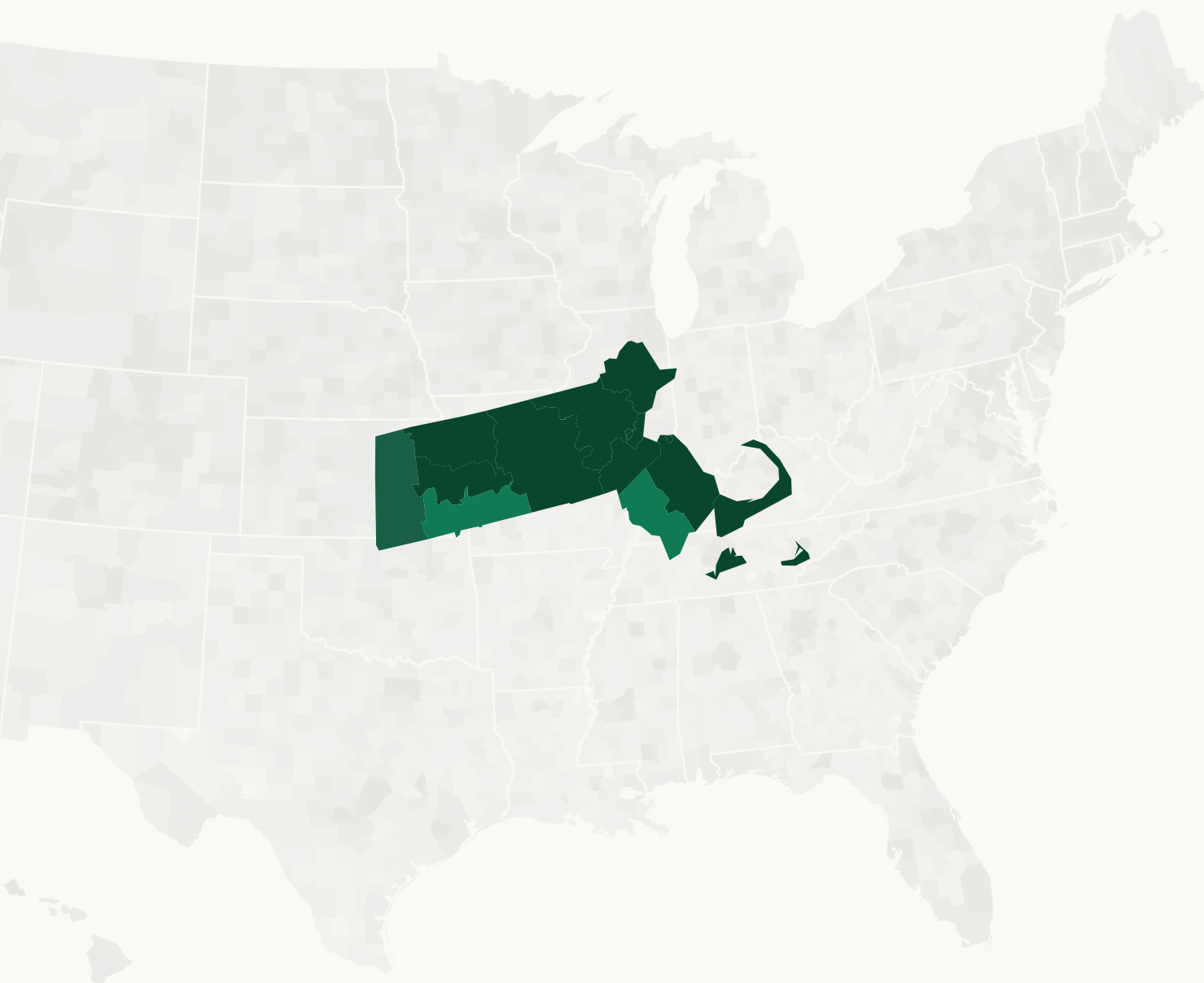


A STRONGER **MASSACHUSETTS** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



# Efforts to boost college attainment in Massachusetts are key to achieving Goal 2025

In Massachusetts, 50.8 percent of the state's 3.6 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Massachusetts' attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 50.5 percent. Massachusetts' 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 Massachusetts. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Massachusetts, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 55.2 percent — higher than that of the adult population as a whole, and well above the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Despite its successes, however, there is room for improvement in Massachusetts. In this state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 58 percent of Massachusetts' adult population — 2 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 3,485,818, Massachusetts will need to add nearly 77,000 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, 707,000 of the expected

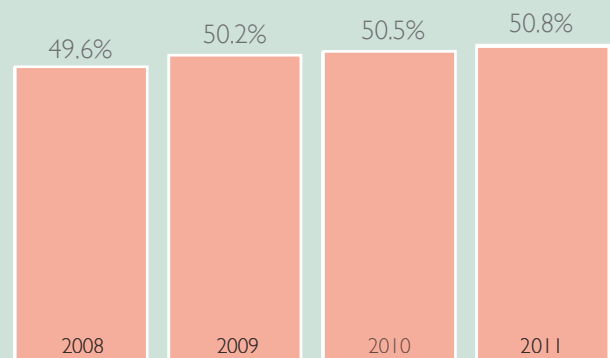
1 million job vacancies in Massachusetts will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 68 percent of all Massachusetts jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

The state's economic future can surely be bolstered by producing more college graduates — and an excellent place to begin is with those who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2011, nearly 610,000 Massachusetts adults — 17 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 Massachusetts reach the 60 percent goal.

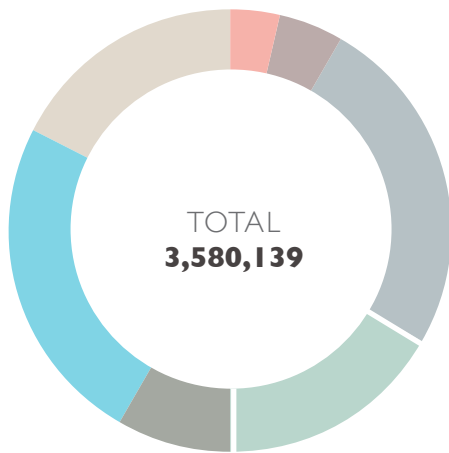
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Massachusetts county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so assuring that all communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential. Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts' 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 Massachusetts adults (ages 25-64)

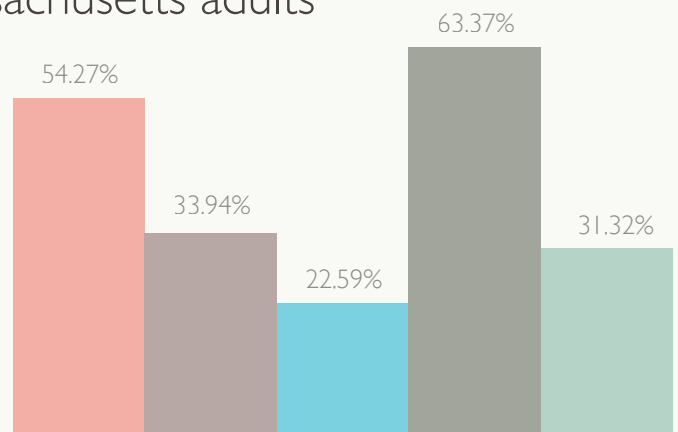


Less than ninth grade	133,051	<b>3.72%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	177,197	<b>4.95%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	842,538	<b>23.53%</b>
Some college, no degree	609,837	<b>17.03%</b>
Associate degree	298,467	<b>8.34%</b>
Bachelor's degree	888,302	<b>24.81%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	630,747	<b>17.62%</b>

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

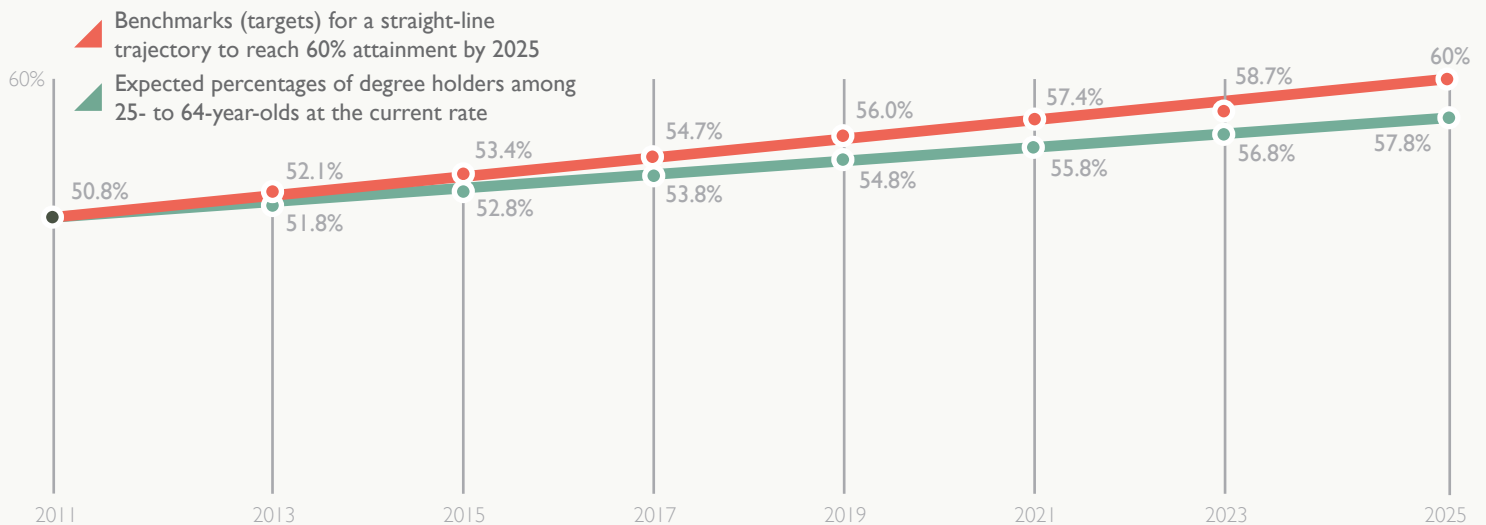
## Degree-attainment rates among Massachusetts adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>54.27%</b>
Black	<b>33.94%</b>
Hispanic	<b>22.59%</b>
Asian	<b>63.37%</b>
Native American	<b>31.32%</b>



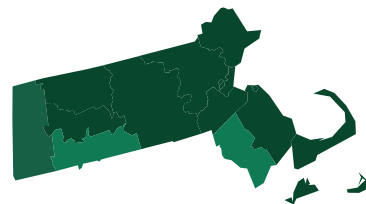
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Massachusetts



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

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



Barnstable	50.82	Dukes	50.10	Hampden	36.15	Nantucket	49.80	Suffolk	47.84
Berkshire	41.16	Essex	48.53	Hampshire	55.00	Norfolk	61.67	Worcester	46.34
Bristol	37.60	Franklin	45.31	Middlesex	60.53	Plymouth	45.60		

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.

