



ADULT EDUCATION FAST FACTS

IN NEW ENGLAND

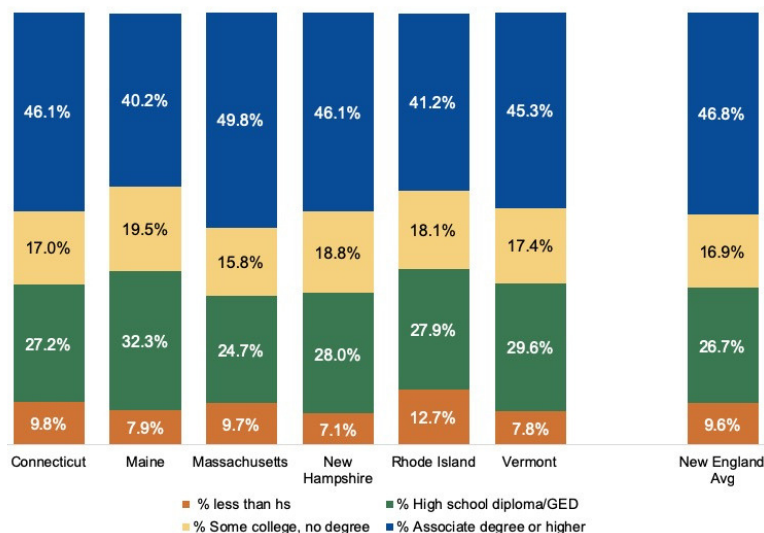
AS OF SEPTEMBER 2019

Who is the Adult Learner?¹

Adult learners represent roughly **one-third of the postsecondary population** (in 2017: 34.2% nationwide, 32.6% in New England). They are usually defined as students **aged 25 or older**, but this group also includes individuals under 25 with responsibilities characteristic of adults.

- **64%** are employed – 40% work full-time
- **49%** are financially independent
- **24%** have non-spousal dependents
- Many take a non-traditional educational trajectory – e.g., did not complete high school, delayed entrance into higher education, or "stopped out" of higher education
- Many have prior job experience. **6%** have served in the military

Educational Attainment Rate of Adults Aged 25 and Older, by State: 2017²



5,449,340
(53.1%)

New Englanders aged 25 and older do not have a postsecondary education (associate or higher, 2017) ³



60%

of Americans will need to earn a high-quality postsecondary credential by 2025 to meet the growing need for talent⁴

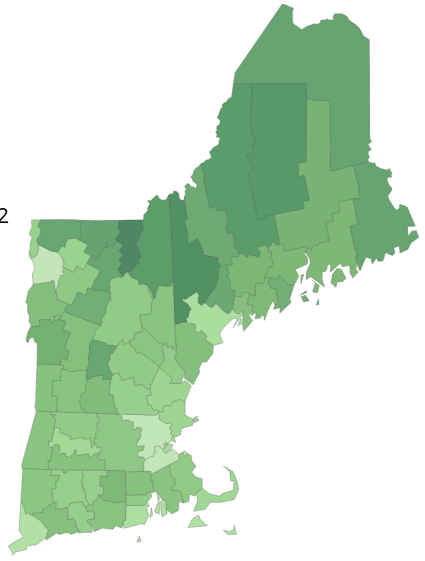
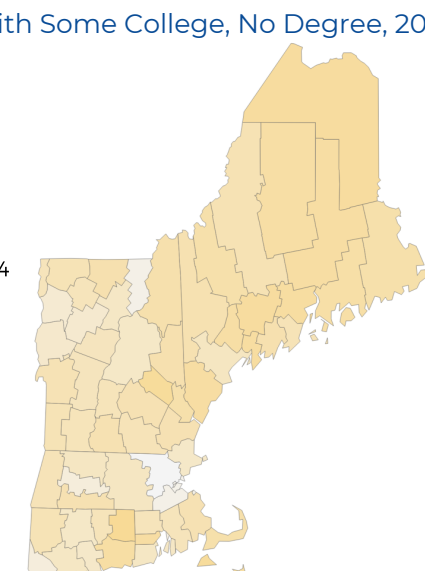
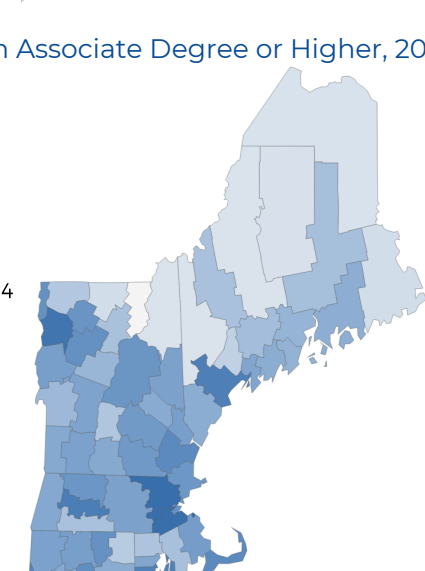



32.6%

of the New England postsecondary population is aged 25 or older (2017)

Regional Socioeconomic Profile ⁵	CT	ME	MA	NH	RI	VT
Median Annual Household Income:	\$73,781	\$53,024	\$74,167	\$71,305	\$61,043	\$57,808
Population in Poverty Rate (25 or Older)	8.3%	10.9%	9.2%	6.6%	10.6%	9.1%
Unemployment Rate (Pop. 25-64 Years)	6.1%	4.3%	5.0%	3.5%	5.8%	3.5%
Population (Aged 25 or older)	2,480,297	961,086	4,706,536	939,471	729,261	437,900
Total Population Growth (2013-2018)	-0.6%	+0.8%	+2.8%	+2.3%	+0.2%	+0.01%
Median Age (2018)	41.0	44.9	39.4	43.0	40.1	42.8

ADULT EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS: NEW ENGLAND

State	County	HS/ GED	Some College	AA+	Adults (Aged 25 or Older) with HS Diploma/GED as Highest Degree, 2017		
Connecticut	Fairfield	22.0%	14.9%	52.5%	NEW ENGLAND	U.S.	
	Hartford	27.1%	17.0%	45.2%			
	Litchfield	29.1%	18.6%	44.4%			
	Middlesex	27.2%	16.8%	50.0%			
	New Haven	30.7%	17.3%	42.1%			
	New London	30.1%	20.3%	41.5%			
	Tolland	27.2%	18.2%	48.8%			
Maine	Windham	32.7%	21.6%	34.0%	NEW ENGLAND	U.S.	
	Androscoggin	37.0%	20.2%	32.5%			
	Aroostook	38.0%	20.7%	28.9%			
	Cumberland	23.0%	17.5%	54.3%			
	Franklin	36.6%	19.6%	36.3%			
	Hancock	33.0%	20.0%	41.2%			
	Kennebec	33.3%	20.7%	37.3%			
	Knox	35.2%	18.5%	40.0%			
	Lincoln	32.6%	19.2%	41.3%			
	Oxford	43.4%	19.1%	28.7%			
	Penobscot	34.2%	20.4%	36.9%			
	Piscataquis	41.3%	20.2%	29.0%			
	Sagadahoc	31.0%	20.6%	43.3%			
	Somerset	40.2%	18.8%	28.7%			
Massachusetts	Waldo	32.8%	20.6%	39.4%	NEW ENGLAND	U.S.	
	Washington	38.1%	19.7%	30.0%			
	York	31.0%	20.4%	41.3%			
	Barnstable	25.0%	19.7%	50.8%			
	Berkshire	29.9%	18.4%	42.5%			
	Bristol	29.8%	18.0%	36.4%			
	Dukes	22.0%	21.1%	53.5%			
	Essex	25.4%	16.9%	47.2%			
	Franklin	27.9%	17.4%	47.5%			
	Hampden	30.2%	19.0%	36.3%			
	Hampshire	24.5%	15.0%	55.0%			
	Middlesex	20.1%	12.6%	60.1%			
	Nantucket	22.3%	20.3%	51.5%			
	Norfolk	20.0%	13.9%	59.9%			
New Hampshire	Plymouth	28.3%	18.9%	45.6%	NEW ENGLAND	U.S.	
	Suffolk	23.2%	13.6%	48.4%			
	Worcester	28.6%	17.4%	44.2%			
	Belknap	29.5%	21.2%	41.7%			
	Carroll	29.9%	19.3%	44.2%			
	Cheshire	31.7%	19.0%	42.3%			
	Coos	40.1%	19.5%	28.7%			
	Grafton	28.0%	17.0%	47.7%			
	Hillsborough	26.8%	18.4%	46.7%			
	Merrimack	28.0%	18.9%	46.5%			
Rhode Island	Rockingham	25.4%	18.9%	50.8%	NEW ENGLAND	U.S.	
	Strafford	27.6%	19.7%	45.2%			
	Sullivan	37.5%	18.2%	35.1%			
	Bristol	20.8%	14.6%	54.8%			
	Kent	27.9%	20.4%	43.2%			
Vermont	Newport	22.7%	17.1%	53.6%	NEW ENGLAND	U.S.	
	Providence	30.2%	18.1%	35.5%			
	Washington	22.9%	17.2%	53.9%			
	Addison	31.3%	16.5%	45.0%			
	Bennington	30.3%	18.6%	42.2%			
	Caledonia	37.4%	17.1%	36.2%			
	Chittenden	20.0%	15.9%	58.0%			
	Essex	45.9%	13.9%	25.1%			
	Franklin	37.3%	18.6%	34.8%			
	Grand Isle	26.8%	18.1%	48.9%			
	Lamoille	26.3%	18.1%	48.0%			
	Orange	35.3%	17.8%	39.0%			
	Orleans	38.3%	19.2%	30.0%			
	Rutland	34.7%	18.7%	38.4%			
	Washington	28.4%	16.2%	49.0%			
	Windham	29.8%	18.2%	44.5%			
	Windsor	30.6%	17.9%	44.0%			

Citations

1.
Chen, Joseph (2017). “Nontraditional Adult Learners: The Neglected Diversity in Postsecondary Education” in SAGE Open, January-March 2017: 1-12.

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Lumina Foundation, “Today’s Student.” <https://www.luminafoundation.org/todays-student/>

U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

2.
U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

3.
U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

4.
Lumina Foundation, “A Stronger Nation, 2019.” <http://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/>

5.
NEBHE analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau (2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2017 Economic Census) and National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS

** A note on the data: Due to limitations in the available data from the Census Bureau, these figures are for individuals with some college or an associate degree.*