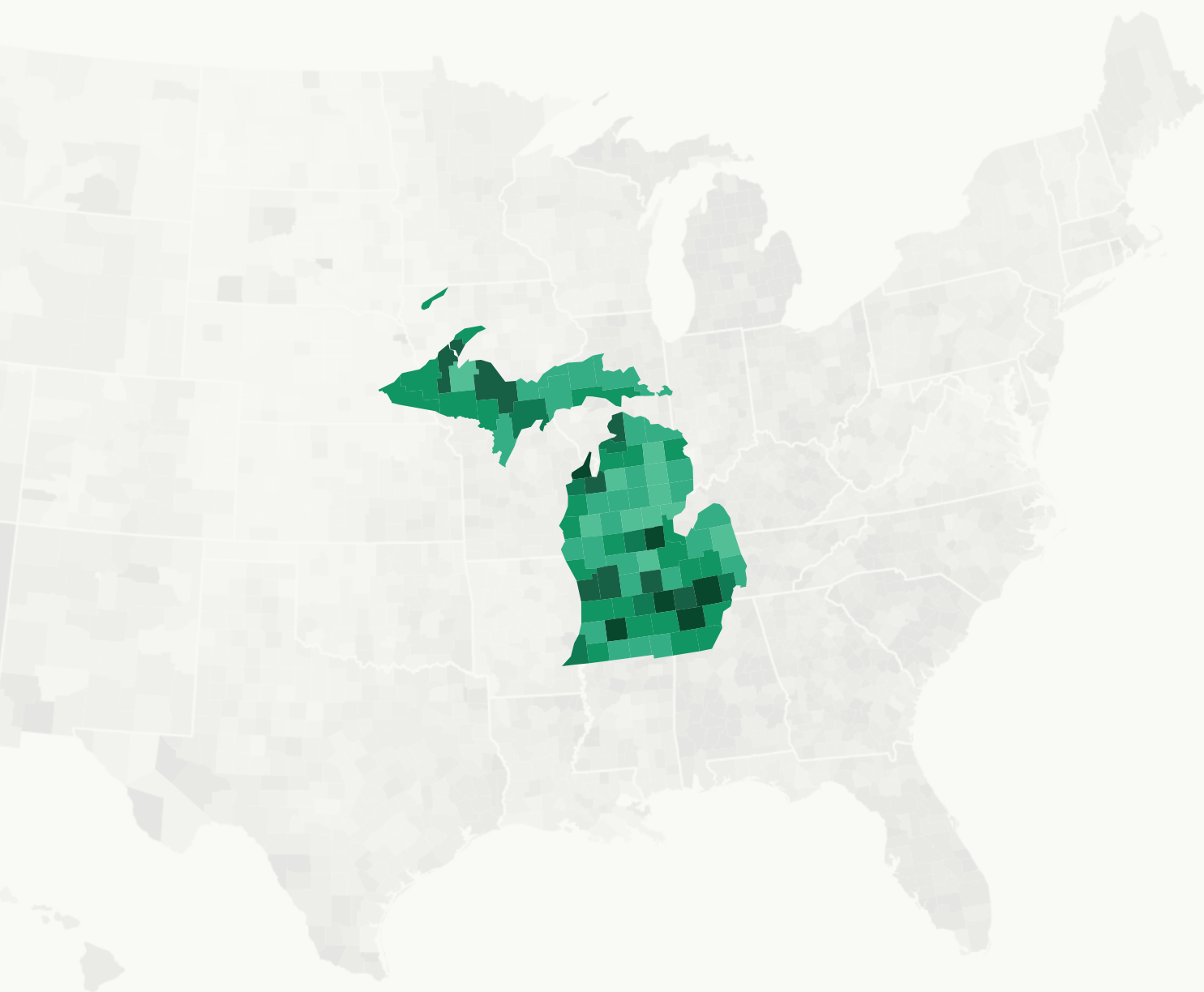


A STRONGER **MICHIGAN** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Michigan, 36.8 percent of the state's 5.2 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Michigan's attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 36.4 percent. Still, Michigan's rate of higher education attainment is below 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, however, some reason for optimism. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Michigan, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 37.8 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole. This suggests that young people in Michigan are getting the message that higher education is important to their future. However, Michigan's attainment rate among young adults is still below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Michigan is making some progress, but it has a long way to go. 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 43 percent of Michigan's adult population — 2.3 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 5,429,861, Michigan will need to add more than 923,000 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, 836,000 of the expected 1.3 million

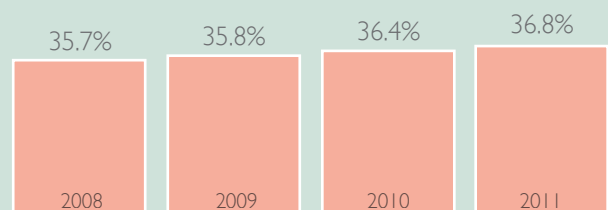
job vacancies in Michigan will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 62 percent of all Michigan jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

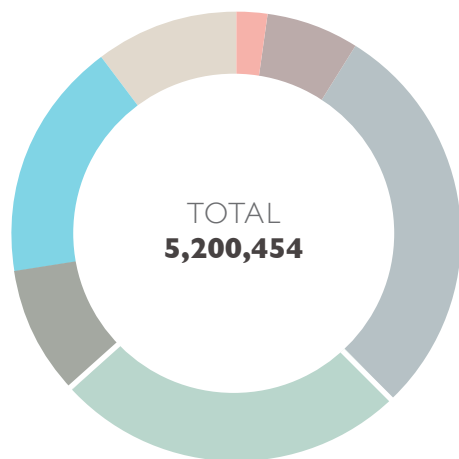
Clearly, the state's economic future depends on producing more college graduates — and an excellent place to begin is with those who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2011, more than 1.3 million Michigan adults — 25.3 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but lacked either a two- or four-year degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way toward helping Michigan 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 Michigan 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. Michigan 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 Michigan'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





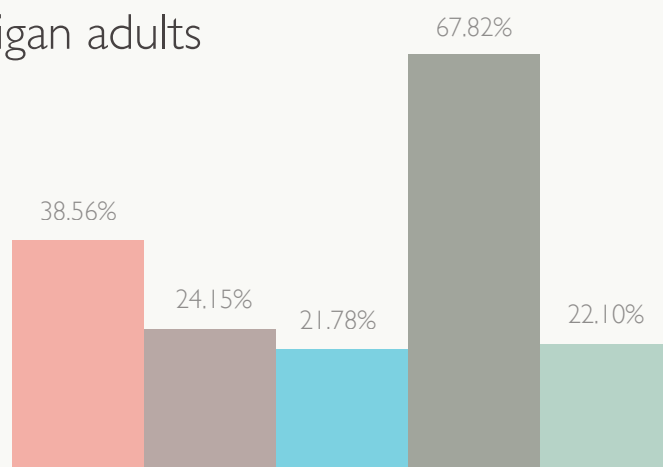
Levels of education for Michigan adults (ages 25-64)

Less than ninth grade	125,617	2.42%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	345,418	6.64%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,500,532	28.85%
Some college, no degree	1,312,878	25.25%
Associate degree	493,960	9.49%
Bachelor's degree	899,960	17.31%
Graduate or professional degree	522,668	10.05%

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

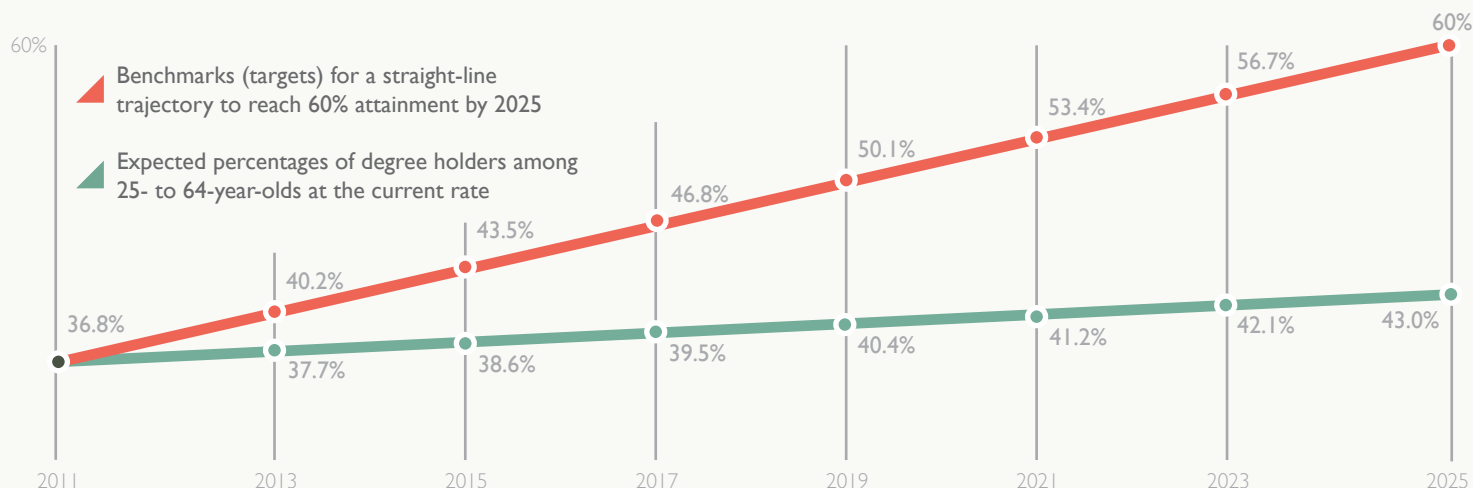
Degree-attainment rates among Michigan adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	38.56%
Black	24.15%
Hispanic	21.78%
Asian	67.82%
Native American	22.10%



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

The path to 60% degree attainment in Michigan



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

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



Alcona	22.85	Charlevoix	34.93	Gratiot	22.15	Lake	16.93	Missaukee	23.87	Presque Isle	26.20
Alger	25.07	Cheboygan	27.40	Hillsdale	22.52	Lapeer	29.03	Monroe	29.16	Roscommon	25.58
Allegan	29.46	Chippewa	25.32	Houghton	40.94	Leelanau	48.75	Montcalm	23.51	Saginaw	30.92
Alpena	33.01	Clare	20.91	Huron	26.26	Lenawee	29.60	Montmorency	21.71	St. Clair	27.38
Antrim	30.15	Clinton	41.28	Ingham	45.96	Livingston	43.85	Muskegon	28.59	St. Joseph	24.24
Arenac	20.35	Crawford	26.13	Ionia	24.10	Luce	22.63	Newaygo	23.07	Sanilac	20.98
Baraga	18.48	Delta	33.68	Iosco	22.50	Mackinac	28.59	Oakland	53.61	Schoolcraft	23.55
Barry	28.29	Dickinson	31.14	Iron	28.87	Macomb	35.09	Oceana	24.50	Shiawassee	27.33
Bay	32.36	Eaton	38.24	Isabella	35.97	Manistee	28.12	Ogemaw	21.14	Tuscola	25.08
Benzie	33.89	Emmet	40.19	Jackson	29.01	Marquette	40.24	Ontonagon	31.31	Van Buren	27.51
Berrien	35.17	Genesee	30.35	Kalamazoo	44.82	Mason	31.41	Osceola	23.93	Washtenaw	60.51
Branch	23.11	Gladwin	20.76	Kalkaska	17.06	Mecosta	32.59	Oscoda	19.13	Wayne	30.02
Calhoun	29.79	Gogebic	32.45	Kent	41.51	Menominee	25.84	Otsego	28.94	Wexford	26.98
Cass	27.79	Grand Traverse	41.87	Keweenaw	30.70	Midland	45.62	Ottawa	40.49		

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