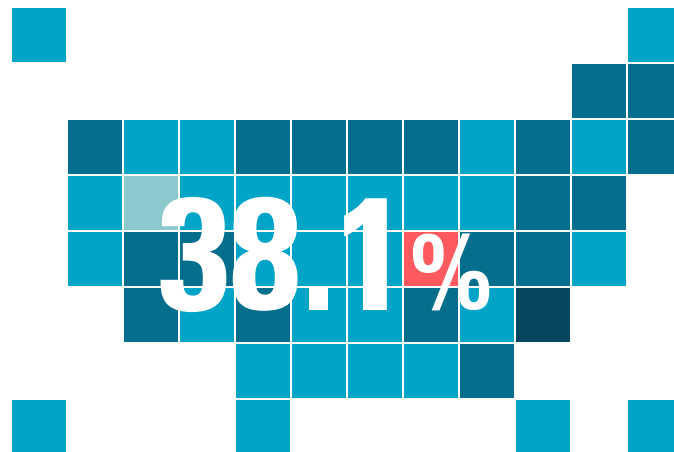


A STRONGER NATION

Learning beyond high school builds American talent



West Virginia's Report 2019

West Virginia'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. **West Virginia's attainment rate is 38 percent, but it has not formally established a statewide attainment goal that meets 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).**

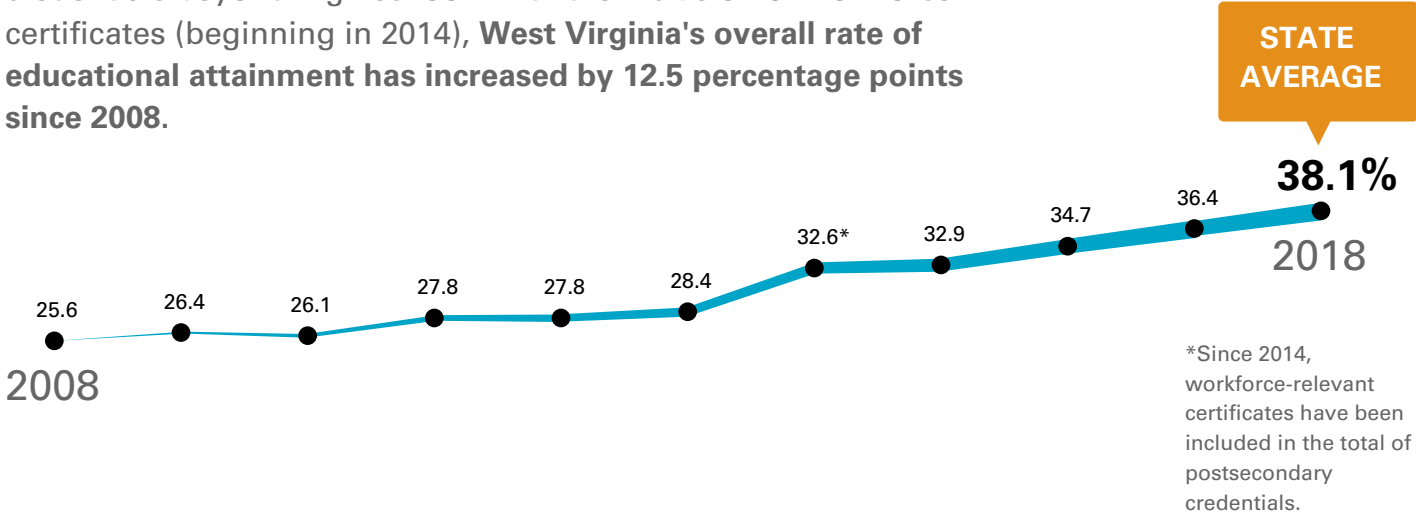
How

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



West Virginia's progress

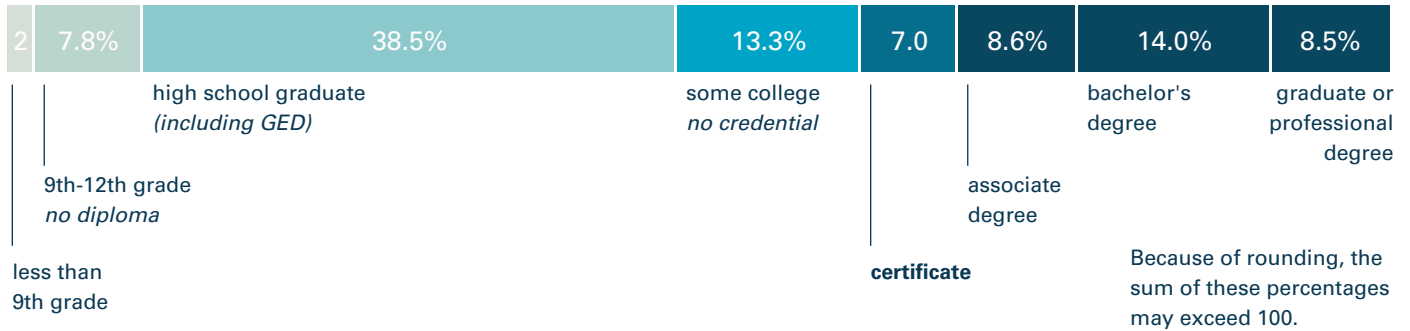
To reach state goals, the state will not only have to maintain current rates of attainment but also significantly increase the number of people who enroll in programs and earn all types of credentials beyond high school. With the inclusion of workforce certificates (beginning in 2014), **West Virginia's overall rate of educational attainment has increased by 12.5 percentage points since 2008.**



Highest Education Level Across West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA AGES 25-64

38.1% attainment



West Virginia'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 West Virginia 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 West Virginia's 55 counties. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of people ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*

sorted by NAME ▼▲

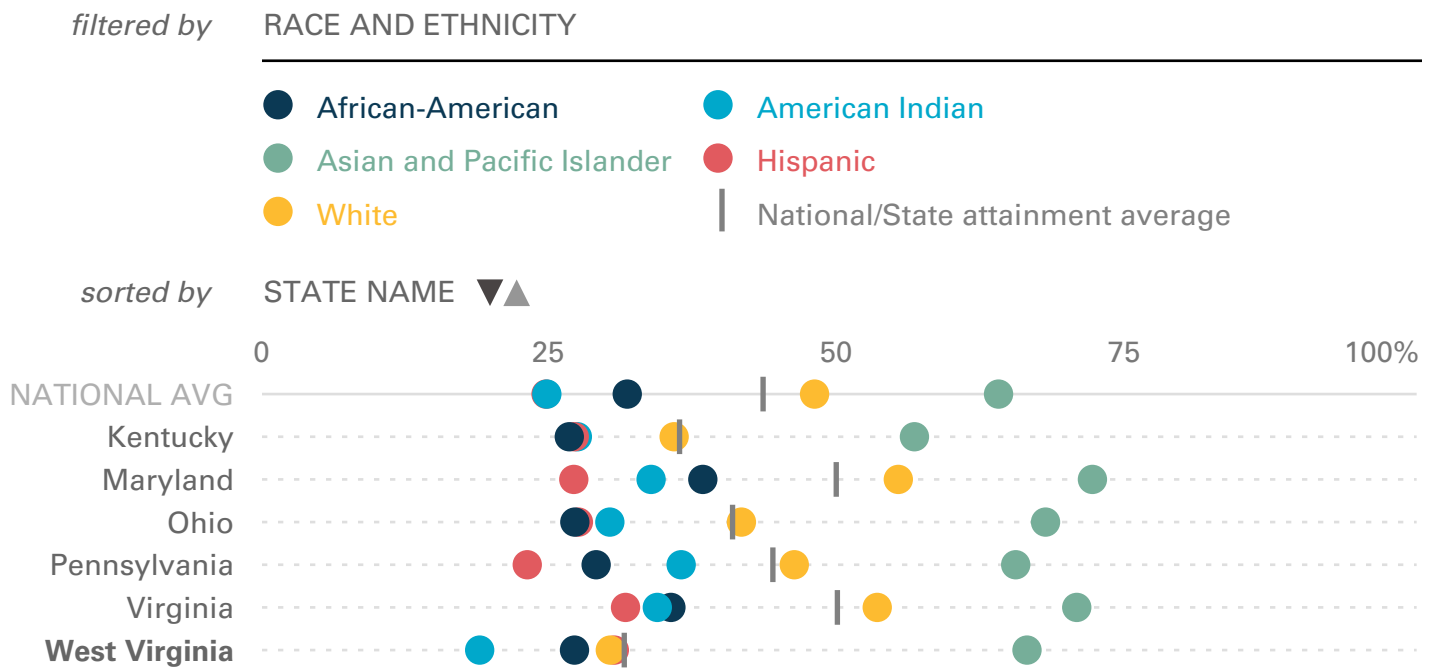
Attainment	County	Population	Pop. Rank	Attainment	County	Population	Pop. Rank
27.1%	Barbour	16,497	35	31.7%	Hancock	29,448	19
31.2%	Berkeley	114,920	2	23.9%	Hardy	13,717	40
15.0%	Boone	22,349	29	33.1%	Harrison	67,811	7
22.8%	Braxton	14,237	38	31.4%	Jackson	28,976	20
31.6%	Brooke	22,443	28	38.4%	Jefferson	56,338	10
36.8%	Cabell	94,958	4	33.8%	Kanawha	183,293	1
14.3%	Calhoun	7,307	52	21.5%	Lewis	16,226	36
15.5%	Clay	8,764	46	14.7%	Lincoln	20,825	31
21.5%	Doddridge	8,560	47	17.4%	Logan	32,925	17
25.2%	Fayette	43,521	12	35.5%	Marion	56,337	11
22.7%	Gilmer	8,005	50	30.7%	Marshall	31,190	18
23.6%	Grant	11,670	43	23.9%	Mason	26,801	23
29.4%	Greenbrier	35,287	15	8.9%	McDowell	18,456	32
17.6%	Hampshire	23,471	27	27.9%	Mercer	59,753	8

 25.4% Mineral	27,222	22	 19.6% Ritchie	9,774	44
 16.7% Mingo	24,127	26	 20.8% Roane	14,043	39
 50.1% Monongalia	105,030	3	 21.2% Summers	12,993	42
 20.3% Monroe	13,402	41	 26.7% Taylor	16,930	34
 24.7% Morgan	17,686	33	 25.7% Tucker	6,915	54
 23.6% Nicholas	25,043	24	 25.6% Tyler	8,795	45
 41.8% Ohio	42,035	13	 23.0% Upshur	24,465	25
 21.4% Pendleton	6,996	53	 25.3% Wayne	40,153	14
 22.3% Pleasants	7,512	51	 13.6% Webster	8,372	49
 25.9% Pocahontas	8,456	48	 21.1% Wetzel	15,437	37
 22.0% Preston	33,679	16	 23.5% Wirt	5,794	55
 40.5% Putnam	56,792	9	 35.5% Wood	85,104	5
 27.8% Raleigh	75,022	6	 14.0% Wyoming	21,210	30
 22.2% Randolph	28,785	21			

Results by race and ethnicity in West Virginia

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.

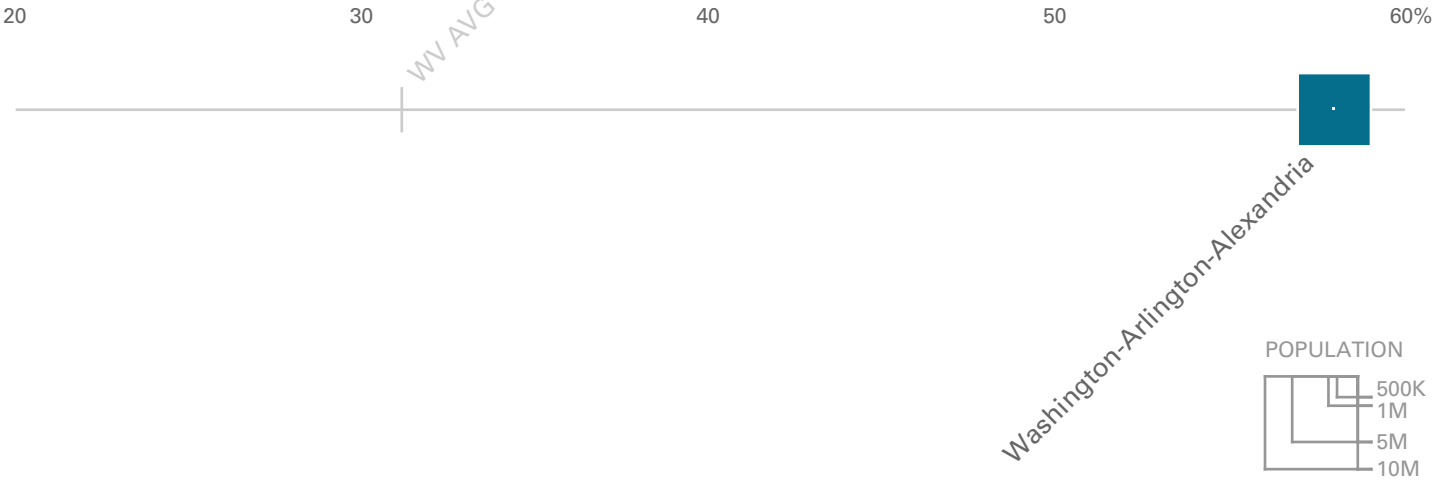
Explore **West Virginia's attainment rates across five racial and ethnic groups**, and see how it performs relative to other states. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of residents, ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*



West Virginia'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 West Virginia'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.



Lumina[™]
FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1806
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1806
www.luminafoundation.org

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