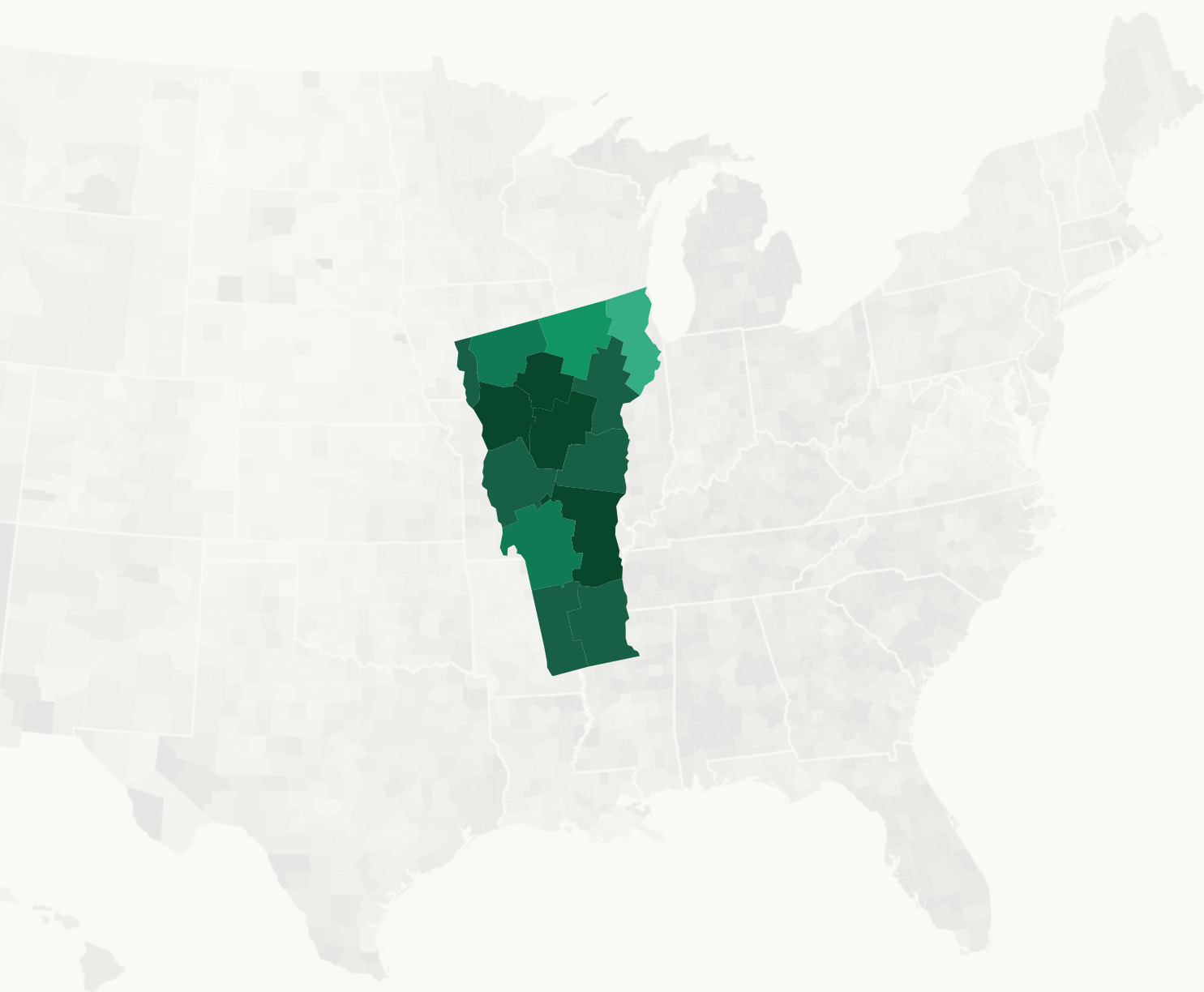


A STRONGER **VERMONT** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Vermont, 46.2 percent of the state's 341,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Vermont's attainment rate is increasing; last year, the rate was 44.1 percent. Also, Vermont'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 Vermont. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Vermont, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 47.2 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, Vermont 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 Vermont's adult population — 190,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 354,303, Vermont will need to add more than 22,000 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, 62,000 of the expected 100,000 job

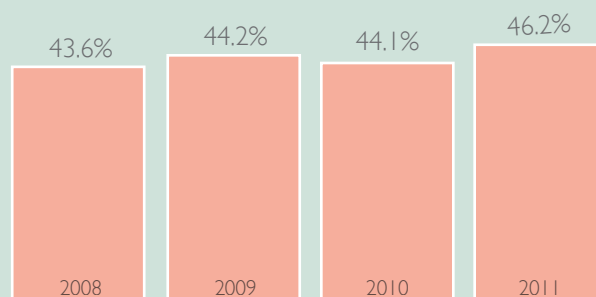
vacancies in Vermont will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 62 percent of all Vermont jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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, nearly 63,000 Vermont adults — 18.3 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 Vermont reach the 60 percent goal.

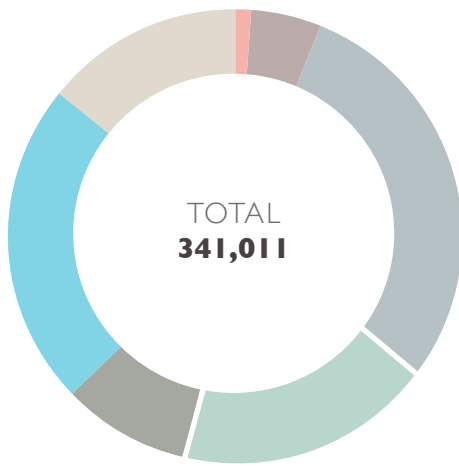
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Vermont county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

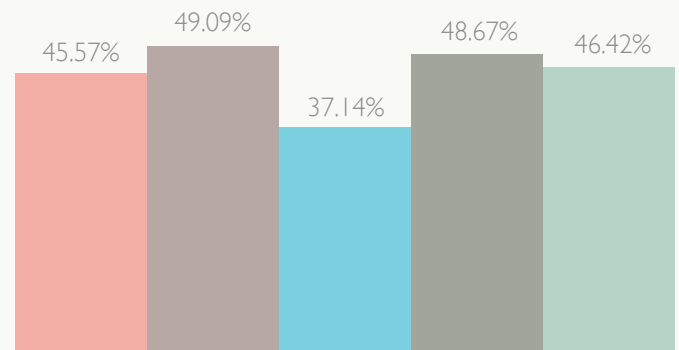


Less than ninth grade	4,463	1.31%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	16,869	4.95%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	99,533	29.19%
Some college, no degree	62,506	18.33%
Associate degree	30,945	9.07%
Bachelor's degree	78,938	23.15%
Graduate or professional degree	47,757	14.00%

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

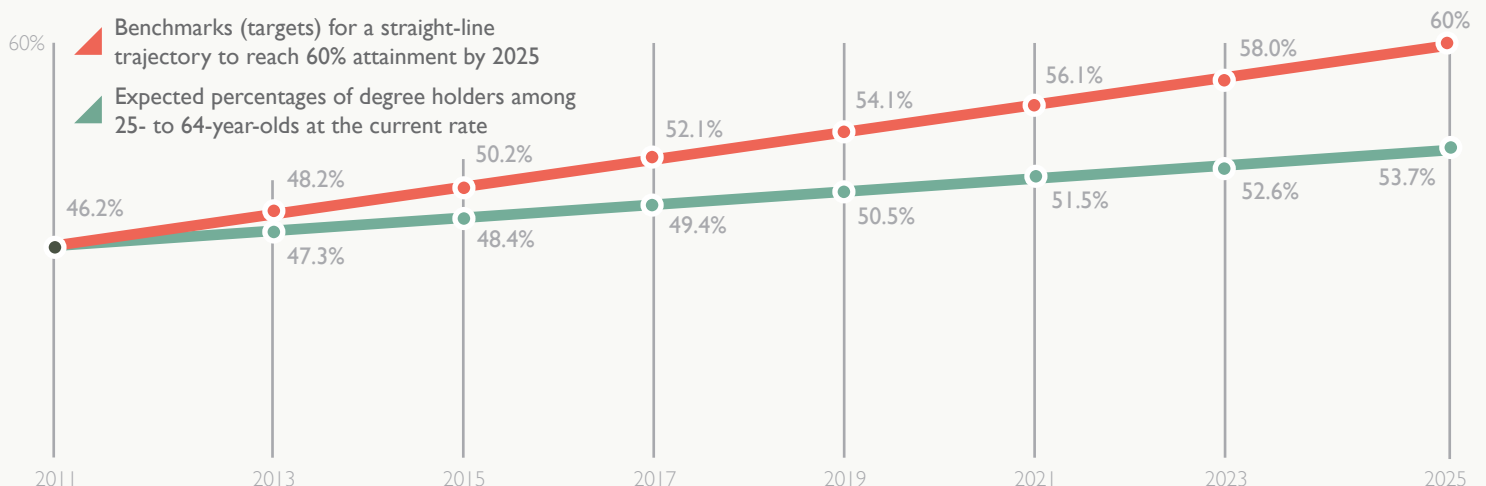
Degree-attainment rates among Vermont adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	45.57%
Black	49.09%
Hispanic	37.14%
Asian	48.67%
Native American	46.42%



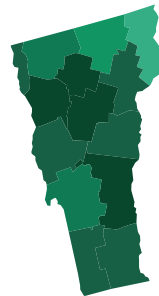
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Vermont



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

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



Addison	42.80	Chittenden	58.30	Grand Isle	39.19	Orleans	28.11	Windham	44.06
Bennington	40.73	Essex	26.40	Lamoille	45.23	Rutland	35.95	Windsor	44.51
Caledonia	39.04	Franklin	34.09	Orange	39.94	Washington	49.50		

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.

