic	<b>16.27%</b>
Asian	<b>48.86%</b>
Native American	<b>30.69%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Rhode Island



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Rhode Island adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Bristol	54.95	Kent	43.45	Newport	56.06	Providence	36.89	Washington	55.22
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# South Carolina

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in South Carolina, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 36.1 percent of South Carolina’s 2.5 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year’s rate of 34.2 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in South Carolina was 36.5 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can South Carolina and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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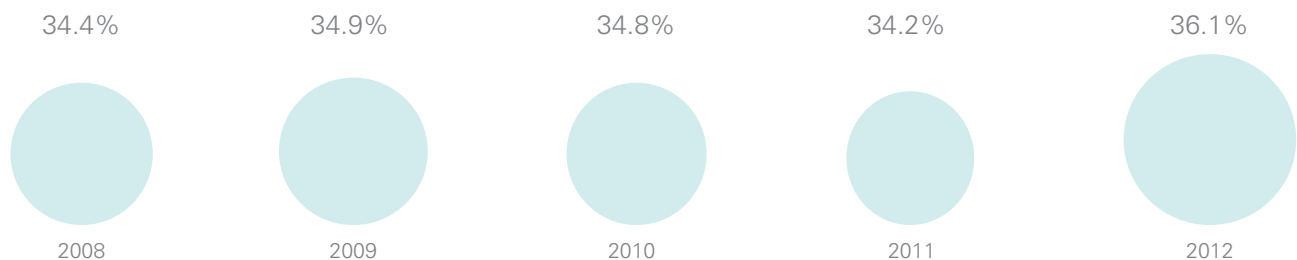
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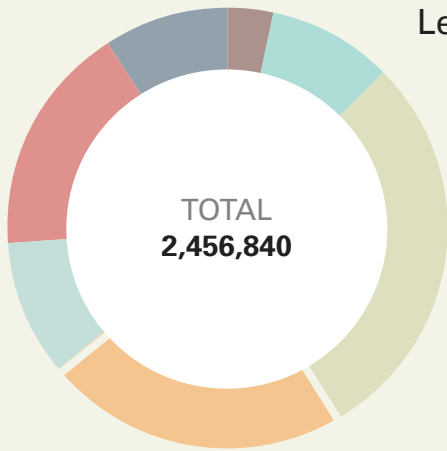
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in South Carolina.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for South Carolina residents, ages 25-64

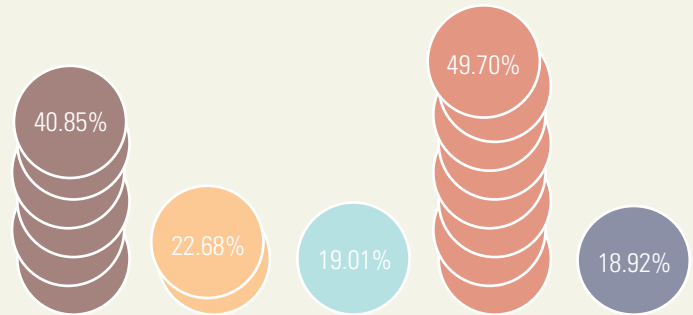


Less than ninth grade	85,270	<b>3.47%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	226,397	<b>9.21%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	713,364	<b>29.04%</b>
Some college, no degree	546,048	<b>22.23%</b>
Associate degree	245,583	<b>10.00%</b>
Bachelor's degree	416,723	<b>16.96%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	223,455	<b>9.10%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

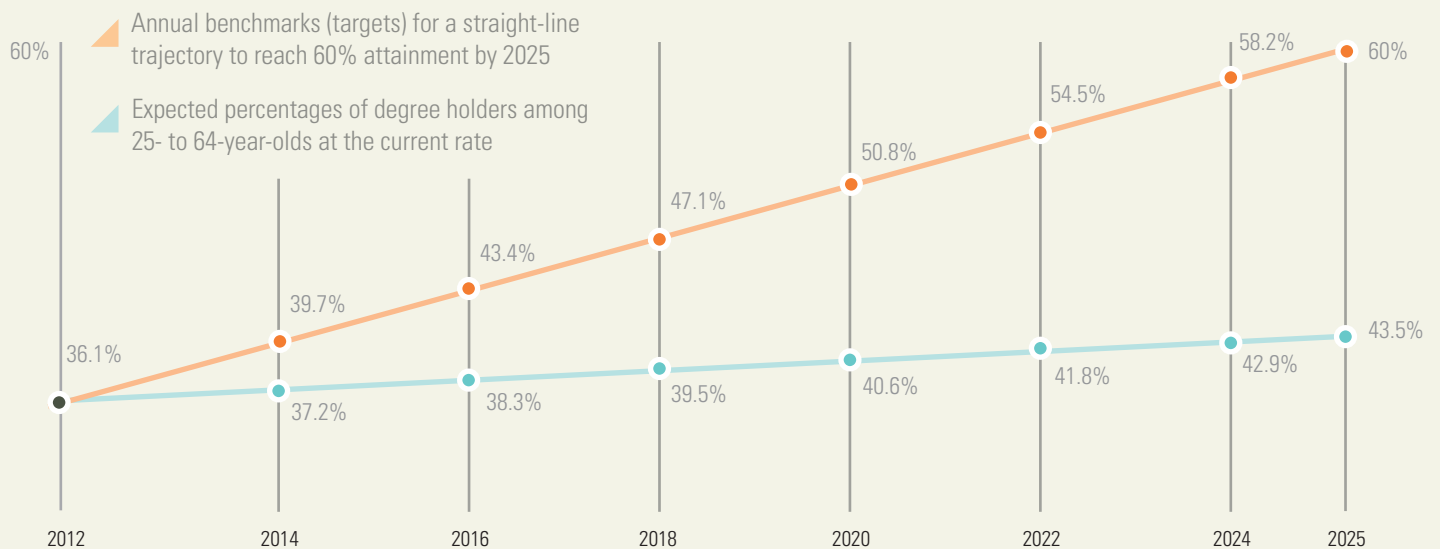
## Degree-attainment rates among South Carolina adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>40.85%</b>
Black	<b>22.68%</b>
Hispanic	<b>19.01%</b>
Asian	<b>49.70%</b>
Native American	<b>18.92%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in South Carolina



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, 2012 and American Community Survey

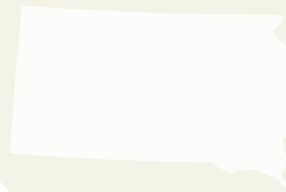
## Percentage of South Carolina adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Abbeville	25.53	Calhoun	29.48	Dillon	16.71	Hampton	20.15	McCormick	26.79	Saluda	22.05
Aiken	32.87	Charleston	48.50	Dorchester	36.12	Horry	33.29	Marion	20.18	Spartanburg	33.14
Allendale	19.93	Cherokee	21.71	Edgefield	24.68	Jasper	16.32	Marlboro	14.79	Sumter	29.85
Anderson	30.60	Chester	21.97	Fairfield	26.17	Kershaw	29.05	Newberry	29.82	Union	22.59
Bamberg	33.69	Chesterfield	21.61	Florence	31.76	Lancaster	28.38	Oconee	32.34	Williamsburg	21.48
Barnwell	22.60	Clarendon	21.81	Georgetown	31.18	Laurens	24.22	Orangeburg	26.95	York	40.07
Beaufort	42.24	Colleton	21.68	Greenville	41.91	Lee	16.17	Pickens	34.42		
Berkeley	30.99	Darlington	24.80	Greenwood	32.01	Lexington	39.78	Richland	46.52		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates







# South Dakota

I ncreasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in South Dakota, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state’s residents are key to that state’s economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual’s success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 39.6 percent of South Dakota’s 423,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year’s rate of 39.4 percent. The state’s rate of higher education attainment is just above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state’s future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in South Dakota was 42.1 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can South Dakota and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

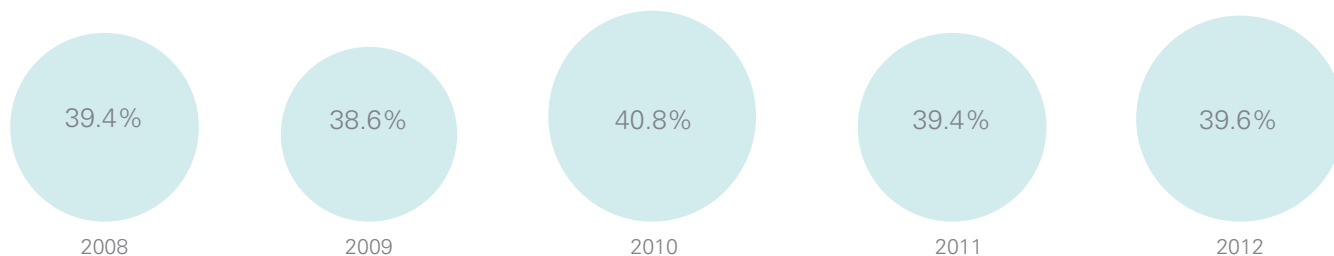
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

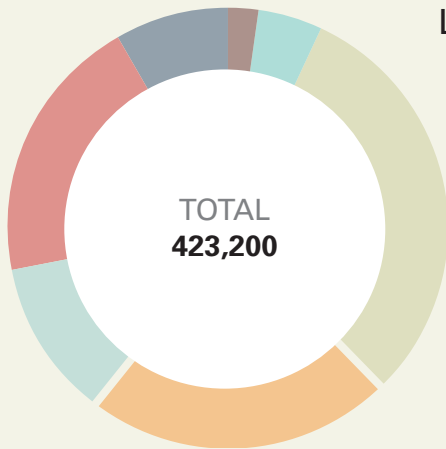
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in South Dakota.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state’s working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for South Dakota residents, ages 25-64

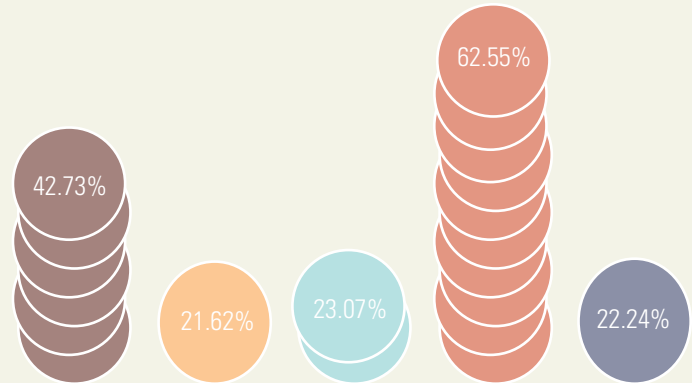


Less than ninth grade	9,830	<b>2.32%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	19,577	<b>4.63%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	130,799	<b>30.91%</b>
Some college, no degree	95,429	<b>22.55%</b>
Associate degree	49,130	<b>11.61%</b>
Bachelor's degree	83,710	<b>19.78%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	34,725	<b>8.21%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

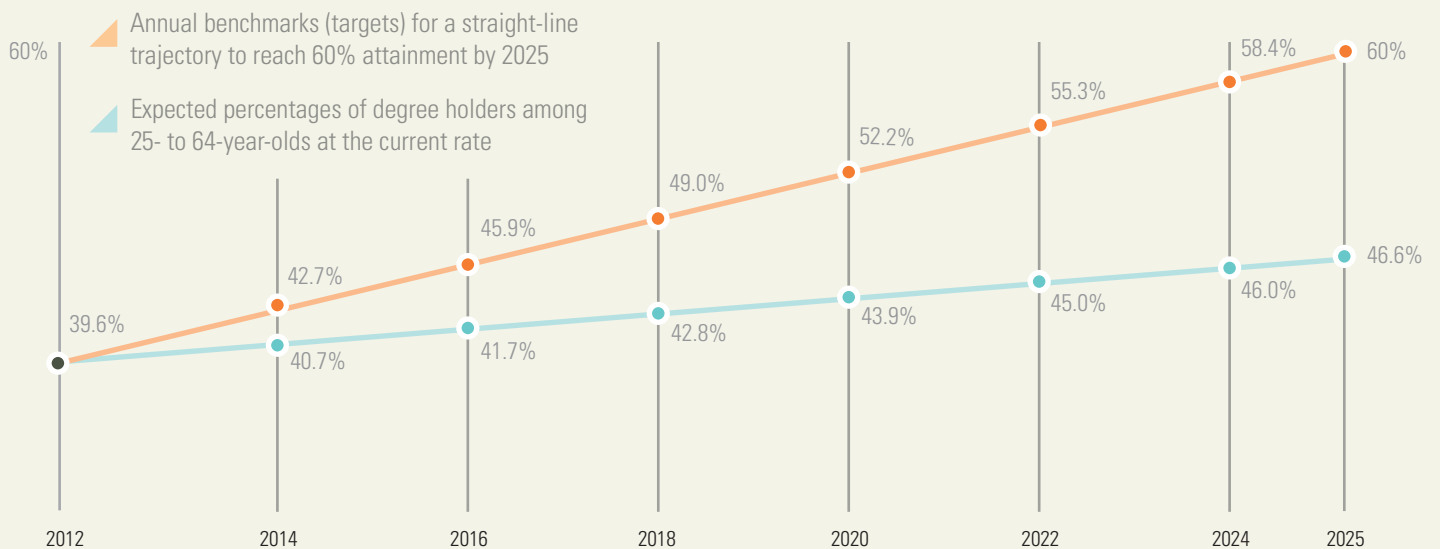
## Degree-attainment rates among South Dakota adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>42.73%</b>
Black	<b>21.62%</b>
Hispanic	<b>23.07%</b>
Asian	<b>62.55%</b>
Native American	<b>22.24%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in South Dakota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of South Dakota adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Aurora	32.19	Clark	33.30	Fall River	34.65	Hyde	30.38	Marshall	36.60	Shannon	23.13
Beadle	31.84	Clay	51.79	Faulk	35.71	Jackson	26.23	Meade	34.17	Spink	33.47
Bennett	32.83	Codington	36.71	Grant	27.39	Jerauld	24.97	Mellette	30.80	Stanley	39.15
Bon Homme	29.12	Corson	27.51	Gregory	32.32	Jones	27.75	Miner	38.45	Sully	41.53
Brookings	51.49	Custer	40.90	Haakon	40.39	Kingsbury	39.44	Minnehaha	43.08	Todd	21.85
Brown	41.47	Davison	45.36	Hamlin	30.51	Lake	42.55	Moody	35.70	Tripp	33.78
Brule	34.58	Day	28.68	Hand	33.56	Lawrence	40.10	Pennington	39.52	Turner	36.12
Buffalo	18.59	Deuel	32.88	Hanson	38.48	Lincoln	53.84	Perkins	31.53	Union	47.76
Butte	33.15	Dewey	23.85	Harding	38.32	Lyman	33.09	Potter	37.10	Walworth	36.36
Campbell	41.06	Douglas	33.26	Hughes	47.87	McCook	38.36	Roberts	31.99	Yankton	35.34
Charles Mix	29.13	Edmunds	41.57	Hutchinson	40.85	McPherson	31.04	Sanborn	32.71	Ziebach	26.40

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Tennessee

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Tennessee, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 33.3 percent of Tennessee's 3.4 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 32.1 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Tennessee was 35.4 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Tennessee and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
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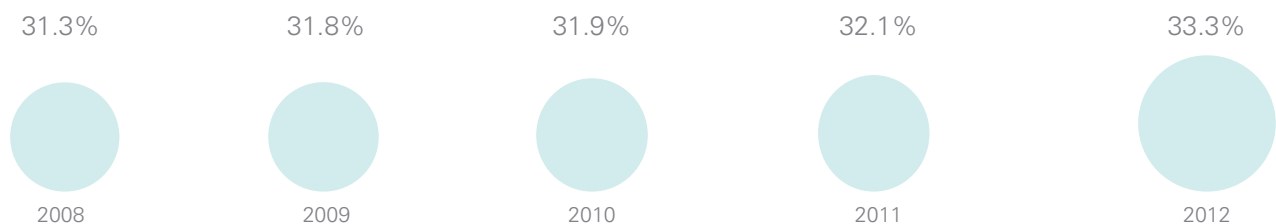
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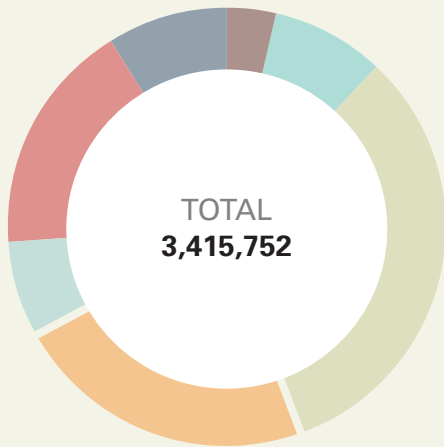
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Tennessee.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Tennessee residents, ages 25-64

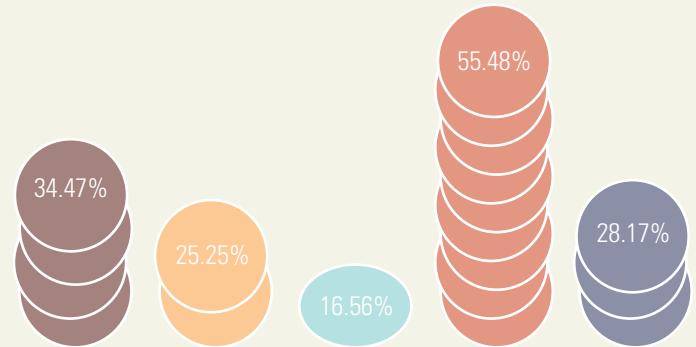


Less than ninth grade	132,141	<b>3.87%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	277,960	<b>8.14%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,110,300	<b>32.51%</b>
Some college, no degree	759,104	<b>22.22%</b>
Associate degree	250,219	<b>7.33%</b>
Bachelor's degree	585,335	<b>17.14%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	300,693	<b>8.80%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

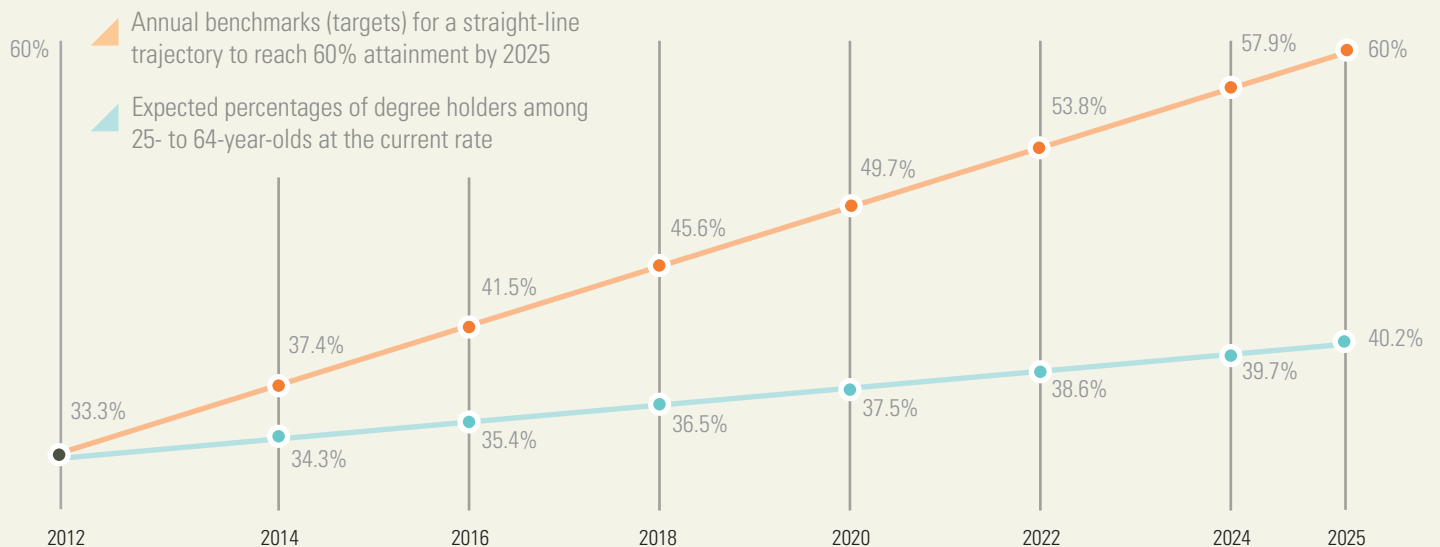
## Degree-attainment rates among Tennessee adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>34.47%</b>
Black	<b>25.25%</b>
Hispanic	<b>16.56%</b>
Asian	<b>55.48%</b>
Native American	<b>28.17%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Tennessee



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey.

## Percentage of Tennessee adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Anderson	30.68	Crockett	18.27	Hamilton	37.65	Lauderdale	14.99	Morgan	11.55	Stewart	20.00
Bedford	19.94	Cumberland	23.08	Hancock	13.03	Lawrence	19.44	Obion	19.26	Sullivan	30.57
Benton	16.33	Davidson	43.04	Hardeman	15.64	Lewis	18.19	Overton	16.76	Sumner	33.94
Bledsoe	12.88	Decatur	21.12	Hardin	17.17	Lincoln	23.02	Perry	17.06	Tipton	23.95
Blount	29.77	DeKalb	18.45	Hawkins	21.07	Loudon	28.90	Pickett	20.46	Trousdale	18.19
Bradley	27.48	Dickson	22.04	Haywood	16.72	McMinn	23.99	Polk	18.80	Unicoi	18.99
Campbell	13.95	Dyer	26.57	Henderson	20.17	McNairy	17.06	Putnam	28.06	Union	13.89
Cannon	17.43	Fayette	28.21	Henry	20.14	Macon	16.93	Rhea	16.42	Van Buren	12.61
Carroll	21.00	Fentress	17.70	Hickman	15.55	Madison	31.97	Roane	27.02	Warren	20.00
Carter	23.84	Franklin	25.09	Houston	15.69	Marion	20.45	Robertson	24.25	Washington	37.66
Cheatham	28.90	Gibson	23.08	Humphreys	20.23	Marshall	21.01	Rutherford	37.06	Wayne	15.83
Chester	25.60	Giles	20.38	Jackson	16.51	Maury	26.80	Scott	19.72	Weakley	27.59
Claiborne	21.23	Grainger	15.21	Jefferson	20.98	Meigs	13.92	Sequatchie	20.77	White	18.38
Clay	18.97	Greene	22.90	Johnson	18.31	Monroe	17.07	Sevier	22.31	Williamson	61.72
Cocke	14.96	Grundy	13.37	Knox	46.64	Montgomery	33.10	Shelby	36.68	Wilson	37.35
Coffee	26.33	Hamblen	24.30	Lake	8.41	Moore	20.19	Smith	20.20		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Texas



Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Texas, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 34.6 percent of Texas' 13.6 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year's rate of 34.5 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Texas was 34.1 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and well below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Texas and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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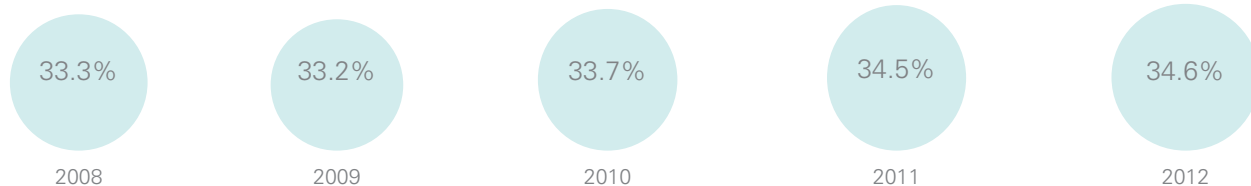
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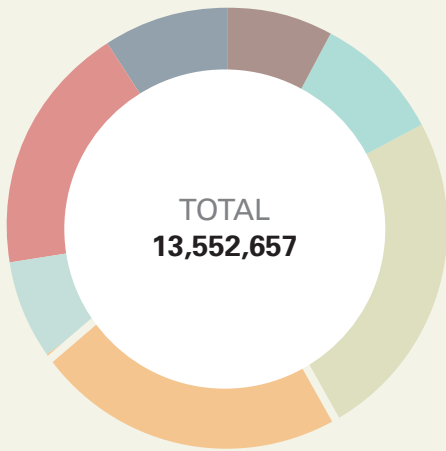
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Texas.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Texas residents, ages 25-64

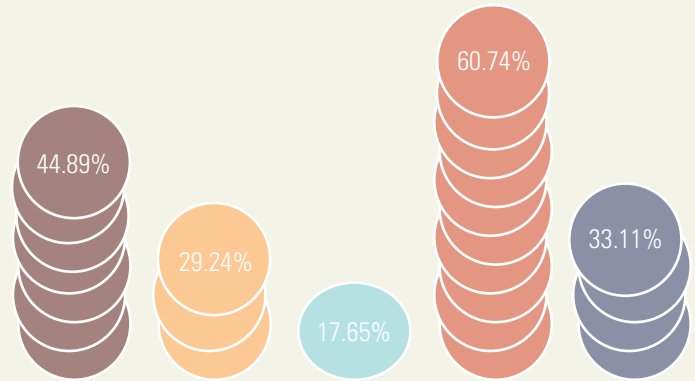


Less than ninth grade	1,087,926	<b>8.03%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	1,267,624	<b>9.35%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	3,341,969	<b>24.66%</b>
Some college, no degree	3,171,818	<b>23.40%</b>
Associate degree	961,084	<b>7.09%</b>
Bachelor's degree	2,512,262	<b>18.54%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	1,209,974	<b>8.93%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

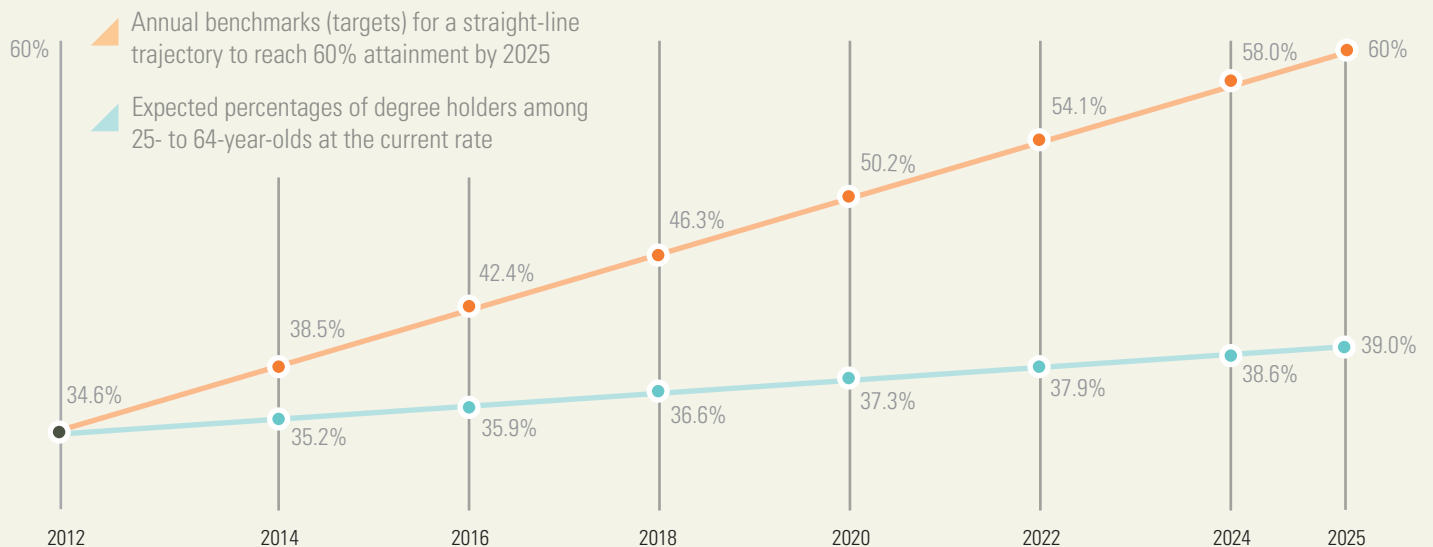
## Degree-attainment rates among Texas adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>44.89%</b>
Black	<b>29.24%</b>
Hispanic	<b>17.65%</b>
Asian	<b>60.74%</b>
Native American	<b>33.11%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Texas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey.

## Percentage of Texas adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Anderson	16.17	Collingsworth	26.64	Glasscock	25.88	Kendall	48.73	Motley	29.56	Sterling	26.89
Andrews	18.99	Colorado	23.20	Goliad	27.78	Kenedy	19.91	Nacogdoches	29.64	Stonewall	38.49
Angelina	23.39	Comal	41.17	Gonzales	17.36	Kent	37.02	Navarro	24.28	Sutton	18.49
Aransas	27.44	Comanche	28.53	Gray	22.32	Kerr	34.37	Newton	15.46	Swisher	23.25
Archer	26.82	Concho	13.99	Grayson	28.63	Kimble	22.10	Nolan	24.89	Tarrant	37.09
Armstrong	35.76	Cooke	25.20	Gregg	29.49	King	30.97	Nueces	28.04	Taylor	31.77
Atascosa	19.71	Coryell	25.10	Grimes	18.03	Kinney	17.57	Ochiltree	19.30	Terrell	16.67
Austin	27.64	Cottle	27.85	Guadalupe	35.38	Kleberg	32.14	Oldham	28.12	Terry	21.54
Bailey	23.32	Crane	22.13	Hale	19.19	Knox	21.34	Orange	21.95	Throckmorton	29.34
Bandera	31.17	Crockett	16.06	Hall	24.15	Lamar	25.90	Palo Pinto	18.60	Titus	19.70
Bastrop	23.98	Crosby	18.15	Hamilton	25.33	Lamb	22.10	Panola	18.98	Tom Green	28.96
Baylor	30.26	Culberson	19.10	Hansford	27.58	Lampasas	30.15	Parker	33.32	Travis	51.16
Bee	15.51	Dallam	18.54	Hardeman	22.06	La Salle	9.93	Parmer	19.26	Trinity	12.85
Bell	32.48	Dallas	34.22	Hardin	23.65	Lavaca	24.08	Pecos	15.59	Tyler	16.42
Bexar	34.62	Dawson	12.34	Harris	34.39	Lee	20.85	Polk	15.96	Upshur	23.03
Blanco	31.08	Deaf Smith	18.95	Harrison	27.54	Leon	18.19	Potter	22.01	Upton	18.90
Borden	50.88	Delta	21.06	Hartley	25.28	Liberty	13.88	Presidio	31.71	Uvalde	26.97
Bosque	21.89	Denton	49.61	Haskell	21.53	Limestone	19.20	Rains	18.50	Val Verde	25.63
Bowie	25.96	DeWitt	20.43	Hays	43.31	Lipscomb	25.38	Randall	41.21	Van Zandt	20.13
Brazoria	37.07	Dickens	19.85	Hemphill	18.69	Live Oak	20.26	Reagan	11.86	Victoria	25.79
Brazos	44.71	Dimmit	12.90	Henderson	22.62	Llano	30.67	Real	29.44	Walker	21.94
Brewster	40.36	Donley	29.77	Hidalgo	21.29	Loving	3.90	Red River	20.38	Waller	24.06
Briscoe	26.08	Duval	11.39	Hill	22.41	Lubbock	34.73	Reeves	16.62	Ward	17.02
Brooks	12.63	Eastland	23.56	Hockley	26.33	Lynn	21.91	Refugio	18.82	Washington	33.97
Brown	22.63	Ector	19.76	Hood	28.90	McCulloch	26.06	Roberts	39.96	Webb	25.04
Burleson	15.53	Edwards	27.54	Hopkins	22.15	McLennan	32.26	Robertson	22.63	Wharton	23.83
Burnet	26.26	Ellis	29.46	Houston	18.32	McMullen	11.35	Rockwall	45.35	Wheeler	28.50
Caldwell	20.38	El Paso	29.35	Howard	18.94	Madison	17.53	Runnels	20.97	Wichita	28.55
Calhoun	22.16	Erath	30.18	Hudspeth	13.26	Marion	17.89	Rusk	20.42	Wilbarger	26.15
Callahan	27.01	Falls	17.24	Hunt	23.83	Martin	15.58	Sabine	20.50	Willacy	12.16
Cameron	22.19	Fannin	21.92	Hutchinson	23.49	Mason	35.75	San Augustine	13.22	Williamson	46.86
Camp	20.19	Fayette	24.77	Irion	17.85	Matagorda	24.74	San Jacinto	13.11	Wilson	27.67
Carson	29.72	Fisher	24.77	Jack	17.45	Maverick	20.03	San Patricio	23.17	Winkler	13.55
Cass	19.83	Floyd	24.78	Jackson	24.68	Medina	29.42	San Saba	19.31	Wise	22.81
Castro	16.26	Foard	28.50	Jasper	19.39	Menard	16.75	Schleicher	23.41	Wood	21.94
Chambers	26.07	Fort Bend	48.93	Jeff Davis	31.94	Midland	30.87	Scurry	23.84	Yoakum	23.03
Cherokee	19.20	Franklin	28.63	Jefferson	25.71	Milam	18.75	Shackelford	27.56	Young	23.45
Childress	22.80	Freestone	21.66	Jim Hogg	9.22	Mills	25.93	Shelby	18.91	Zapata	13.97
Clay	27.77	Frio	11.13	Jim Wells	19.14	Mitchell	14.45	Sherman	28.56	Zavala	17.81
Cochran	18.53	Gaines	18.59	Johnson	23.35	Montague	22.58	Smith	35.75		
Coke	29.88	Galveston	38.49	Jones	12.06	Montgomery	38.54	Somervell	39.27		
Coleman	19.61	Garza	15.10	Karnes	17.66	Moore	19.47	Starr	12.11		
Collin	58.61	Gillespie	33.93	Kaufman	24.63	Morris	27.06	Stephens	21.84		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Utah

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Utah, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 41.4 percent of Utah's 1.4 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 40.3 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Utah was 41.5 percent, slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Utah and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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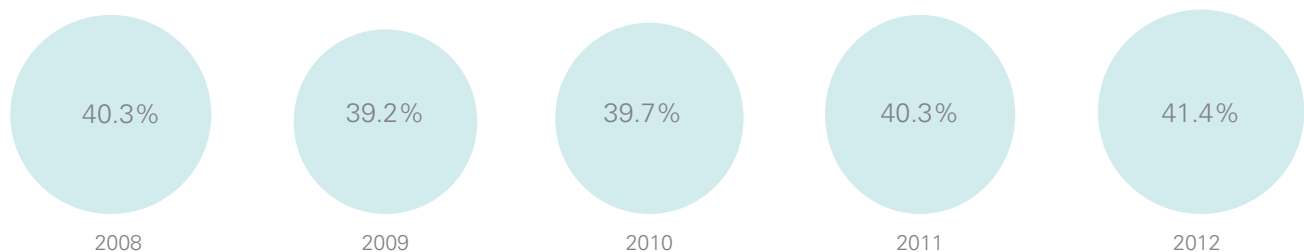
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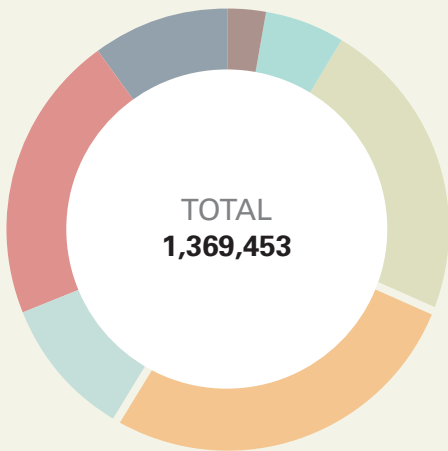
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Utah.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Utah residents, ages 25-64

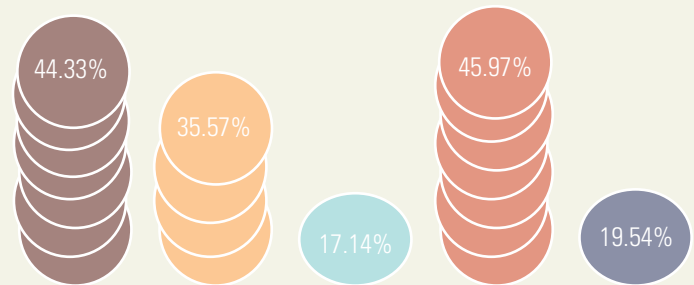


Less than ninth grade	39,241	<b>2.87%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	81,014	<b>5.92%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	303,875	<b>22.19%</b>
Some college, no degree	378,215	<b>27.62%</b>
Associate degree	143,605	<b>10.49%</b>
Bachelor's degree	286,687	<b>20.93%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	136,816	<b>9.99%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

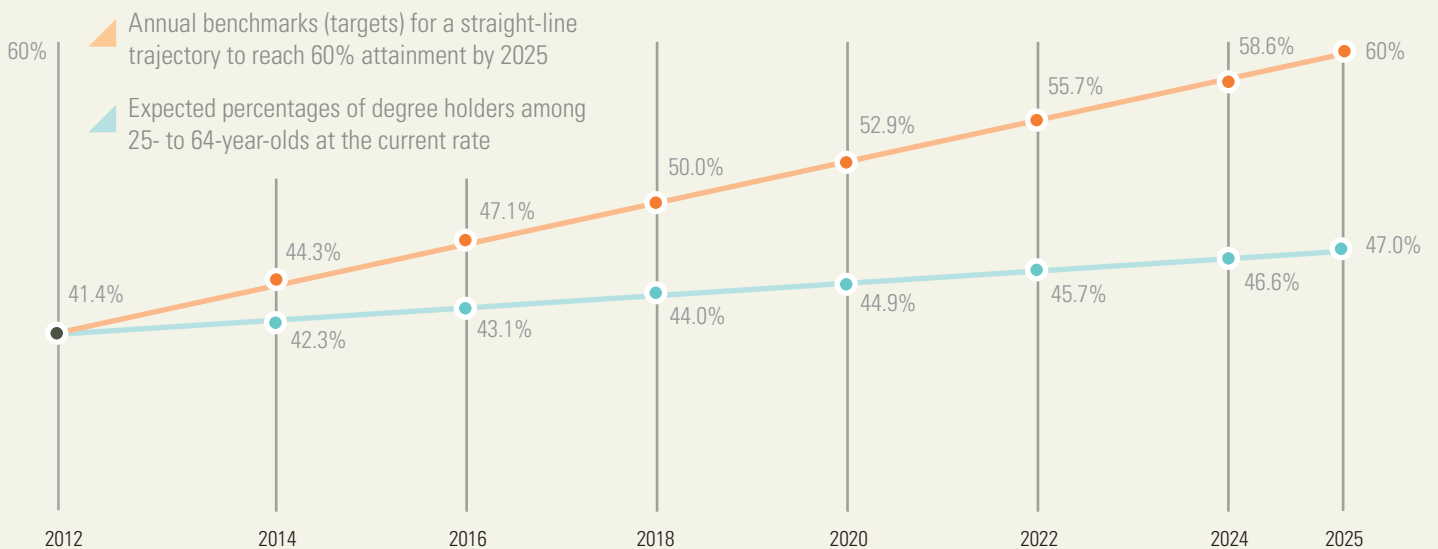
## Degree-attainment rates among Utah adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>44.33%</b>
Black	<b>35.57%</b>
Hispanic	<b>17.14%</b>
Asian	<b>45.97%</b>
Native American	<b>19.54%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Utah



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Utah adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Beaver	22.41	Davis	46.57	Iron	37.50	Piute	25.59	Sevier	27.94	Wasatch	41.11
Box Elder	30.52	Duchesne	26.26	Juab	25.30	Rich	20.37	Summit	56.39	Washington	35.89
Cache	44.67	Emery	25.72	Kane	37.48	Salt Lake	40.63	Tooele	30.45	Wayne	36.57
Carbon	27.10	Garfield	32.71	Millard	29.94	San Juan	29.72	Uintah	23.72	Weber	32.32
Daggett	25.85	Grand	33.35	Morgan	40.00	Sanpete	32.02	Utah	47.84		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Vermont

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Vermont, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 47 percent of Vermont's 336,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 46.2 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Vermont was 44.2 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole but above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Vermont and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

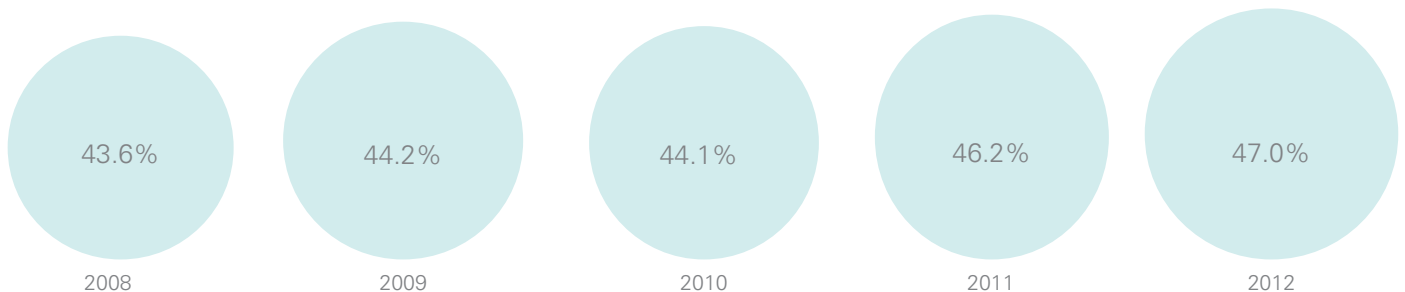
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A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

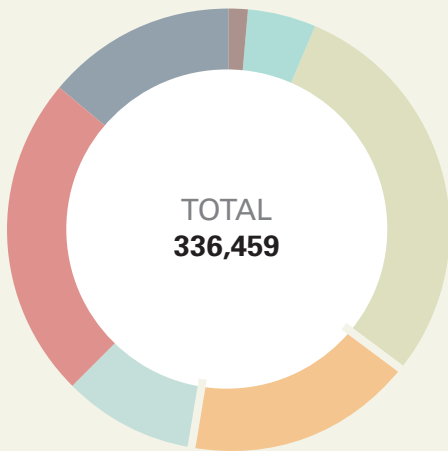
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Vermont.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Vermont residents, ages 25-64

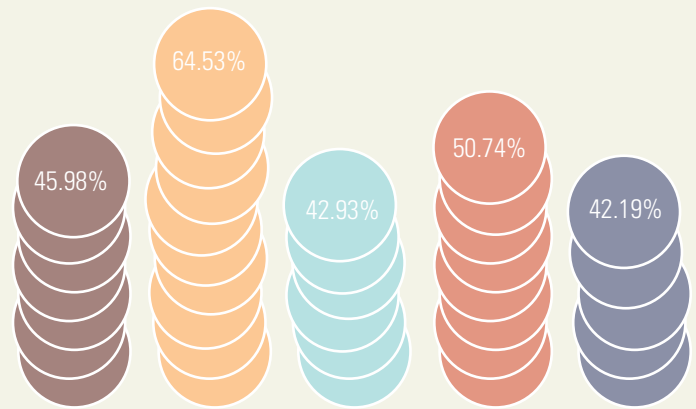


Less than ninth grade	5,134	<b>1.53%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	16,362	<b>4.86%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	99,337	<b>29.52%</b>
Some college, no degree	57,588	<b>17.12%</b>
Associate degree	32,155	<b>9.56%</b>
Bachelor's degree	79,978	<b>23.77%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	45,905	<b>13.64%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

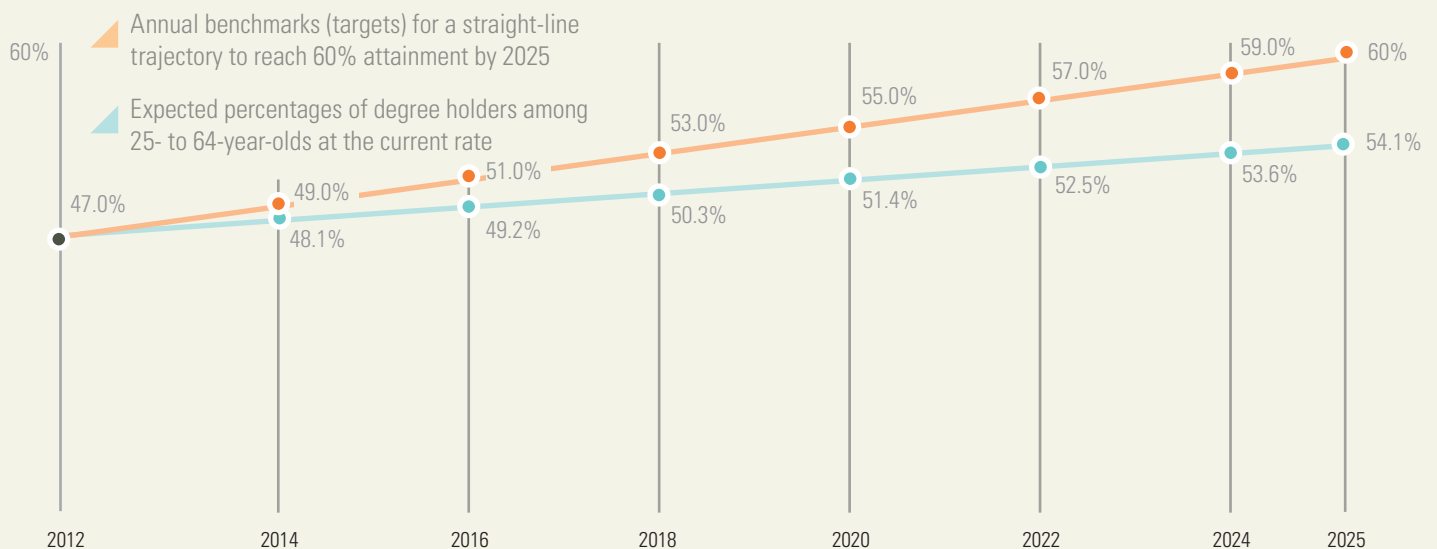
## Degree-attainment rates among Vermont adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>45.98%</b>
Black	<b>64.53%</b>
Hispanic	<b>42.93%</b>
Asian	<b>50.74%</b>
Native American	<b>42.19%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Vermont



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Vermont adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Addison	42.71	Chittenden	58.98	Grand Isle	41.19	Orleans	29.09	Windham	42.28
Bennington	41.34	Essex	26.45	Lamoille	46.90	Rutland	36.73	Windsor	46.10
Caledonia	37.87	Franklin	34.51	Orange	39.99	Washington	49.39		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Virginia

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Virginia, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 45.3 percent of Virginia's 4.4 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a slight increase from last year's rate of 45 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Virginia was 46.7 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Virginia and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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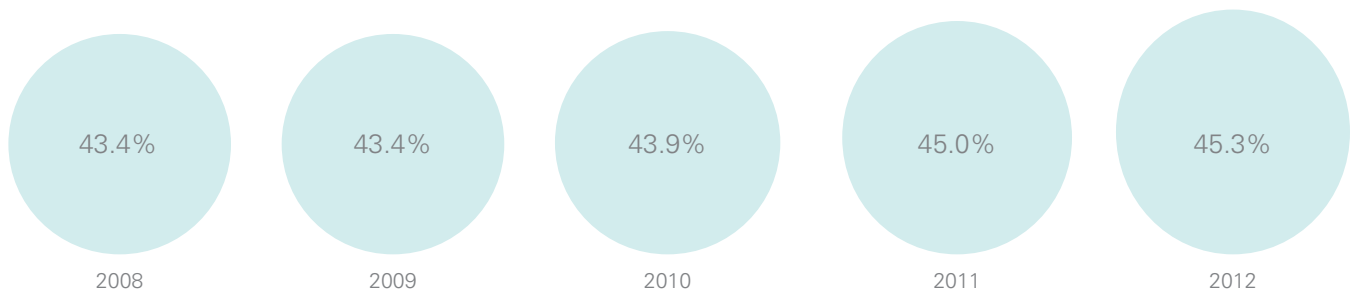
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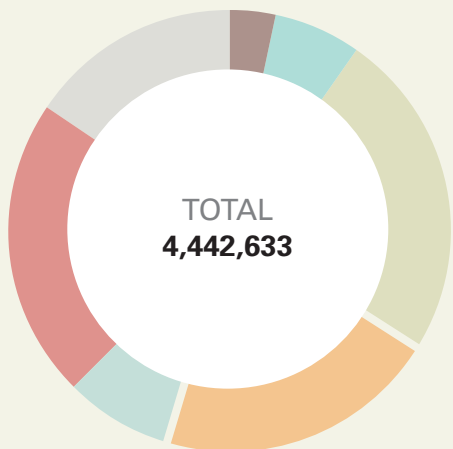
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Virginia.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Virginia residents, ages 25-64

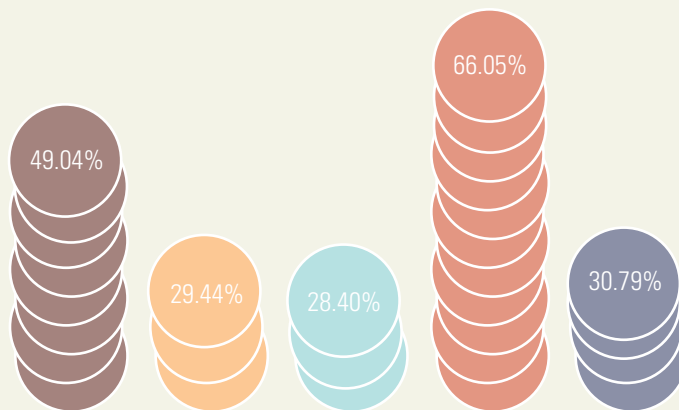


Less than ninth grade	157,822	<b>3.55%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	277,988	<b>6.26%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,076,991	<b>24.24%</b>
Some college, no degree	919,520	<b>20.70%</b>
Associate degree	346,456	<b>7.80%</b>
Bachelor's degree	979,809	<b>22.05%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	684,047	<b>15.40%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

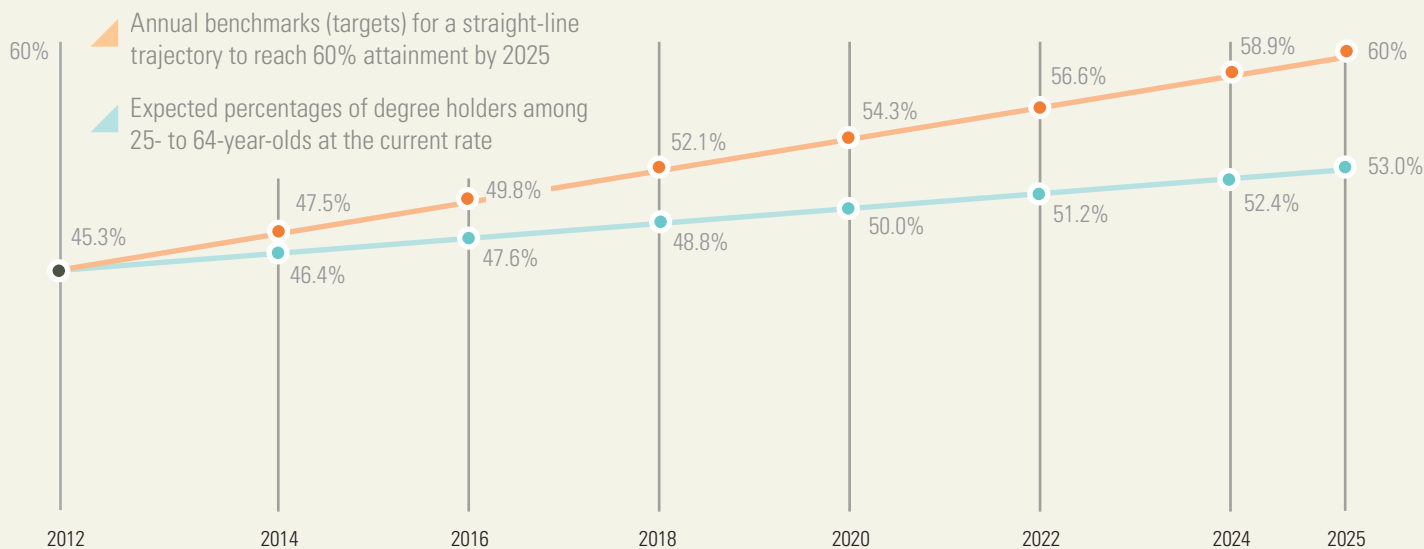
## Degree-attainment rates among Virginia adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>49.04%</b>
Black	<b>29.44%</b>
Hispanic	<b>28.40%</b>
Asian	<b>66.05%</b>
Native American	<b>30.79%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Virginia



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Virginia adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Accomack	24.17	Culpeper	31.38	James City	52.16	Powhatan	34.80	Wise	20.98	Lexington	58.59
Albemarle	61.36	Cumberland	22.95	King and Queen	13.69	Prince Edward	25.82	Wythe	26.35	Lynchburg	39.45
Alleghany	29.67	Dickenson	16.16	King George	38.39	Prince George	26.55	York	54.85	Manassas	35.43
Amelia	22.56	Dinwiddie	22.95	King William	26.33	Prince William	46.20			Manassas Park	32.21
Amherst	27.12	Essex	18.91	Lancaster	32.49	Pulaski	29.10	CITIES		Martinsville	30.91
Appomattox	22.24	Fairfax	65.08	Lee	20.55	Rappahannock	38.06	Alexandria	67.15	Newport News	34.80
Arlington	77.70	Fauquier	41.39	Loudoun	65.76	Richmond	16.32	Bedford	28.49	Norfolk	33.67
Augusta	27.55	Floyd	30.17	Louisa	25.98	Roanoke	47.77	Bristol	29.99	Norton	34.94
Bath	17.65	Fluvanna	36.53	Lunenburg	17.33	Rockbridge	29.29	Buena Vista	25.93	Petersburg	18.98
Bedford	34.45	Franklin	26.89	Madison	27.54	Rockingham	31.12	Charlottesville	53.99	Poquoson	48.24
Bland	23.47	Frederick	36.27	Mathews	29.14	Russell	20.95	Chesapeake	40.61	Portsmouth	29.27
Botetourt	38.84	Giles	27.32	Mecklenburg	22.75	Scott	22.87	Colonial Heights	26.72	Radford	46.42
Brunswick	20.92	Gloucester	30.44	Middlesex	36.91	Shenandoah	24.03	Covington	16.69	Richmond	40.84
Buchanan	15.36	Goochland	44.09	Montgomery	52.12	Smyth	24.88	Danville	29.67	Roanoke	31.73
Buckingham	18.28	Grayson	22.89	Nelson	29.71	Southampton	20.57	Emporia	20.49	Salem	42.92
Campbell	27.87	Greene	30.62	New Kent	33.57	Spotsylvania	37.81	Fairfax	63.55	Staunton	39.82
Caroline	22.78	Greensville	11.15	Northampton	27.07	Stafford	45.45	Falls Church	78.57	Suffolk	36.42
Carroll	23.49	Halifax	26.15	Northumberland	27.09	Surry	24.01	Franklin	24.80	Virginia Beach	43.99
Charles City	19.89	Hanover	45.66	Nottoway	19.78	Sussex	14.66	Fredericksburg	40.38	Waynesboro	27.82
Charlotte	23.79	Henrico	49.40	Orange	30.22	Tazewell	23.81	Galax	28.95	Williamsburg	54.69
Chesterfield	45.89	Henry	24.34	Page	17.65	Warren	28.19	Hampton	33.39	Winchester	35.75
Clarke	43.63	Highland	31.11	Patrick	20.49	Washington	33.86	Harrisonburg	44.07		
Craig	22.68	Isle of Wight	37.21	Pittsylvania	25.55	Westmoreland	20.21	Hopewell	16.30		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Washington

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Washington, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 42.8 percent of Washington's 3.7 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, a decrease from last year's rate of 43.3 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Washington was 41.7 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole but above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Washington and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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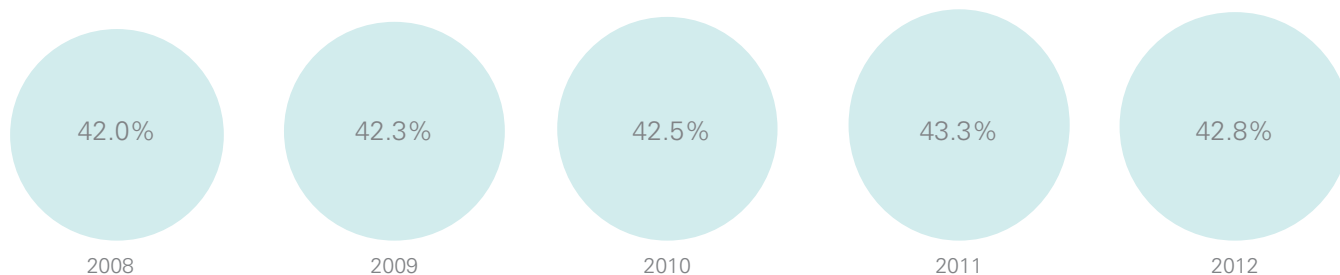
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A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

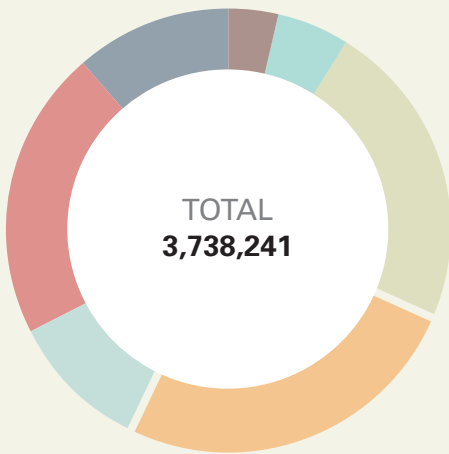
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Washington.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Washington residents, ages 25-64

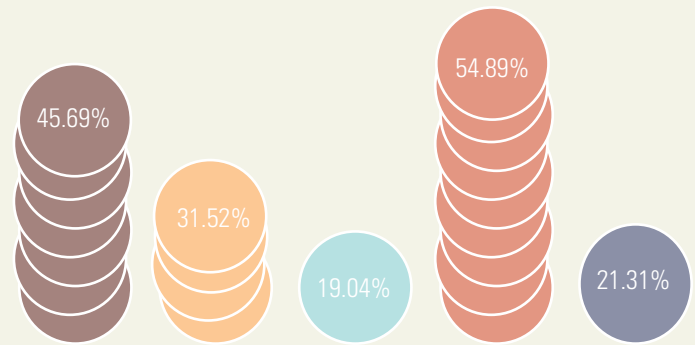


Less than ninth grade	135,700	<b>3.63%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	200,626	<b>5.37%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	844,572	<b>22.59%</b>
Some college, no degree	958,684	<b>25.65%</b>
Associate degree	392,317	<b>10.49%</b>
Bachelor's degree	789,255	<b>21.11%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	417,087	<b>11.16%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

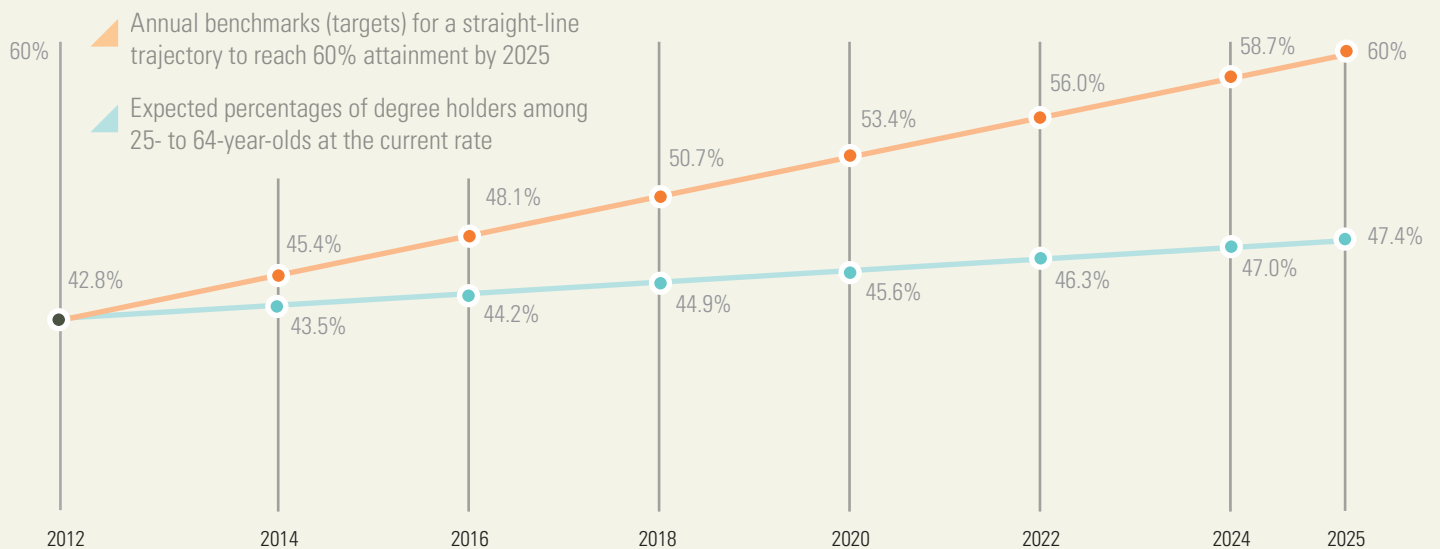
## Degree-attainment rates among Washington adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>45.69%</b>
Black	<b>31.52%</b>
Hispanic	<b>19.04%</b>
Asian	<b>54.89%</b>
Native American	<b>21.31%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Washington



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Washington adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	23.18	Cowlitz	27.27	Island	39.98	Lincoln	34.47	Skagit	35.31	Walla Walla	36.97
Asotin	29.31	Douglas	29.42	Jefferson	40.36	Mason	26.58	Skamania	32.07	Whatcom	44.97
Benton	39.69	Ferry	28.11	King	56.51	Okanogan	29.68	Snohomish	40.79	Whitman	62.88
Chelan	33.79	Franklin	23.06	Kitsap	40.05	Pacific	27.36	Spokane	42.38	Yakima	23.33
Clallam	34.40	Garfield	39.43	Kittitas	40.41	Pend Oreille	31.10	Stevens	32.90		
Clark	37.74	Grant	24.61	Klickitat	27.81	Pierce	34.97	Thurston	43.37		
Columbia	29.60	Grays Harbor	25.69	Lewis	26.60	San Juan	44.68	Wahkiakum	29.03		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# West Virginia

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in West Virginia, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 27.8 percent of West Virginia's 985,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, unchanged from last year's rate. The state's rate of higher education attainment is well below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in West Virginia was 32.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but well below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can West Virginia and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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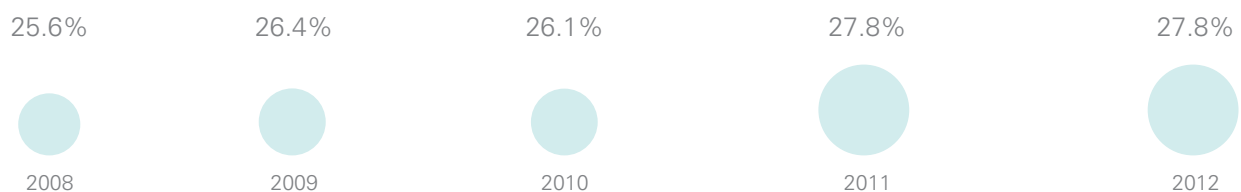
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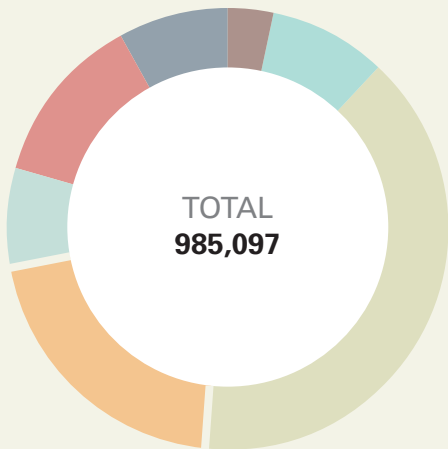
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in West Virginia.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for West Virginia residents, ages 25-64

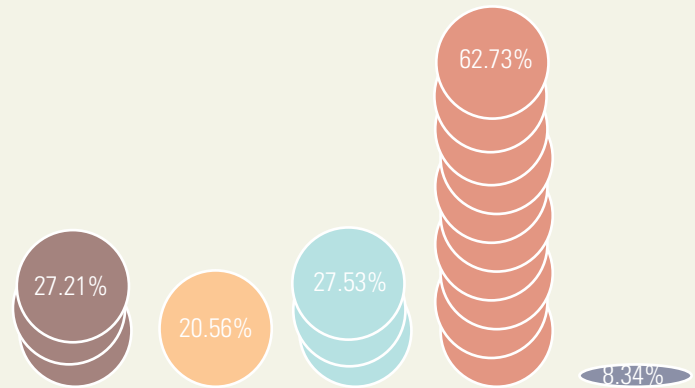


Less than ninth grade	33,156	<b>3.37%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	86,312	<b>8.76%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	391,467	<b>39.74%</b>
Some college, no degree	200,759	<b>20.38%</b>
Associate degree	72,485	<b>7.36%</b>
Bachelor's degree	124,199	<b>12.61%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	76,719	<b>7.79%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

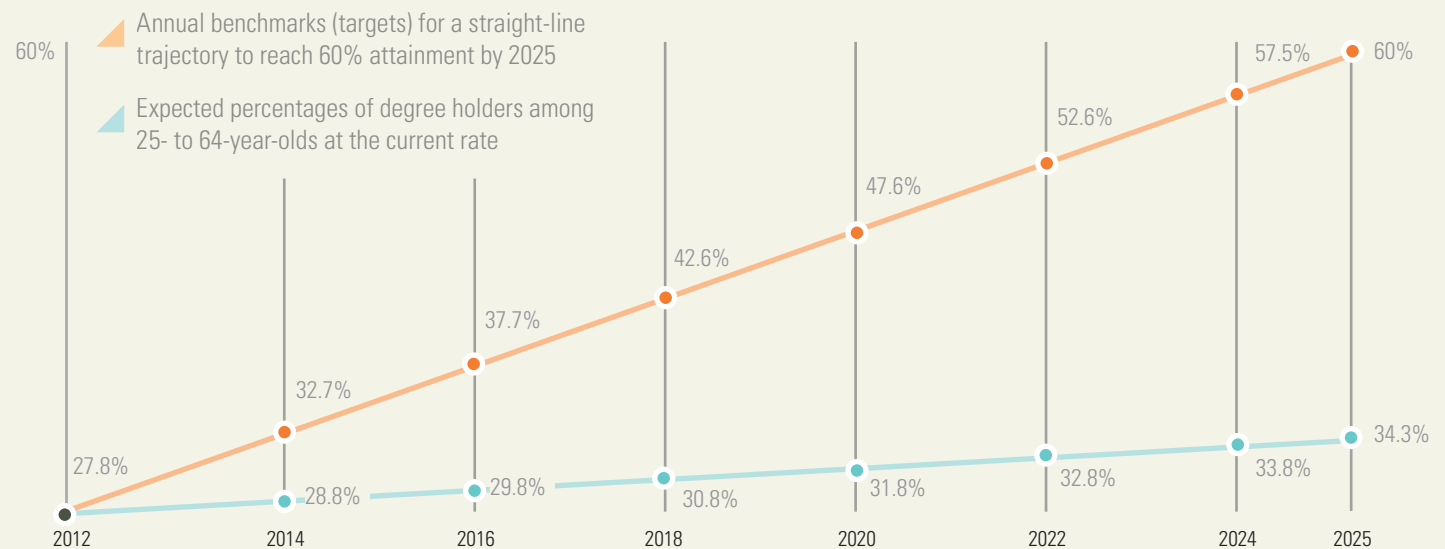
## Degree-attainment rates among West Virginia adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>27.21%</b>
Black	<b>20.56%</b>
Hispanic	<b>27.53%</b>
Asian	<b>62.73%</b>
Native American	<b>8.34%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in West Virginia



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of West Virginia adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Barbour	17.78	Gilmer	20.01	Lewis	23.39	Monongalia	45.93	Raleigh	23.97	Webster	9.41
Berkeley	27.08	Grant	16.42	Lincoln	14.02	Monroe	18.10	Randolph	25.06	Wetzel	21.37
Boone	14.88	Greenbrier	24.10	Logan	17.19	Morgan	21.19	Ritchie	21.98	Wirt	20.03
Braxton	19.27	Hampshire	13.51	McDowell	9.11	Nicholas	22.87	Roane	14.84	Wood	30.98
Brooke	30.82	Hancock	29.79	Marion	29.43	Ohio	38.75	Summers	19.60	Wyoming	14.79
Cabell	36.89	Hardy	16.92	Marshall	25.66	Pendleton	19.76	Taylor	24.16		
Calhoun	15.71	Harrison	26.96	Mason	22.02	Pleasants	19.28	Tucker	22.12		
Clay	14.48	Jackson	26.86	Mercer	25.32	Pocahontas	24.83	Tyler	16.52		
Doddridge	15.64	Jefferson	36.99	Mineral	25.37	Preston	19.46	Upshur	21.93		
Fayette	17.26	Kanawha	33.66	Mingo	16.13	Putnam	37.46	Wayne	22.34		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





# Wisconsin

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Wisconsin, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 40.9 percent of Wisconsin's 3 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 39.6 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Wisconsin was 43.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Wisconsin and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

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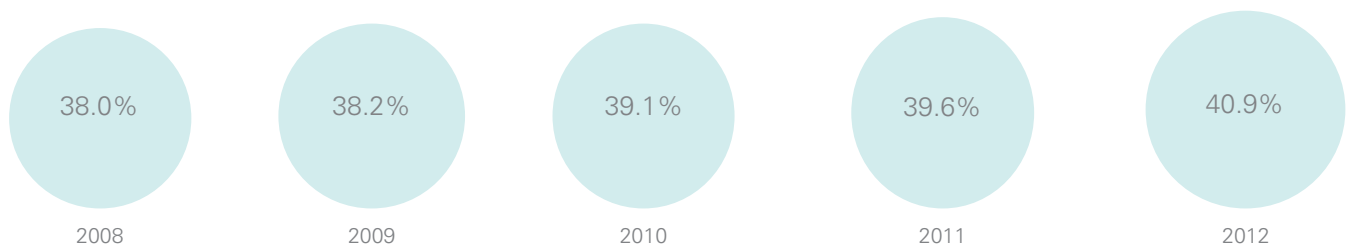
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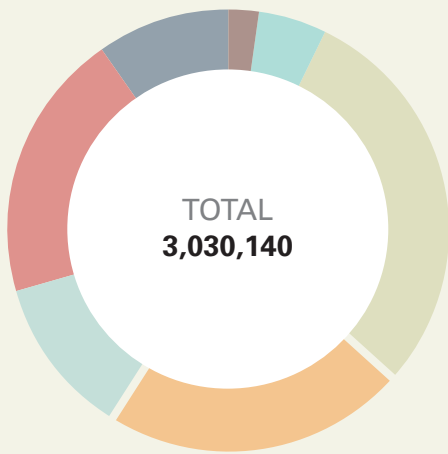
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Wisconsin.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Wisconsin residents, ages 25-64

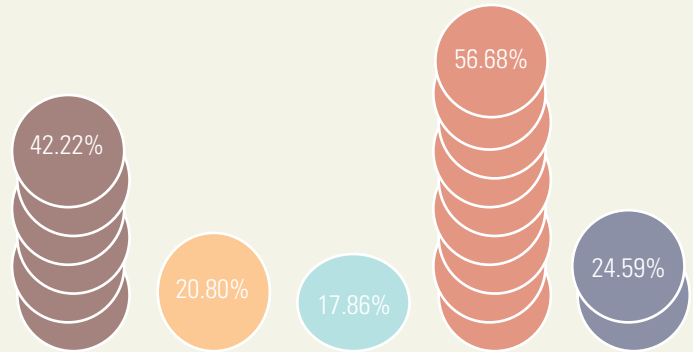


Less than ninth grade	69,631	<b>2.30%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	153,347	<b>5.06%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	894,685	<b>29.53%</b>
Some college, no degree	674,096	<b>22.25%</b>
Associate degree	350,416	<b>11.56%</b>
Bachelor's degree	596,093	<b>19.67%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	291,872	<b>9.63%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

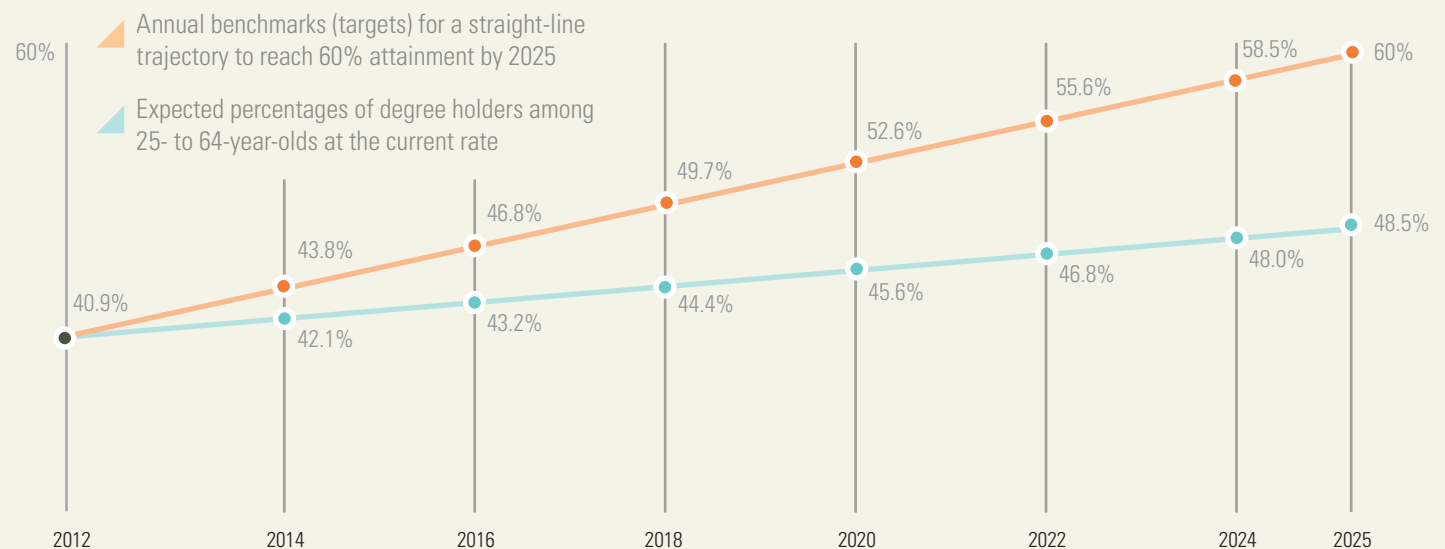
## Degree-attainment rates among Wisconsin adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>42.22%</b>
Black	<b>20.80%</b>
Hispanic	<b>17.86%</b>
Asian	<b>56.68%</b>
Native American	<b>24.59%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Wisconsin



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Wisconsin adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	21.31	Dane	58.03	Iowa	35.49	Marathon	37.35	Polk	32.25	Taylor	24.15
Ashland	39.03	Dodge	27.71	Iron	37.88	Marinette	26.53	Portage	39.64	Trempealeau	31.32
Barron	30.97	Door	36.79	Jackson	27.57	Marquette	23.08	Price	28.20	Vernon	32.51
Bayfield	40.66	Douglas	37.33	Jefferson	34.60	Menominee	19.19	Racine	33.76	Vilas	32.82
Brown	39.92	Dunn	37.86	Juneau	23.71	Milwaukee	37.38	Richland	25.55	Walworth	36.05
Buffalo	32.74	Eau Claire	47.93	Kenosha	36.62	Monroe	30.23	Rock	31.76	Washburn	32.12
Burnett	28.00	Florence	24.03	Kewaunee	27.70	Oconto	28.99	Rusk	27.96	Washington	42.43
Calumet	42.41	Fond du Lac	32.69	La Crosse	48.33	Oneida	34.22	St. Croix	46.90	Waukesha	53.21
Chippewa	34.40	Forest	21.55	Lafayette	29.65	Outagamie	41.64	Sauk	33.17	Waupaca	27.05
Clark	22.49	Grant	33.80	Langlade	24.25	Ozaukee	56.72	Sawyer	32.35	Waushara	23.43
Columbia	34.55	Green	31.65	Lincoln	29.48	Pepin	31.44	Shawano	26.88	Winnebago	37.77
Crawford	26.70	Green Lake	25.47	Manitowoc	30.99	Pierce	40.67	Sheboygan	35.33	Wood	34.52

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# Wyoming

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Wyoming, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 37 percent of Wyoming's 306,000 working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 36.2 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Wyoming was 34.2 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole and also below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Wyoming and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

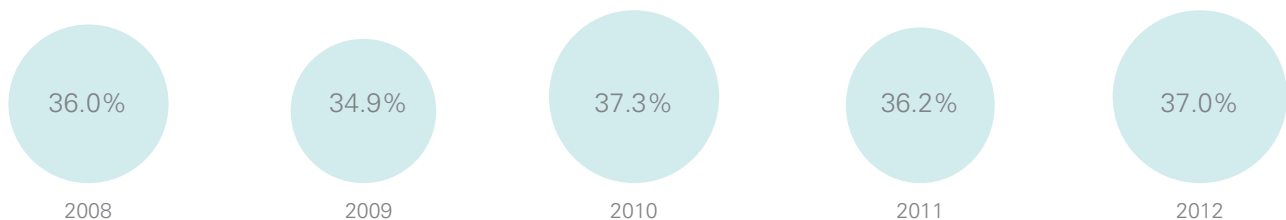
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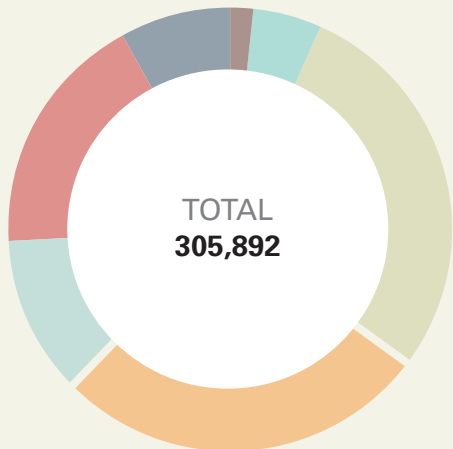
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Wyoming.

## Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



## Levels of education for Wyoming residents, ages 25-64

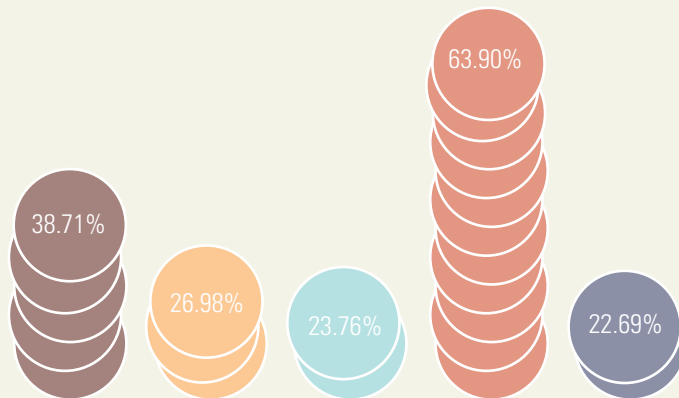


Less than ninth grade	5,467	<b>1.79%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	15,580	<b>5.09%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	87,413	<b>28.58%</b>
Some college, no degree	84,180	<b>27.52%</b>
Associate degree	34,480	<b>11.27%</b>
Bachelor's degree	54,512	<b>17.82%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	24,260	<b>7.93%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

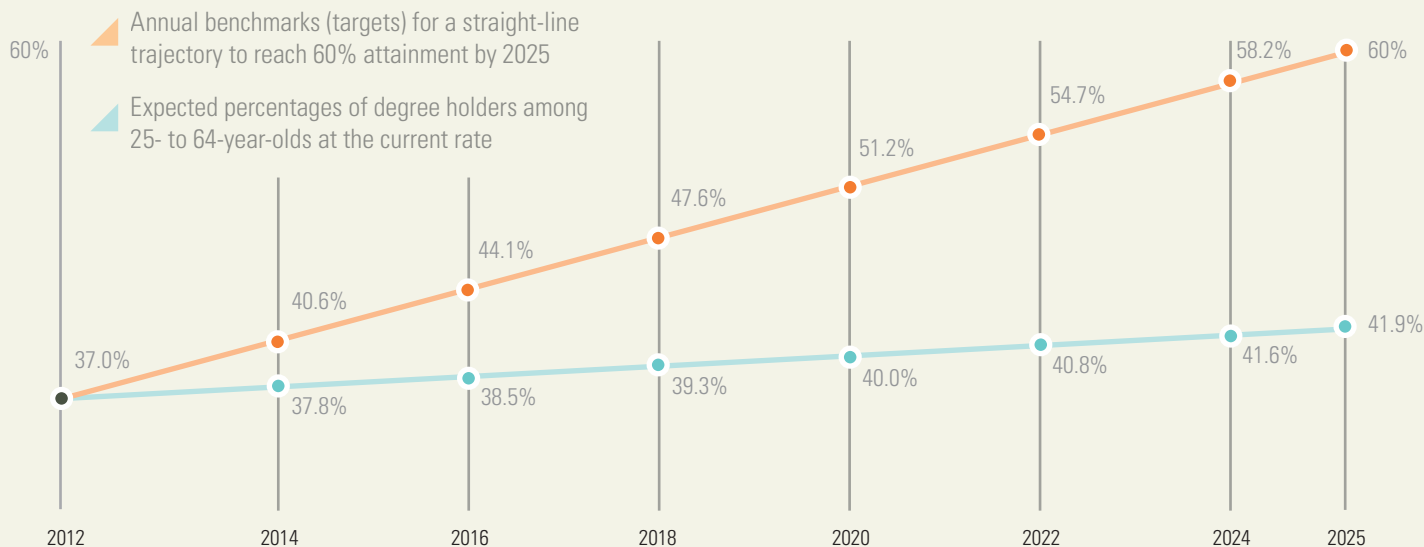
## Degree-attainment rates among Wyoming adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>38.71%</b>
Black	<b>26.98%</b>
Hispanic	<b>23.76%</b>
Asian	<b>63.90%</b>
Native American	<b>22.69%</b>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Wyoming



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

## Percentage of Wyoming adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Albany	60.27	Converse	27.43	Hot Springs	28.47	Natrona	34.79	Sheridan	35.99	Uinta	27.56
Big Horn	29.35	Crook	35.20	Johnson	40.42	Niobrara	28.26	Sublette	43.25	Washakie	31.86
Campbell	28.51	Fremont	35.32	Laramie	37.99	Park	42.45	Sweetwater	28.86	Weston	28.42
Carbon	28.35	Goshen	33.44	Lincoln	35.23	Platte	30.61	Teton	53.52		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

## Credits

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**Editorial assistance:** Joe Konz

**Design:** IronGate Creative and RSN, Ltd.

**Layout and production:** Natasha Swingley/RSN, Ltd.

**Printing:** Vista Graphic Communications

## About Lumina Foundation

Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation committed to increasing the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina's outcomes-based approach focuses on helping to design and build an accessible, responsive and accountable higher education system while fostering a national sense of urgency for action to achieve Goal 2025.

**Online access:** This report and all of its elements are available at [www.luminafoundation.org/stronger\\_nation](http://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger_nation). From there, you can:

- Navigate through the full report, including the metro-area attainment data, and compare data dynamically among all states.
- Download a printable version of the full report.
- Download printable versions of individual policy briefs that present the data specific to each state.

**Twitter:** @LuminaFound, #Goal2025







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April 2014