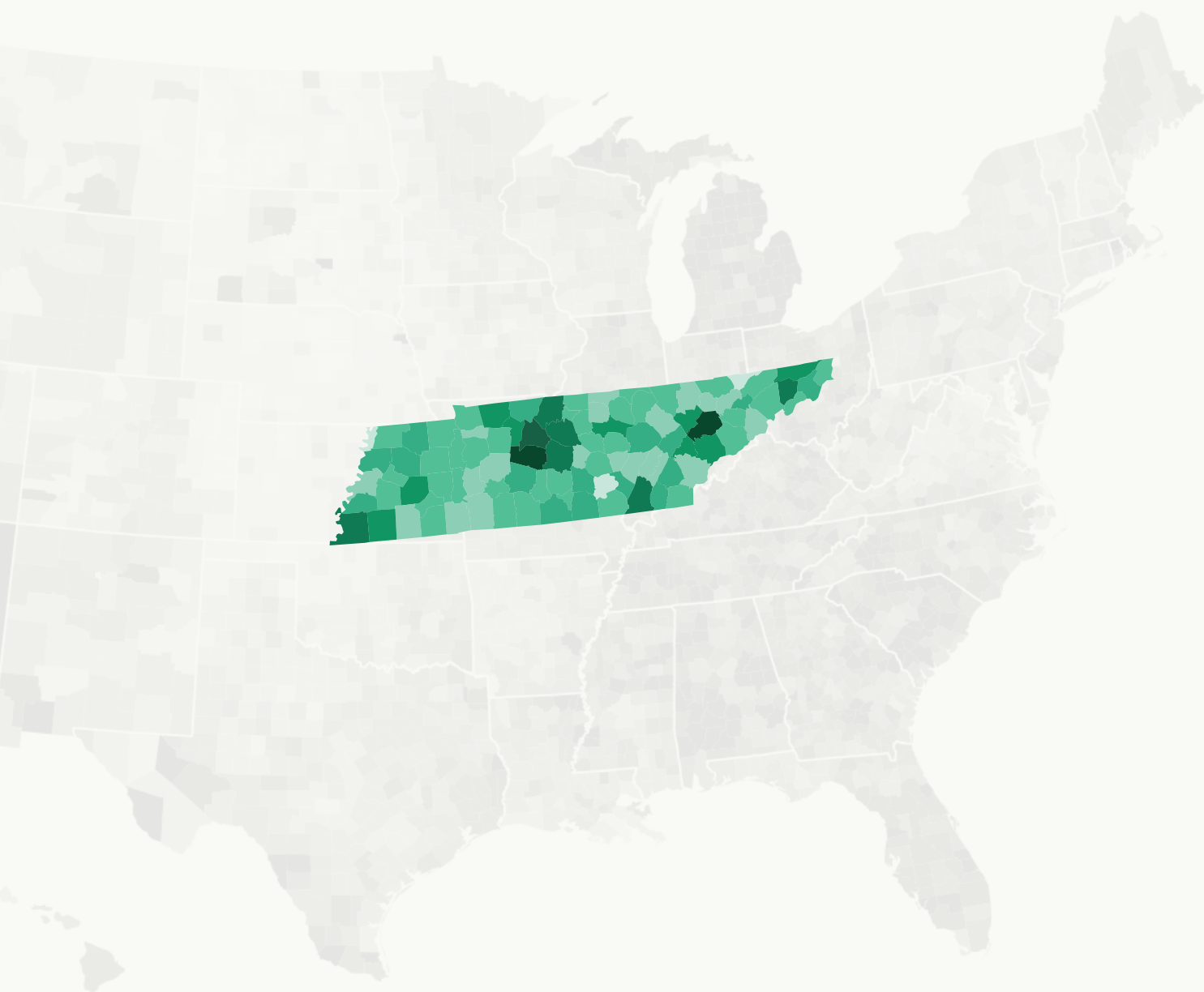


A STRONGER **TENNESSEE** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Tennessee, 32.1 percent of the state's 3.4 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Tennessee's attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 31.9 percent. However, Tennessee's 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 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 Tennessee, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 33.3 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole. This suggests that young people in Tennessee are getting the message that higher education is important to their future. Still, Tennessee's attainment rate among young adults is below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Tennessee is making 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 39 percent of Tennessee's adult population — 1.35 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 3,450,817, Tennessee will need to add more than 728,000 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, 516,000 of the expected 967,000

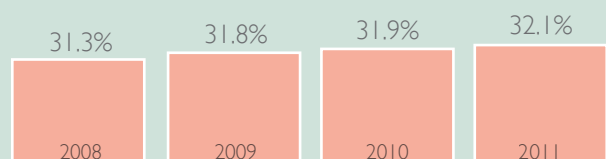
job vacancies in Tennessee will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 54 percent of all Tennessee jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 Tennessee adults — 22.1 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 Tennessee reach the 60 percent goal.

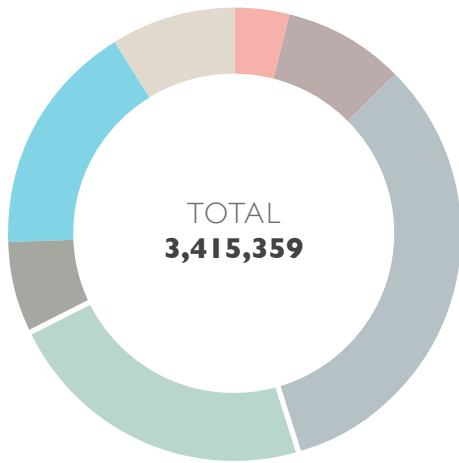
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Tennessee county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

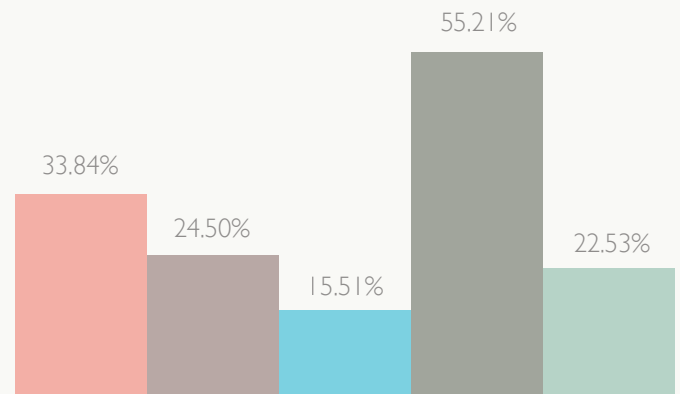


Less than ninth grade	133,410	3.91%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	294,093	8.61%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,135,036	33.23%
Some college, no degree	754,843	22.10%
Associate degree	234,125	6.86%
Bachelor's degree	568,335	16.64%
Graduate or professional degree	295,517	8.65%

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

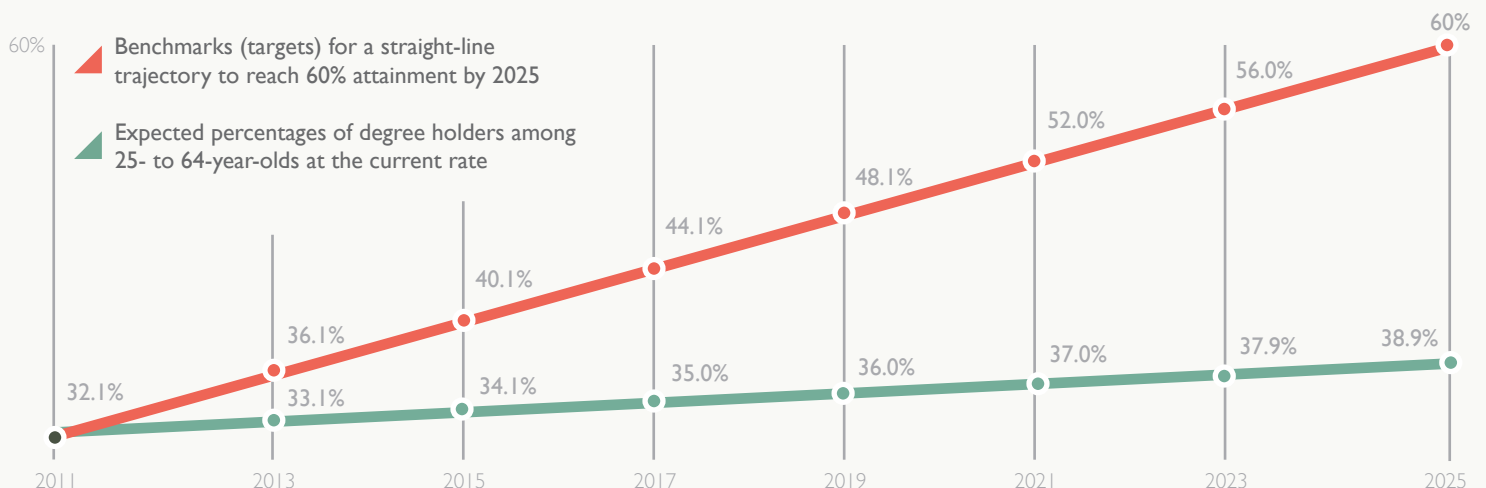
Degree-attainment rates among Tennessee adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	33.84%
Black	24.50%
Hispanic	15.51%
Asian	55.21%
Native American	22.53%



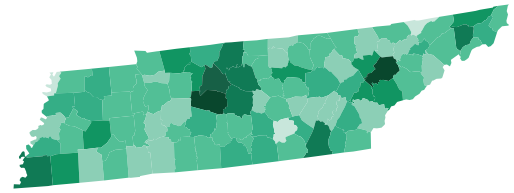
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Tennessee



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

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



Anderson	29.97	Crockett	17.92	Hamilton	37.13	Lauderdale	14.24	Morgan	12.33	Stewart	21.06
Bedford	19.79	Cumberland	22.41	Hancock	10.51	Lawrence	18.57	Obion	17.68	Sullivan	30.66
Benton	17.18	Davidson	42.47	Hardeman	14.50	Lewis	17.40	Overton	17.09	Sumner	33.49
Bledsoe	12.49	Decatur	19.26	Hardin	14.88	Lincoln	22.48	Perry	14.35	Tipton	22.54
Blount	28.67	DeKalb	17.05	Hawkins	20.89	Loudon	29.46	Pickett	19.23	Trousdale	18.54
Bradley	27.49	Dickson	22.03	Haywood	17.94	McMinn	24.14	Polk	19.33	Unicoi	18.71
Campbell	14.44	Dyer	23.07	Henderson	20.46	McNairy	19.08	Putnam	28.12	Union	12.33
Cannon	16.59	Fayette	29.06	Henry	19.31	Macon	17.47	Rhea	16.15	Van Buren	12.53
Carroll	21.29	Fentress	17.65	Hickman	15.64	Madison	32.27	Roane	26.68	Warren	19.77
Carter	23.45	Franklin	25.50	Houston	15.49	Marion	20.53	Robertson	23.04	Washington	37.18
Cheatham	28.19	Gibson	22.72	Humphreys	20.36	Marshall	18.84	Rutherford	36.18	Wayne	14.42
Chester	20.45	Giles	20.01	Jackson	16.44	Maury	26.36	Scott	18.21	Weakley	24.96
Claiborne	19.88	Grainger	12.91	Jefferson	21.70	Meigs	13.33	Sequatchie	23.05	White	17.73
Clay	16.47	Greene	21.54	Johnson	17.77	Monroe	15.92	Sevier	21.75	Williamson	61.09
Cocke	14.43	Grundy	10.19	Knox	45.75	Montgomery	33.18	Shelby	36.28	Wilson	35.77
Coffee	26.93	Hamblen	23.33	Lake	8.04	Moore	17.85	Smith	18.55		

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.

