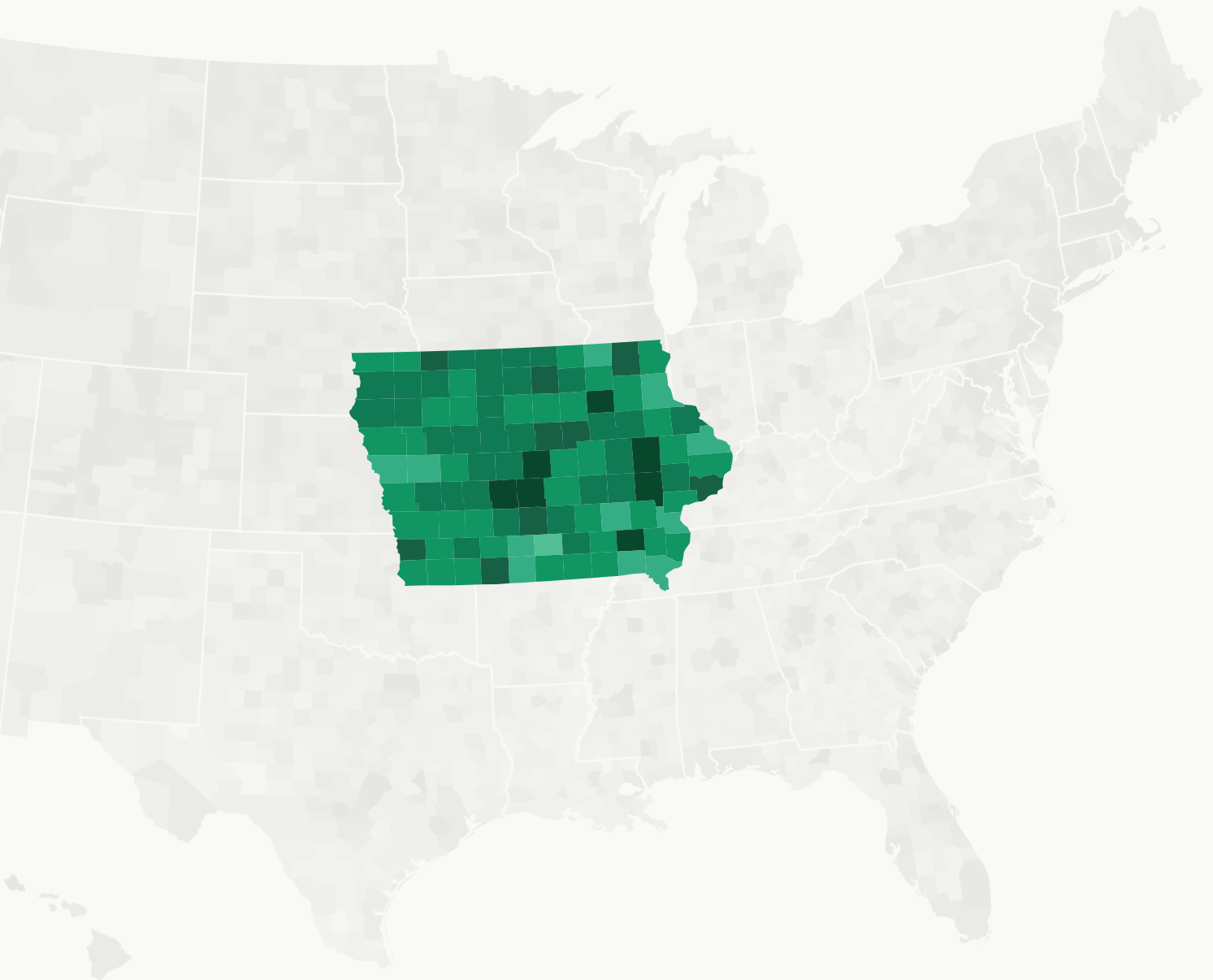


A STRONGER **IOWA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Iowa, 41.1 percent of the state's 1.6 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Iowa's attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 39.7 percent. Also, Iowa's rate of higher education attainment is slightly 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 educational trends in Iowa. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Iowa, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 48 percent, considerably higher than that of the adult population as a whole. This suggests that young people in Iowa are getting the message that higher education is important to their future. Iowa's attainment rate among young adults is also well above the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Despite its relative success, however, Iowa must do better. In the state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 51 percent of Iowa's adult population — 740,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 1,442,734, Iowa will need to add more than 125,000 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, 319,000 of the expected 527,000 job

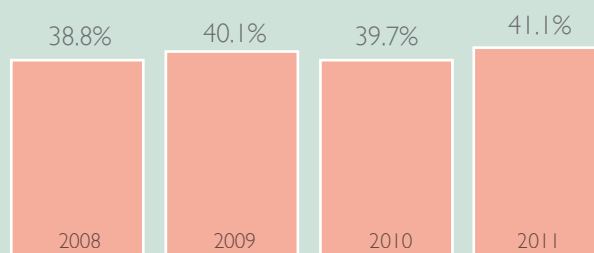
vacancies in Iowa will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 62 percent of all Iowa jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 352,000 Iowa adults — 22.5 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 Iowa reach the 60 percent goal.

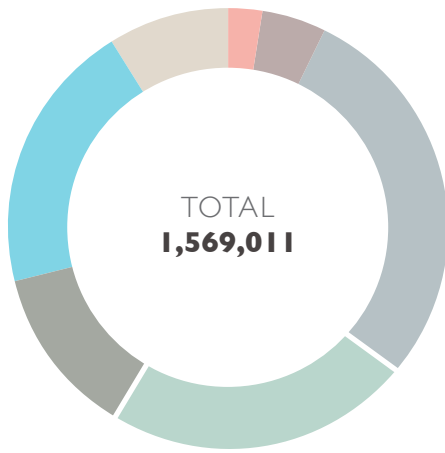
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Iowa county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so assuring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

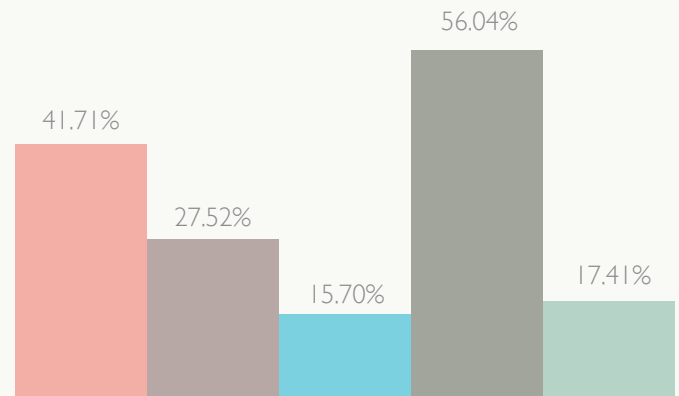


| | | |
|--|---------|---------------|
| Less than ninth grade | 39,396 | 2.51% |
| Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma | 75,410 | 4.81% |
| High school graduate (including equivalency) | 456,336 | 29.08% |
| Some college, no degree | 352,369 | 22.46% |
| Associate degree | 195,549 | 12.46% |
| Bachelor's degree | 313,560 | 19.98% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 136,391 | 8.69% |

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

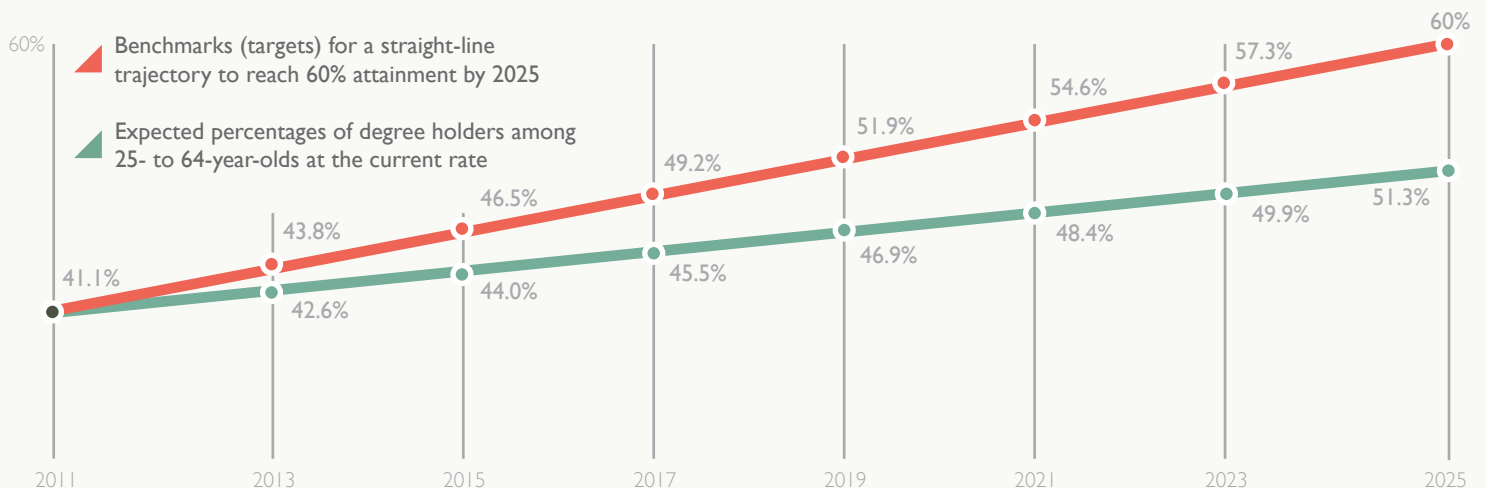
Degree-attainment rates among Iowa adults (ages 25-64), by population group

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| White | 41.71% |
| Black | 27.52% |
| Hispanic | 15.70% |
| Asian | 56.04% |
| Native American | 17.41% |



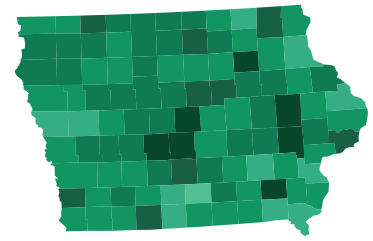
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Iowa



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

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



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------|-------|----------|-------|---------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Adair | 33.07 | Cherokee | 34.35 | Franklin | 30.67 | Johnson | 62.85 | Montgomery | 33.00 | Tama | 31.30 |
| Adams | 33.67 | Chickasaw | 29.88 | Fremont | 28.24 | Jones | 30.38 | Muscatine | 30.31 | Taylor | 27.95 |
| Allamakee | 28.64 | Clarke | 26.57 | Greene | 37.40 | Keokuk | 27.67 | O'Brien | 35.48 | Union | 29.89 |
| Appanoose | 31.04 | Clay | 34.45 | Grundy | 39.34 | Kossuth | 35.78 | Osceola | 28.39 | Van Buren | 24.76 |
| Audubon | 34.17 | Clayton | 27.76 | Guthrie | 35.35 | Lee | 27.18 | Page | 28.84 | Wapello | 27.93 |
| Benton | 33.50 | Clinton | 32.59 | Hamilton | 33.59 | Linn | 46.34 | Palo Alto | 33.17 | Warren | 42.76 |
| Black Hawk | 38.83 | Crawford | 24.33 | Hancock | 34.55 | Louisa | 22.65 | Plymouth | 35.58 | Washington | 32.85 |
| Boone | 35.90 | Dallas | 57.33 | Hardin | 40.55 | Lucas | 21.99 | Pocahontas | 32.92 | Wayne | 29.79 |
| Bremer | 45.35 | Davis | 32.38 | Harrison | 30.09 | Lyon | 31.90 | Polk | 47.00 | Webster | 33.89 |
| Buchanan | 35.34 | Decatur | 26.29 | Henry | 32.70 | Madison | 34.78 | Pottawattamie | 31.35 | Winnebago | 35.86 |
| Buena Vista | 33.13 | Delaware | 29.96 | Howard | 27.42 | Mahaska | 31.75 | Poweshiek | 35.57 | Winneshek | 43.22 |
| Butler | 29.07 | Des Moines | 31.70 | Humboldt | 33.83 | Marion | 37.40 | Ringgold | 41.00 | Woodbury | 31.25 |
| Calhoun | 37.04 | Dickinson | 42.23 | Ida | 32.36 | Marshall | 33.27 | Sac | 33.97 | Worth | 34.89 |
| Carroll | 33.23 | Dubuque | 37.86 | Iowa | 38.60 | Mills | 39.53 | Scott | 43.76 | Wright | 28.03 |
| Cass | 28.17 | Emmet | 34.19 | Jackson | 25.26 | Mitchell | 32.75 | Shelby | 35.26 | | |
| Cedar | 35.42 | Fayette | 31.13 | Jasper | 29.14 | Monona | 26.47 | Sioux | 37.77 | | |
| Cerro Gordo | 41.79 | Floyd | 34.03 | Jefferson | 45.32 | Monroe | 34.35 | Story | 61.25 | | |

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