



A STRONGER NATION

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

A policy brief from Lumina Foundation





Ohio

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 Ohio stood at 34.9 percent. In 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, the rate reached 38.2 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 Ohio, 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 43.2 percent.

As the data in this report make clear, increasing overall attainment is not the only challenge Ohio 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 Ohio by race and ethnicity.

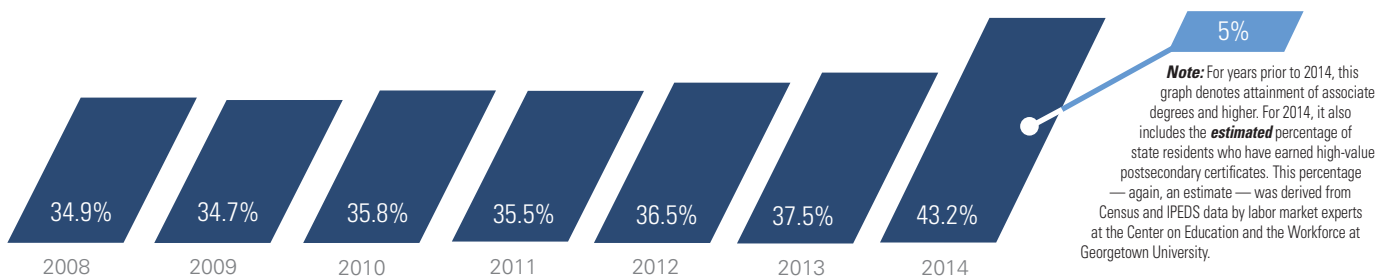
To date, 26 states have responded to the need to increase attainment by setting state attainment goals that meet Lumina's criteria for rigor and efficacy (i.e., the goal is quantifiable, challenging, long term, addresses gaps, and is in statute and/or a strategic plan). Our analysis shows that Ohio has not set a goal that meets Lumina's criteria; we urge state leaders to do so.

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.

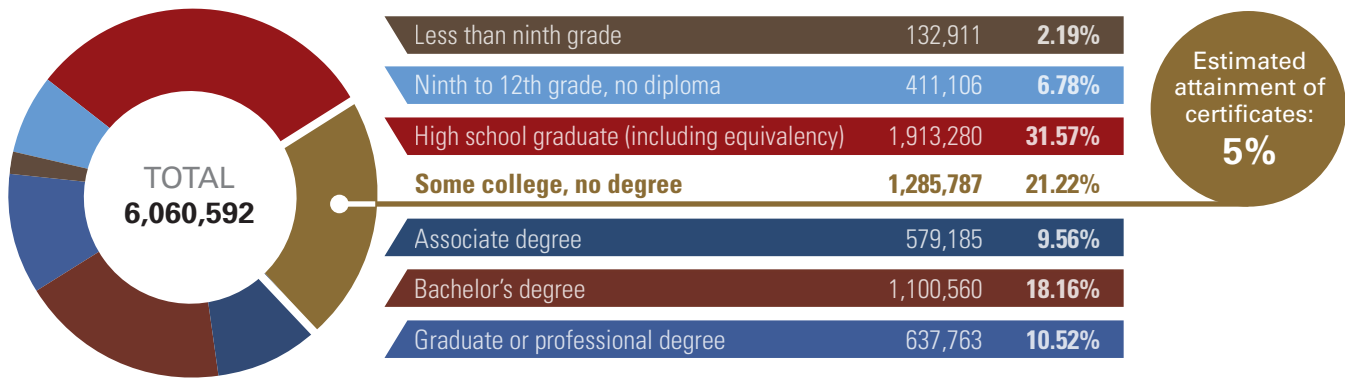
Lumina is working with state leaders from around the nation to expand postsecondary opportunity and success. More information on that work, including our full state policy agenda and additional data, is available on Lumina's Strategy Labs website (<http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/>).

Tracking the trend

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

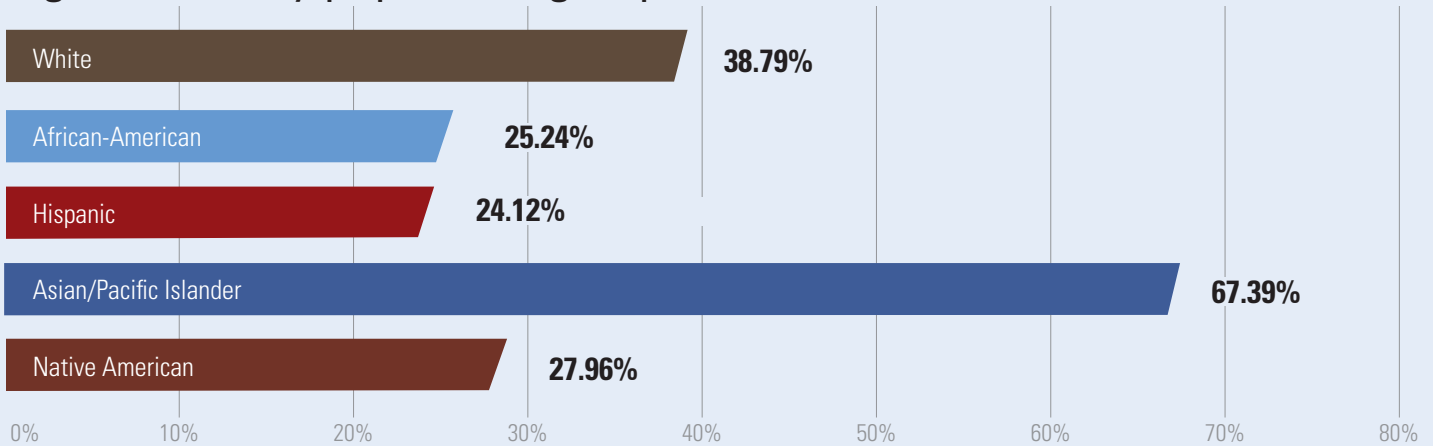


Levels of education for Ohio residents, ages 25-64



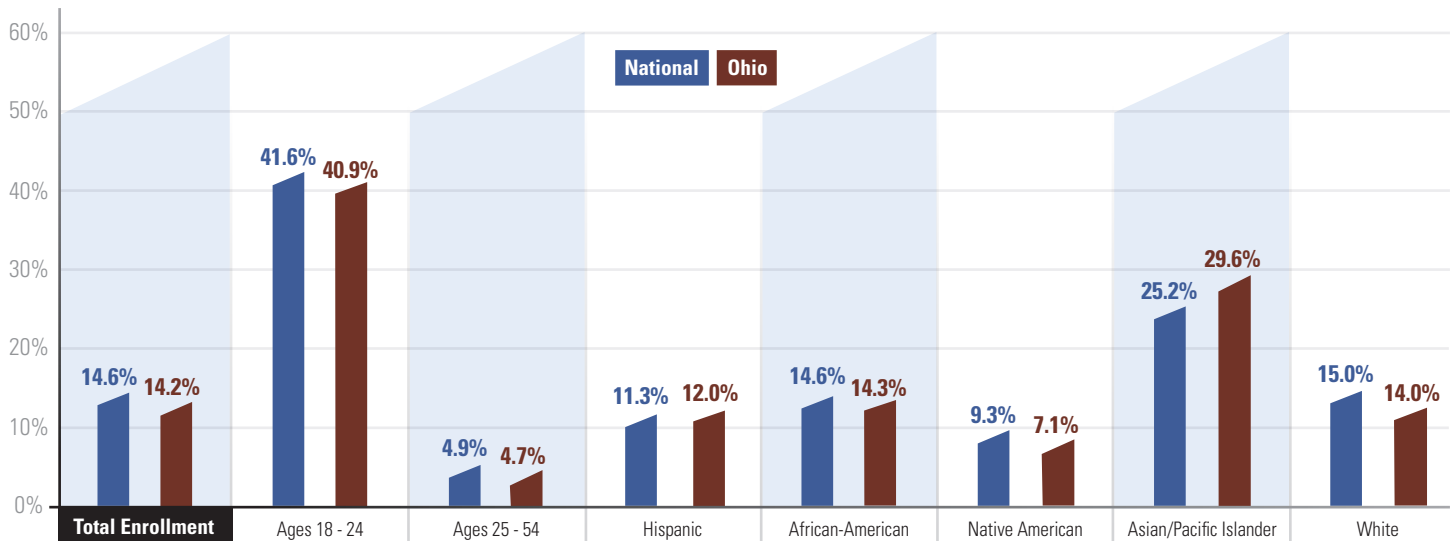
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012, 2013, and 2014 American Community Survey One-Year PUMS Files

College enrollment among Ohio residents, ages 18-54



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey One-Year Public Use Microdata Sample

Note: These percentages reflect the enrollment of non-degree-holding students, ages 18-54, at public and private, two-year and four-year postsecondary institutions

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

Adams	17.28	Coshocton	20.83	Hamilton	44.96	Logan	23.45	Noble	18.61	Stark	33.90
Allen	29.43	Crawford	24.08	Hancock	37.46	Lorain	34.43	Ottawa	34.55	Summit	41.64
Ashland	29.12	Cuyahoga	40.96	Hardin	24.26	Lucas	35.53	Paulding	24.66	Trumbull	27.88
Ashtabula	22.58	Darke	21.70	Harrison	21.49	Madison	25.31	Perry	22.79	Tuscarawas	24.71
Athens	42.02	Defiance	29.17	Henry	30.55	Mahoning	32.33	Pickaway	25.62	Union	37.24
Auglaize	32.91	Delaware	61.91	Highland	20.54	Marion	22.43	Pike	18.78	Van Wert	28.17
Belmont	28.09	Erie	32.33	Hocking	26.12	Medina	43.34	Portage	34.17	Vinton	20.91
Brown	21.03	Fairfield	39.14	Holmes	12.24	Meigs	26.56	Preble	22.46	Warren	50.87
Butler	38.39	Fayette	24.07	Huron	22.07	Mercer	30.17	Putnam	37.44	Washington	30.71
Carroll	20.13	Franklin	45.97	Jackson	27.33	Miami	31.92	Richland	26.81	Wayne	29.27
Champaign	26.41	Fulton	30.03	Jefferson	31.64	Monroe	23.93	Ross	26.70	Williams	25.74
Clark	28.64	Gallia	24.72	Knox	29.30	Montgomery	36.59	Sandusky	26.88	Wood	45.21
Clermont	37.86	Geauga	47.60	Lake	38.98	Morgan	22.45	Scioto	25.37	Wyandot	26.25
Clinton	26.02	Greene	49.23	Lawrence	26.28	Morrow	23.10	Seneca	27.47		
Columbiana	25.05	Guernsey	24.14	Licking	33.92	Muskingum	25.43	Shelby	28.18		

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.