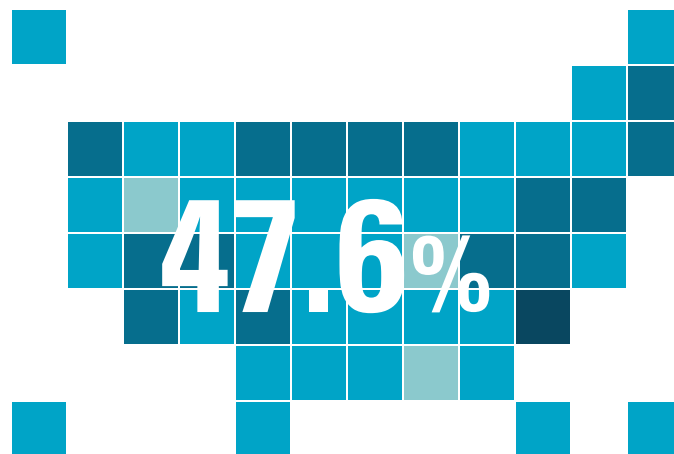


A STRONGER NATION

Learning beyond high school builds American talent



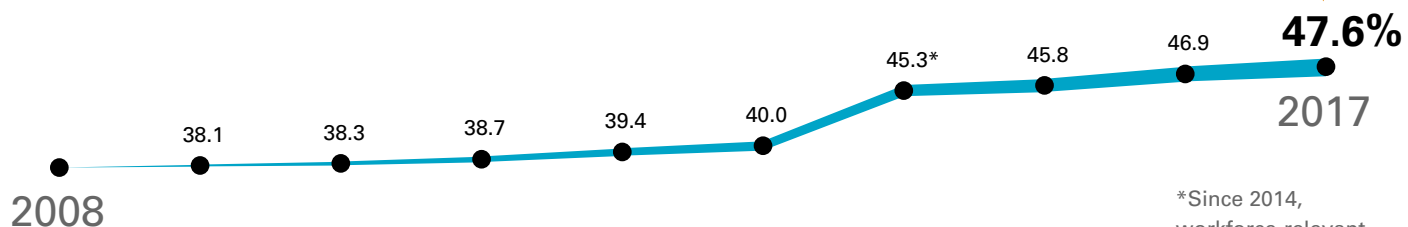
National Report 2019

Tracking America's progress toward 2025

The nation faces an urgent and growing need for talent. To meet that need, many more people must earn college degrees, workforce certificates, industry certifications and other high-quality credentials. That's why Lumina Foundation works to ensure that, by 2025, **60**

A

Lumina tracks the post-high school educational attainment of Americans ages 25-64. Since 2008, that figure has increased by **10 percentage points**. That's progress, but it's not enough to reach 60 percent by 2025. Dramatic action is needed to meet the nation's need for talent.



*Since 2014, workforce-relevant certificates have been included in the total of postsecondary credentials.

We need a comprehensive system for learning beyond high school – one built on the expectation that every American will earn a credential. It must be a system in which all learning is recognized, however it is obtained; a system that is designed specifically to meet students' needs.

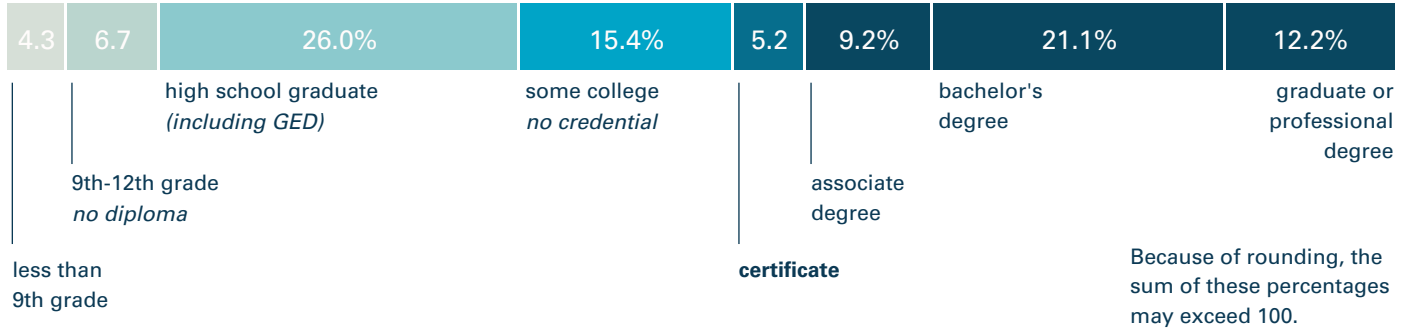
US education levels

The need for universal post-high school education is rooted in the global shift from an industrial economy to a knowledge economy. The vast majority of jobs created since the Great Recession require education beyond high school, and that trend shows no sign of abating.

Unfortunately, fewer than half of Americans ages 25-64 hold a credential beyond high school. Still, there is cause for optimism because many of those who lack credentials do hold some college credit or have skills that should be recognized.

U.S. RESIDENTS AGES 25-64

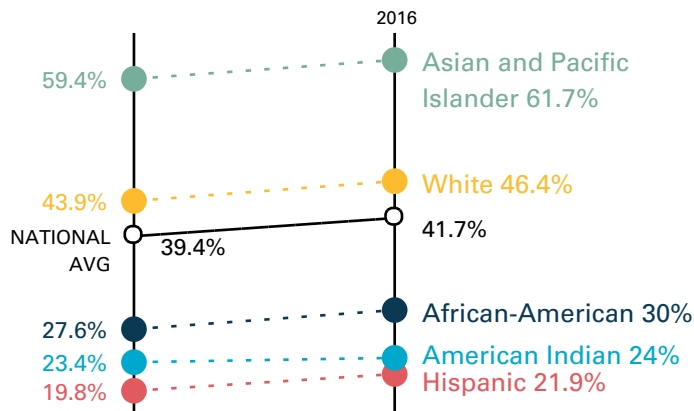
47.6% attainment



Factoring in race and ethnicity

Even as the nation makes progress, educational attainment remains unequal across racial and ethnic groups. In our society, where real opportunity depends on learning beyond high school, these persistent inequities harm us all as Americans.

Education beyond high school is key to increasing economic opportunity and social mobility.

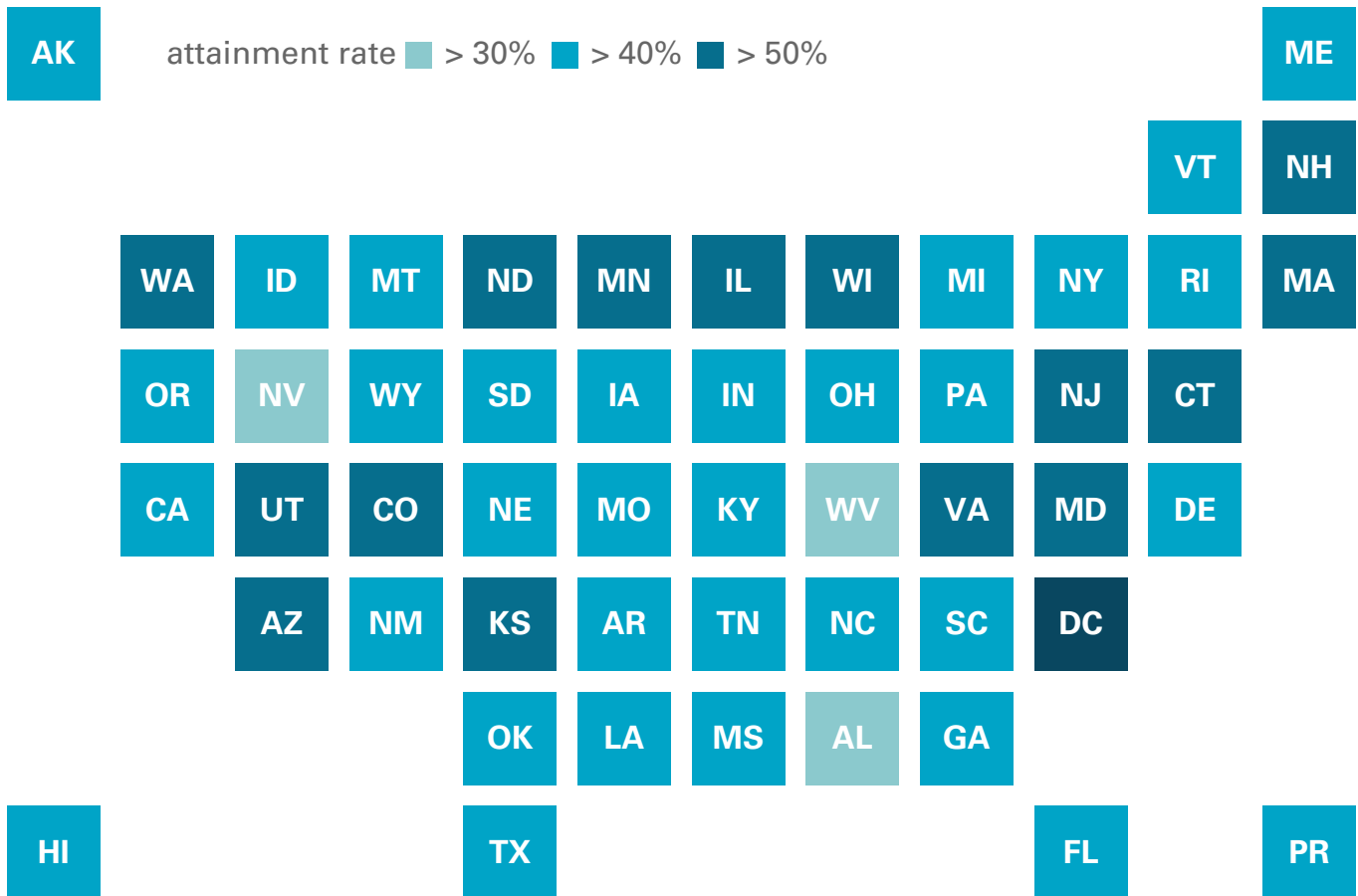


Values at left do not include postsecondary certificates, only achievement of associate degree or higher.

State-by-state educational attainment

Among working-age Americans, **the national rate of educational attainment beyond high school is 47.6 percent**. Across states, attainment rates vary widely, but one thing is certain: Every state must improve. So far, **42 states have set 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).

Explore each state’s attainment rate below. Attainment percentages here reflect workforce certificates along with other post-high school credentials for residents ages 25-64.

























State-by-state comparisons

For generations, Americans could reach the middle class with a high school education or less. Today, millions of the jobs that made this possible have been replaced by technology or through global competition, and the jobs that remain demand more and higher-level skills. In short, **today's good jobs require college-level talent backed by quality credentials.**

Compare education levels across states below. Attainment percentages here reflect workforce-relevant certificates as well as degrees held by state residents ages 25-64.*

sorted by NAME ▼▲

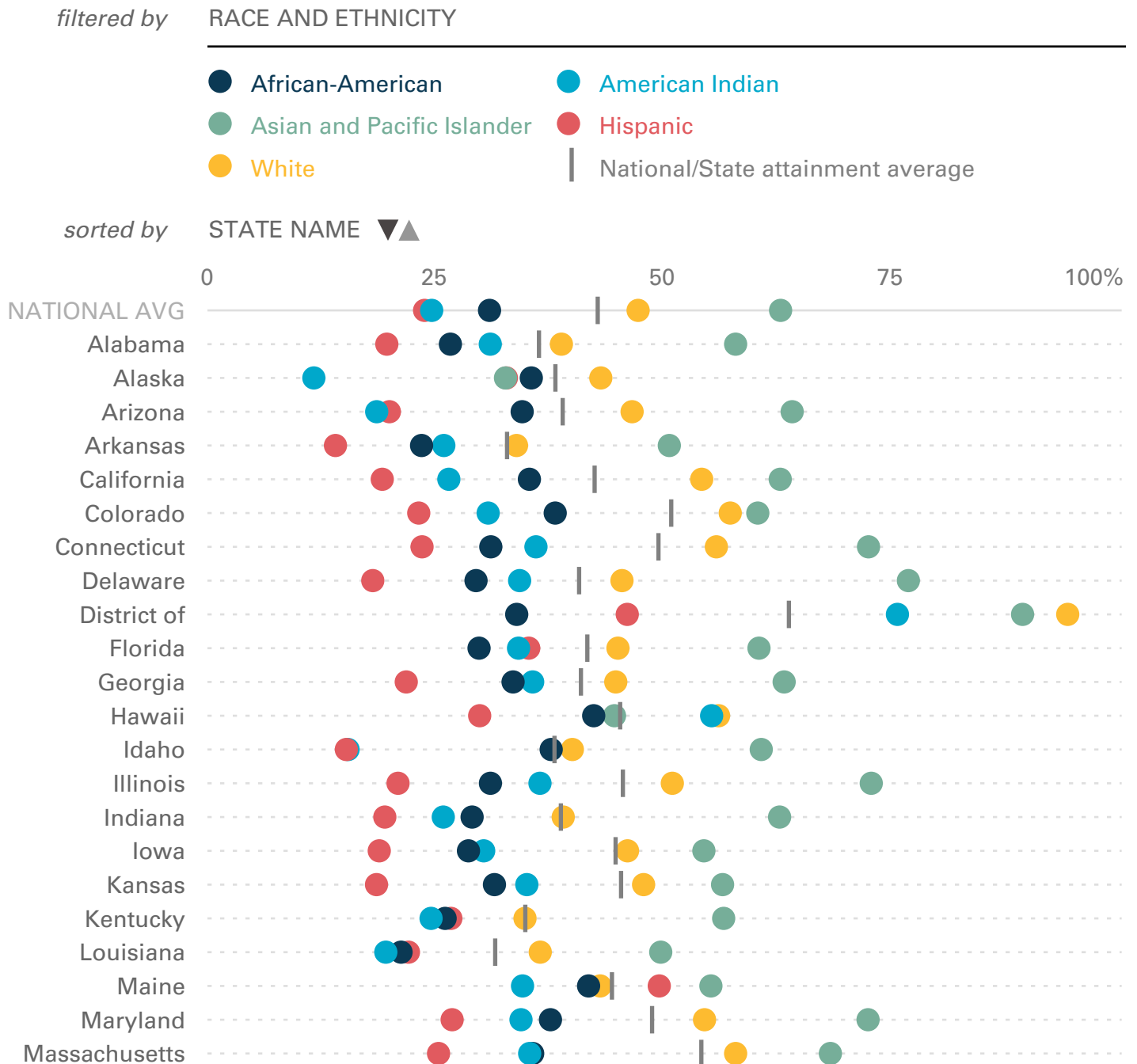
Attainment	State	Population	Pop. Rank	Attainment	State	Population	Pop. Rank
40.0%	Alabama	4,874,747	24	49.4%	Iowa	3,145,711	31
41.8%	Alaska	739,795	49	52.0%	Kansas	2,913,123	36
52.6%	Arizona	7,016,270	14	45.5%	Kentucky	4,454,189	26
41.5%	Arkansas	3,004,279	33	44.2%	Louisiana	4,684,333	25
49.1%	California	39,536,653	1	46.0%	Maine	1,335,907	43
56.5%	Colorado	5,607,154	21	51.4%	Maryland	6,052,177	19
54.1%	Connecticut	3,588,184	29	56.8%	Massachusetts	6,859,819	15
42.4%	Delaware	961,939	46	45.0%	Michigan	9,962,311	10
65.4%	District of Columbia	693,972	50	54.8%	Minnesota	5,576,606	22
49.3%	Florida	20,984,400	3	40.9%	Mississippi	2,984,100	35
49.6%	Georgia	10,429,379	8	42.9%	Missouri	6,113,532	18
46.9%	Hawaii	1,427,538	41	44.7%	Montana	1,050,493	45
40.7%	Idaho	1,716,943	40	48.3%	Nebraska	1,920,076	38
51.2%	Illinois	12,802,023	6	37.9%	Nevada	2,998,039	34
43.4%	Indiana	6,666,818	17	51.2%	New Hampshire	1,342,795	42

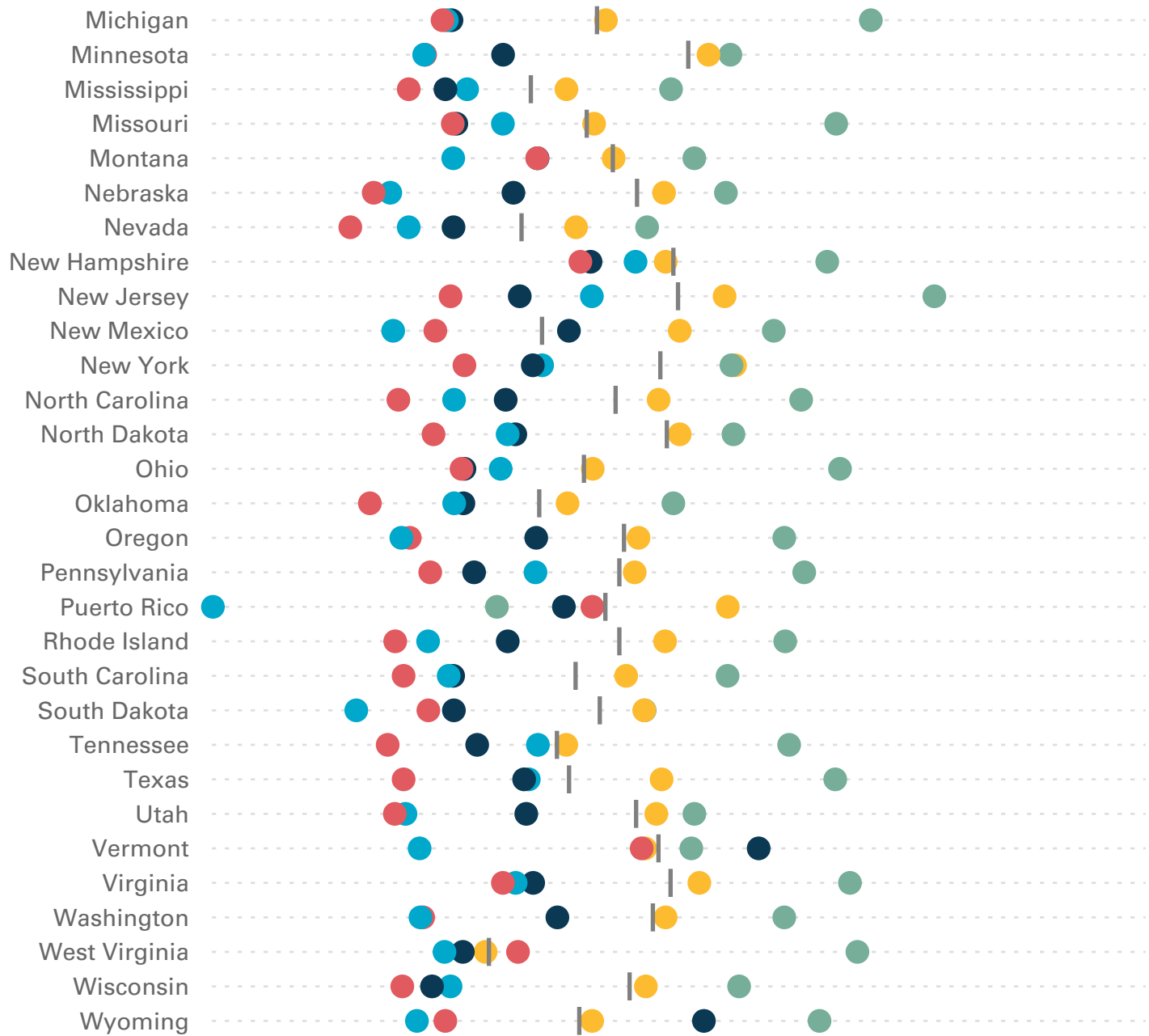
 52.7% New Jersey	<i>9,005,644</i>	11	 43.7% South Carolina	<i>5,024,369</i>	23
 45.1% New Mexico	<i>2,088,070</i>	37	 43.3% South Dakota	<i>869,666</i>	47
 49.8% New York	<i>19,849,399</i>	4	 42.7% Tennessee	<i>6,715,984</i>	16
 49.0% North Carolina	<i>10,273,419</i>	9	 43.0% Texas	<i>28,304,596</i>	2
 50.5% North Dakota	<i>755,393</i>	48	 52.2% Utah	<i>3,101,833</i>	32
 44.6% Ohio	<i>11,658,609</i>	7	 49.6% Vermont	<i>623,657</i>	51
 42.8% Oklahoma	<i>3,930,864</i>	28	 53.9% Virginia	<i>8,470,020</i>	12
 47.9% Oregon	<i>4,142,776</i>	27	 55.0% Washington	<i>7,405,743</i>	13
 46.4% Pennsylvania	<i>12,805,537</i>	5	 36.4% West Virginia	<i>1,815,857</i>	39
 47.1% Puerto Rico	<i>3,337,177</i>	30	 50.5% Wisconsin	<i>5,795,483</i>	20
 46.4% Rhode Island	<i>1,059,639</i>	44	 45.1% Wyoming	<i>579,315</i>	52

Exploring race and ethnicity

Educational opportunity – particularly attainment of credentials beyond high school – is key to reducing economic and social inequality. While modest progress has been made since 2008, attainment rates for African-American, Hispanic, and American Indian students continue to lag those of whites and Asian-Americans.

Compare educational levels across states among five racial and ethnic groups. Attainment here is shown as the percentage of people 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*





Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation in Indianapolis that is committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all. We envision a system that is easy to navigate, delivers fair results, and meets the nation's need for talent through a broad range of credentials. Our goal is to prepare people for informed citizenship and for success in a global economy.



Lumina[™]
FOUNDATION

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