

Closing the gaps in college attainment

a STRONGER MICHIGAN through HIGHER EDUCATION

A policy brief from Lumina Foundation



Michigan

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Michigan, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 37.4 percent of Michigan's 5.2 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 36.8 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Michigan was 38.5 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Michigan and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

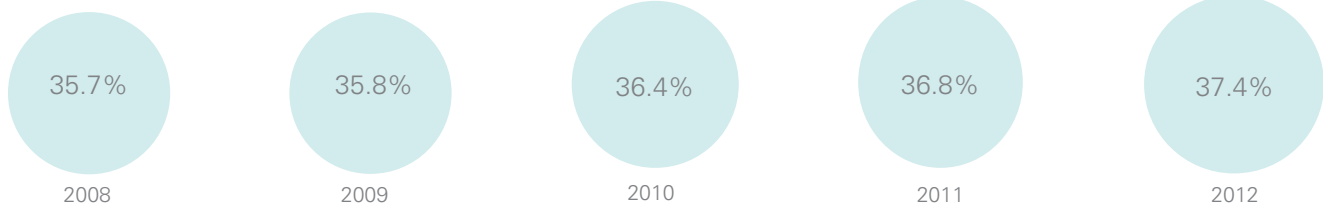
More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

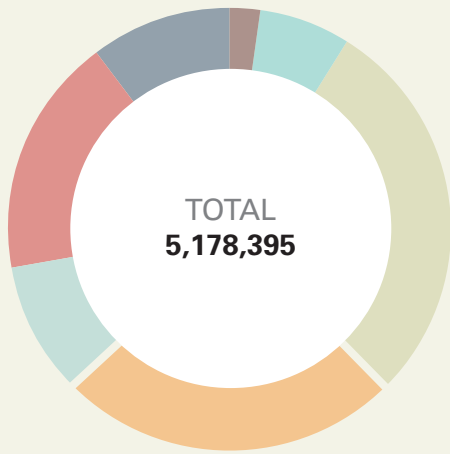
There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Michigan.

Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



Levels of education for Michigan residents, ages 25-64

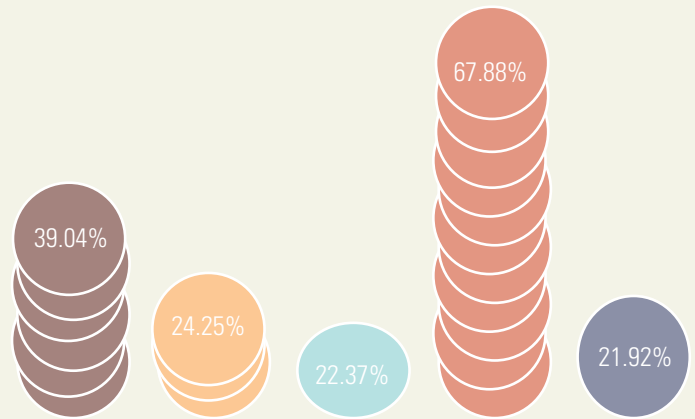


Less than ninth grade	119,333	2.30%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	344,402	6.65%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,483,503	28.65%
Some college, no degree	1,294,065	24.99%
Associate degree	505,214	9.76%
Bachelor's degree	907,438	17.52%
Graduate or professional degree	524,440	10.13%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

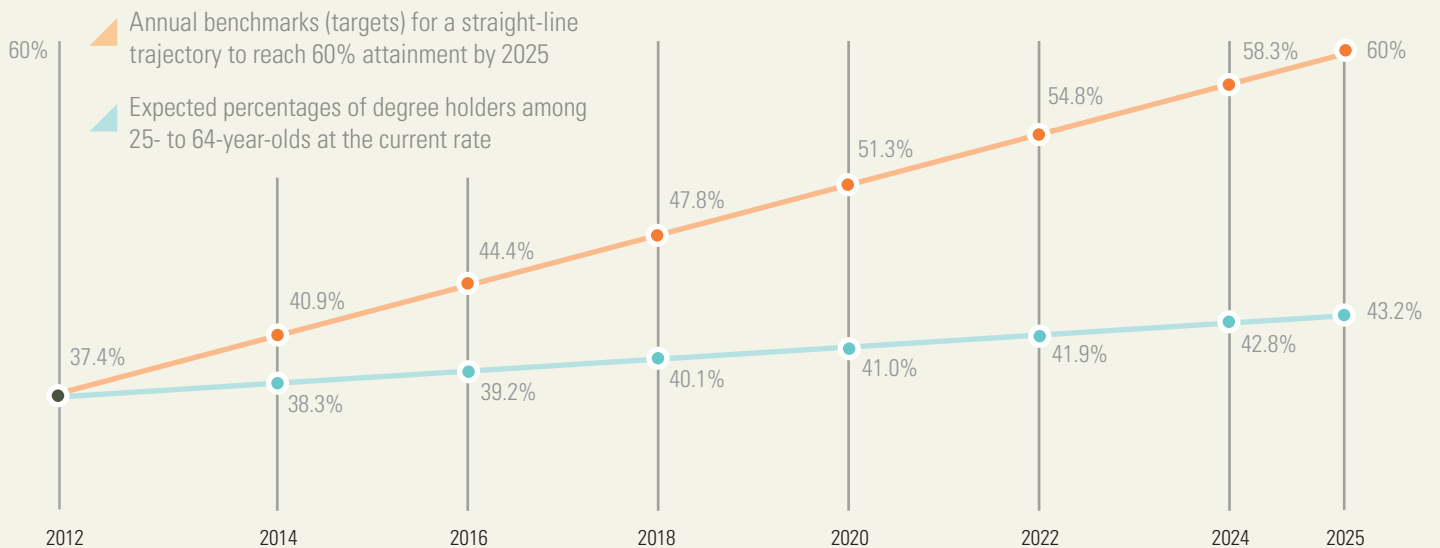
Degree-attainment rates among Michigan adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	39.04%
Black	24.25%
Hispanic	22.37%
Asian	67.88%
Native American	21.92%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Michigan



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

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

Alcona	23.05	Charlevoix	34.62	Gratiot	23.03	Lake	15.88	Missaukee	24.22	Presque Isle	28.24
Alger	24.52	Cheboygan	26.88	Hillsdale	23.26	Lapeer	28.71	Monroe	29.63	Roscommon	25.08
Allegan	29.39	Chippewa	25.38	Houghton	41.69	Leelanau	48.19	Montcalm	23.06	Saginaw	31.08
Alpena	32.56	Clare	21.41	Huron	26.38	Lenawee	29.94	Montmorency	23.13	St. Clair	27.67
Antrim	30.64	Clinton	41.87	Ingham	46.33	Livingston	44.23	Muskegon	28.70	St. Joseph	24.08
Arenac	20.67	Crawford	25.69	Ionia	24.42	Luce	22.76	Newaygo	23.20	Sanilac	21.80
Baraga	17.59	Delta	33.58	Iosco	22.87	Mackinac	26.90	Oakland	53.93	Schoolcraft	24.84
Barry	29.27	Dickinson	31.24	Iron	27.61	Macomb	35.52	Oceana	25.41	Shiawassee	27.36
Bay	32.84	Eaton	38.77	Isabella	35.39	Manistee	28.49	Ogemaw	21.52	Tuscola	25.12
Benzie	31.87	Emmet	42.09	Jackson	28.90	Marquette	39.78	Ontonagon	28.68	Van Buren	28.29
Berrien	35.54	Genesee	30.51	Kalamazoo	45.21	Mason	31.63	Osceola	24.00	Washtenaw	60.21
Branch	22.97	Gladwin	22.10	Kalkaska	18.03	Mecosta	31.71	Oscoda	18.33	Wayne	30.27
Calhoun	30.38	Gogebic	32.32	Kent	42.27	Menominee	26.62	Otsego	28.58	Wexford	26.34
Cass	28.45	Grand Traverse	41.11	Keweenaw	32.96	Midland	46.46	Ottawa	40.71		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 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.