



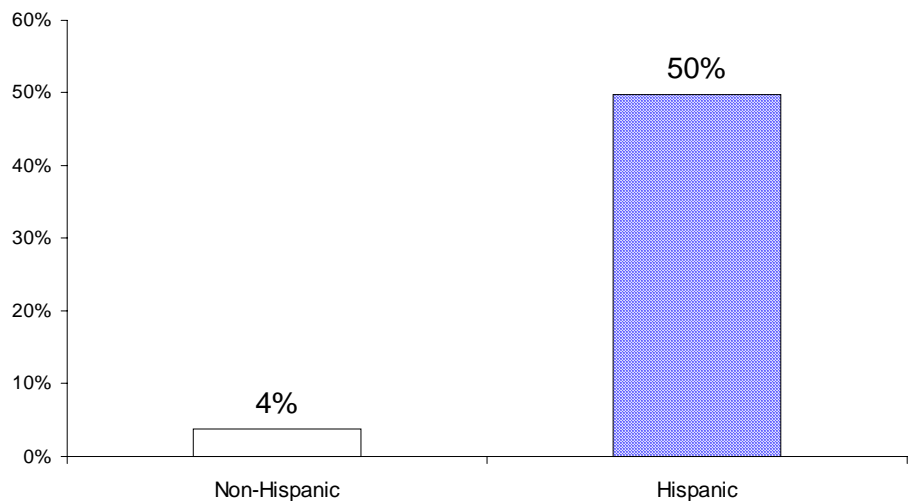
# Hispanic Voter Registration and Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Emerging Trends

**H**ispanic Americans continue to increase their vital role in the economic and social development of the United States. This youthful population is projected to continue its rapid growth in the decades to come. Consistent with this growth, between 1990 and 1998, there has been a much higher increment in the number of Hispanics registered to vote (50%) compared to non-Hispanics (4%) as shown in **Figure 1**. During this period there has been an increase in the number of Hispanics attending college, which, has caused the emergence of more Hispanic-Serving

Institutions (HSIs). Given the projections for sustained Hispanic population growth, the future prosperity of our nation will depend increasingly on our ability to improve access to and success in quality postsecondary education for Hispanics. Currently, one of every two Hispanic attends an HSI. On average, HSIs, receive about one-half the revenues per student as non-HSIs.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) formed in 1986 as a nonprofit national association to help address issues on behalf of HSIs. Colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico are considered HSIs when Hispanic students constitute at least 25% of the total enrollment whether at the undergraduate or graduate level, or both<sup>1</sup>. HACU also represents Associate Members, colleges and universities in the United States where Hispanic students constitute at least 10% of the total student enrollment or enroll at least 1,000 Hispanic students. HACU serves more than 260 of these member institutions. Collectively, HACU institutions enroll more than two-thirds of all the Hispanics in higher education today. The association is headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, and has offices in Washington, D.C.

**Figure 1**  
Percent Change of Persons Registered to Vote in Nine States with The Largest Hispanic Populations, 1990-1998



Source: HACU Analysis of Current Population Survey, 1990 and 1998

<sup>1</sup> The Department of Education defines HSIs based on 25% full-time equivalent undergraduate Hispanic enrollment.

## Hispanics and The Political Process

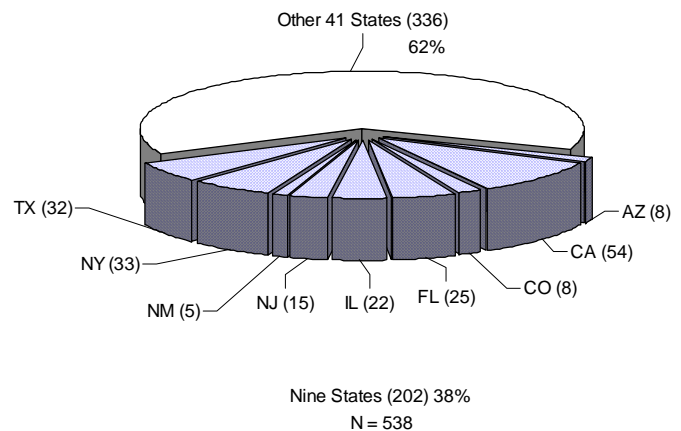
Hispanic participation in the democratic process is most apparent in the nine states with the largest Hispanic population: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Texas. In 1998, the 4,863,300 Hispanics registered to vote in these nine states represented 86% of the 6,843,000 registered Hispanics in the fifty states combined. Hispanics in these nine states also represent 12.1% of all citizens registered in this region. For the U.S. as a whole, Hispanics constitute 5.6% of all those registered to vote.

The proportion of Hispanics among all persons registered to vote varies somewhat by state. The highest proportion is found in New Mexico, where Hispanics represent 37% of all persons registered to vote, followed by Texas (19%), California (14%), New Jersey (14%), Arizona (12%) and Florida (10%). Hispanics make up 9% of those registered to vote in New York as well as in Colorado. In Illinois, Hispanics constitute 4%.

### Disproportionate Influence

These nine states have a disproportionate influence in national politics because they represent almost four out of every ten Electoral College votes. The nine states and their respective Electoral College votes include California (54), New York (33), Texas (32), Florida (25), Illinois (22), New Jersey (15), Arizona (8), Colorado (8), and New Mexico (5), for a total of 202 votes out of 538 votes. A total of 270 electoral votes is required to win the presidential election. The other forty-one states have a total of 336 votes or 62% of the total (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2**  
Electoral College Votes for Nine States with the Largest Hispanic Population

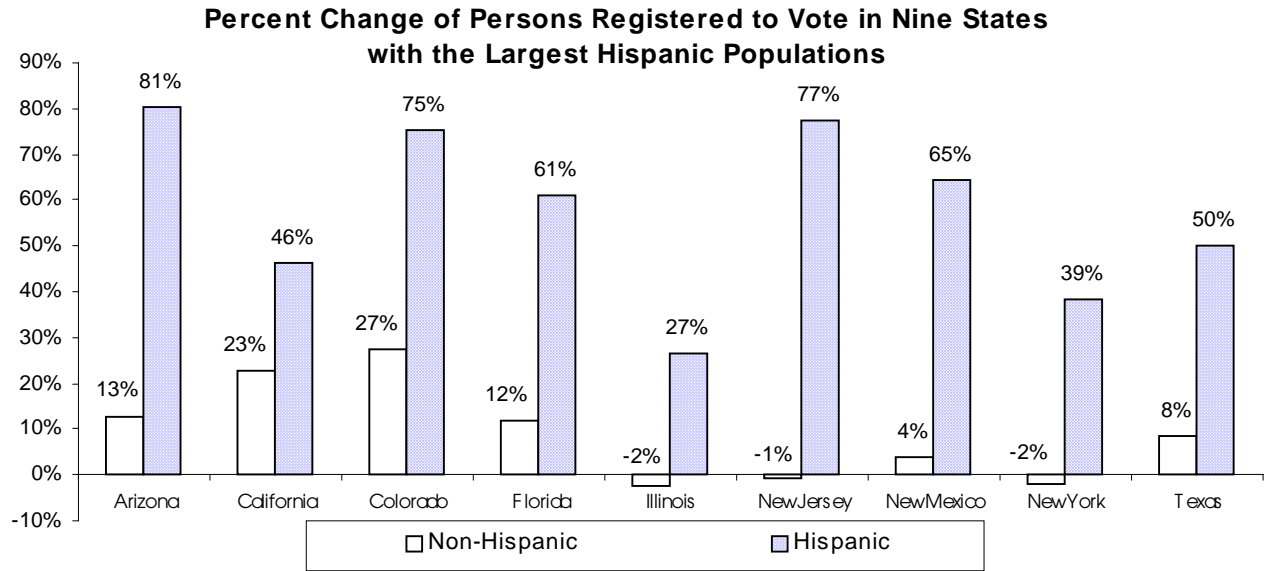


Source: HACU Analysis of Federal Election Commission Data, 2000

### Increases in Persons Registered to Vote by State

A more detailed breakdown of the increases in Hispanics registered to vote between 1990 and 1998 is presented in Figure 3. Arizona, Colorado, and New Jersey all had more than a 75% increase in the number of Hispanics registered to vote during this time period. New Mexico, Florida, and Texas each had between a 50% and 65% increase; New York and California had between 39% and 44% increase; the number of Hispanics registered to vote in Illinois increased 27%. Conversely, the number of non-Hispanics registered to vote decreased slightly in New York, Illinois, and New Jersey and increased slightly in California and New Mexico. Modest increases (between 8% and 13%) occurred in Texas, Florida, and Arizona, while Colorado showed a 27% increase in the number of non-Hispanics registered to vote.

Figure 3



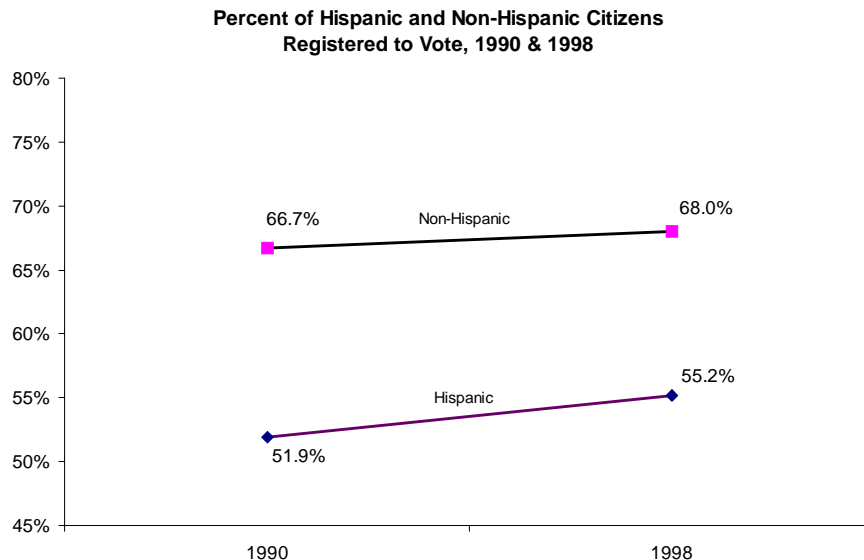
Source: HACU Analysis of Current Population Surveys, 1990 and 1998

### Voter Registration Rates

While most of the increases in the number of Hispanic registered to vote is due to the demographic growth of this population, the actual percent of Hispanic citizens who have registered to vote also has increased. Of all Hispanic citizens, 51.9% registered to vote in 1990. This rate increased to 55.2% in 1998. For non-Hispanic citizens, the rate at which they registered to vote increased

slightly from 66.7% in 1990 to 68.0% in 1998. Thus, the gap in voter registration rates between Hispanics and non-Hispanic citizens has actually decreased slightly during this period (see Figure 4). Nevertheless, the political influence of Hispanics would be even greater if their voter registration rate were comparable to that of non-Hispanics.

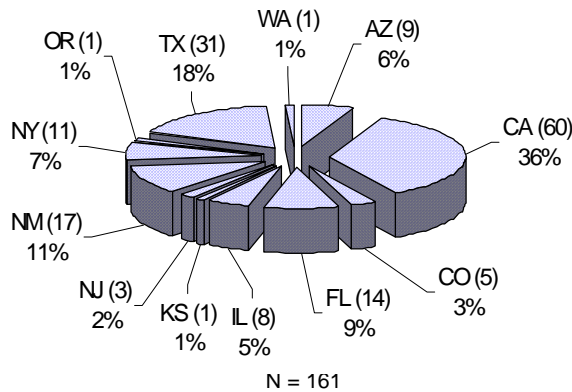
Figure 4



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census. Current Population Survey, 1990 and 1998.

## Most HSIs are in Nine States

**Figure 5**  
**HSIs in The Continental U.S., Fall 1997**



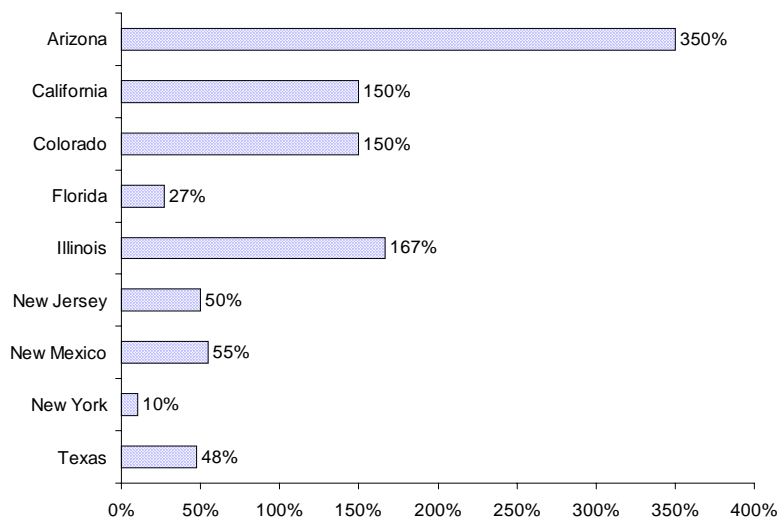
Source: HACU Analysis of Fall 1997 IPEDS

Almost all HSIs in the continental U.S. are located in these nine states. In 1997-98, these 158 HSIs represented 98% of the 161 Continental HSIs. The states with the most HSIs are California (60), followed by Texas (31), New Mexico (17), and Florida (14). The other states with HSIs include New York (11), Arizona (9), Illinois (8), Colorado (5), and New Jersey (3). Oregon, Washington, and Kansas each have one HSI. Another 48 HSIs are located in Puerto Rico, which does not have Electoral College votes. (Figure 5)

## Increased Number of HSIs

Between 1990<sup>2</sup> and 1997 the total number of HSIs increased 82%, from 115 to 209. Within these key nine states, HSIs increased from 81 in 1990 to 158 in 1997, an overall increase of 95%. During the same period, the percent change in the number of HSIs increased in New York (10%), Florida (27%), Texas (48%), New Jersey (50%), and New Mexico (55%). Other states had an even higher percent increase of HSIs, such as California (150%), Colorado (150%), and Arizona (350%) (see Figure 6). The number of HSIs is expected to continue increasing as the number of Hispanics entering college continues to increase. Currently, HACU has identified 231 HSIs using 1999 self-reported fall enrollment data. (U.S. Department of Education figures for 1998 and 1999 have not been released.)

**Figure 6**  
**Percent Increase of HSIs in Selected States, 1990-1997**



Source: HACU Analysis of 1990 and 1997 Enrollment Data

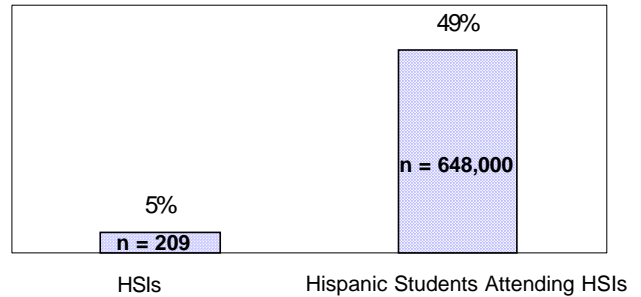
<sup>2</sup> 1990 HSIs are based upon HACUs definition of an HSI. The Federal Government did not recognize HSIs officially until 1992.

## Increased Number of Hispanics Attending HSIs

The number of Hispanic students attending HSIs in these nine states also increased during this time from 248,400 in 1990 to 493,000 in 1997 or almost 100%. When the other states and Puerto Rico are included, the total number of Hispanics enrolled at HSIs is more than 648,000. This represents almost one-half of all Hispanics enrolled in higher education. Furthermore, these Hispanics are concentrated at HSIs *that account for only 5% of all institutions of higher education* (see Figure 7).

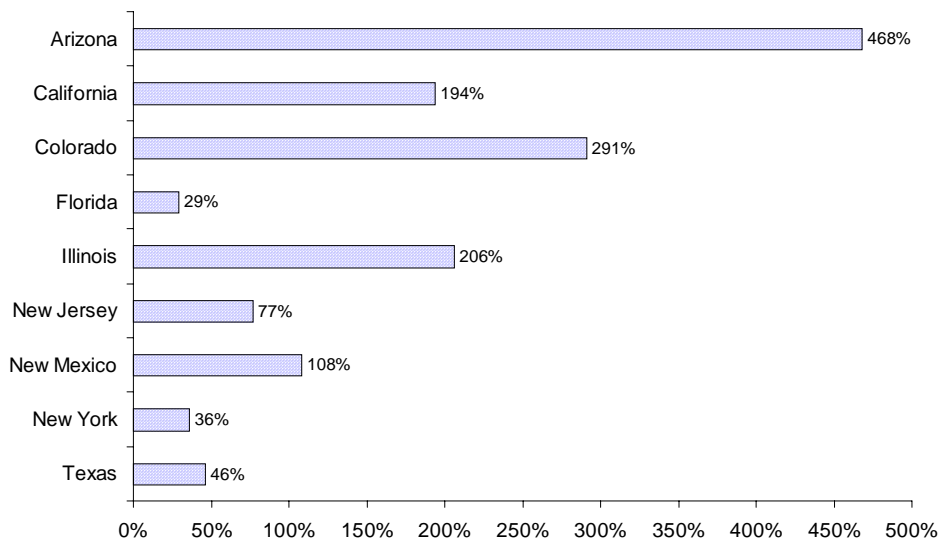
A review of the nine states with the largest Hispanic population shows that enrollment of Hispanic college students increased in each of these states as follows: Florida (29%), New York (36%), Texas (46%), New Jersey (77%), and New Mexico (108%). Several states had even higher increases of Hispanic students attending HSIs: California (194%), Illinois (206%), Colorado (291%), and Arizona (468%) (see Figure 8). This sizeable increase in numbers does not reflect a significant increase of attendance rate by college-age Hispanics.

**Figure 7**  
**Percent Institutions that are HSIs and**  
**Percent of Hispanics Attending HSIs,**  
**Fall 1997**



Source: HACU Analysis of Fall 1997 IPEDS

**Figure 8**  
**Percent Increase of Hispanic Students at HSIs**  
**in Nine States with the Largest Hispanic Populations**



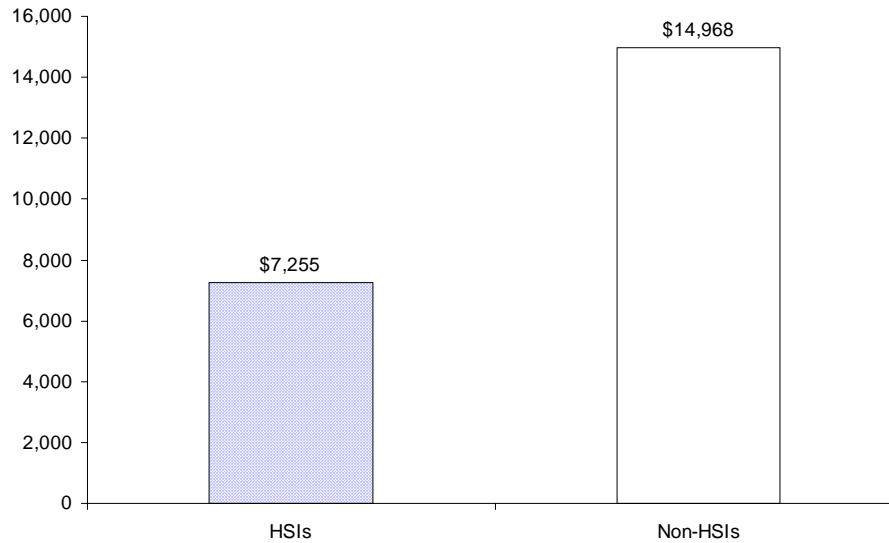
Source: HACU Analysis of 1990 and 1997 Enrollment Data

## College Enrollment Rates

College enrollment rates for 18-24 year-old Hispanics has increased only slightly from 16% in 1990 to 22% in 1998. For non-Hispanic whites, the college enrollment rates for this age group increased from 33% to 41% during the same period. Thus, the gap between Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites in terms of college enrollment rates has actually widened.

Figure 9

## Total Revenues per Student at HSIs versus Non-HSIs



Source: HACU Analysis of FY 1995 - 1996 Finance IPEDS

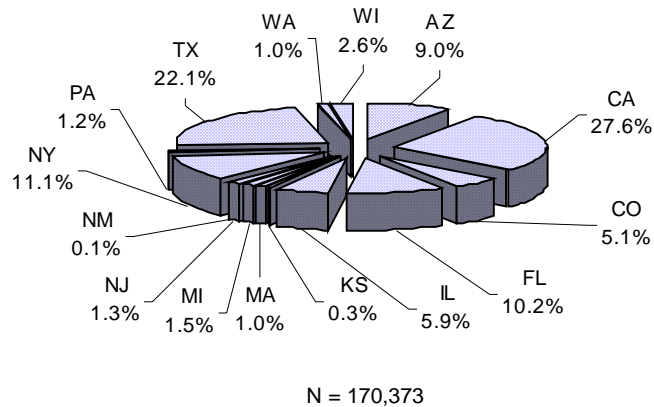
## HSIs Have Inadequate Resources

The financial resources available to HSIs is generally about one-half that of other institutions of higher education. HSIs report about \$7,255 in annual revenues per student, compared to \$14,328 per student non-HSIs have at their disposal (see Figure 9). The disparity is even greater when comparing endowment revenues. HSIs average \$40 per student in endowment revenues, while non-HSIs have \$331 per student.

## Associate Member Institutions

HACU also has Associate Member Institutions (AMIs), which enroll at least 1,000 Hispanic students or at least 10% of their student body is Hispanic. About 28% of the 170,000 Hispanic students enrolled at AMIs are in California. Approximately 22% are enrolled at AMIs in Texas. The next largest group is in New York (11%), followed by Florida (10%), Arizona (9%), Illinois (6%), Colorado (5%), and Wisconsin (3%). Hispanic students also are enrolled at AMIs in Oklahoma, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Washington (see Figure 10).

**Figure 10**  
**Hispanic Student Enrollment at AMIs by State,**  
**Fall 1999**



Source: Based on Self-Reported Fall 1999 Total Enrollment Data from HACU AMIs

## Summary

Hispanic participation in the political process has increased at a much higher rate than non-Hispanic participation during this decade, as indicated by voter registration. Moreover, the number of HSIs and Hispanic college students also has grown dramatically, and almost all of the Continental HSIs in nine key states. However, the amount of resources per student available to HSIs is significantly less than that of other institutions. Given the crucial role HSIs play in educating Hispanic college and other students in these key states, the disparity in allocated resources **MUST** be addressed now.

HACU uses publications such as this one to inform policy makers and top-level decision makers of the issues Hispanics face in education.

If you would like more information about HACU, call (210) 692-3805 or visit our website at [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net). Also, HACU's monthly newsletter, *The Voice*, provides important information about issues facing Hispanic students and vital legislative decisions affecting HSIs and AMIs.

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