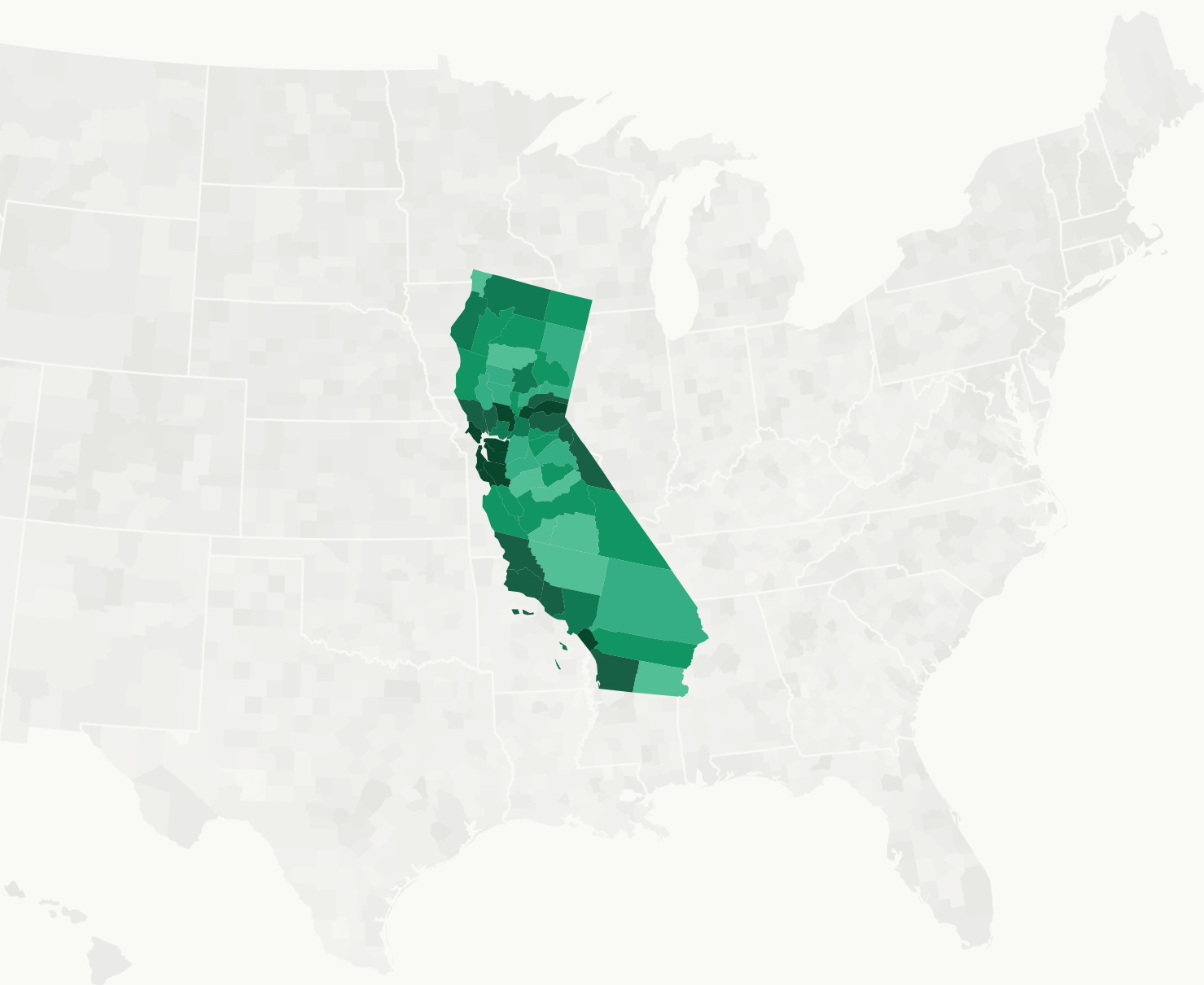


A STRONGER **CALIFORNIA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In California, 38.9 percent of the state's 20 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. California's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 38.8 percent. Also, California's rate of higher education attainment is on par with 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 concern about the educational trends in California. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In California, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 38 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole. What's more, California's attainment rate among young adults is below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

California clearly has a long way to go. 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, 43 percent of California's adult population — 9.5 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 22,154,167, California will need to add nearly 3.8 million 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, 3.3 million of the expected 5.5 million

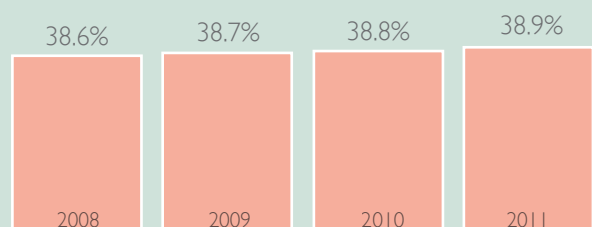
job vacancies in California will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 61 percent of all California jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 4.5 million California 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 California reach the 60 percent goal.

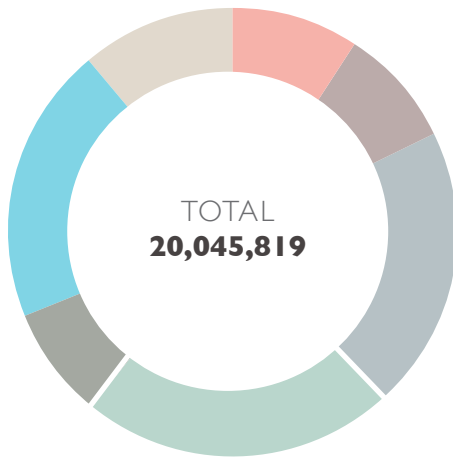
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each California county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

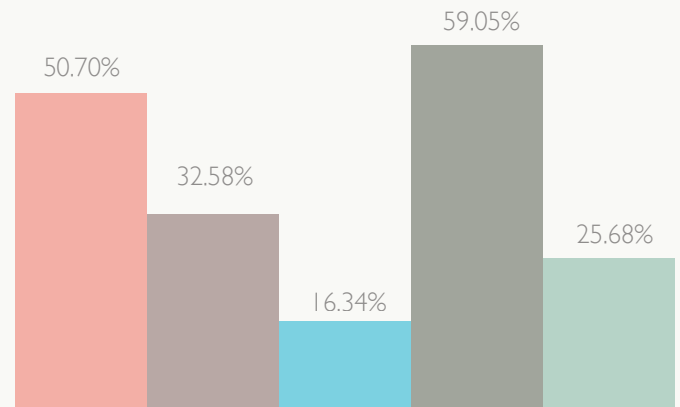


Less than ninth grade	1,859,961	<b>9.28%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	1,745,632	<b>8.71%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	4,130,374	<b>20.60%</b>
Some college, no degree	4,511,756	<b>22.51%</b>
Associate degree	1,588,179	<b>7.92%</b>
Bachelor's degree	4,010,467	<b>20.01%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	2,199,450	<b>10.97%</b>

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

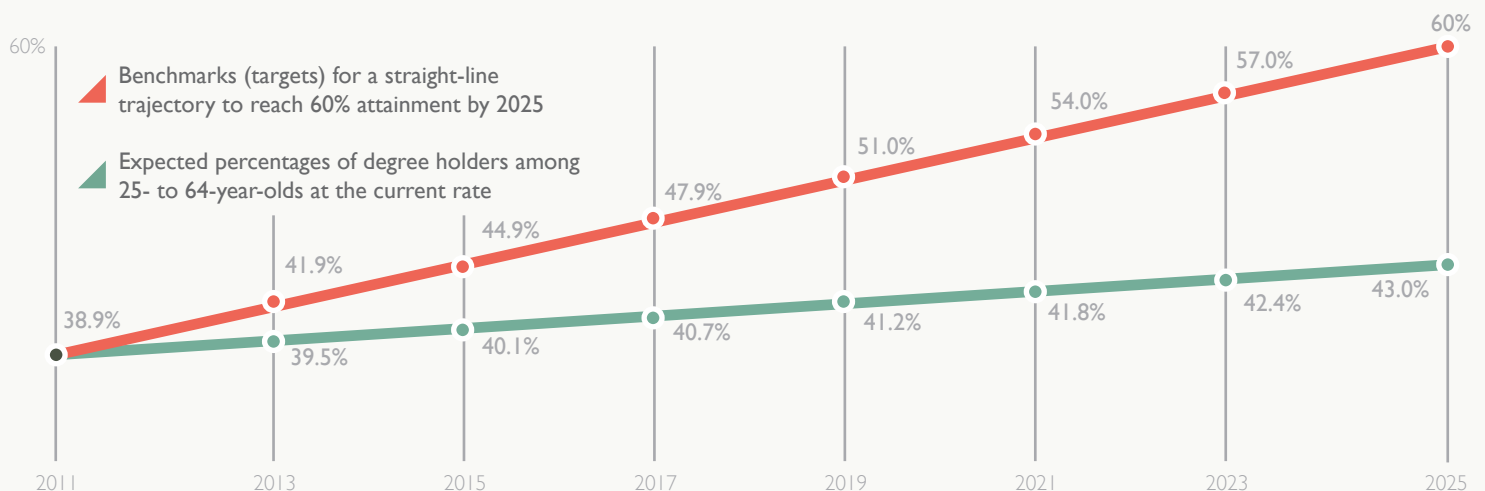
## Degree-attainment rates among California adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>50.70%</b>
Black	<b>32.58%</b>
Hispanic	<b>16.34%</b>
Asian	<b>59.05%</b>
Native American	<b>25.68%</b>



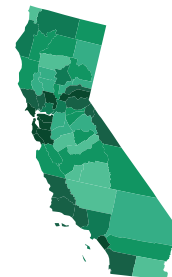
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in California



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

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



Alameda	50.05	Glenn	22.57	Marin	61.48	Placer	48.49	San Mateo	54.26	Sutter	29.84
Alpine	39.14	Humboldt	36.98	Mariposa	30.07	Plumas	32.88	Santa Barbara	39.99	Tehama	21.24
Amador	29.10	Imperial	21.24	Mendocino	31.72	Riverside	28.25	Santa Clara	55.08	Trinity	29.29
Butte	34.70	Inyo	33.26	Merced	19.75	Sacramento	38.15	Santa Cruz	46.91	Tulare	20.91
Calaveras	31.16	Kern	21.49	Modoc	28.08	San Benito	28.27	Shasta	31.65	Tuolumne	26.45
Colusa	22.63	Kings	20.98	Mono	42.39	San Bernardino	27.33	Sierra	27.29	Ventura	40.48
Contra Costa	47.75	Lake	25.83	Monterey	29.47	San Diego	44.15	Siskiyou	33.52	Yolo	48.14
Del Norte	21.98	Lassen	24.29	Napa	40.29	San Francisco	61.42	Solano	35.48	Yuba	22.65
El Dorado	42.12	Los Angeles	37.34	Nevada	43.47	San Joaquin	26.68	Sonoma	40.44		
Fresno	28.06	Madera	21.53	Orange	45.46	San Luis Obispo	40.90	Stanislaus	24.21		

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.

