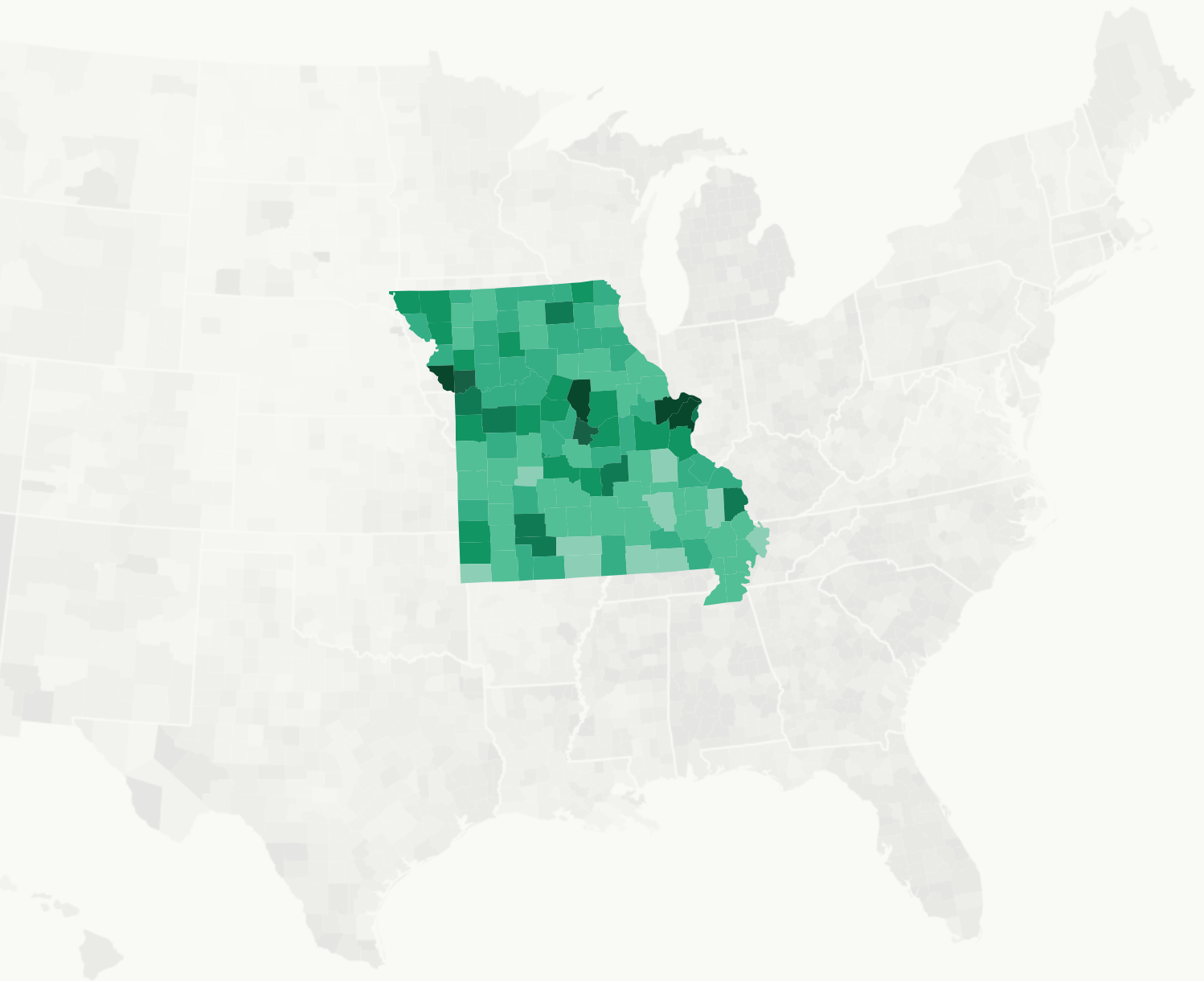


A STRONGER **MISSOURI** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Missouri, 36.4 percent of the state's 3.15 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Missouri's attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 35.8 percent. Also, Missouri'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 Missouri, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 40 percent, considerably higher than that of the adult population as a whole. This suggests that young people in Missouri are getting the message that higher education is important to their future. However, Missouri's attainment rate among young adults is still slightly below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Missouri is making some progress, but it has a long way to go. In Missouri and nationally, college attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 44 percent of Missouri's adult population — 1.4 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 3,094,790, Missouri will need to add nearly 486,000 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, 523,000 of the expected 898,000 job

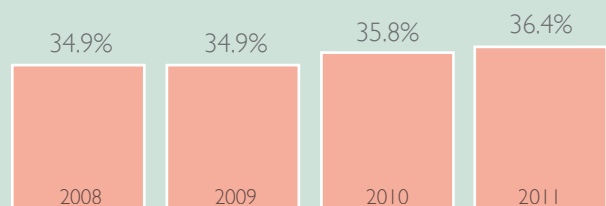
vacancies in Missouri will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 59 percent of all Missouri jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 755,000 Missouri adults — 23.9 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 Missouri reach the 60 percent goal.

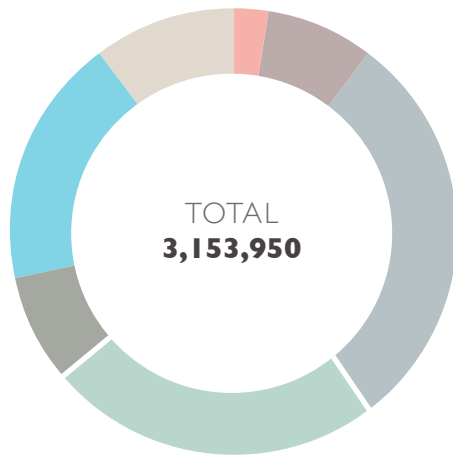
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Missouri county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

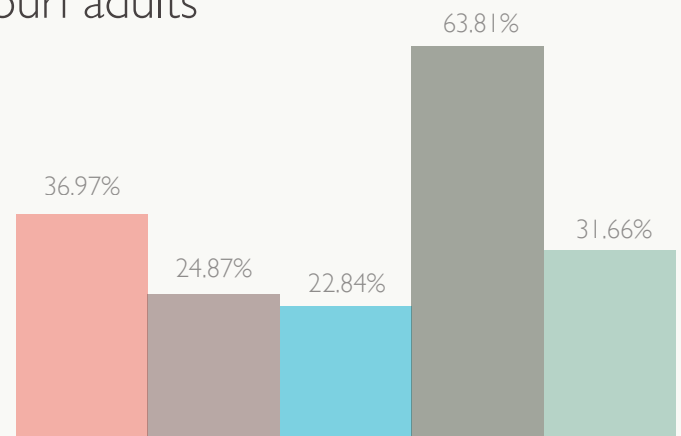


Less than ninth grade	80,462	2.55%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	244,457	7.75%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	927,865	29.42%
Some college, no degree	754,665	23.93%
Associate degree	256,747	8.14%
Bachelor's degree	570,335	18.08%
Graduate or professional degree	319,419	10.13%

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

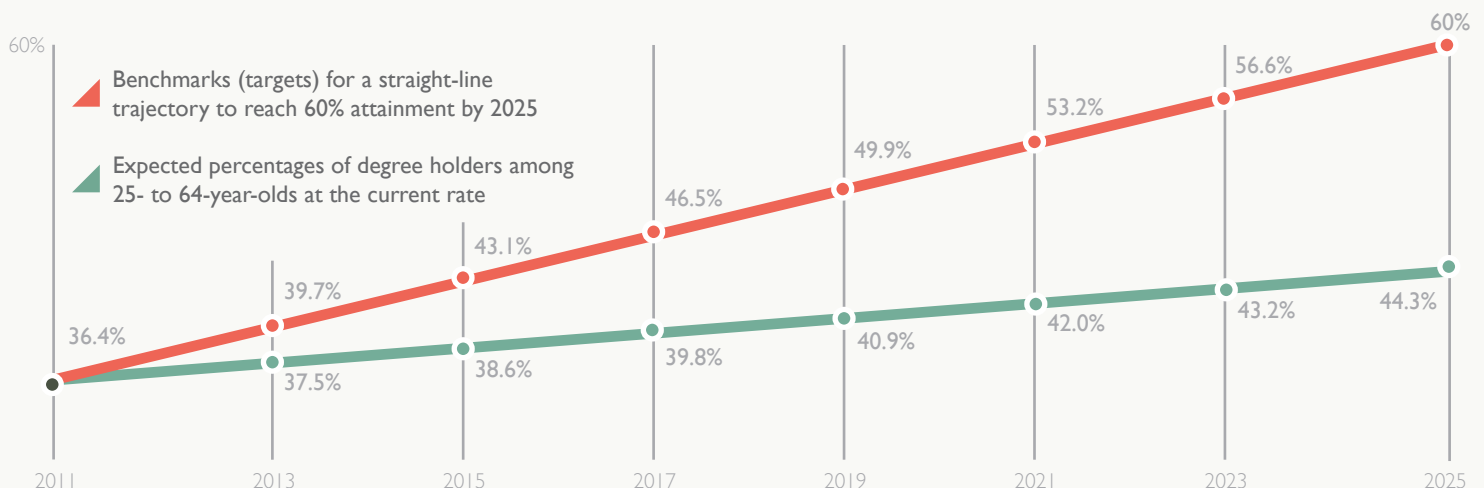
Degree-attainment rates among Missouri adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	36.97%
Black	24.87%
Hispanic	22.84%
Asian	63.81%
Native American	31.66%



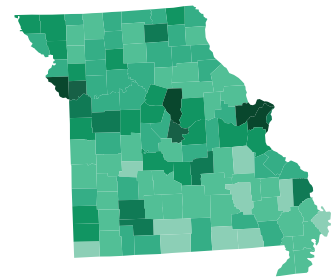
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Missouri



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

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



Adair	36.72	Chariton	25.34	Harrison	16.81	Macon	25.35	Phelps	35.41	Shannon	17.82
Andrew	27.78	Christian	36.56	Henry	23.62	Madison	18.47	Pike	18.16	Shelby	23.97
Atchison	33.06	Clark	24.39	Hickory	15.99	Maries	24.28	Platte	49.13	Stoddard	18.78
Audrain	19.81	Clay	41.94	Holt	23.58	Marion	26.47	Polk	25.62	Stone	22.58
Barry	18.96	Clinton	28.16	Howard	30.78	Mercer	24.07	Pulaski	32.61	Sullivan	18.41
Barton	25.76	Cole	40.44	Howell	23.56	Miller	18.79	Putnam	24.38	Taney	26.09
Bates	19.09	Cooper	28.02	Iron	18.34	Mississippi	15.59	Ralls	24.02	Texas	18.03
Benton	20.60	Crawford	17.12	Jackson	35.96	Moniteau	23.84	Randolph	20.73	Vernon	21.74
Bollinger	15.04	Dade	18.76	Jasper	27.92	Monroe	21.47	Ray	23.29	Warren	25.76
Boone	54.76	Dallas	19.16	Jefferson	29.51	Montgomery	22.20	Reynolds	13.31	Washington	12.75
Buchanan	26.83	Daviess	24.84	Johnson	36.50	Morgan	22.41	Ripley	15.54	Wayne	18.56
Butler	23.95	DeKalb	18.80	Knox	25.53	New Madrid	18.53	St. Charles	46.92	Webster	20.15
Caldwell	23.30	Dent	20.79	Laclede	19.60	Newton	28.87	St. Clair	21.37	Worth	25.02
Callaway	30.84	Douglas	15.03	Lafayette	25.83	Nodaway	32.95	Ste. Genevieve	22.34	Wright	19.20
Camden	29.02	Dunklin	16.75	Lawrence	22.22	Oregon	16.11	St. Francois	24.48	St. Louis city	36.83
Cape Girardeau	35.25	Franklin	27.95	Lewis	19.68	Osage	27.83	St. Louis	50.65		
Carroll	24.56	Gasconade	25.51	Lincoln	21.70	Ozark	15.88	Saline	24.63		
Carter	24.67	Gentry	21.25	Linn	21.72	Pemiscot	17.48	Schuyler	22.91		
Cass	32.60	Greene	37.09	Livingston	28.99	Perry	22.55	Scotland	28.83		
Cedar	19.64	Grundy	26.97	McDonald	14.41	Pettis	28.64	Scott	18.79		

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.

