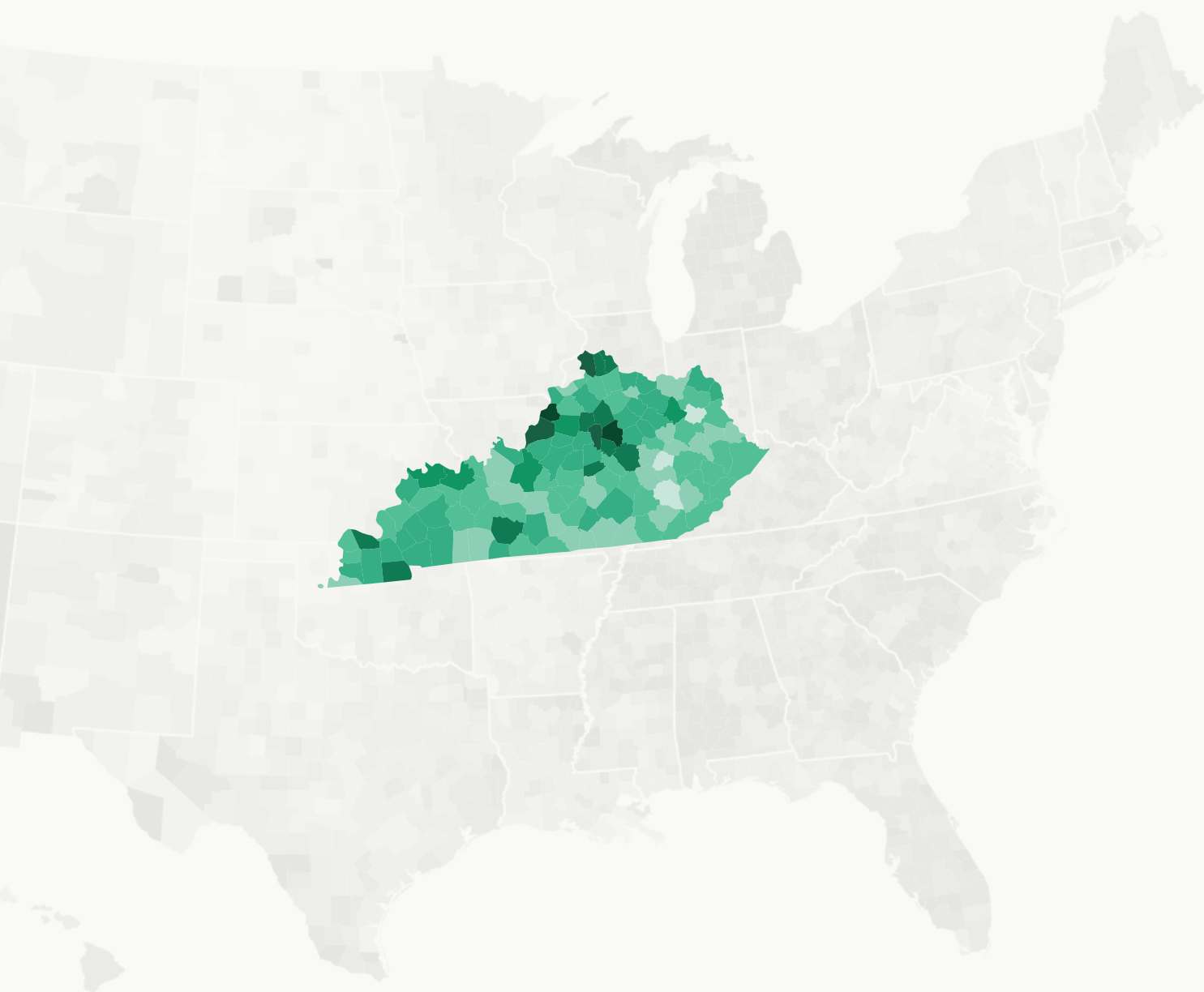


A STRONGER **KENTUCKY** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Kentucky, 30.8 percent of the state's 2.3 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Kentucky's attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 30 percent. Also, Kentucky's rate of higher education attainment is well 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 Kentucky, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 33.9 percent, considerably higher than that of the adult population as a whole. This suggests that young people in Kentucky are getting the message that higher education is important to their future. However, Kentucky's attainment rate among young adults is still below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Kentucky 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 39 percent of Kentucky's adult population — 872,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 2,247,168, Kentucky will need to add more than 476,000 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, 330,000 of the expected 617,000

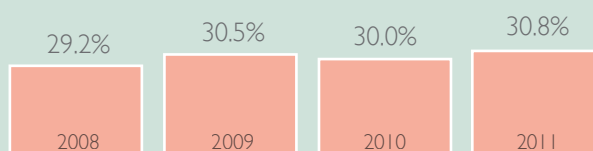
job vacancies in Kentucky will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 54 percent of all Kentucky jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 516,000 Kentucky adults — 22.2 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 Kentucky reach the 60 percent goal.

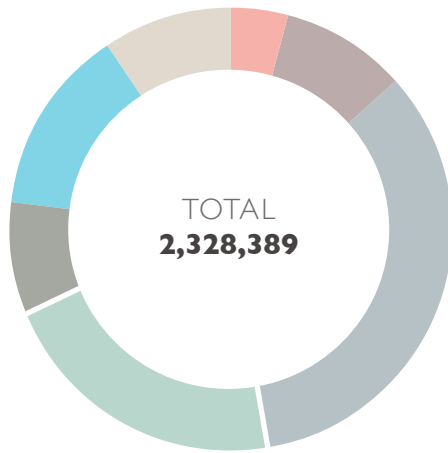
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Kentucky county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

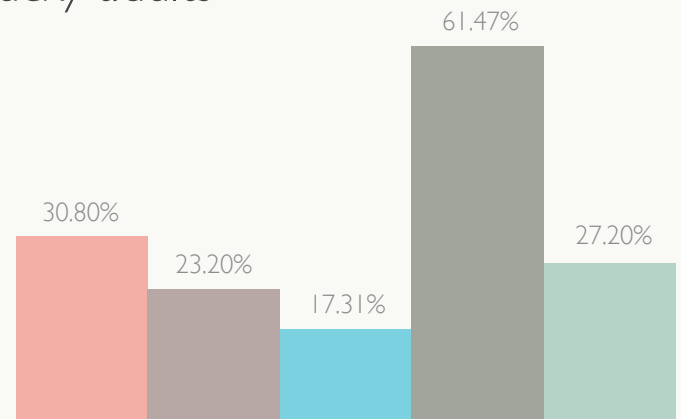


Less than ninth grade	96,449	4.14%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	211,153	9.07%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	787,968	33.84%
Some college, no degree	516,394	22.18%
Associate degree	186,589	8.01%
Bachelor's degree	315,337	13.54%
Graduate or professional degree	214,499	9.21%

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

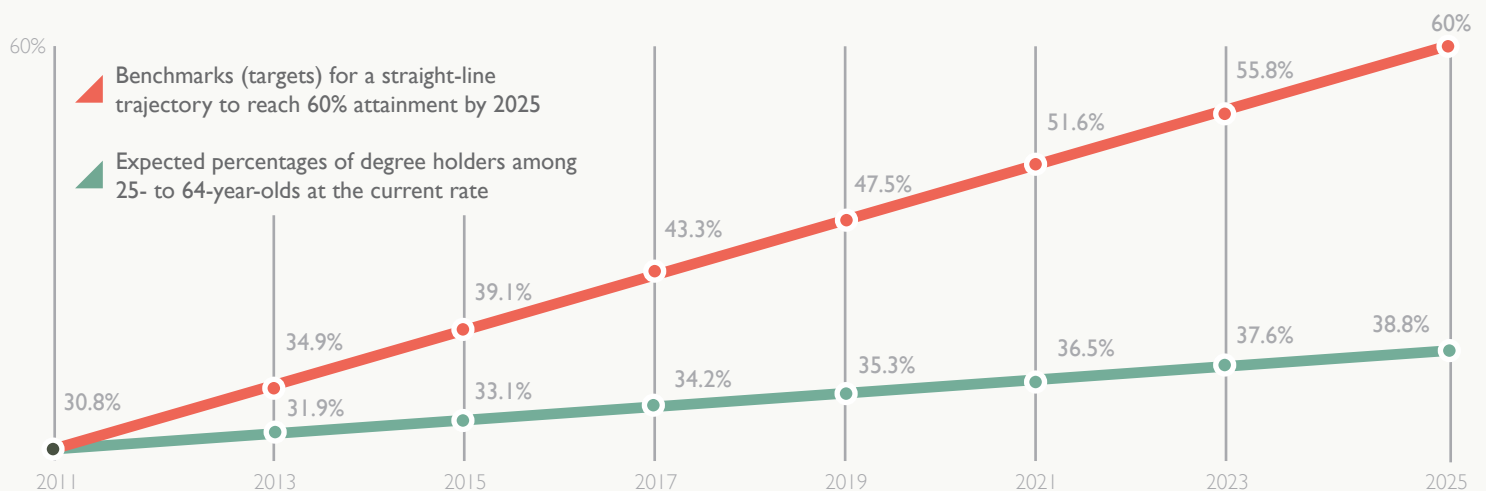
Degree-attainment rates among Kentucky adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	30.80%
Black	23.20%
Hispanic	17.31%
Asian	61.47%
Native American	27.20%



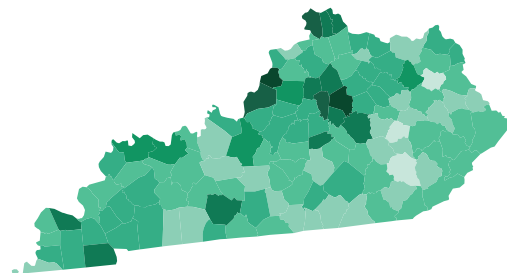
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Kentucky



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

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



Adair	21.34	Carroll	13.95	Grant	16.70	Knox	11.48	Mason	25.06	Robertson	13.67
Allen	19.49	Carter	18.57	Graves	25.04	Larue	20.67	Meade	23.16	Rockcastle	19.01
Anderson	27.42	Casey	16.34	Grayson	14.69	Laurel	21.30	Menifee	15.23	Rowan	33.22
Ballard	22.09	Christian	22.81	Green	20.32	Lawrence	17.21	Mercer	25.92	Russell	25.07
Barren	23.59	Clark	27.56	Greenup	26.41	Lee	10.57	Metcalfe	13.02	Scott	35.60
Bath	22.68	Clay	11.00	Hancock	18.87	Leslie	13.11	Monroe	19.56	Shelby	31.61
Bell	18.80	Clinton	14.25	Hardin	31.23	Letcher	18.66	Montgomery	22.87	Simpson	24.73
Boone	40.73	Crittenden	19.23	Harlan	20.15	Lewis	16.15	Morgan	17.23	Spencer	25.51
Bourbon	24.86	Cumberland	15.05	Harrison	20.58	Lincoln	16.93	Muhlenberg	19.54	Taylor	21.61
Boyd	26.78	Daviess	28.58	Hart	13.85	Livingston	19.38	Nelson	25.30	Todd	16.58
Boyle	33.37	Edmonson	18.03	Henderson	28.44	Logan	15.97	Nicholas	22.50	Trigg	27.01
Bracken	23.02	Elliott	10.38	Henry	20.82	Lyon	23.08	Ohio	18.48	Trimble	23.42
Breathitt	17.38	Estill	13.60	Hickman	23.55	McCracken	35.97	Oldham	48.52	Union	26.21
Breckinridge	16.55	Fayette	49.17	Hopkins	24.30	McCreary	14.60	Owen	24.25	Warren	37.97
Bullitt	22.32	Fleming	26.07	Jackson	11.72	McLean	21.41	Owsley	12.93	Washington	24.51
Butler	19.36	Floyd	17.81	Jefferson	39.05	Madison	37.14	Pendleton	21.67	Wayne	14.33
Caldwell	22.80	Franklin	33.65	Jessamine	36.80	Magoffin	14.86	Perry	19.71	Webster	17.08
Calloway	38.31	Fulton	15.08	Johnson	15.05	Marion	22.06	Pike	19.20	Whitley	17.37
Campbell	38.55	Gallatin	17.86	Kenton	37.38	Marshall	25.72	Powell	17.24	Wolfe	14.66
Carlisle	20.44	Garrard	22.21	Knott	19.05	Martin	13.83	Pulaski	25.08	Woodford	39.39

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.

