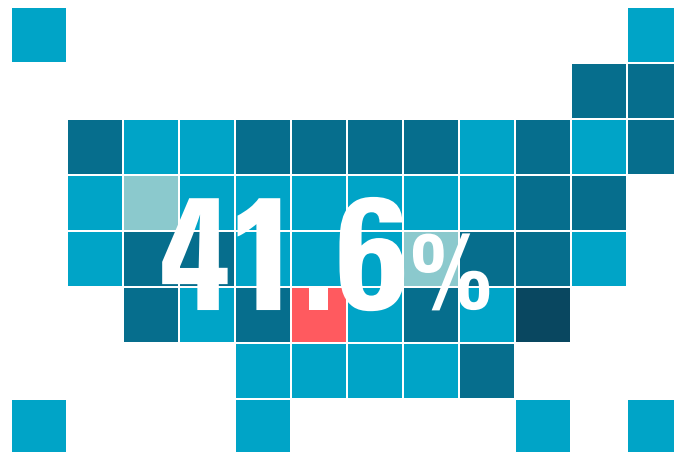


A STRONGER NATION

Learning beyond high school builds American talent



Arkansas's Report 2019



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Arkansas's progress toward the goal

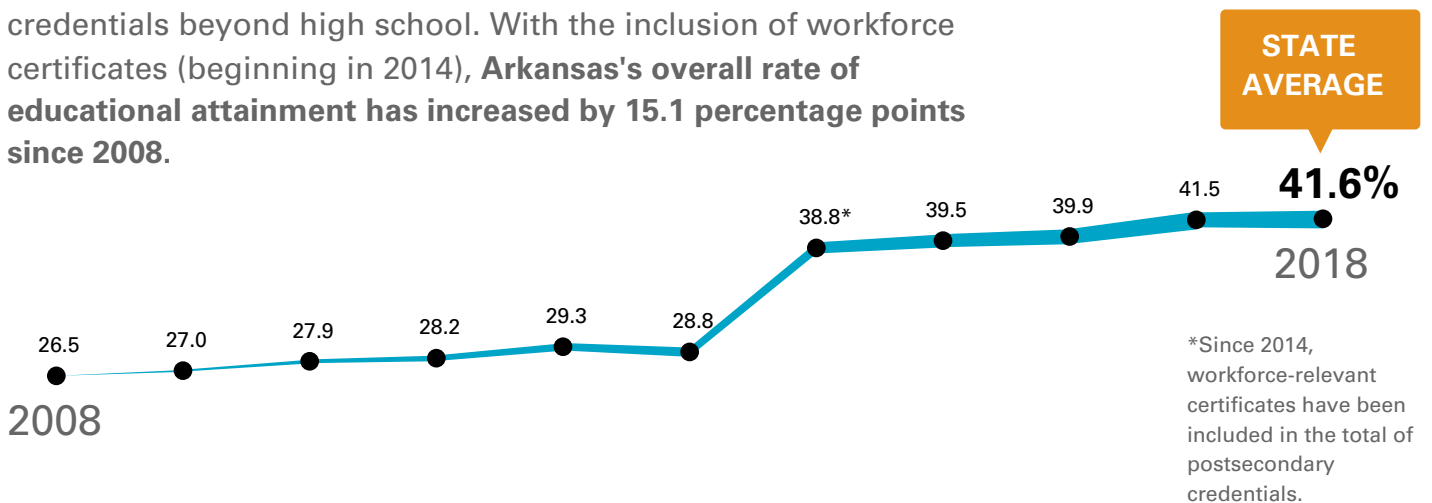
By 2025, 60 percent of Americans will need some type of high-quality credential beyond high school. To count toward this important goal, any credential must have clear and transparent learning outcomes that lead to further education and employment. **Arkansas's attainment rate is 42 percent, and the state is working toward its attainment goal of 60 percent by 2025.**

Arkansas is making progress in increasing educational attainment, but still lags when compared to the national average.



Arkansas's progress

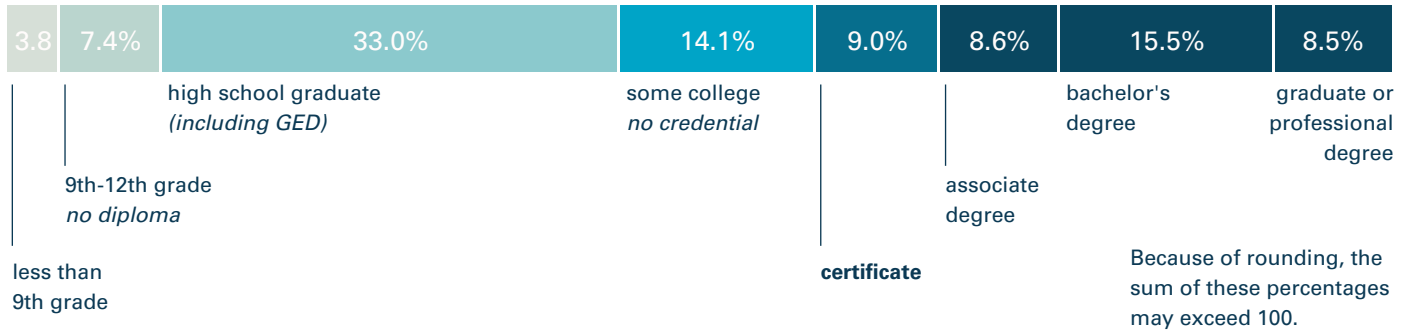
To reach state goals, the state will not only have to maintain current rates of attainment but also significantly increase the number of people who enroll in programs and earn all types of credentials beyond high school. With the inclusion of workforce certificates (beginning in 2014), **Arkansas's overall rate of educational attainment has increased by 15.1 percentage points since 2008.**



Highest Education Level Across Arkansas

ARKANSAS AGES 25-64

41.6% attainment



Arkansas's racial and ethnic disparities

There are **significant gaps** in educational attainment that must be closed – specifically, **gaps linked to race and ethnicity. These gaps persist in every state.** Because educational attainment beyond high school has become the key determinant of economic opportunity and social mobility, **closing these gaps is crucial.**














































Comparing Arkansas Counties

Exploring educational attainment at the local level can be especially helpful to local leaders as they work on talent development. For example, by pinpointing counties or regions where attainment lags, resources can be targeted where they're needed most. Conversely, in areas of high attainment, other regions may find practices or processes they can emulate.

Compare degree attainment rates across Arkansas's 75 counties. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of people ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*

sorted by NAME ▼▲

Attainment	County	Population	Pop. Rank	Attainment	County	Population	Pop. Rank
25.8%	Arkansas	17,967	40	35.9%	Craighead	107,115	7
21.8%	Ashley	20,283	35	25.0%	Crawford	62,996	13
30.5%	Baxter	41,355	18	26.3%	Crittenden	48,750	14
40.4%	Benton	266,300	2	24.1%	Cross	16,863	46
25.9%	Boone	37,381	21	22.8%	Dallas	7,393	71
18.7%	Bradley	10,864	59	17.6%	Desha	11,764	58
23.0%	Calhoun	5,247	75	33.5%	Drew	18,547	38
24.9%	Carroll	27,944	23	40.4%	Faulkner	123,654	5
21.1%	Chicot	10,636	61	22.5%	Franklin	17,890	41
39.8%	Clark	22,293	30	23.6%	Fulton	12,055	57
19.9%	Clay	14,920	51	27.0%	Garland	98,658	8
24.2%	Cleburne	25,048	26	27.4%	Grant	18,165	39
26.5%	Cleveland	8,202	68	23.6%	Greene	45,053	15
28.8%	Columbia	23,627	29	25.6%	Hempstead	21,861	31
26.9%	Conway	20,916	34	24.1%	Hot Spring	33,574	22

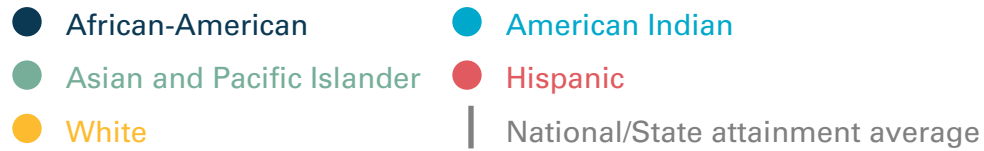
 26.2% Howard	13,478	54	 22.4% Phillips	18,572	37
 30.0% Independence	37,504	20	 23.9% Pike	10,726	60
 26.7% Izard	13,686	52	 15.8% Poinsett	24,154	27
 17.4% Jackson	17,135	44	 23.8% Polk	20,118	36
 25.0% Jefferson	69,115	11	 28.6% Pope	63,835	12
 21.3% Johnson	26,552	24	 26.6% Prairie	8,248	67
 25.6% Lafayette	6,862	73	 42.7% Pulaski	393,956	1
 26.5% Lawrence	16,525	47	 27.1% Randolph	17,557	42
 13.5% Lee	9,176	64	 37.4% Saline	119,323	6
 13.4% Lincoln	13,646	53	 16.6% Scott	10,445	62
 18.1% Little River	12,359	56	 22.2% Searcy	7,938	69
 20.3% Logan	21,722	32	 27.7% Sebastian	128,107	4
 33.0% Lonoke	72,898	10	 17.2% Sevier	17,115	45
 17.7% Madison	16,339	50	 19.2% Sharp	17,393	43
 22.3% Marion	16,428	49	 16.8% St. Francis	25,930	25
 23.6% Miller	43,984	16	 25.3% Stone	12,537	55
 19.9% Mississippi	42,159	17	 29.6% Union	39,449	19
 15.3% Monroe	7,085	72	 19.6% Van Buren	16,506	48
 20.9% Montgomery	8,919	65	 39.6% Washington	231,996	3
 23.8% Nevada	8,327	66	 30.6% White	79,016	9
 23.3% Newton	7,828	70	 20.4% Woodruff	6,571	74
 24.5% Ouachita	23,868	28	 19.7% Yell	21,523	33
 21.6% Perry	10,348	63			

Results by race and ethnicity in Arkansas

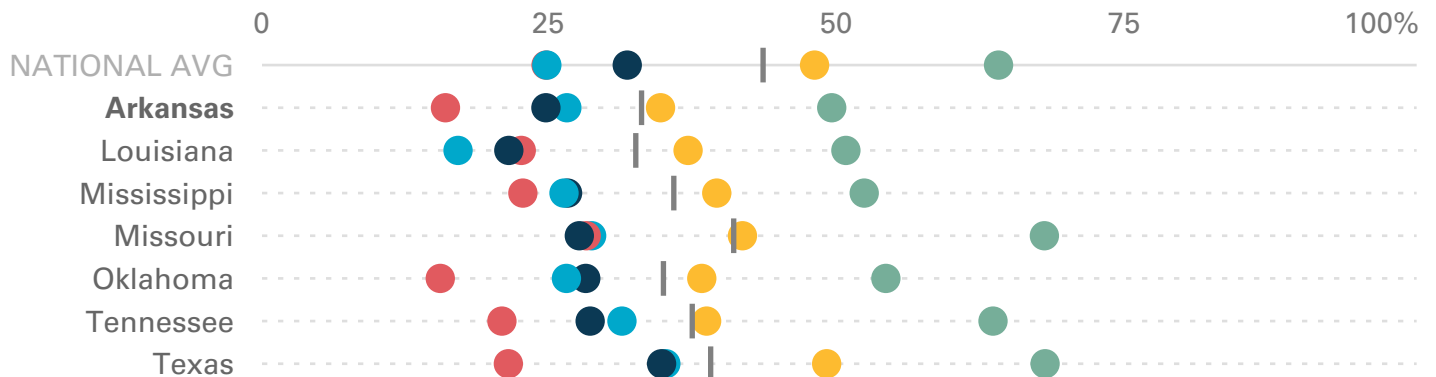
A growing proportion of today’s learners are African-American, Hispanic, and American Indian; and data show persistent and troubling gaps between their attainment levels and those of their white peers. Addressing these gaps – and expanding post-high-school learning opportunities for all – is essential to reducing the inequality that influences much of American life.

Explore **Arkansas's attainment rates across five racial and ethnic groups**, and see how it performs relative to other states. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of residents, ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*

filtered by RACE AND ETHNICITY



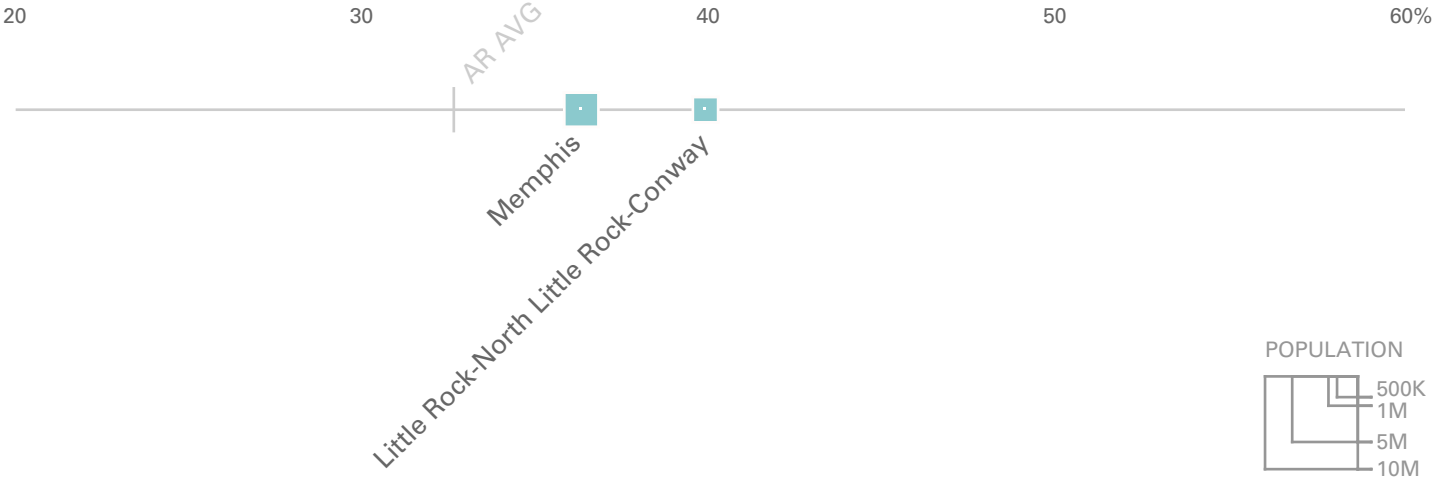
sorted by STATE NAME ▼▲



Arkansas's metro areas

Metropolitan areas are important talent hubs, because the majority of the nation's population lives within these areas.

Explore attainment rates in Arkansas's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Attainment is shown here as the percentage of residents, ages 25-64, with at least an associate degree.



Data sources

Data sources for *A Stronger Nation* are listed below, along with links and additional information.

Attainment and enrollment rates

U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS): One-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). County-level and metro-regional data are from ACS five-year estimates (2013-2017). College enrollment percentages reflect the enrollment of non-degree-holding students, ages 18-57, at public and private two- and four-year institutions.

- U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

Persistence and completion rates

Student retention rates (persistence) and degree-completion rates were collected by the National Student Clearinghouse. Graduate degrees awarded were analyzed by the National Center for Education Statistics and IPEDS.

- National Student Clearinghouse, 2016: <http://www.studentclearinghouse.org/>
- National Center for Education Statistics: <https://nces.ed.gov/>
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Completion Survey 2014-2015: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Home/UseTheData>

Awareness

Data that track public opinion about the importance of earning credentials come from a Gallup-Lumina Foundation survey conducted in 2016.

Population

U.S. Census Bureau Population Division: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2017.

- U.S. Census Bureau Annual Population Estimates: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2017_PEPANNRES&prodType=table

Inclusion of certificates

Attainment rates for 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 include the estimated percentage of working-age Americans who have earned high-value postsecondary certificates – not just associate degrees and above, as *A Stronger Nation* reported in previous years. This estimated percentage was derived by polling a nationally representative sample of Americans ages 25-64. The surveys were conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, an independent research institution. See the [methodology for certificate estimates](#).

At the state level, the estimated percentage of state residents who have earned high-value certificates was derived by labor market experts at Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce.

- The [National Education and Attainment Survey](#) (NEAS) from NORC at the University of Chicago
- [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#)
- Georgetown University's [Center on Education and the Workforce](#)

Defining metro areas

Metro-area data in *A Stronger Nation* are those that apply to the nation's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The term MSA refers to "a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of social and economic integration with that core." MSAs comprise one or more entire counties, except in New England, where cities and towns are the basic geographic units. The federal Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs by applying published standards to Census Bureau data.

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.



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