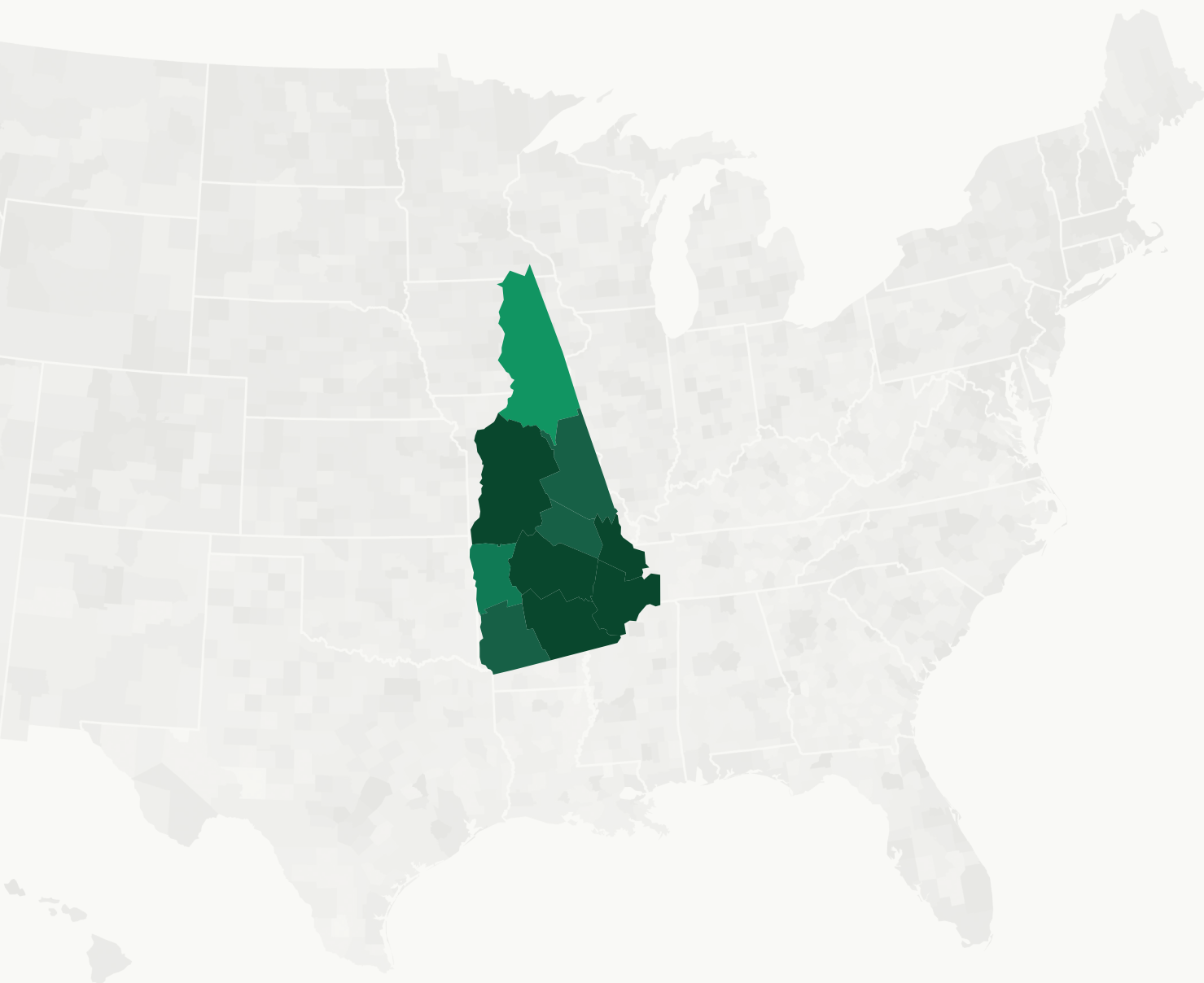


A STRONGER **NEW HAMPSHIRE** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



Efforts to boost college attainment in New Hampshire are key to achieving Goal 2025

In New Hampshire, 45.8 percent of the state's 730,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. New Hampshire's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was also 45.8 percent. Still, New Hampshire'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.

However, there is reason for concern about the educational trends in New Hampshire. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In New Hampshire, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 45.3 percent — lower than that of the adult population as a whole, though higher than the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, there is room for improvement in New Hampshire. 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 52.5 percent of New Hampshire's adult population — 431,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 820,018, New Hampshire will need to add nearly 62,000 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, 141,000 of the expected 223,000 job

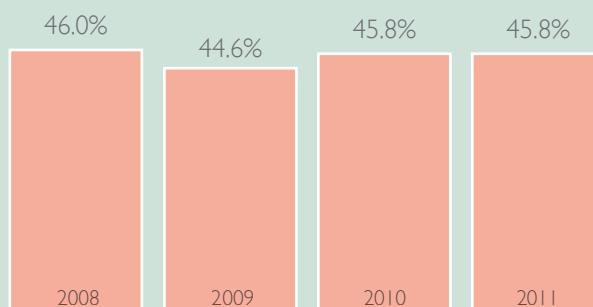
vacancies in New Hampshire will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 64 percent of all New Hampshire jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

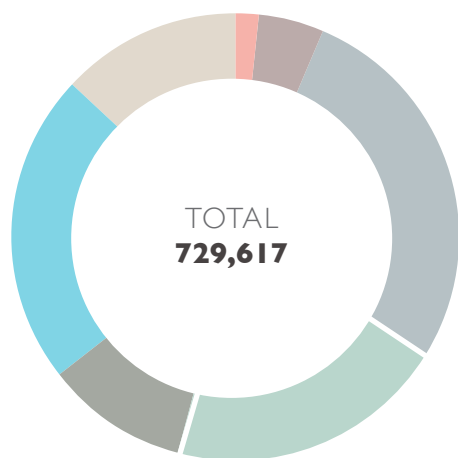
Clearly, the state's economic future depends on producing more college graduates — and an excellent place to begin is with those who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2011, more than 146,000 New Hampshire adults — 20.1 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but lacked either a two- or four-year degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way toward helping New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire 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. New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire'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





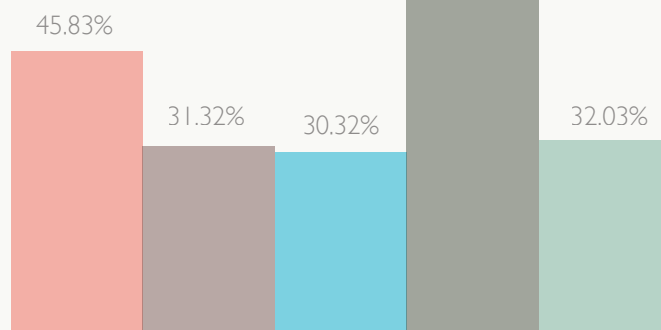
Levels of education for New Hampshire adults (ages 25-64)

Less than ninth grade	12,515	1.72%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	35,833	4.91%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	200,883	27.53%
Some college, no degree	146,399	20.07%
Associate degree	75,869	10.40%
Bachelor's degree	164,908	22.60%
Graduate or professional degree	93,210	12.78%

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

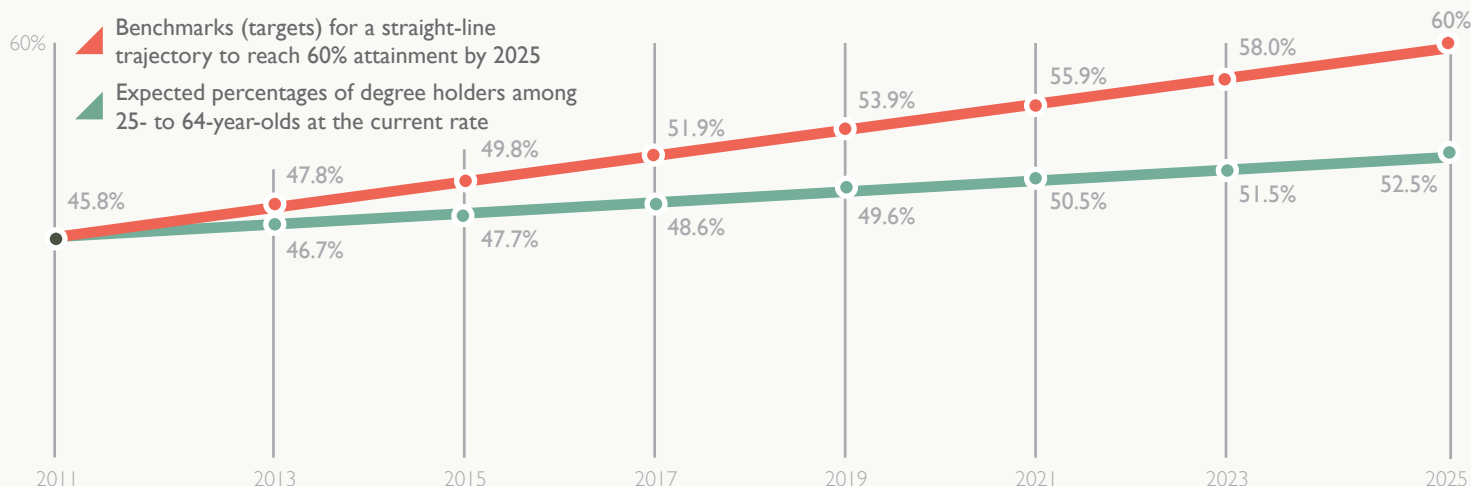
Degree-attainment rates among New Hampshire adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	45.83%
Black	31.32%
Hispanic	30.32%
Asian	63.98%
Native American	32.03%



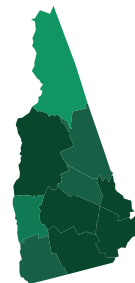
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in New Hampshire



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

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



Belknap	40.13	Cheshire	40.12	Grafton	45.49	Merrimack	46.05	Strafford	44.58
Carroll	40.92	Coos	28.83	Hillsborough	47.52	Rockingham	50.31	Sullivan	35.51

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.

