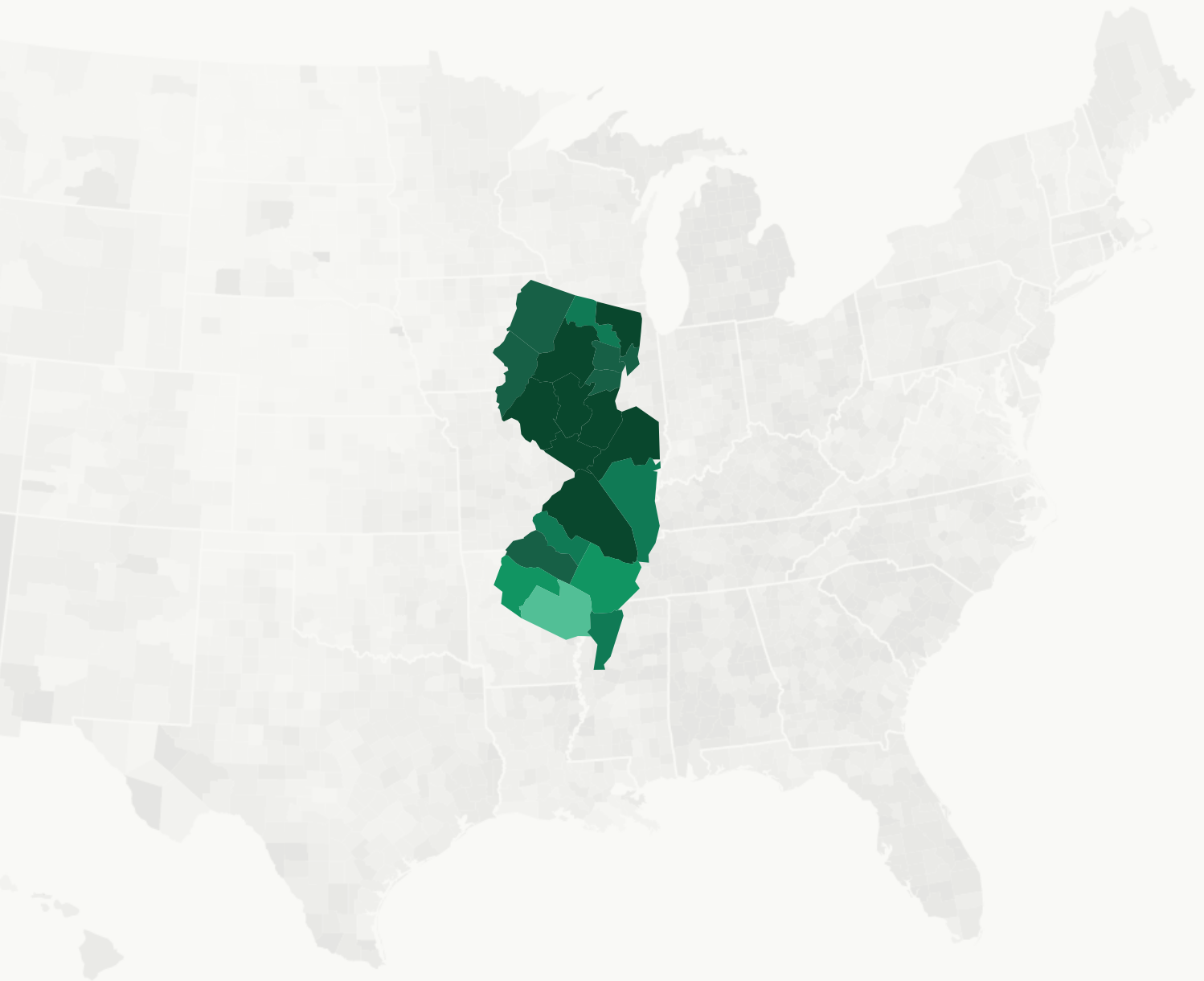


A STRONGER **NEW JERSEY** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In New Jersey, 45.1 percent of the state's 4.8 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. New Jersey's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 45.3 percent. Still, New Jersey'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.

There is reason for optimism about the educational trends in New Jersey. 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 Jersey, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 47 percent — higher than that of the adult population as a whole, and well above the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Despite its relative success, however, New Jersey must do better. 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 percent of New Jersey's adult population — 2.6 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 4,973,940, New Jersey will need to add more than 378,000 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, 794,000 of the expected 1.3 million

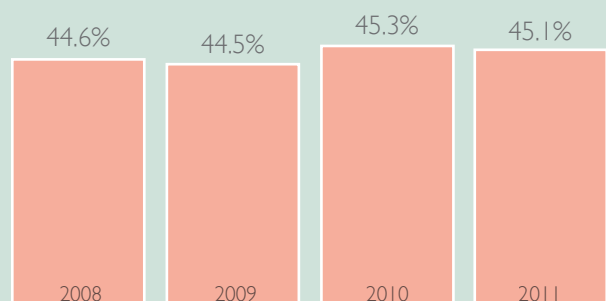
job vacancies in New Jersey will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 64 percent of all New Jersey jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 871,000 New Jersey adults — 18.15 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 Jersey reach the 60 percent goal.

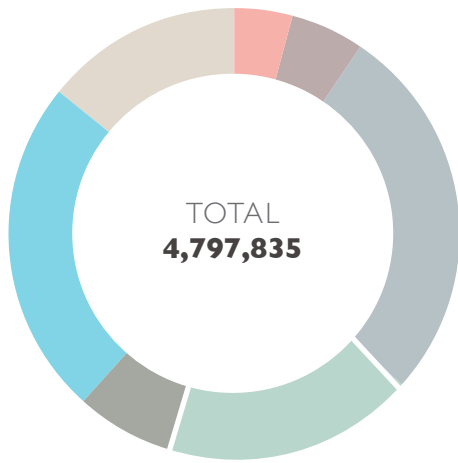
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each New Jersey county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

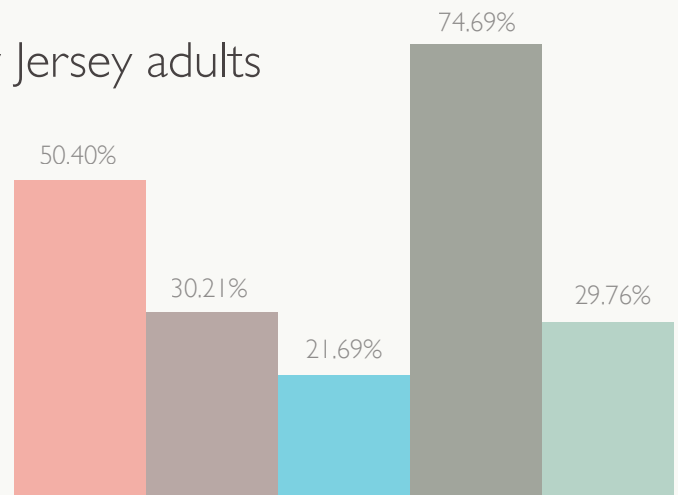


Less than ninth grade	205,082	4.27%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	255,693	5.33%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,304,124	27.18%
Some college, no degree	870,838	18.15%
Associate degree	326,716	6.81%
Bachelor's degree	1,160,667	24.19%
Graduate or professional degree	674,715	14.06%

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

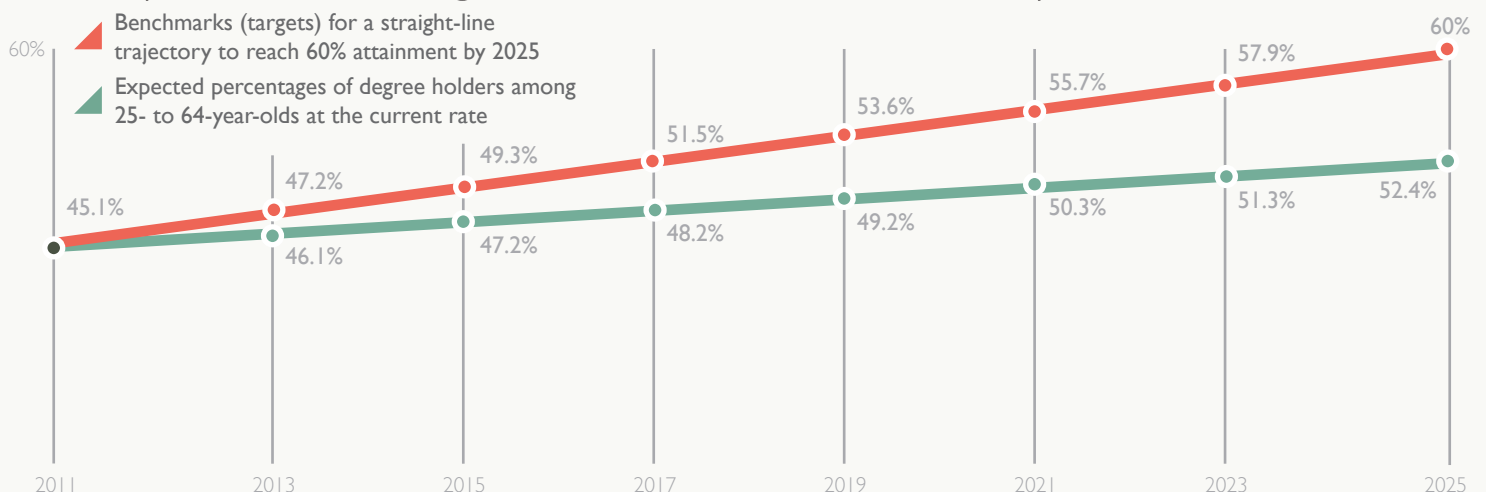
Degree-attainment rates among New Jersey adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	50.40%
Black	30.21%
Hispanic	21.69%
Asian	74.69%
Native American	29.76%



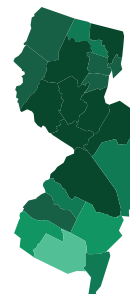
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in New Jersey



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

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



Atlantic	32.38	Cape May	36.64	Hudson	43.45	Monmouth	51.10	Salem	29.52	Warren	40.95
Bergen	55.66	Cumberland	21.33	Hunterdon	59.39	Morris	59.56	Somerset	60.78		
Burlington	45.67	Essex	39.51	Mercer	47.53	Ocean	36.06	Sussex	42.39		
Camden	37.64	Gloucester	39.52	Middlesex	49.60	Passaic	33.67	Union	40.33		

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.

