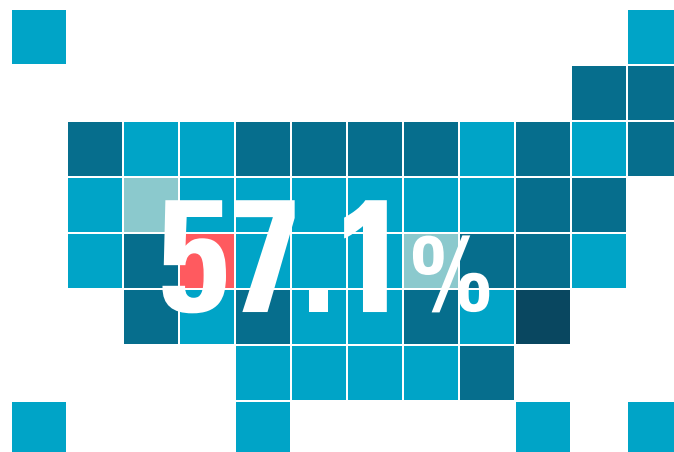


A STRONGER NATION

Learning beyond high school builds American talent



Colorado's Report 2019

Colorado's progress toward the goal

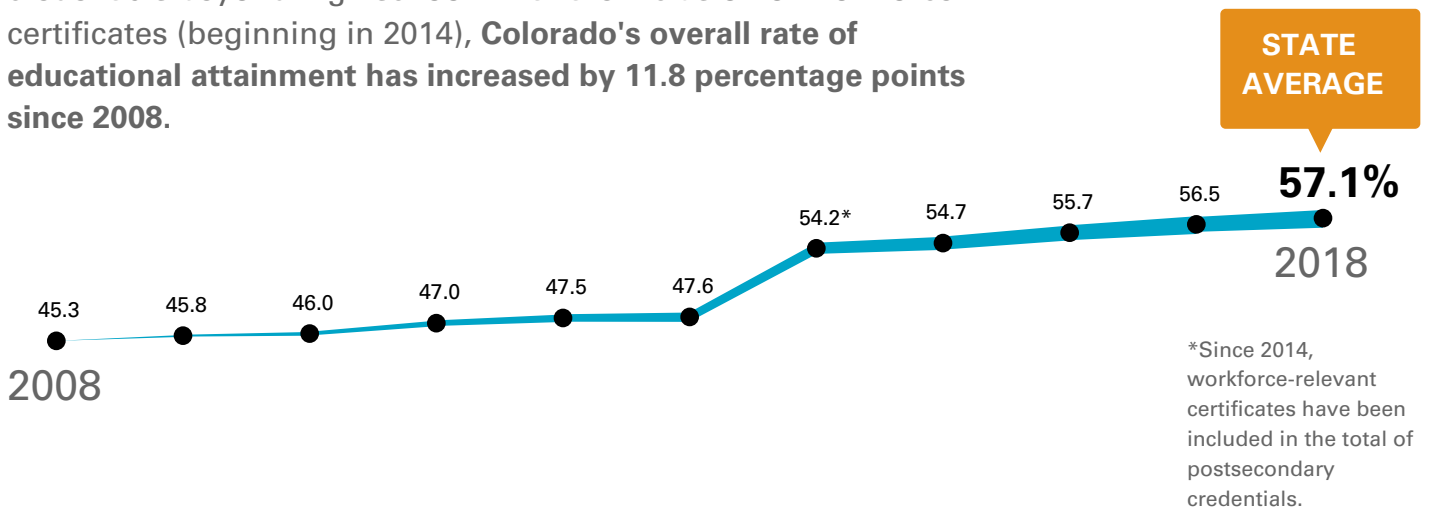
By 2025, 60 percent of Americans will need some type of high-quality credential beyond high school. To count toward this important goal, any credential must have clear and transparent learning outcomes that lead to further education and employment. **Colorado's attainment rate is 57 percent, and the state is working toward its attainment goal of 66 percent by 2025.**

Educational attainment in Colorado exceeds the national average, but work remains before it reaches 60 percent.

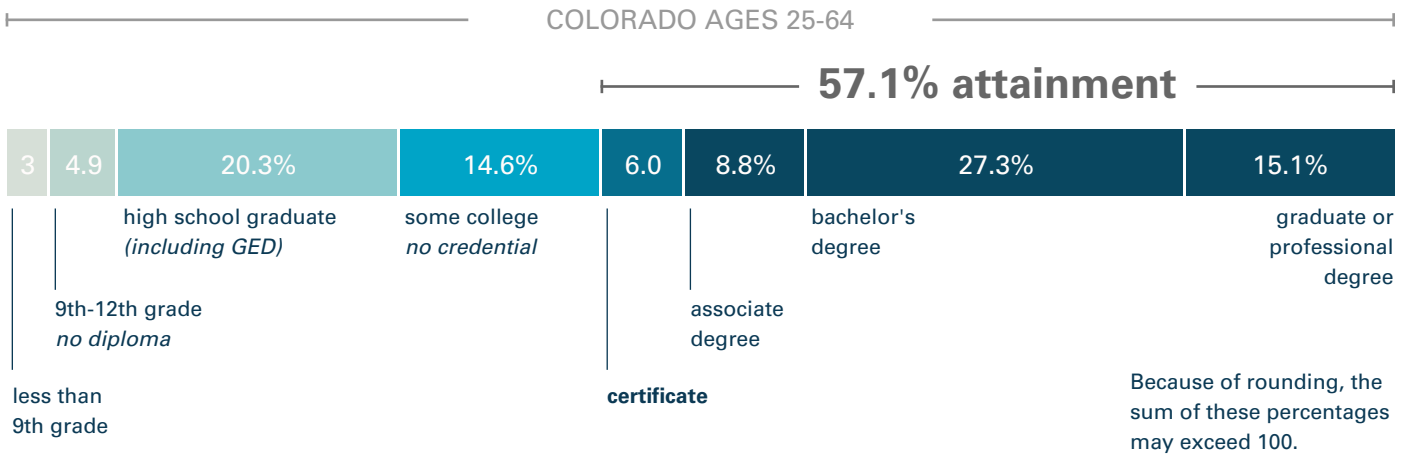


Colorado's progress

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), **Colorado's overall rate of educational attainment has increased by 11.8 percentage points since 2008.**



Highest Education Level Across Colorado



Colorado'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 Colorado 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 Colorado's 64 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
33.1%	Adams	503,167	5	27.3%	Delta	30,568	19
34.5%	Alamosa	16,551	31	54.9%	Denver	704,621	1
51.5%	Arapahoe	643,052	3	29.9%	Dolores	2,067	58
44.3%	Archuleta	13,315	34	67.8%	Douglas	335,299	7
38.0%	Baca	3,562	56	56.7%	Eagle	54,772	15
17.7%	Bent	5,938	48	50.2%	El Paso	699,232	2
68.6%	Boulder	322,514	8	49.3%	Elbert	25,642	22
66.9%	Broomfield	68,341	12	25.4%	Fremont	47,559	16
41.4%	Chaffee	19,638	26	37.5%	Garfield	59,118	13
36.4%	Cheyenne	1,845	59	44.7%	Gilpin	6,013	47
54.5%	Clear Creek	9,574	39	44.4%	Grand	15,321	32
25.7%	Conejos	8,184	40	62.1%	Gunnison	16,939	30
25.2%	Costilla	3,776	55	47.3%	Hinsdale	794	62
25.2%	Crowley	5,810	49	31.5%	Huerfano	6,662	44
44.8%	Custer	4,874	52	25.3%	Jackson	1,385	60

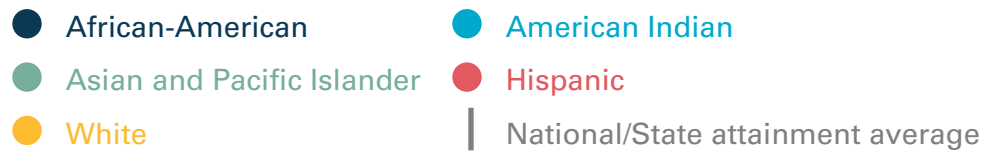
53.8%	Jefferson	574,613	4	41.1%	Park	17,905	28
35.0%	Kiowa	1,376	61	42.3%	Phillips	4,292	54
30.0%	Kit Carson	7,158	43	67.1%	Pitkin	17,890	29
50.1%	La Plata	55,589	14	31.1%	Prowers	12,070	36
41.9%	Lake	7,778	42	35.3%	Pueblo	166,475	10
57.2%	Larimer	343,976	6	34.4%	Rio Blanco	6,420	46
30.7%	Las Animas	14,238	33	29.1%	Rio Grande	11,301	37
21.0%	Lincoln	5,546	50	56.4%	Routt	25,220	23
35.1%	Logan	21,896	25	26.8%	Saguache	6,626	45
36.2%	Mesa	151,616	11	37.8%	San Juan	715	64
41.6%	Mineral	766	63	58.7%	San Miguel	7,967	41
24.7%	Moffat	13,131	35	38.8%	Sedgwick	2,344	57
32.8%	Montezuma	26,140	21	54.6%	Summit	30,585	18
30.9%	Montrose	41,784	17	46.5%	Teller	24,646	24
27.2%	Morgan	28,192	20	30.9%	Washington	4,938	51
30.5%	Otero	18,326	27	36.9%	Weld	304,633	9
54.4%	Ouray	4,794	53	34.1%	Yuma	10,075	38

Results by race and ethnicity in Colorado

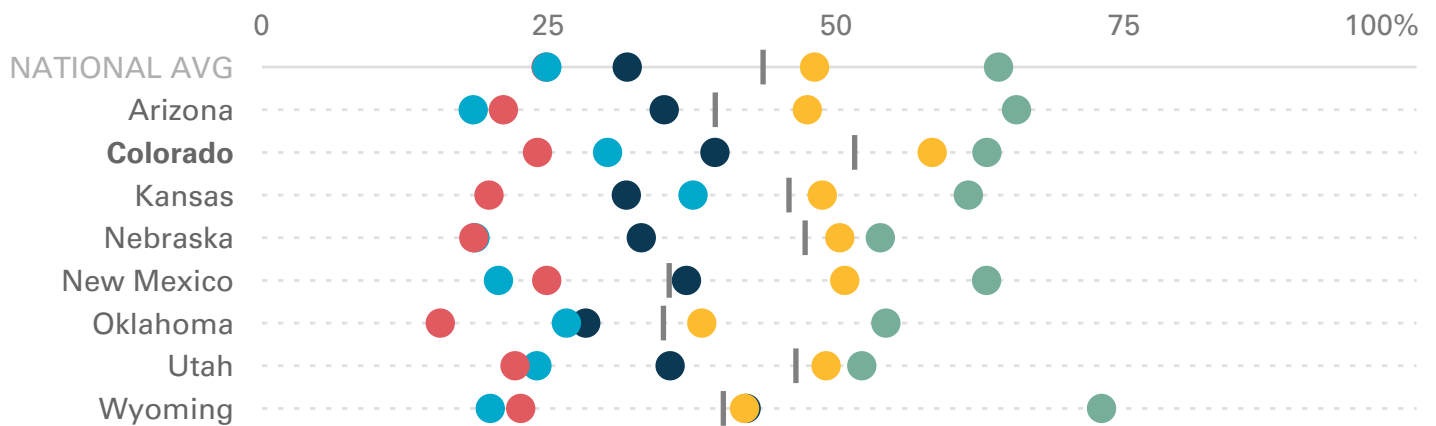
A growing proportion of today’s learners are African-American, Hispanic, and American Indian; and data show persistent and troubling gaps between their attainment levels and those of their white peers. Addressing these gaps – and expanding post-high-school learning opportunities for all – is essential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

Explore **Colorado'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 ▼▲



Colorado'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 Colorado'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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