



A STRONGER NATION

In Indiana, postsecondary learning builds the talent that helps us rise



A policy brief from Lumina Foundation



Indiana

The need to increase postsecondary attainment — the number of Americans who hold degrees and other high-quality credentials — has never been clearer. State leaders are responding to the growing global demand for talent by setting goals and enacting policies to increase attainment. Like Lumina Foundation, states have come to understand the scope of the effort required. Much is left to be done, but real progress is being made through the efforts of those who are committed to assuring that millions more Americans benefit from postsecondary education.

Lumina began reporting the attainment rate (associate degree and higher) in 2008. That year, the rate in Indiana stood at 33.4 percent. In 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, the rate reached 35.9 percent.

However, the degree attainment rate doesn't tell the whole story. Lumina has always said that other postsecondary credentials — including certificates and certifications — should count toward national and state goals for attainment, with one important caveat. To count, non-degree credentials should be of high quality, which we define as having clear and transparent learning outcomes leading to further education and employment.

This year, for the first time, we have nationally representative data on the number of Americans who hold high-quality postsecondary certificates; we now feel confident we can count these credentials toward attainment goals. In states, we are able to use estimates from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce on the number of residents who hold high-quality certificates as their highest earned credential. In Indiana, 5 percent of residents between the ages of 25 and 64 hold a high-quality certificate. This brings the state's overall postsecondary attainment rate to 40.9 percent.

As the data in this report make clear, increasing overall attainment is not the only challenge Indiana faces. There are also significant gaps in attainment that must be closed. While current systems work very well for many students, more postsecondary credentials must be earned by Americans who, by definition, are *post-traditional* learners. Compared with current students, they will be older; more will be African-American, Hispanic and Native American; and they will have lower incomes. Most will be first-generation students. The data in this report show the extent of the attainment gaps in Indiana by race and ethnicity.

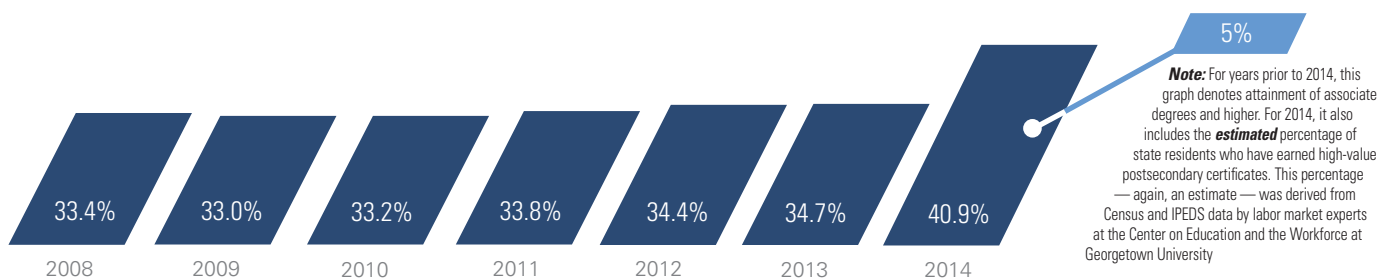
To date, 26 states have responded to the need to increase attainment by setting state attainment goals that meet Lumina's criteria for rigor and efficacy (i.e., the goal is quantifiable, challenging, long term, addresses gaps, and is in statute and/or a strategic plan). Indiana is one of those 26 states.

There is much more that states can do to increase attainment. It begins with assuring that all prospective students, including working adults, have access to affordable programs that lead to quality credentials. State policies such as outcomes-based funding can encourage colleges and universities to direct resources to approaches that increase student success. States can also help assure that students get full recognition for *all* of their learning — whether it was obtained in an institution, in the military or on the job — and can apply it to further education and credentials.

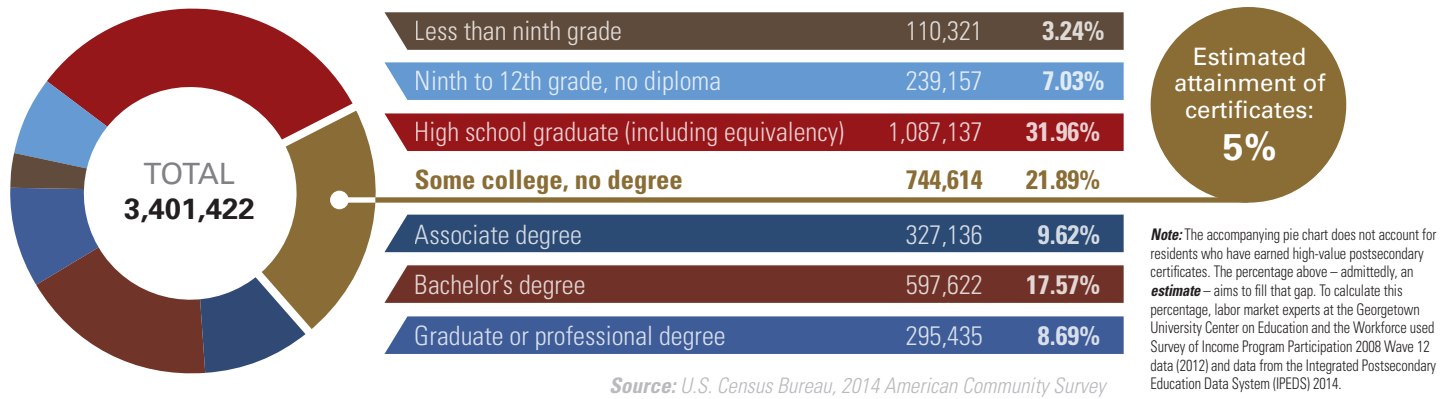
Lumina is working with state leaders from around the nation to expand postsecondary opportunity and success. More information on that work, including our full state policy agenda and additional data, is available on Lumina's Strategy Labs website (<http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/>).

Tracking the trend

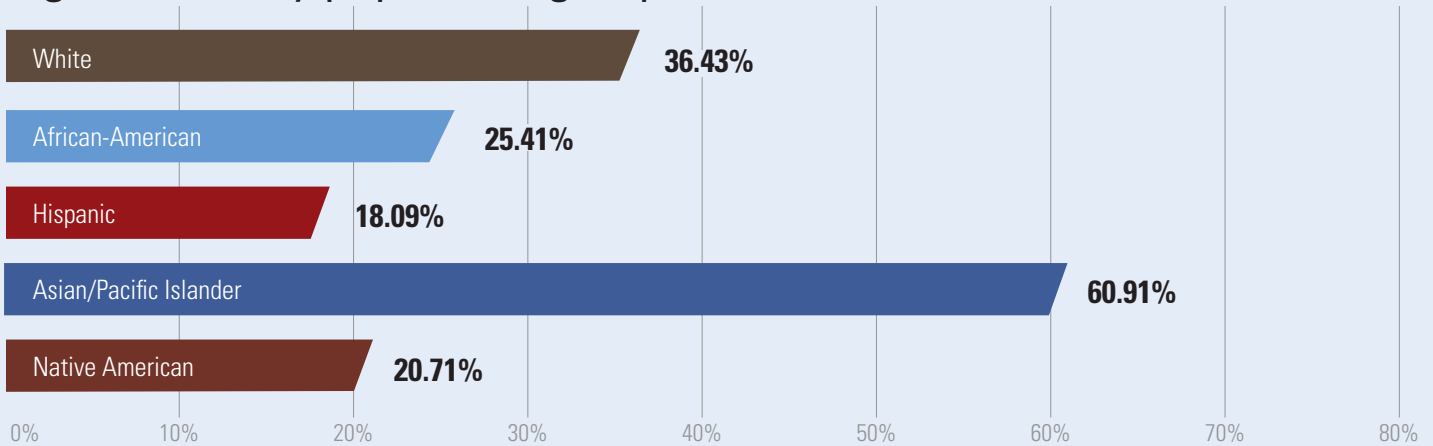
Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with a quality postsecondary credential



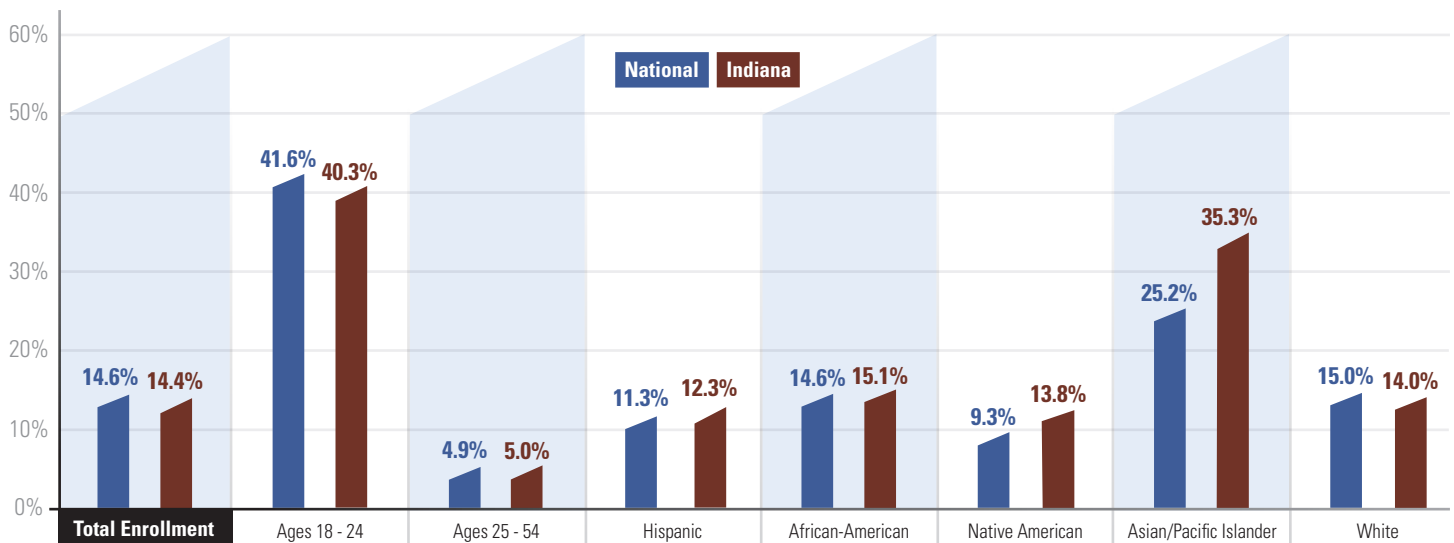
Levels of education for Indiana residents, ages 25-64



Degree-attainment rates among Indiana residents (ages 25-64), by population group



College enrollment among Indiana residents, ages 18-54



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

Adams	24.25	DeKalb	28.22	Henry	24.83	Marion	36.66	Posey	35.48	Union	28.39
Allen	38.91	Delaware	34.10	Howard	29.70	Marshall	26.74	Pulaski	20.10	Vanderburgh	34.36
Bartholomew	40.45	Dubois	34.66	Huntington	29.93	Martin	27.56	Putnam	25.85	Vermillion	24.52
Benton	27.18	Elkhart	24.79	Jackson	24.06	Miami	19.91	Randolph	25.01	Vigo	32.27
Blackford	22.61	Fayette	18.66	Jasper	27.13	Monroe	53.47	Ripley	28.74	Wabash	26.04
Boone	55.22	Floyd	35.65	Jay	20.26	Montgomery	24.88	Rush	22.32	Warren	29.58
Brown	30.31	Fountain	22.95	Jefferson	24.86	Morgan	27.23	St. Joseph	38.10	Warrick	42.48
Carroll	28.05	Franklin	27.66	Jennings	19.99	Newton	19.00	Scott	21.32	Washington	21.68
Cass	22.88	Fulton	23.88	Johnson	40.51	Noble	24.84	Shelby	25.90	Wayne	27.18
Clark	31.84	Gibson	31.20	Knox	34.00	Ohio	22.30	Spencer	27.22	Wells	31.04
Clay	27.60	Grant	26.99	Kosciusko	29.02	Orange	20.11	Starke	22.95	White	28.33
Clinton	23.36	Greene	26.97	LaGrange	15.42	Owen	19.12	Steuben	31.25	Whitley	29.03
Crawford	17.74	Hamilton	65.68	Lake	30.64	Parke	24.82	Sullivan	26.80		
Daviess	25.71	Hancock	40.39	LaPorte	27.12	Perry	20.41	Switzerland	18.80		
Dearborn	30.84	Harrison	26.63	Lawrence	28.27	Pike	22.01	Tippecanoe	45.31		
Decatur	25.36	Hendricks	45.62	Madison	28.55	Porter	38.75	Tipton	29.21		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-14 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



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Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation committed to increasing the proportion of Americans with degrees, certificates and other high-quality credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina's outcomes-based approach focuses on helping to design and build an equitable, accessible, responsive and accountable higher education system while fostering a national sense of urgency for action to achieve Goal 2025.