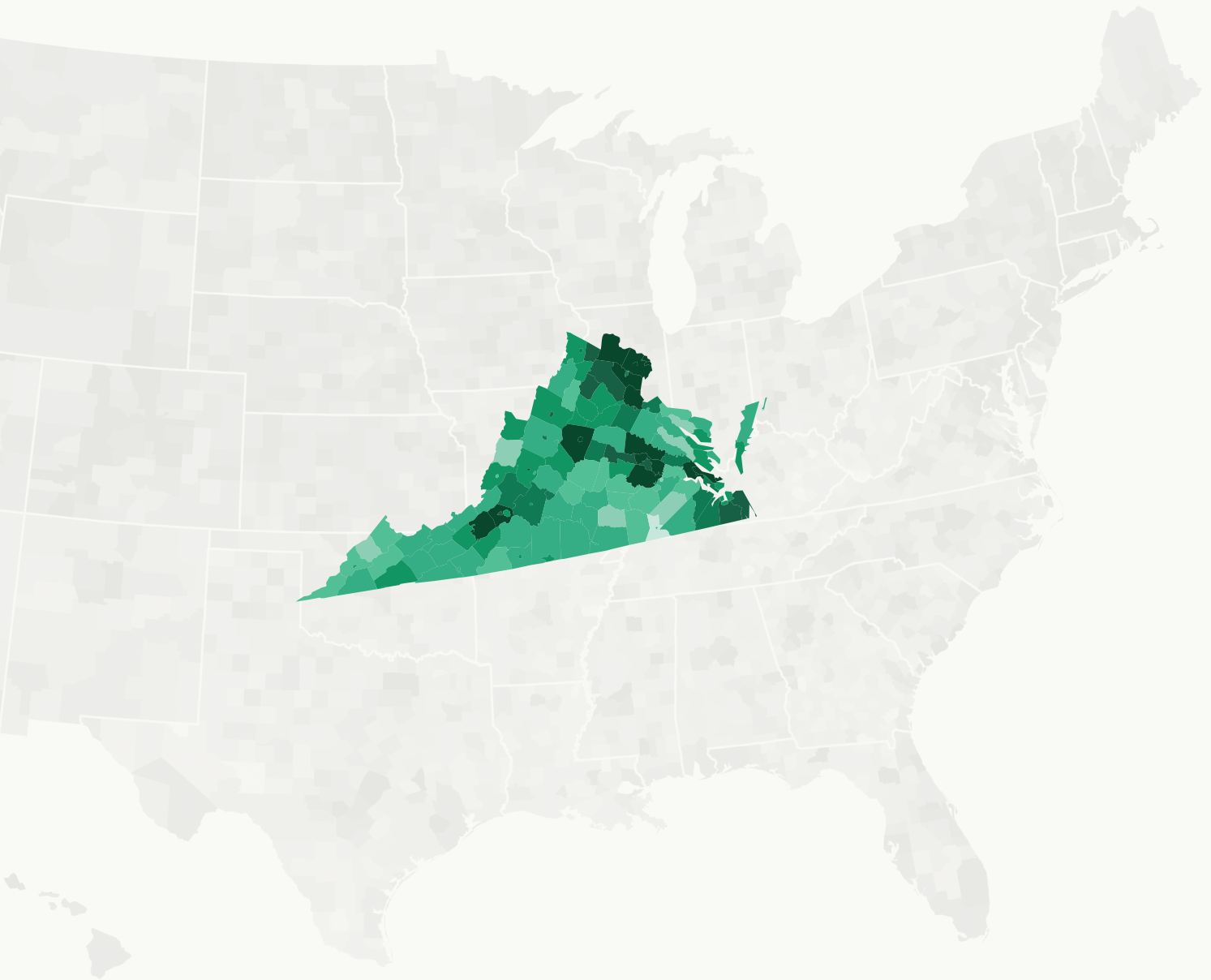


A STRONGER **VIRGINIA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



Efforts to boost college attainment in Virginia are key to achieving Goal 2025

In Virginia, 45 percent of the state's 4.4 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Virginia's attainment rate is increasing; last year, the rate was 43.9 percent. Also, Virginia's rate of higher education attainment is well above the national average. This year, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 who hold a two- or four-year degree is 38.7 percent. This rate is rising, but only slowly. In 2010, the rate was 38.3 percent; in 2009, it was 38.1.

There is also reason for optimism about the educational trends in Virginia. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Virginia, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 46.6 percent — higher than that of the adult population as a whole, and well above the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Despite its relative success, however, Virginia must do better. In this state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase rapidly and steadily to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 54 percent of Virginia's adult population — 2.5 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 4,621,136, Virginia will need to add more than 291,000 degrees to that total.

By now, most people understand why increasing attainment is so important — both to themselves and their communities. Experts from the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University say that, by 2018, 820,000 of the expected 1.3 million

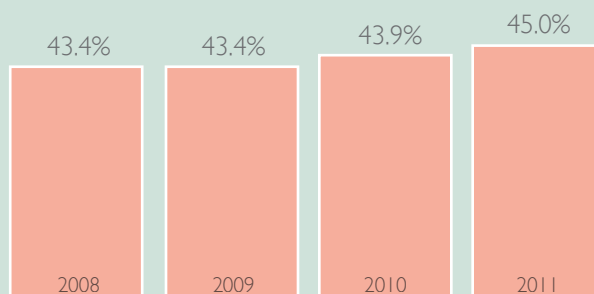
job vacancies in Virginia will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 64 percent of all Virginia jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

Clearly, the state's economic future depends on producing more college graduates — and an excellent place to begin is with those who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2011, more than 912,000 Virginia adults — 20.7 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but lacked either a two- or four-year degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way toward helping Virginia reach the 60 percent goal.

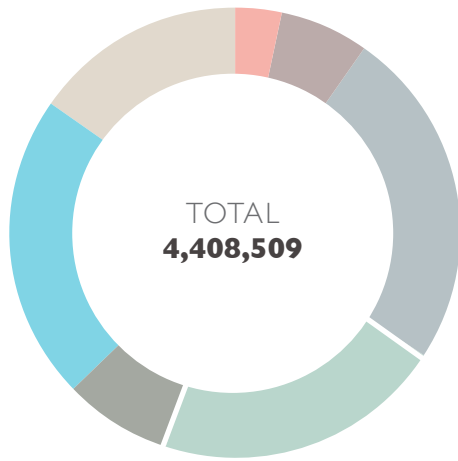
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Virginia county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so assuring that all communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential. Virginia must also increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Virginia's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

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



Levels of education for Virginia adults (ages 25-64)

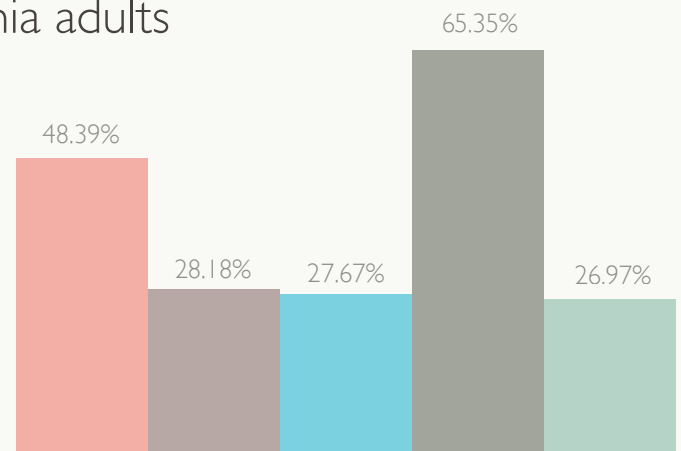


Less than ninth grade	148,318	3.36%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	284,948	6.46%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,080,973	24.52%
Some college, no degree	912,363	20.70%
Associate degree	341,004	7.74%
Bachelor's degree	972,964	22.07%
Graduate or professional degree	667,939	15.15%

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

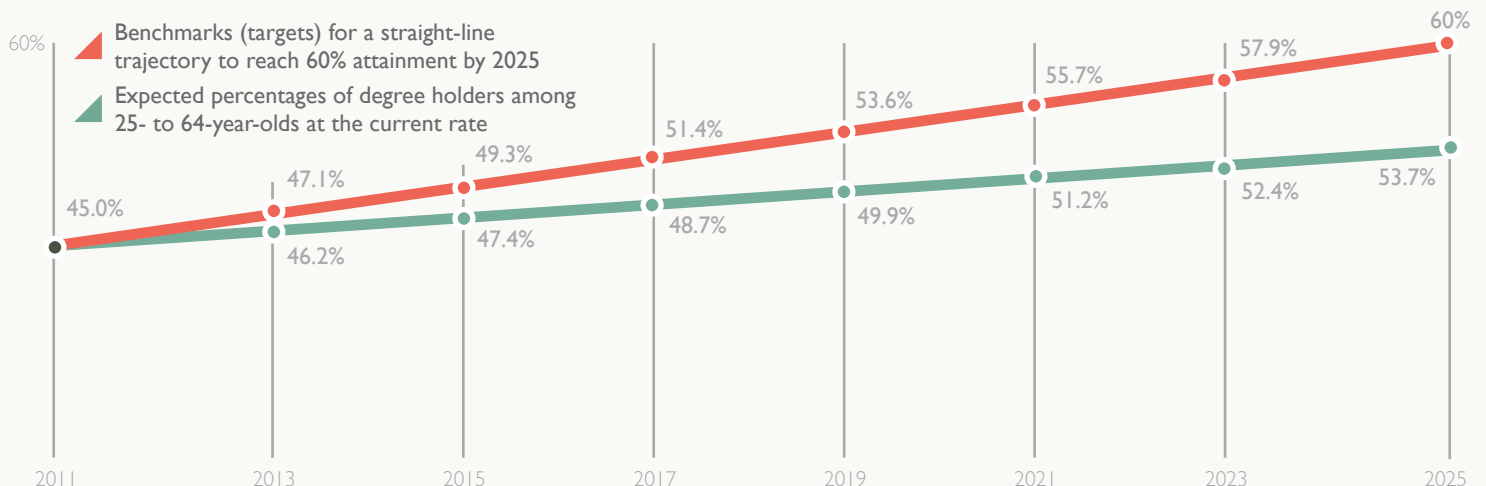
Degree-attainment rates among Virginia adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	48.39%
Black	28.18%
Hispanic	27.67%
Asian	65.35%
Native American	26.97%



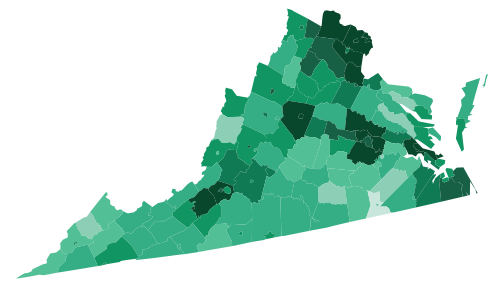
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Virginia



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

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



Accomack	25.00	Fairfax	65.26	Mathews	26.08	Spotsylvania	38.48	Hampton	32.96
Albemarle	60.23	Fauquier	41.72	Mecklenburg	22.78	Stafford	46.42	Harrisonburg	42.18
Alleghany	29.19	Floyd	30.40	Middlesex	33.10	Surry	19.98	Hopewell	14.74
Amelia	21.68	Fluvanna	36.28	Montgomery	52.03	Sussex	13.45	Lexington	55.45
Amherst	27.06	Franklin	26.68	Nelson	31.63	Tazewell	24.45	Lynchburg	37.87
Appomattox	21.08	Frederick	33.21	New Kent	33.38	Warren	28.73	Manassas	33.68
Arlington	77.46	Giles	27.43	Northampton	27.80	Washington	32.98	Manassas Park	31.57
Augusta	25.95	Gloucester	28.64	Northumberland	27.71	Westmoreland	21.72	Martinsville	30.69
Bath	14.42	Goochland	43.76	Nottoway	21.00	Wise	20.52	Newport News	34.57
Bedford	34.03	Grayson	24.19	Orange	29.75	Wythe	27.08	Norfolk	32.89
Bland	26.64	Greene	29.59	Page	17.87	York	55.35	Norton	36.64
Botetourt	38.31	Greensville	10.42	Patrick	20.43			Petersburg	18.37
Brunswick	21.31	Halifax	26.20	Pittsylvania	24.66	CITIES		Poquoson	51.11
Buchanan	18.27	Hanover	44.96	Powhatan	32.93	Alexandria	66.47	Portsmouth	29.34
Buckingham	17.93	Henrico	48.82	Prince Edward	25.20	Bedford	28.35	Radford	53.24
Campbell	27.41	Henry	24.10	Prince George	24.04	Bristol	31.79	Richmond	40.12
Caroline	23.21	Highland	29.13	Prince William	45.82	Buena Vista	24.54	Roanoke	31.28
Carroll	23.52	Isle of Wight	37.66	Pulaski	28.16	Charlottesville	54.54	Salem	43.65
Charles City	17.00	James City	52.84	Rappahannock	41.04	Chesapeake	40.20	Staunton	36.50
Charlotte	25.16	King and Queen	13.67	Richmond	14.32	Colonial Heights	29.13	Suffolk	35.79
Chesterfield	45.49	King George	37.85	Roanoke	47.27	Covington	20.73	Virginia Beach	44.01
Clarke	42.47	King William	24.79	Rockbridge	31.22	Danville	29.53	Waynesboro	26.11
Craig	22.47	Lancaster	30.89	Rockingham	30.47	Emporia	21.60	Williamsburg	51.58
Culpeper	29.93	Lee	20.38	Russell	20.79	Fairfax	61.27	Winchester	36.06
Cumberland	21.60	Loudoun	65.55	Scott	24.59	Falls Church	78.27		
Dickenson	14.56	Louisa	25.34	Shenandoah	23.19	Franklin	23.29		
Dinwiddie	21.15	Lunenburg	16.00	Smyth	26.57	Fredericksburg	39.41		
Essex	22.93	Madison	30.04	Southampton	22.73	Galax	24.81		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-11 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



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.

