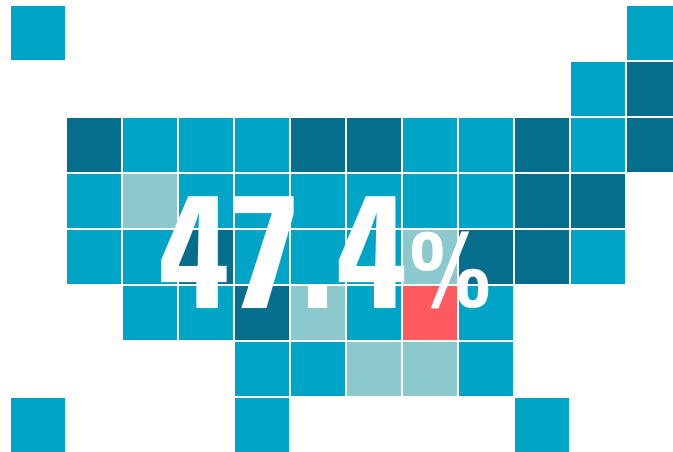


A STRONGER NATION

Learning beyond high school builds American talent



North Carolina's Report 2018



Lumina
FOUNDATION

North 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. **North Carolina's attainment rate is 47 percent, but it has not formally established a statewide attainment goal that meet's 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).**

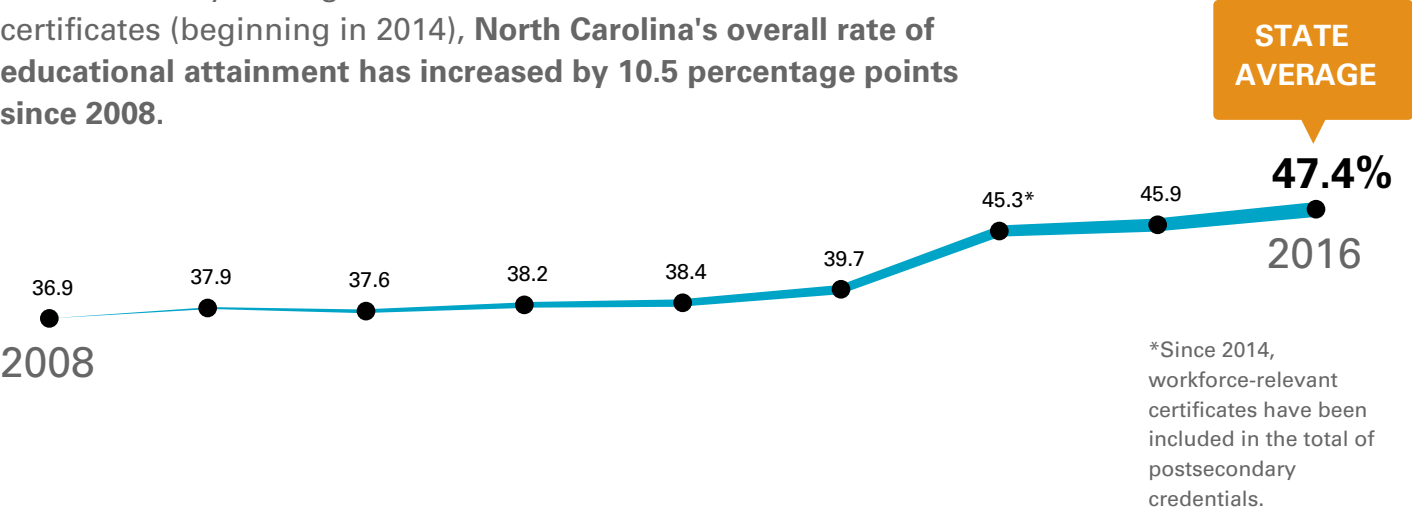
How North Carolina compares to the nation

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

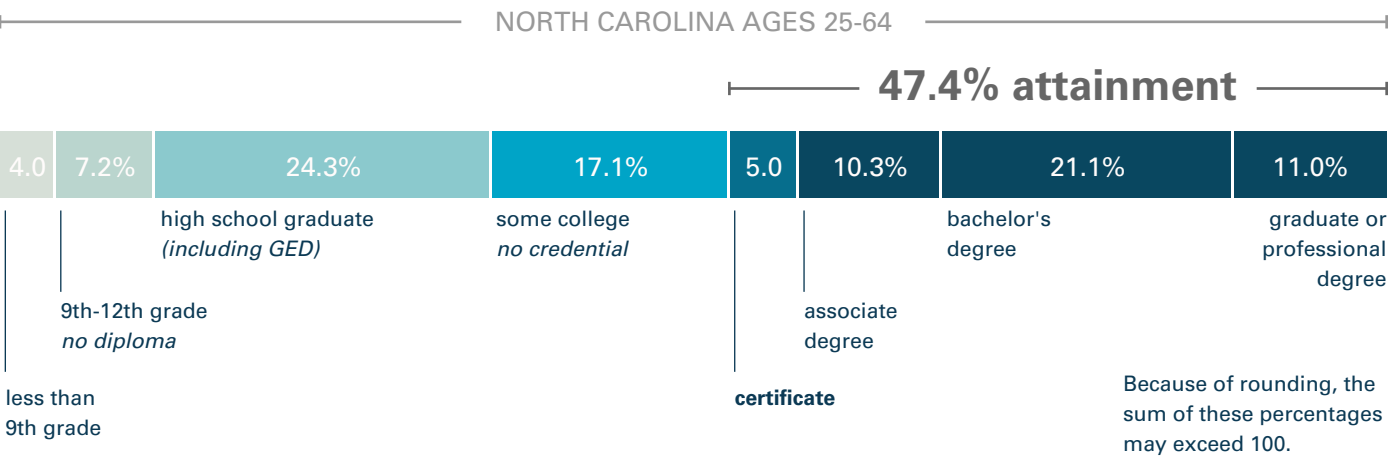


North Carolina's progress

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), **North Carolina's overall rate of educational attainment has increased by 10.5 percentage points since 2008.**



Highest Education Level Across North Carolina



North 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 **closing these gaps is crucial.**

















































Comparing North Carolina Counties

























Exploring educational attainment at the local level can be especially helpful to state and 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 North Carolina's 100 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
<div></div> 34.0%	Alamance	159,688	17	<div></div> 40.2%	Camden	10,418	96
<div></div> 23.1%	Alexander	37,428	65	<div></div> 38.7%	Carteret	68,890	38
<div></div> 28.2%	Alleghany	10,848	95	<div></div> 21.9%	Caswell	22,910	78
<div></div> 17.3%	Anson	25,448	75	<div></div> 34.2%	Catawba	156,459	18
<div></div> 31.1%	Ashe	26,924	73	<div></div> 46.2%	Chatham	72,243	36
<div></div> 25.5%	Avery	17,516	86	<div></div> 30.9%	Cherokee	27,905	71
<div></div> 30.1%	Beaufort	47,526	55	<div></div> 28.1%	Chowan	14,383	88
<div></div> 19.7%	Bertie	19,854	84	<div></div> 31.4%	Clay	10,915	94
<div></div> 28.3%	Bladen	33,741	69	<div></div> 29.1%	Cleveland	97,144	28
<div></div> 34.9%	Brunswick	126,953	24	<div></div> 23.6%	Columbus	56,505	50
<div></div> 46.5%	Buncombe	256,088	7	<div></div> 35.0%	Craven	103,445	27
<div></div> 29.4%	Burke	88,851	32	<div></div> 37.0%	Cumberland	327,127	5
<div></div> 41.7%	Cabarrus	201,590	11	<div></div> 31.9%	Currituck	25,809	74
<div></div> 25.0%	Caldwell	81,449	34	<div></div> 36.2%	Dare	35,964	66

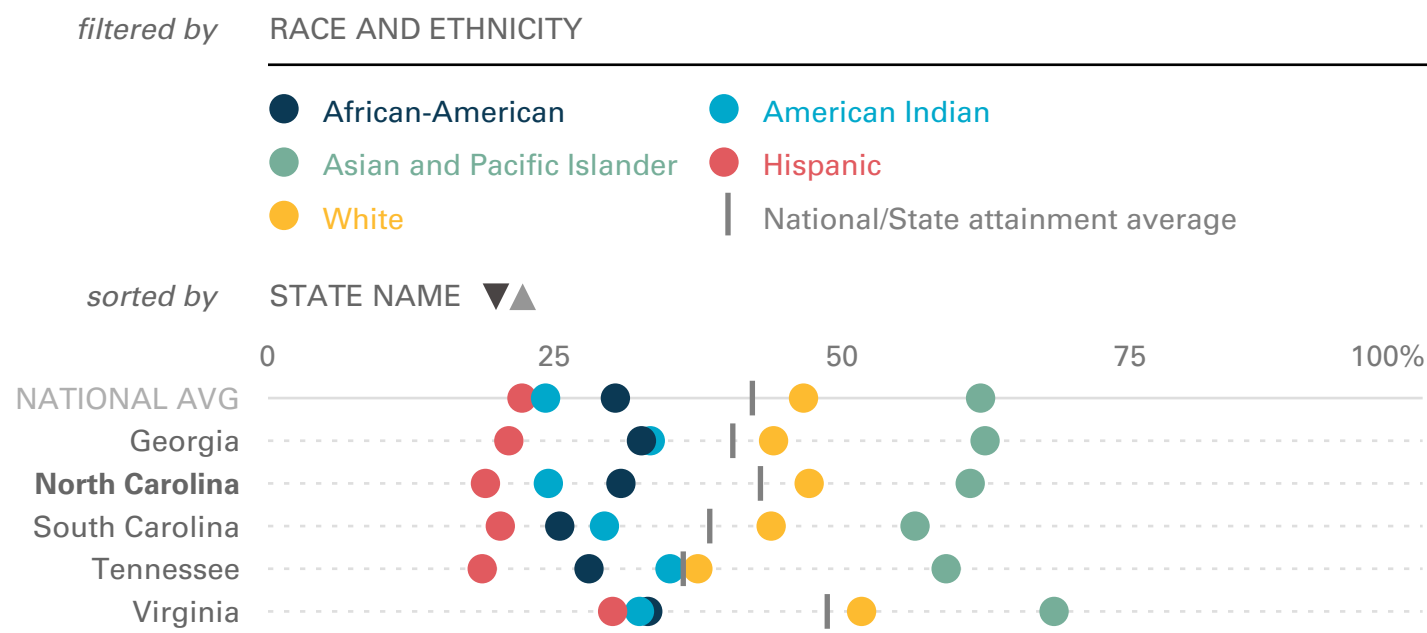
 30.7% Davidson	164,926	16	 32.9% Lee	59,616	45
 34.4% Davie	42,013	61	 27.1% Lenoir	57,307	49
 20.6% Duplin	58,969	48	 32.3% Lincoln	81,168	35
 54.7% Durham	306,212	6	 35.3% Macon	34,376	68
 20.9% Edgecombe	53,318	52	 37.1% Madison	21,340	79
 43.7% Forsyth	371,511	4	 28.8% Martin	23,172	77
 33.8% Franklin	64,705	41	 27.1% McDowell	45,075	57
 31.4% Gaston	216,965	10	 52.7% Mecklenburg	1,054,835	1
 27.9% Gates	11,478	93	 32.0% Mitchell	15,126	87
 20.5% Graham	8,558	98	 24.8% Montgomery	27,418	72
 31.0% Granville	59,031	47	 45.8% Moore	95,776	29
 21.3% Greene	21,168	80	 31.5% Nash	94,005	30
 44.1% Guilford	521,330	3	 48.9% New Hanover	223,483	9
 23.9% Halifax	51,766	54	 24.0% Northampton	20,000	82
 32.0% Harnett	130,881	23	 30.9% Onslow	187,136	13
 38.3% Haywood	60,682	44	 65.8% Orange	141,796	20
 38.5% Henderson	114,209	26	 30.8% Pamlico	12,821	91
 25.5% Hertford	24,136	76	 29.2% Pasquotank	39,864	62
 30.7% Hoke	53,262	53	 35.8% Pender	59,090	46
 15.9% Hyde	5,517	99	 26.0% Perquimans	13,335	90
 38.5% Iredell	172,916	15	 27.0% Person	39,284	63
 40.6% Jackson	42,241	60	 43.5% Pitt	177,220	14
 35.4% Johnston	191,450	12	 40.7% Polk	20,334	81
 23.8% Jones	9,845	97	 26.7% Randolph	143,416	19

 24.5% Richmond 44,939 58	 13.2% Tyrrell 4,141 100
 22.0% Robeson 133,235 22	 44.9% Union 226,606 8
 24.4% Rockingham 91,393 31	 21.9% Vance 44,244 59
 30.0% Rowan 139,933 21	 60.9% Wake 1,046,791 2
 28.9% Rutherford 66,421 40	 22.7% Warren 19,907 83
 22.7% Sampson 63,124 42	 18.1% Washington 12,195 92
 24.6% Scotland 35,244 67	 47.7% Watauga 53,922 51
 29.6% Stanly 60,791 43	 31.2% Wayne 124,150 25
 27.6% Stokes 46,097 56	 25.9% Wilkes 68,740 39
 29.8% Surry 72,113 37	 28.9% Wilson 81,661 33
 27.7% Swain 14,346 89	 25.7% Yadkin 37,532 64
 36.8% Transylvania 33,482 70	 31.5% Yancey 17,678 85

Results by race and ethnicity in North 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.

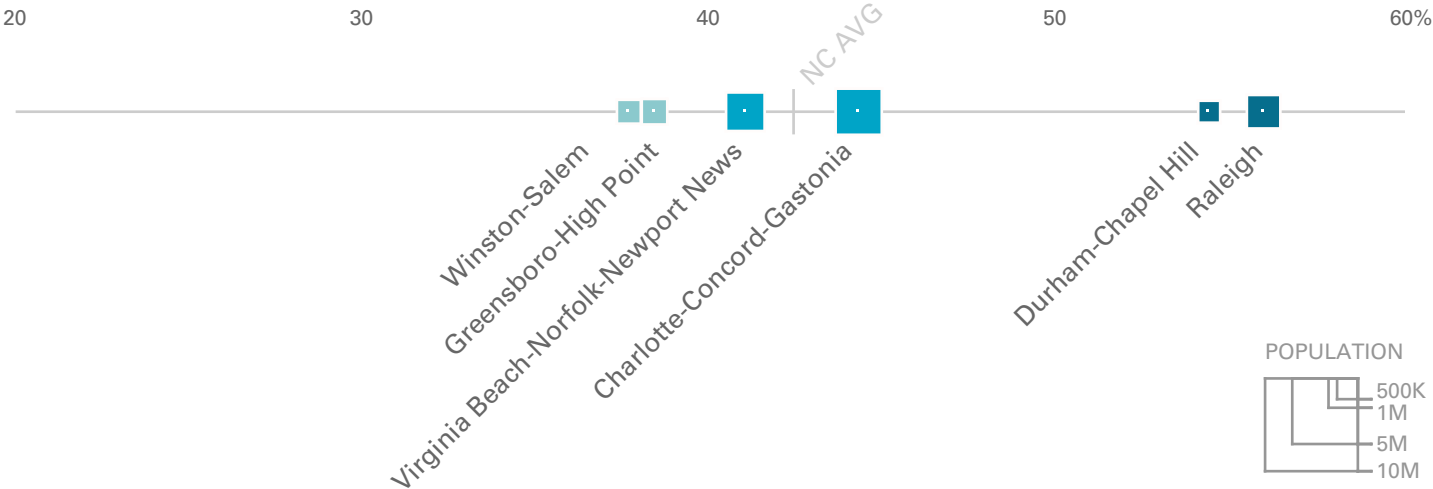
Explore **North Carolina's attainment rates across five racial and ethnic groups**, and see how it performs relative to other states. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of residents, ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*



North 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 North 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 (2012-2016). College enrollment percentages reflect the enrollment of non-degree-holding students, ages 18-54, 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, 2016.

- U.S. Census Bureau Annual Population Estimates: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2016_PEPANNRES&prodType=table

Inclusion of certificates

Attainment rates for 2014, 2015, and 2016 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.

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.

- NORC at the University of Chicago: <http://www.norc.org>
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Home/UseTheData>
- Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce: <https://cew.georgetown.edu/>

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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