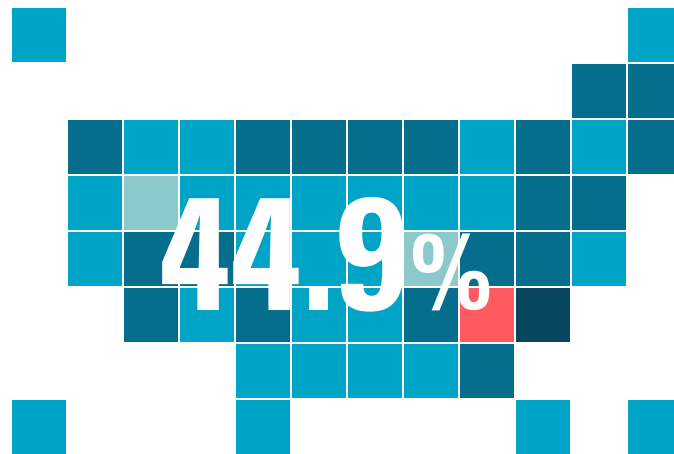


A STRONGER NATION

Learning beyond high school builds American talent



South Carolina's Report 2019

South Carolina'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. **South Carolina's attainment rate is 45 percent, and the state is working toward its attainment goal of 60 percent by 2025.**

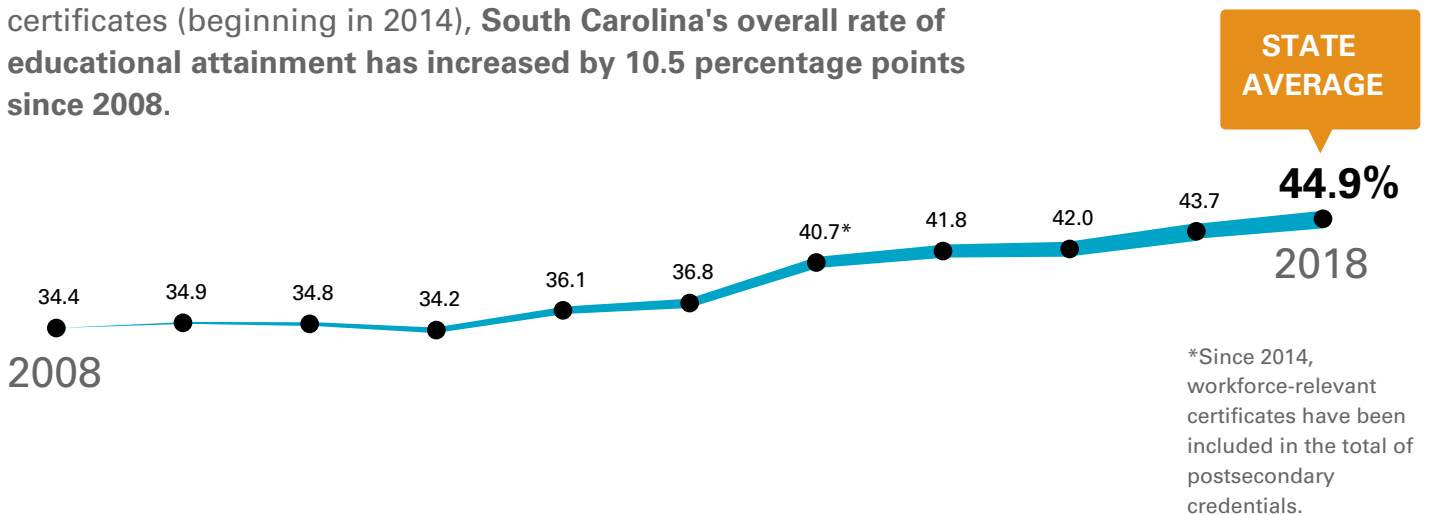
How South Carolina compares to the nation

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



South Carolina's progress

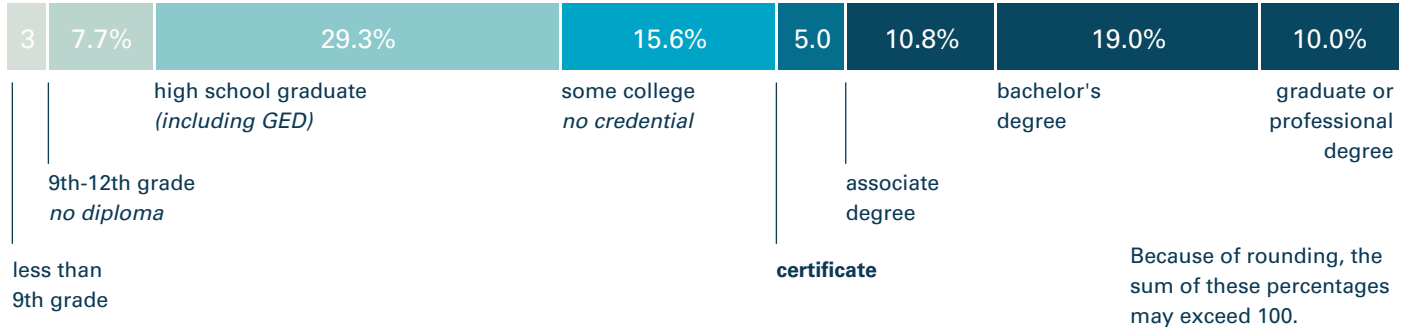
To reach state goals, the state will not only have to maintain current rates of attainment but also significantly increase the number of people who enroll in programs and earn all types of credentials beyond high school. With the inclusion of workforce certificates (beginning in 2014), **South Carolina's overall rate of educational attainment has increased by 10.5 percentage points since 2008.**



Highest Education Level Across South Carolina

SOUTH CAROLINA AGES 25-64

44.9% attainment



South Carolina'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 South Carolina 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 South Carolina's 46 counties. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of people ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*

sorted by NAME ▼▲

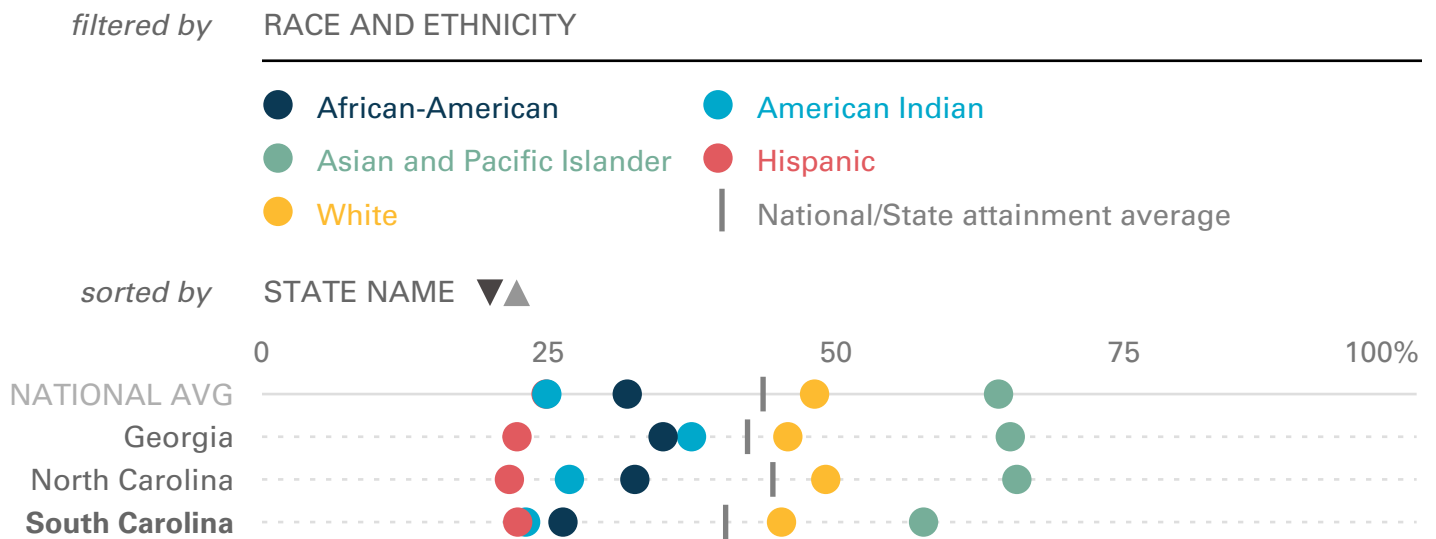
Attainment	County	Population	Pop. Rank	Attainment	County	Population	Pop. Rank
29.8%	Abbeville	24,722	37	26.8%	Colleton	37,611	27
34.0%	Aiken	168,179	11	27.7%	Darlington	67,265	20
18.9%	Allendale	9,002	46	20.1%	Dillon	30,666	32
35.0%	Anderson	198,759	9	41.5%	Dorchester	156,456	12
37.2%	Bamberg	14,381	44	26.1%	Edgefield	26,693	36
26.7%	Barnwell	21,345	39	25.1%	Fairfield	22,607	38
44.2%	Beaufort	186,844	10	35.0%	Florence	138,566	13
36.5%	Berkeley	217,937	8	34.8%	Georgetown	61,607	23
30.8%	Calhoun	14,704	43	45.4%	Greenville	506,837	1
53.0%	Charleston	401,438	3	36.5%	Greenwood	70,355	19
23.3%	Cherokee	57,105	24	20.2%	Hampton	19,602	41
25.9%	Chester	32,301	29	34.2%	Horry	333,268	4
19.8%	Chesterfield	45,948	25	21.6%	Jasper	28,458	33
22.6%	Clarendon	34,057	28	31.1%	Kershaw	65,036	22

 36.7% Lancaster	<i>92,550</i>	16	 35.5% Orangeburg	<i>87,476</i>	17
 26.2% Laurens	<i>66,848</i>	21	 36.5% Pickens	<i>123,479</i>	14
 19.3% Lee	<i>17,350</i>	42	 47.7% Richland	<i>411,592</i>	2
 40.7% Lexington	<i>290,642</i>	6	 28.0% Saluda	<i>20,452</i>	40
 23.4% Marion	<i>31,293</i>	30	 36.5% Spartanburg	<i>306,854</i>	5
 16.3% Marlboro	<i>26,825</i>	35	 30.2% Sumter	<i>106,847</i>	15
 24.5% McCormick	<i>9,545</i>	45	 24.1% Union	<i>27,537</i>	34
 29.9% Newberry	<i>38,488</i>	26	 22.9% Williamsburg	<i>31,133</i>	31
 34.1% Oconee	<i>77,270</i>	18	 44.8% York	<i>266,439</i>	7

Results by race and ethnicity in South Carolina

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.

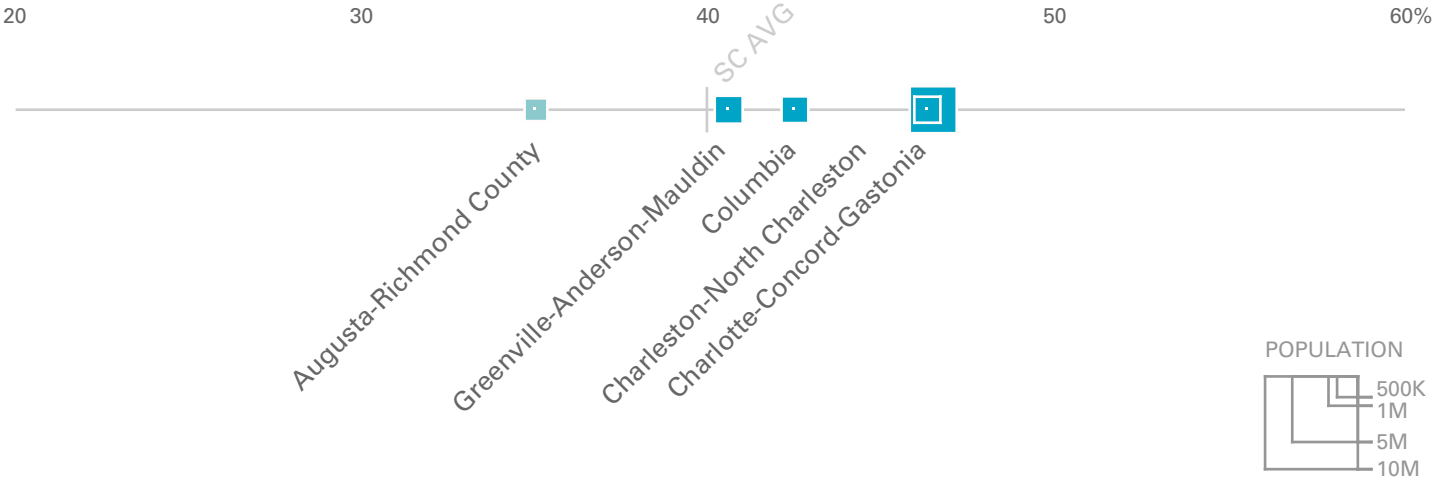
Explore **South Carolina's attainment rates across five racial and ethnic groups**, and see how it performs relative to other states. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of residents, ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*



South Carolina'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 South Carolina'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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FOUNDATION

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