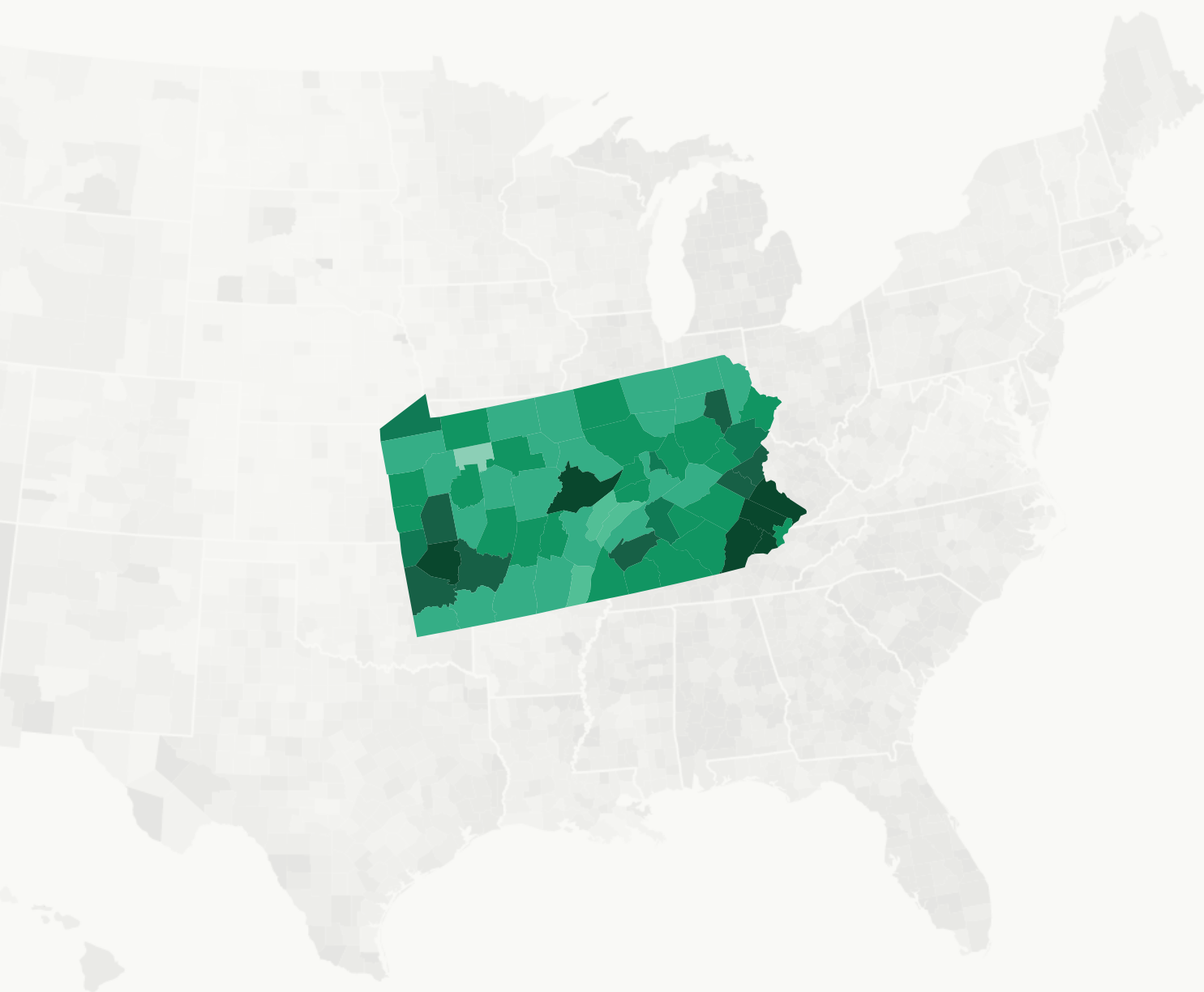


A STRONGER **PENNSYLVANIA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Pennsylvania, 38.6 percent of the state's 6.7 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Pennsylvania's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was also 38.6 percent. Pennsylvania'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, however, reason for optimism about educational trends in Pennsylvania. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Pennsylvania, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 44.1 percent — considerably higher than that of the adult population as a whole, and also above the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Pennsylvania is making some progress, but it has a long way to go. In the state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 46 percent of Pennsylvania's adult population — 2.9 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 6,316,876, Pennsylvania will need to add more than 878,000 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, 1 million of the expected

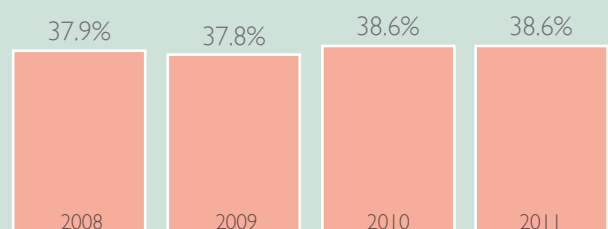
1.8 million job vacancies in Pennsylvania will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 57 percent of all Pennsylvania jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 1.2 million Pennsylvania adults — 17.6 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 Pennsylvania reach the 60 percent goal.

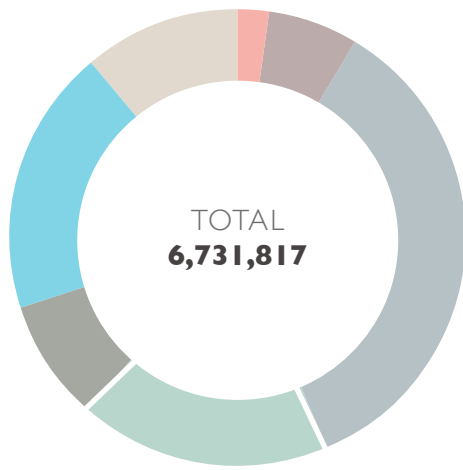
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Pennsylvania county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

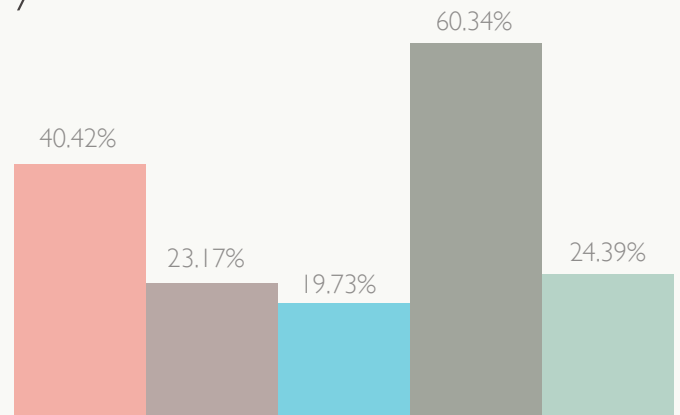


Less than ninth grade	158,165	2.35%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	422,982	6.28%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,366,755	35.16%
Some college, no degree	1,187,489	17.64%
Associate degree	589,625	8.76%
Bachelor's degree	1,258,688	18.70%
Graduate or professional degree	748,113	11.11%

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

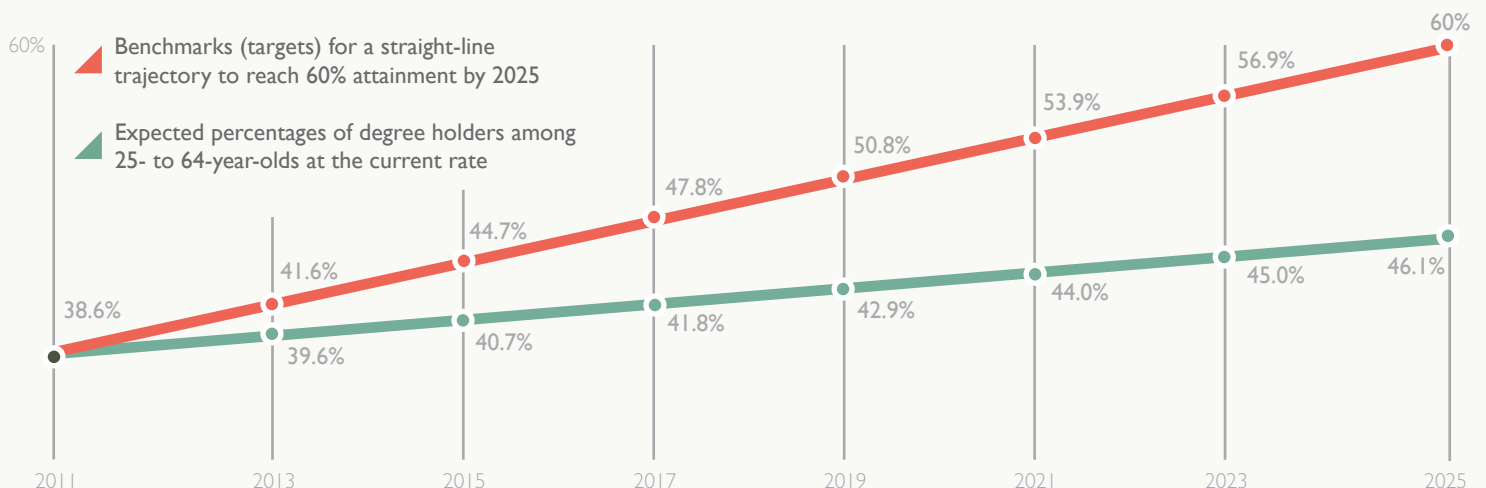
Degree-attainment rates among Pennsylvania adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	40.42%
Black	23.17%
Hispanic	19.73%
Asian	60.34%
Native American	24.39%



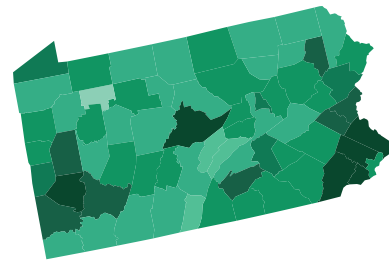
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Pennsylvania



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

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



Adams	28.24	Chester	58.04	Fulton	18.77	Mercer	30.89	Sullivan	25.17
Allegheny	49.58	Clarion	28.92	Greene	25.63	Mifflin	20.39	Susquehanna	26.97
Armstrong	25.33	Clearfield	25.69	Huntingdon	23.13	Monroe	34.69	Tioga	29.36
Beaver	35.92	Clinton	27.71	Indiana	31.76	Montgomery	55.80	Union	28.88
Bedford	22.82	Columbia	28.82	Jefferson	23.72	Montour	37.47	Venango	27.57
Berks	32.41	Crawford	27.50	Juniata	20.06	Northampton	39.69	Warren	28.70
Blair	29.89	Cumberland	43.93	Lackawanna	39.02	Northumberland	24.75	Washington	39.96
Bradford	26.92	Dauphin	38.33	Lancaster	31.69	Perry	24.04	Wayne	27.57
Bucks	46.26	Delaware	45.98	Lawrence	31.89	Philadelphia	30.90	Westmoreland	39.84
Butler	44.18	Elk	28.04	Lebanon	28.50	Pike	33.31	Wyoming	27.67
Cambria	30.92	Erie	34.16	Lehigh	39.89	Potter	24.76	York	32.73
Cameron	23.64	Fayette	24.94	Luzerne	33.15	Schuylkill	26.54		
Carbon	28.82	Forest	14.31	Lycoming	32.55	Snyder	28.14		
Centre	49.79	Franklin	28.60	McKean	25.83	Somerset	25.70		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-11 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates