

The mission of *Excelencia* in Education is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. A critical group of institutions enrolling and graduating Latino students are Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

History and Definition

In the 1980s, leaders recognized a small set of institutions enrolled a large percentage of Latino students but had limited resources to educate these students. The classification of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) formally recognized these institutions for capacity-building and other support.

HSIs are defined in federal law as accredited and degree-granting public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education with 25 percent or more total undergraduate Hispanic full-time equivalent student (FTE) enrollment.¹

Overview: 2017-18

- **HSIs represent a small segment of higher education.** There were 523 HSIs, representing 17% of all colleges/universities.²
- **HSIs enroll the majority of Latino undergraduates.** Two-thirds (66%) of Latino undergraduates were enrolled at HSIs.
- **The number of HSIs is growing.** Over the last 10 years (2007-2017), the number of HSIs grew from 264 to 523 (98%).
- **Latino representation at HSIs is high.** Almost half of students enrolled at HSIs (46%) were Latino.
- **HSIs are relatively small.** The majority of HSIs (62%) had an FTE enrollment of 5,000 students or less.

Location

- **HSIs are very concentrated geographically.** While HSIs are located in 25 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, 69% were located in 3 states and Puerto Rico. California had the most HSIs (170), followed by Texas (94), Puerto Rico (63), and New York (34).
- **HSIs were also located in states not generally known for having large Latino populations.** Arkansas, DC, Idaho, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin each had 1 HSI.
- **The majority of HSIs were located in cities or suburbs.** Over 80% of HSIs were either in the city (273) or suburbs (163), while 16% were in towns (49) or rural areas (38).

Governance

- **A majority of HSIs were four-year institutions.** Overall, 53% of HSIs are 4-year institutions (public – 25%; private—28%). Of 2-year HSIs, 42% were public and 4% (22) were private.
- **The majority of HSIs were public institutions.** Overall, 68% of HSIs were public and 32% were private institutions.

Emerging HSIs

- **Emerging HSIs represent a small subset of colleges/universities.** There were 328 Emerging HSIs (defined as institutions with 15-24% undergraduate full-time equivalent Hispanic enrollment).
- **Emerging HSIs are in the majority of states.** Emerging HSIs were located in 35 states, including Utah, Oregon, Nebraska, Iowa, Georgia, and Hawaii.
- **The majority of Emerging HSIs are 4-year institutions.** Of Emerging HSIs, 67% were either 4-year private (40%), or 4-year public (27%). Further, 30% were 2-year public, and 2% were 2-year private.

HSIs with Graduate Programs

- **Less than half of HSIs offer graduate degrees.** Of the 523 HSIs, 209 offered graduate degrees (40%).
- **HSIs offering graduate degrees are concentrated.** About 30% of HSIs with graduate programs were in California (54), Puerto Rico (39), Texas (38), and New York (20).

¹ Summary of Title V of the Higher Education Act, as amended in 2008. To be eligible for the "Developing HSIs Program", the law further requires an HSI have a high enrollment of needy students and low core expenditures.

² IPEDS is a system of surveys designed to collect institution-level data from all primary providers of postsecondary education. IPEDS is maintained at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education.