

A STRONGER

NATION



through higher education



In Indiana, the ten-year time horizon
brings Goal 2025 into sharp focus

A policy brief from Lumina Foundation

Indiana

The need to increase higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is well understood in Indiana. As in other states, the economy of Indiana is increasingly reliant on skills and knowledge that can only be obtained through postsecondary education. More than ever, the state's residents need those college-level skills and knowledge to realize their own dreams and aspirations.

What can states do to increase postsecondary attainment by their residents? Lumina believes the first step is to set an explicit and quantifiable state goal to focus everyone's attention on the need to act to increase attainment. Goals allow states to develop stronger plans that ensure their policies and resources are aligned with state needs. Measuring and reporting progress toward goals helps assure that strong, accountable and consistent leadership can support a change agenda to improve outcomes for students.

In 31 states, the imperative to increase attainment has led to the development of official state goals. Indiana is one of those states; in fact, it is among only 16 states that meet the criteria for a strong state attainment goal. Most notably, the state's goal addresses the critical need to close gaps in attainment for underrepresented students, such as minority students, low-income students and working adults.

Indiana is making progress on increasing attainment. The most recent Census data (2013) show that 34.7 percent of the state's 3.4 million working-age adults (those between the ages of 25 and 64) hold a two- or four-year college degree. This is an increase from last year's rate of 34.4 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is below the national rate of 40 percent. While attainment is increasing, it is not increasing rapidly

enough to meet the national goal of 60 percent. We are making progress, but we need to do much more.

A good leading indicator of where higher education attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults, those between the ages of 25 and 34. In 2013, this rate in Indiana was 36.7 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole but below the national rate of 41.6 percent.

The steps that Indiana and other states can take to increase attainment are laid out in Lumina's state policy agenda. They are built around three priorities that states must pursue:

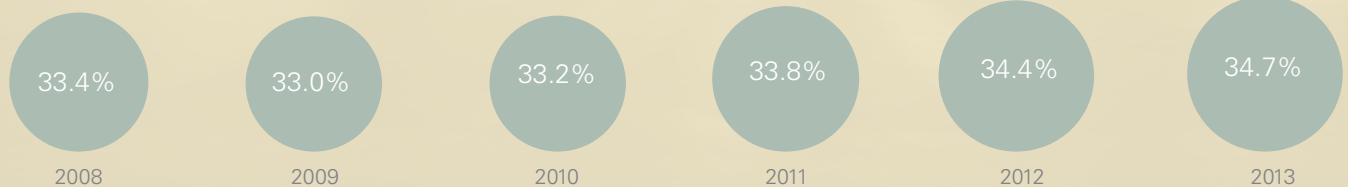
1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

The details of Lumina's state policy agenda can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>. This site also contains extensive information about the progress states are making on the attainment agenda as well as resources that states can draw on to reach their own attainment goals.

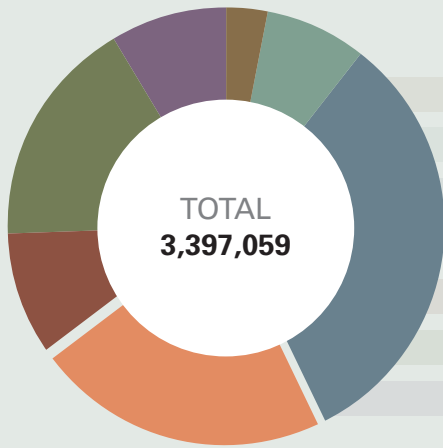
Many groups and individuals must work together to increase attainment. The imperative for Indiana to increase attainment is clear, and many educators, policymakers, employers and community leaders are stepping up to take action. Most important, students and the public increasingly understand the need to improve the level of their own education to prepare themselves, their community, and their state for a future in which postsecondary knowledge and skills are the keys to success.

Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree



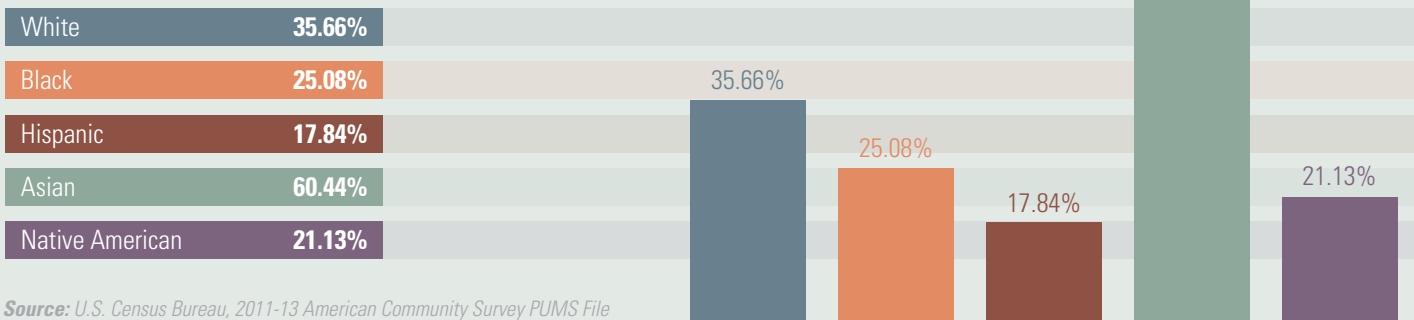
Levels of education for Indiana residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	110,258	3.25%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	256,414	7.55%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,088,954	32.06%
Some college, no degree	761,726	22.42%
Associate degree	313,771	9.24%
Bachelor's degree	576,605	16.97%
Graduate or professional degree	289,331	8.52%

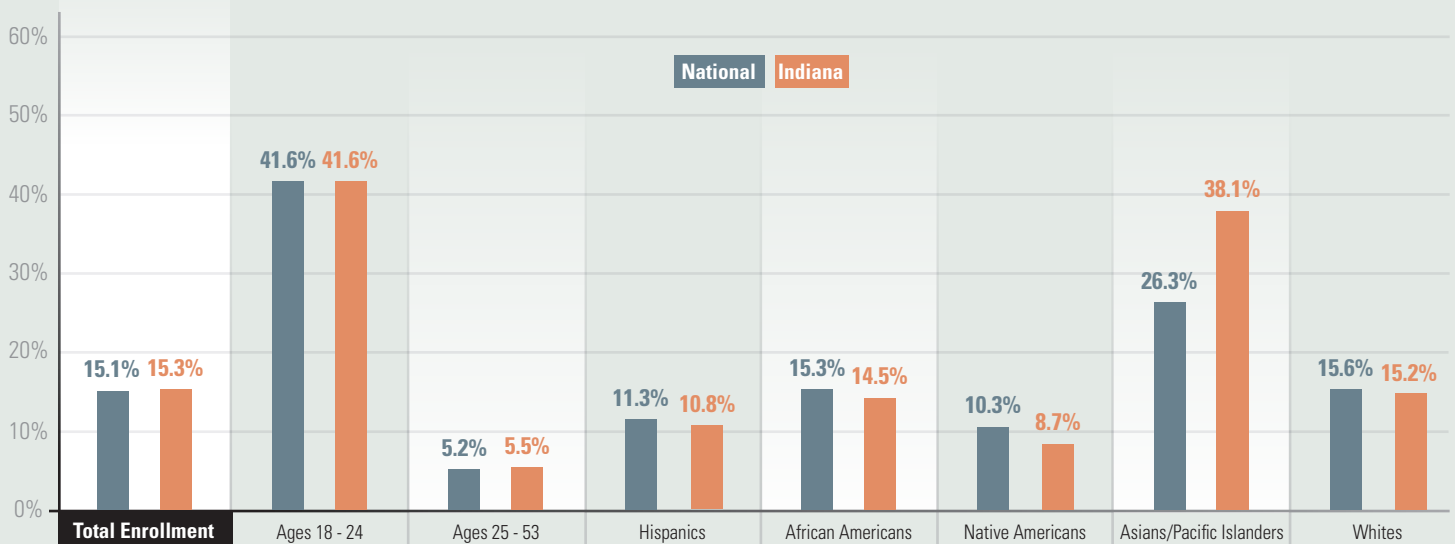
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Indiana residents (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-13 American Community Survey PUMS File

College enrollment among Indiana residents, ages 18-53



Note: These percentages reflect the enrollment of non-degree-holding students, ages 18-53, at public and private, two-year and four-year postsecondary institutions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey One-Year Public Use Microdata Sample

Percentage of Indiana residents (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Adams	23.76	DeKalb	28.06	Henry	24.65	Marion	36.31	Posey	34.37	Union	26.57
Allen	38.40	Delaware	33.05	Howard	30.02	Marshall	26.12	Pulaski	21.74	Vanderburgh	33.47
Bartholomew	38.65	Dubois	33.77	Huntington	28.53	Martin	26.61	Putnam	26.00	Vermillion	24.95
Benton	26.86	Elkhart	25.08	Jackson	23.49	Miami	19.81	Randolph	24.48	Vigo	31.77
Blackford	19.34	Fayette	17.70	Jasper	26.67	Monroe	52.66	Ripley	27.90	Wabash	26.16
Boone	53.41	Floyd	33.86	Jay	20.60	Montgomery	25.63	Rush	22.75	Warren	25.91
Brown	29.74	Fountain	23.89	Jefferson	25.09	Morgan	27.02	St. Joseph	37.40	Warrick	42.78
Carroll	27.73	Franklin	29.49	Jennings	18.30	Newton	17.92	Scott	20.36	Washington	21.92
Cass	22.36	Fulton	22.74	Johnson	39.55	Noble	23.66	Shelby	26.31	Wayne	27.05
Clark	29.75	Gibson	32.01	Knox	33.61	Ohio	23.81	Spencer	26.78	Wells	30.21
Clay	27.48	Grant	26.91	Kosciusko	28.09	Orange	22.15	Starke	22.47	White	30.44
Clinton	21.16	Greene	26.28	LaGrange	14.52	Owen	19.39	Steuben	29.82	Whitley	28.06
Crawford	19.30	Hamilton	65.16	Lake	30.29	Parke	22.99	Sullivan	26.86		
Daviess	23.79	Hancock	39.33	LaPorte	27.31	Perry	20.97	Switzerland	18.46		
Dearborn	28.91	Harrison	25.48	Lawrence	25.95	Pike	20.80	Tippecanoe	46.01		
Decatur	23.85	Hendricks	45.56	Madison	28.01	Porter	37.14	Tipton	27.50		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



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Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation committed to increasing the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina's outcomes-based approach focuses on helping to design and build an accessible, responsive and accountable higher education system while fostering a national sense of urgency for action to achieve Goal 2025.