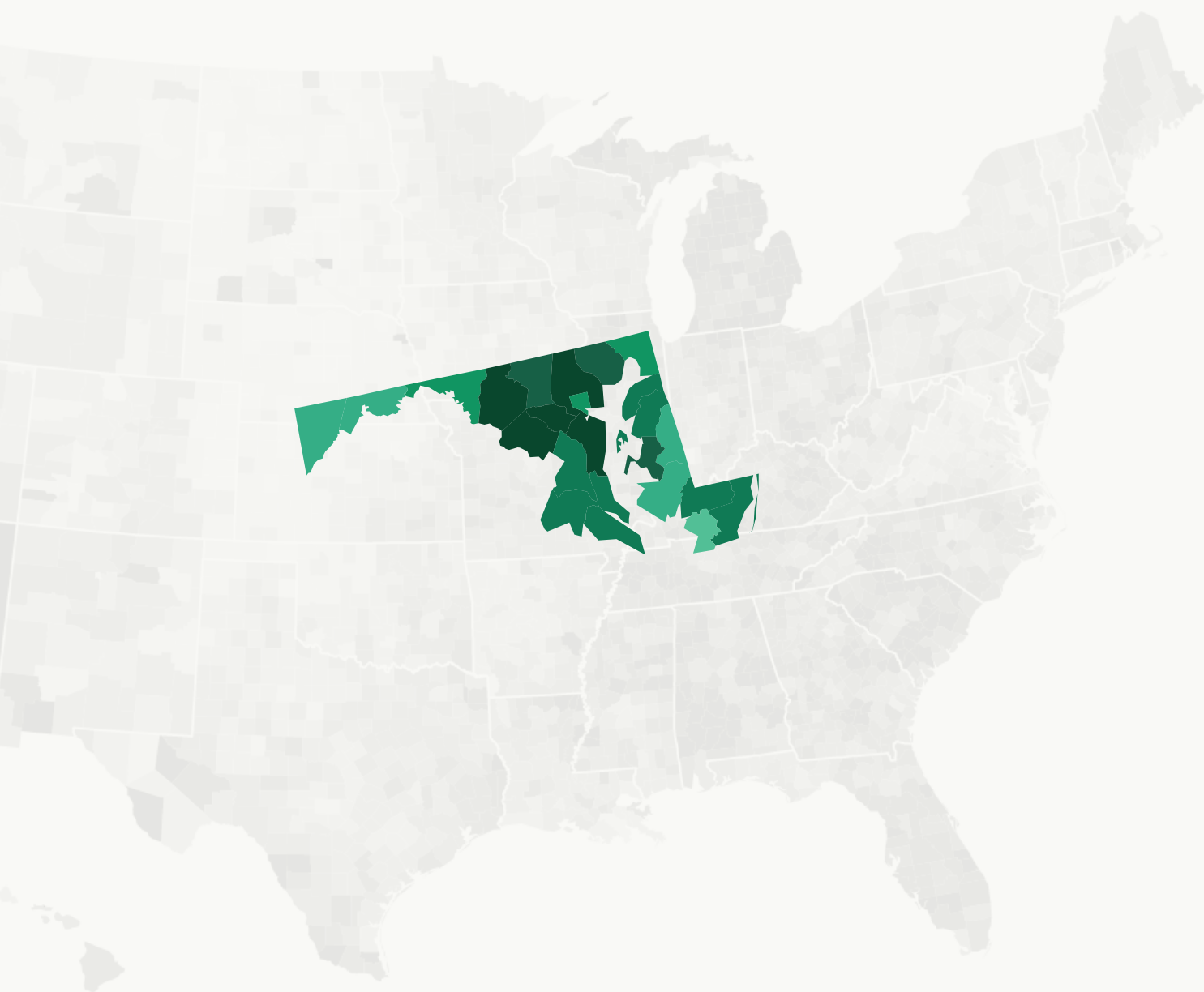


A STRONGER **MARYLAND** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Maryland, 45.4 percent of the state's 3.2 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Maryland's attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 44.7 percent. Maryland'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.

Still, there is reason for concern about the educational trends in Maryland. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Maryland, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 45.9 percent — only slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole, though well above the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Despite its relative success, Maryland 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 53 percent of Maryland's adult population — 1.8 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 3,339,835, Maryland will need to add nearly 252,000 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, 569,000 of the expected 908,000

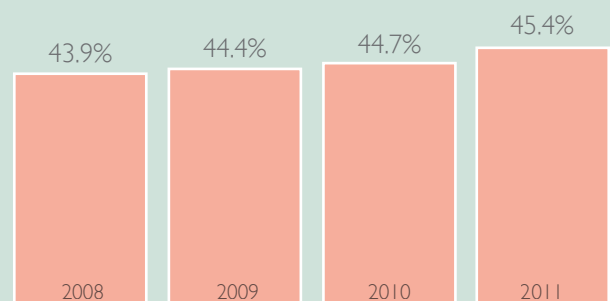
job vacancies in Maryland will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 66 percent of all Maryland jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 662,000 Maryland adults — 20.8 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 Maryland reach the 60 percent goal.

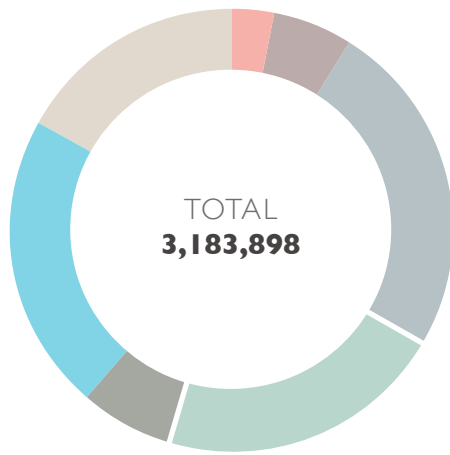
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Maryland county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

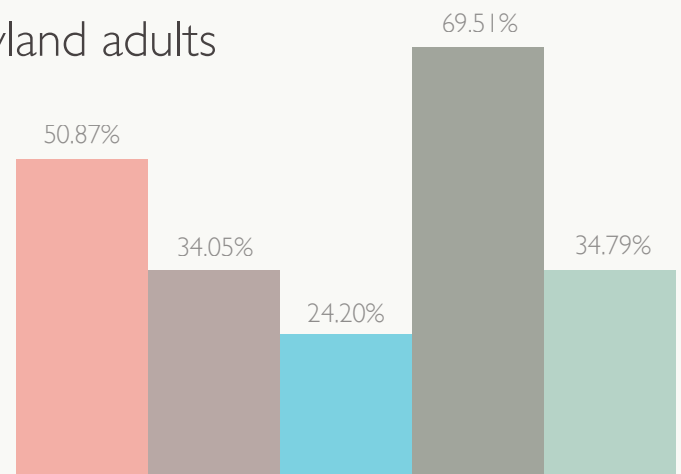


Less than ninth grade	104,511	<b>3.28%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	186,270	<b>5.85%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	785,370	<b>24.67%</b>
Some college, no degree	661,596	<b>20.78%</b>
Associate degree	217,689	<b>6.84%</b>
Bachelor's degree	696,649	<b>21.88%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	531,813	<b>16.70%</b>

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

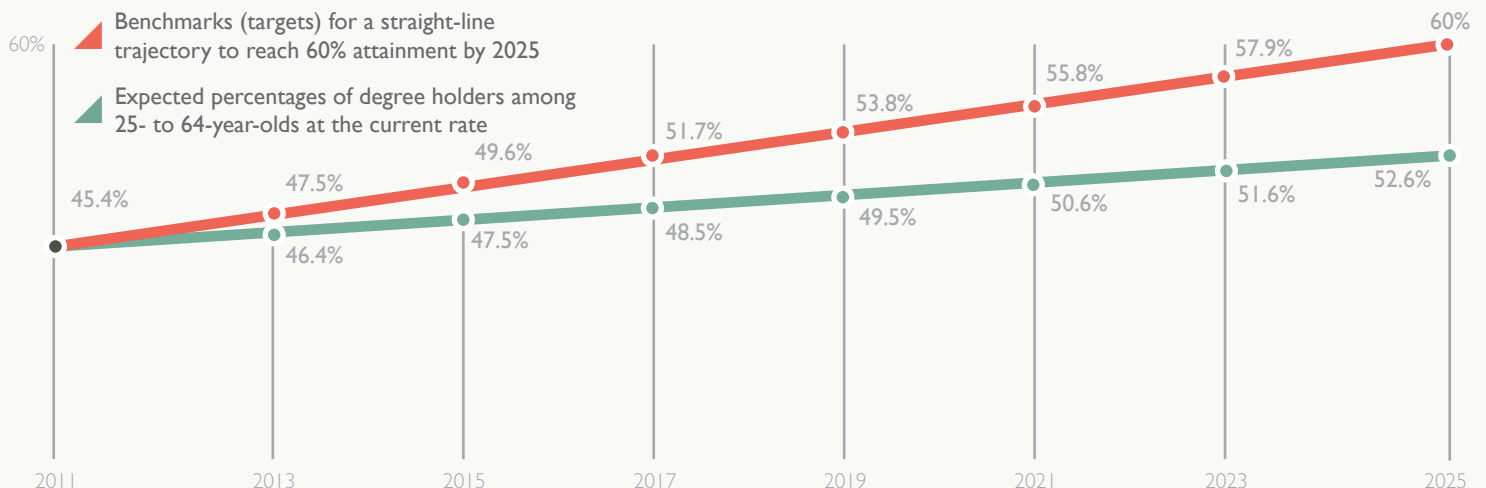
## Degree-attainment rates among Maryland adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>50.87%</b>
Black	<b>34.05%</b>
Hispanic	<b>24.20%</b>
Asian	<b>69.51%</b>
Native American	<b>34.79%</b>



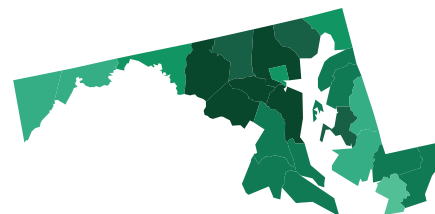
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Maryland



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

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



Allegany	26.83	Caroline	24.86	Dorchester	25.15	Howard	67.47	Queen Anne's	38.71	Washington	29.43
Anne Arundel	45.70	Carroll	43.41	Frederick	47.80	Kent	38.30	St. Mary's	38.15	Wicomico	33.86
Baltimore	45.00	Cecil	29.85	Garrett	27.15	Montgomery	63.70	Somerset	19.11	Worcester	38.00
Calvert	38.36	Charles	36.98	Harford	43.12	Prince George's	37.22	Talbot	39.35	Baltimore city	32.54

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.

