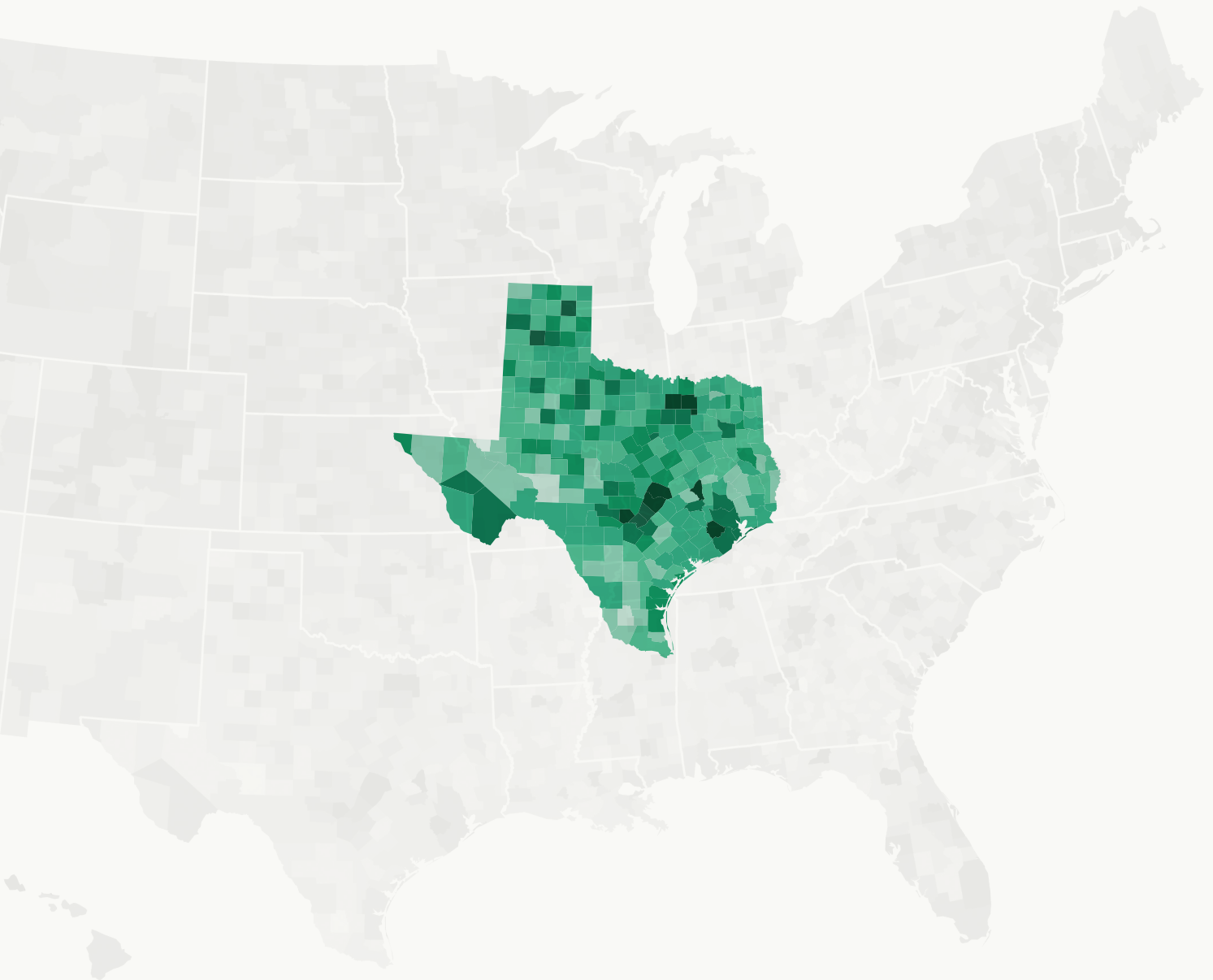


A STRONGER **TEXAS** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Texas, 34.5 percent of the state's 13.4 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Texas' attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 33.7 percent. Still, Texas' rate of higher education attainment is well 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 also rising, but again, 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 Texas. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Texas, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at just 33.9 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole. What's more, Texas' attainment rate among young adults is well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Texas 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, about 40 percent of Texas' adult population — 5.9 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 14,850,154, Texas will need to add more than 3 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, 2.2 million of the expected 4 million job vacancies in Texas will require postsecondary credentials.

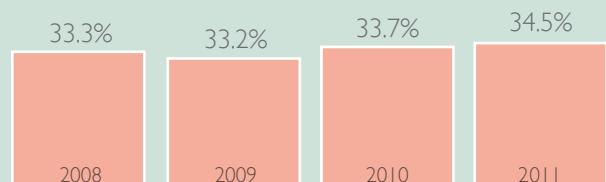
Indeed, 56 percent of all Texas jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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, 3.1 million Texas adults — 23.1 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 Texas reach the 60 percent goal.

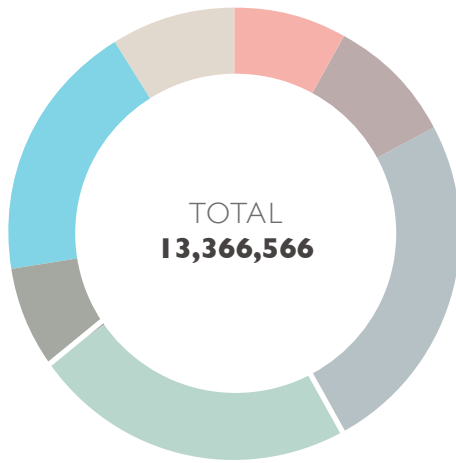
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Texas county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

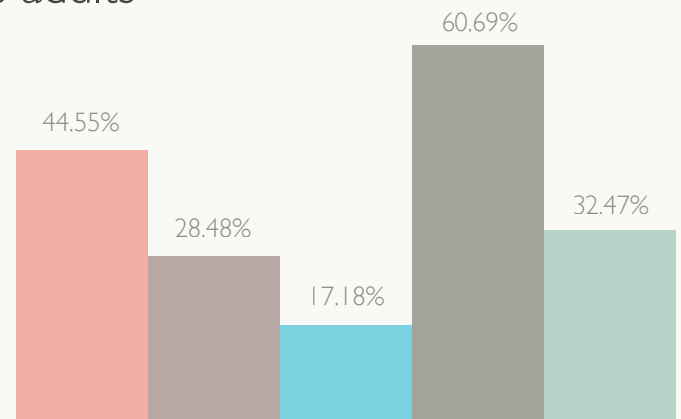


Less than ninth grade	1,092,143	<b>8.17%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	1,241,383	<b>9.29%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	3,329,672	<b>24.91%</b>
Some college, no degree	3,093,545	<b>23.14%</b>
Associate degree	949,585	<b>7.10%</b>
Bachelor's degree	2,494,952	<b>18.67%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	1,165,286	<b>8.72%</b>

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

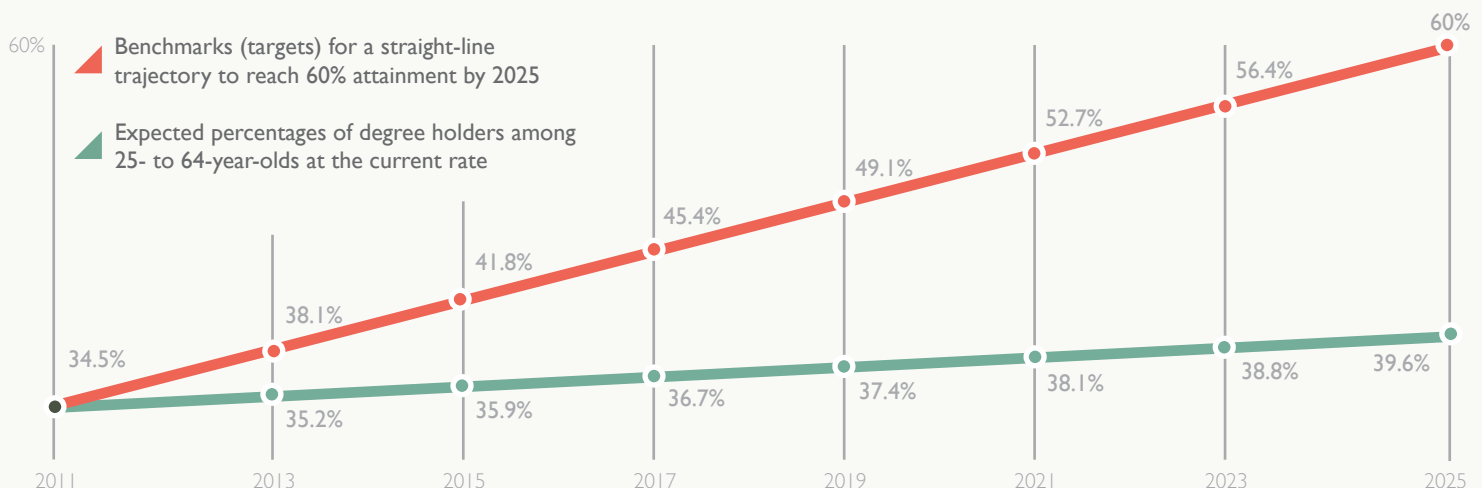
## Degree-attainment rates among Texas adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>44.55%</b>
Black	<b>28.48%</b>
Hispanic	<b>17.18%</b>
Asian	<b>60.69%</b>
Native American	<b>32.47%</b>



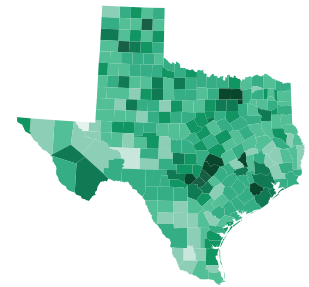
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Texas



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

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



Anderson	17.95	Collingsworth	23.54	Glasscock	33.16	Kendall	48.88	Motley	27.19	Sterling	22.77
Andrews	19.11	Colorado	25.15	Goliad	27.75	Kenedy	28.57	Nacogdoches	29.81	Stonewall	33.71
Angelina	23.50	Comal	41.59	Gonzales	15.52	Kent	32.82	Navarro	22.90	Sutton	15.41
Aransas	29.53	Comanche	28.07	Gray	19.95	Kerr	34.36	Newton	13.83	Swisher	24.92
Archer	24.84	Concho	15.75	Grayson	29.29	Kimble	24.75	Nolan	25.12	Tarrant	37.09
Armstrong	38.43	Cooke	27.09	Gregg	29.96	King	36.90	Nueces	28.58	Taylor	31.78
Atascosa	18.27	Coryell	25.59	Grimes	17.07	Kinney	22.98	Ochiltree	20.46	Terrell	22.59
Austin	27.70	Cottle	22.86	Guadalupe	34.03	Kleberg	30.80	Oldham	35.36	Terry	21.07
Bailey	29.02	Crane	19.47	Hale	20.21	Knox	21.79	Orange	22.24	Throckmorton	26.86
Bandera	30.61	Crockett	10.81	Hall	22.24	Lamar	27.29	Palo Pinto	19.40	Titus	18.92
Bastrop	24.17	Crosby	17.43	Hamilton	28.23	Lamb	21.34	Panola	19.72	Tom Green	30.07
Baylor	33.62	Culberson	20.33	Hansford	29.41	Lampasas	30.62	Parker	32.61	Travis	51.30
Bee	16.00	Dallam	14.60	Hardeman	26.15	La Salle	11.84	Parmer	20.20	Trinity	14.91
Bell	32.30	Dallas	34.22	Hardin	23.82	Lavaca	22.67	Pecos	16.17	Tyler	17.61
Bexar	34.23	Dawson	12.11	Harris	34.33	Lee	22.85	Polk	15.85	Upshur	23.22
Blanco	31.98	Deaf Smith	18.05	Harrison	26.21	Leon	17.01	Potter	21.83	Upton	20.71
Borden	34.24	Delta	14.33	Hartley	27.05	Liberty	13.62	Presidio	23.29	Uvalde	24.30
Bosque	20.38	Denton	49.25	Haskell	16.94	Limestone	19.04	Rains	19.55	Val Verde	26.17
Bowie	25.80	DeWitt	19.49	Hays	42.94	Lipscomb	27.60	Randall	41.87	Van Zandt	18.87
Brazoria	36.72	Dickens	20.35	Hemphill	21.97	Live Oak	21.21	Reagan	13.91	Victoria	25.54
Brazos	45.25	Dimmit	16.16	Henderson	22.99	Llano	33.00	Real	26.90	Walker	23.04
Brewster	38.32	Donley	29.34	Hidalgo	20.84	Loving	5.36	Red River	17.14	Waller	24.04
Briscoe	25.90	Duval	14.14	Hill	23.42	Lubbock	34.95	Reeves	12.14	Ward	16.26
Brooks	14.88	Eastland	23.10	Hockley	26.67	Lynn	20.22	Refugio	16.78	Washington	34.69
Brown	20.67	Ector	20.04	Hood	29.05	McCulloch	25.90	Roberts	40.46	Webb	25.17
Burleson	16.15	Edwards	25.63	Hopkins	23.34	McLennan	31.75	Robertson	22.37	Wharton	26.24
Burnet	25.92	Ellis	29.86	Houston	17.64	McMullen	13.96	Rockwall	44.84	Wheeler	28.26
Caldwell	19.87	El Paso	28.59	Howard	18.39	Madison	14.47	Runnels	21.33	Wichita	27.87
Calhoun	22.49	Erath	30.45	Hudspeth	13.21	Marion	18.17	Rusk	20.54	Wilbarger	25.67
Callahan	27.43	Falls	17.74	Hunt	23.36	Martin	17.93	Sabine	17.68	Willacy	14.10
Cameron	22.08	Fannin	21.22	Hutchinson	20.58	Mason	33.88	San Augustine	12.56	Williamson	46.82
Camp	20.31	Fayette	25.76	Irion	20.11	Matagorda	24.35	San Jacinto	15.21	Wilson	27.80
Carson	31.24	Fisher	24.65	Jack	17.53	Maverick	20.10	San Patricio	22.61	Winkler	14.24
Cass	19.68	Floyd	24.65	Jackson	26.33	Medina	27.56	San Saba	23.80	Wise	22.98
Castro	19.16	Foard	31.41	Jasper	20.24	Menard	13.71	Schleicher	24.09	Wood	22.21
Chambers	26.26	Fort Bend	48.93	Jeff Davis	34.15	Midland	31.17	Scurry	23.56	Yoakum	18.35
Cherokee	18.70	Franklin	28.20	Jefferson	25.59	Milam	19.51	Shackelford	27.90	Young	22.60
Childress	21.93	Freestone	23.64	Jim Hogg	7.73	Mills	26.16	Shelby	18.37	Zapata	13.12
Clay	27.40	Frio	11.59	Jim Wells	17.40	Mitchell	14.70	Sherman	27.49	Zavala	16.99
Cochran	18.76	Gaines	21.15	Johnson	23.25	Montague	22.86	Smith	35.33		
Coke	26.77	Galveston	37.50	Jones	13.76	Montgomery	38.88	Somervell	37.84		
Coleman	19.92	Garza	14.37	Karnes	16.72	Moore	21.64	Starr	13.75		
Collin	58.24	Gillespie	33.28	Kaufman	24.79	Morris	28.86	Stephens	20.76		

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.

