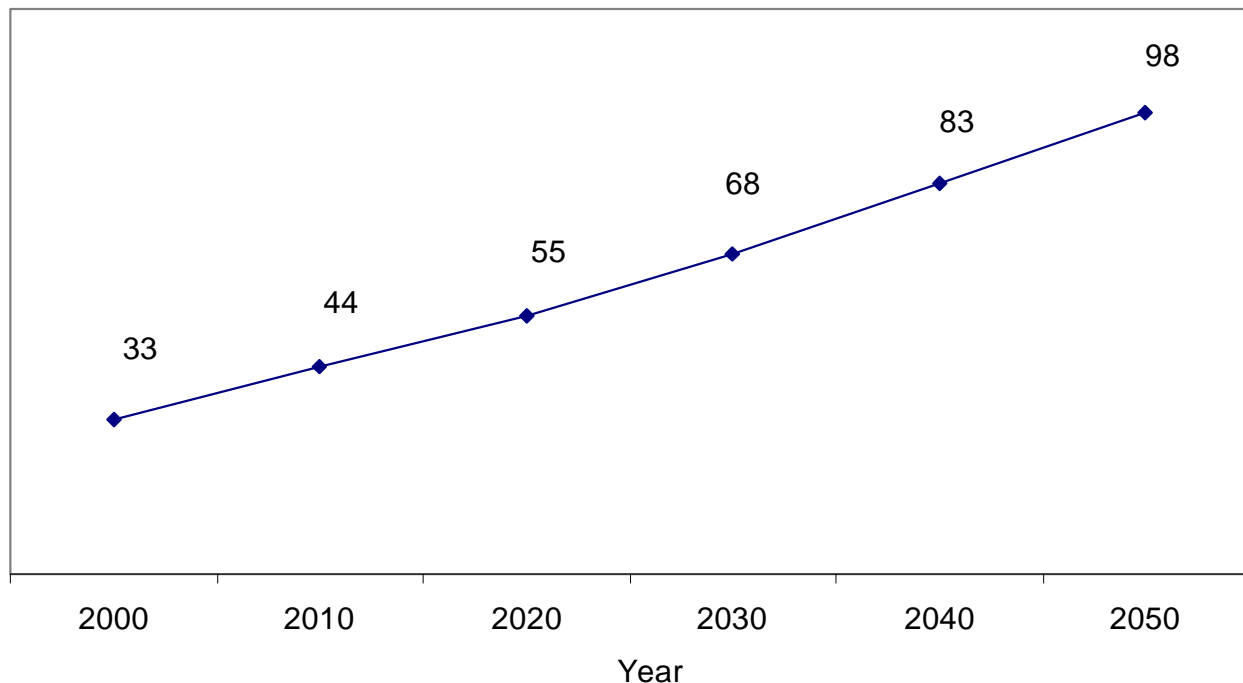




THE INCREASING PRESENCE OF HISPANICS AND HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS

August 2000

Hispanic Americans will be a key element in the economic and social development of the United States in the coming decades. There has been a 44 % increase in the total Hispanic population between 1990 and 2000.¹ Coinciding with that growth, there has been an increase in the number of Hispanics attending college. However, the *percentage* of Hispanics who attended college has only increased slightly as compared to non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans. Most Hispanic students face geographic and cultural barriers and also have below average incomes—all factors which inhibit their opportunities for higher education. Given the projections for growth shown in the chart below, the future of our nation will depend heavily on assuring that Hispanics have improved access to high quality postsecondary education.²



Projections of Hispanic Population Growth 2000-2050 (in millions)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) is a nonprofit national association representing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico where Hispanic students constitute at least 25 % of the total student enrollment. HACU also has 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 which are committed to Hispanic success in higher education. The association is headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, and has an office in Washington, D.C.

The Increasing Hispanic Presence

The Hispanic population in the United States grew at a faster rate than the general population in the past decade and will experience similar growth well into the next century. Between 1990 and 2000 the Hispanic population in the United States grew 44 % while the total population increased only 10 % (see Figure 1).¹ Consequently, the Hispanic population has reached almost 32.5 million or 11 % of the general population, up from 22.4 million or 9 % of the population in 1990. Additionally, the population in Puerto Rico increased 9.6 % from 3.5 million in 1990 up to 3.9 million in 1998³.

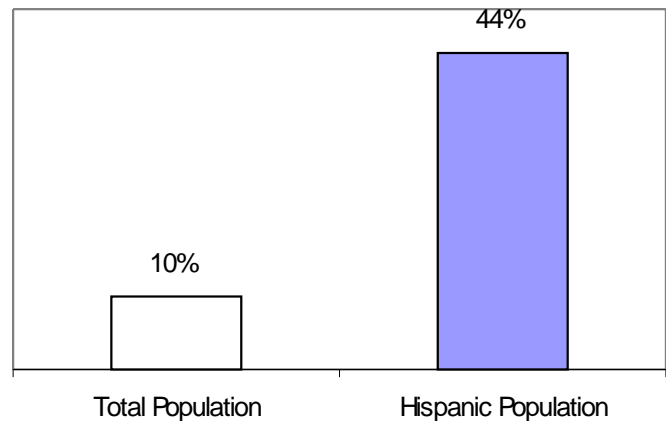
The median age of Hispanics is 26.6 years old, compared to a median age of 35.8 years old for the total population. The focus on educating Hispanic Americans is even more urgent because in 2005, the Hispanic population in the United States is predicted to surpass that of the African Americans to become the largest minority group in the country, totaling 13 % of the general population.¹

The Census Bureau's 1999 middle series projections suggest Hispanics could rise to 15% of the total population in 2015; to 17 % by 2020; and to 24 % by 2050 meaning one of every four Americans will be of Hispanic origin by then (see Figure 2).^{1,2}

In the United States, almost 86 percent of all Hispanics live in nine states and Puerto Rico.⁵ In 1999, the Census estimated that 10.7 million Hispanics would live in California, 5.9 million in Texas, 3.9 million in Puerto Rico, 2.8 million in New York and 2.3 million in Florida. Three states will be home to more than 1 million but fewer than 1.5 million Hispanics: Illinois (1.3 million), Arizona (1.07 million) and New Jersey (1.04 million). Sizable Hispanic populations are also located in New Mexico (736,000) and Colorado (594,000), as illustrated (figure 3).⁴

Figure 1

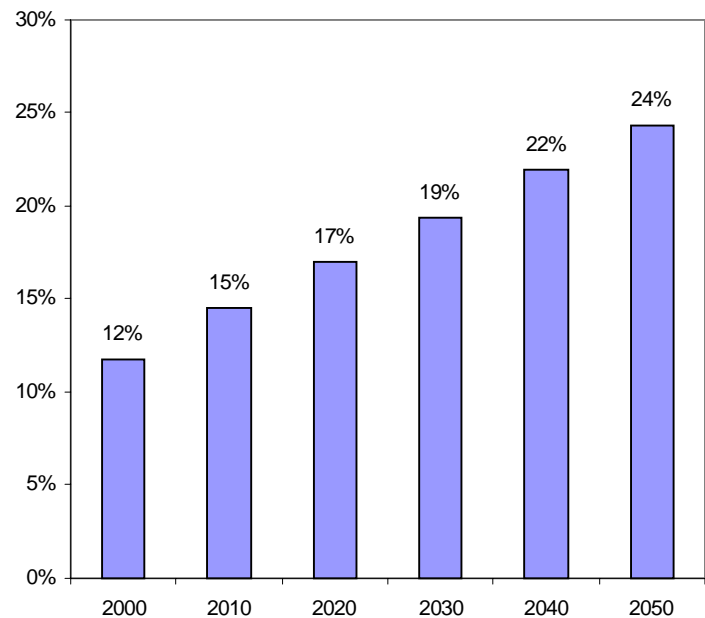
Percent Increase of Hispanics and Total Population, 1990-2000



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999

Figure 2

Projections of Hispanic Population Growth, 2000-2050 (in millions)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999

High School Completion Rates

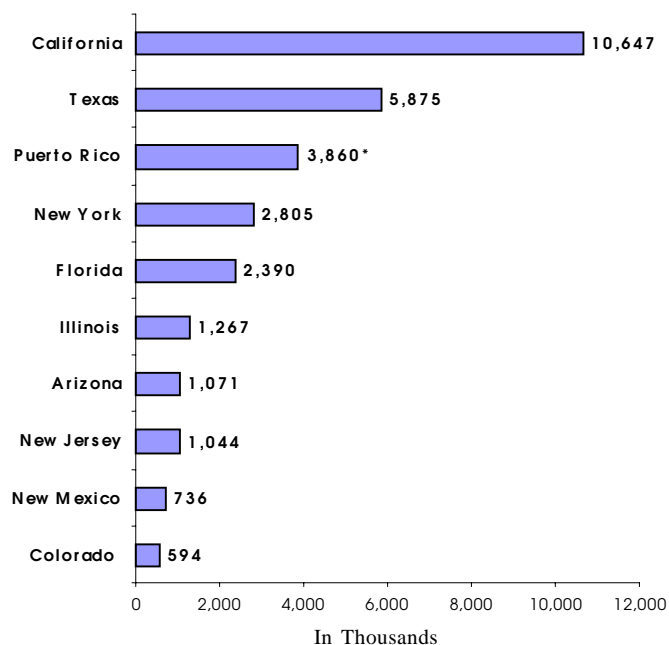
High school completion rates and college participation rates among Hispanics have increased only slightly in the last 25 years. This is challenging the educational system's effectiveness in teaching Hispanics. The high school completion rate for Hispanics was lower in 1998 (62.8%) than in 1986 (63.5%) after reaching a peak of 63.7 percent in 1984. During this same period, completion rates of non-Hispanic Whites have steadily increased until reaching a peak of 91.5 % in 1996. African American's rates have remained steady from 81.8 percent in 1986 to 81.4 percent in 1998 (see Figure 4).⁶

As a whole, school-age Latinos battle a host of educational obstacles. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), in 1992 ten percent of the nation's eighth graders were Hispanic. More than one-third of those children reported two or more "at risk" characteristics: single-parent family, low levels of parental education, limited English proficiency, low family income, sibling dropout, and spending more than three hours a day at home alone.⁷

Despite these obstacles, Hispanic students have demonstrated a significant capacity to succeed. For example, almost one-third of all Hispanic college students whose parents never finished high school pursue postsecondary degrees. Of all racial/ethnic groups who come from this background, Hispanics have the highest percentage graduation rate by almost a two-to-one margin.⁷

Figure 3

Nine States and Puerto Rico with the Largest Hispanic Population, 2000

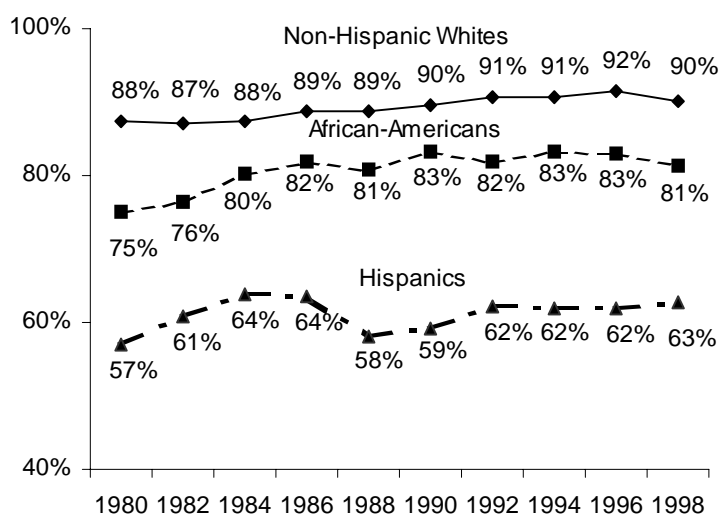


* Puerto Rico data is for 1998 not 2000

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999

Figure 4

High School Completion Rates of 18-to-24 Year-Olds by Race/Ethnicity, 1980-1998



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999

Enrollment Rates For Hispanic College Students

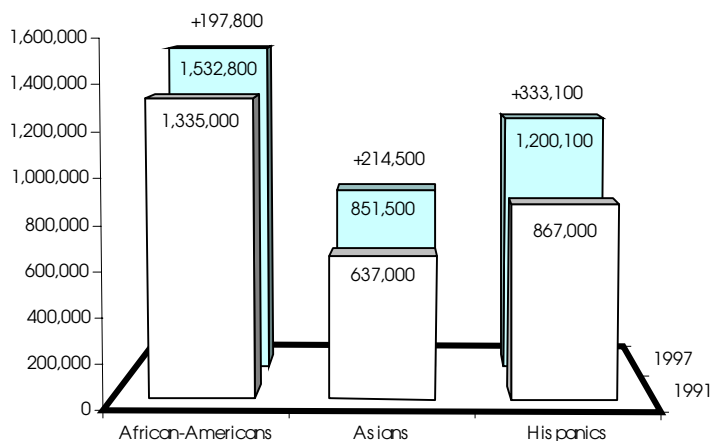
Between 1990 and 1997, the rapid increase in the Hispanic population resulted in a sizeable increase in the number of Hispanic students enrolling in colleges within the continental United States. This increase was larger than that of any other minority group. During this period, Hispanic enrollment increased by 333,100 students (38%), compared to a 197,800 increase for African-Americans (15%) and a 214,500 increase for Asians (34%) (see Figure 5).⁸ These increases are expected to continue well into the 21st Century.

However, college enrollment rates for 18-to-24 year-old Hispanics have increased only slightly from 16 percent in 1980 to 22 percent in 1997. African-Americans' college enrollment rates also have increased during this time period from 19 % to 30 %. The largest increase in enrollment rates is for non-Hispanic Whites who have gone from 25 % in 1980 to an astounding 41 % in 1998. The gap between the Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites **has widened** from 9 to 19 percentage points (see Figure 6).⁷

There would be almost half a million additional Hispanic students enrolled in college if they were attending at the same rate as African Americans. There would be more than one million additional Hispanics enrolled in college if they were attending at the same rate as non-Hispanic Whites.

Figure 5

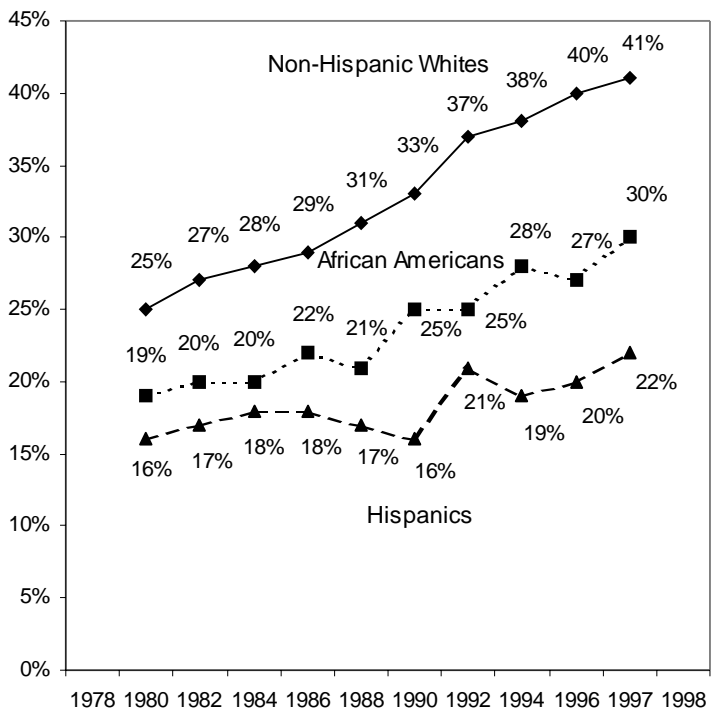
Minority College Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity 1991 and 1997



Source: Digest of Education Statistics, 1999

Figure 6

College Enrollment Rates of 18-24 Year-Olds by Race/Ethnicity, 1980-1997



Source: Digest of Education Statistics, 1998

Hispanic-Serving Institutions

In 1993, the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act defined Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) as colleges and universities with at least 25 % Hispanic enrollment. Of this number, at least 50% are low income. HSIs play a major role in educating Hispanics in the United States. HACU has identified 209 institutions in the continental U.S. and Puerto Rico as HSIs. Although these HSIs account for just 5 % of all institutions of higher education, almost one-half (49%) of all Hispanic students attend them(see Figure7).⁹

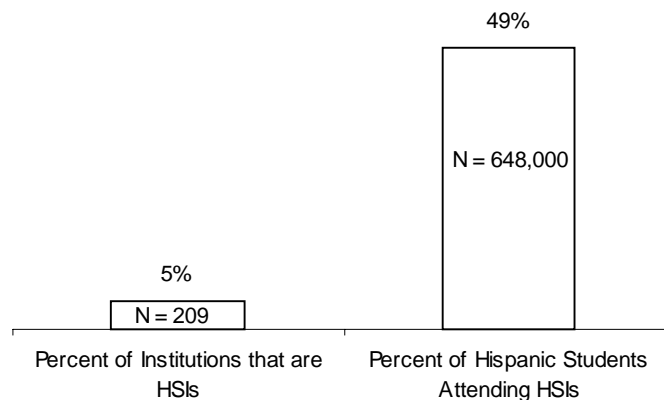
As illustrated in figure 8, almost one-third (31%) of the 648,000 Hispanic students attend schools in California. Texas and Puerto Rico HSIs enroll about 20 percent of Hispanics each, Florida 8%, New York 6%, New Mexico 5%, and Arizona 3%. Colorado, Kansas, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington account for 3% of Hispanics enrolled at HSIs.⁹

Of the 209 HSIs, 107 are two-year institutions, 93 of which are public. Sixty-one of the 102 four-year HSIs are private institutions, while the other 41 are four-year public institutions.³ Given the projected demographic changes, Hispanic enrollment at these schools will continue to grow. For many Hispanics students, HSIs are the only realistic postsecondary opportunity because of their proximity to home and reasonable costs.

As the number of Hispanics entering college increased from 1992 to 2000 so did the number of HSIs. Since 1992, there has been an almost 100% increase in the number of institutions that have at least 25 percent Hispanic enrollment. In 1992, there were 117 HSIs, now there are more than 240, reflecting an increase of 114 schools in 8 years (see Figure 9).⁹

Figure 7

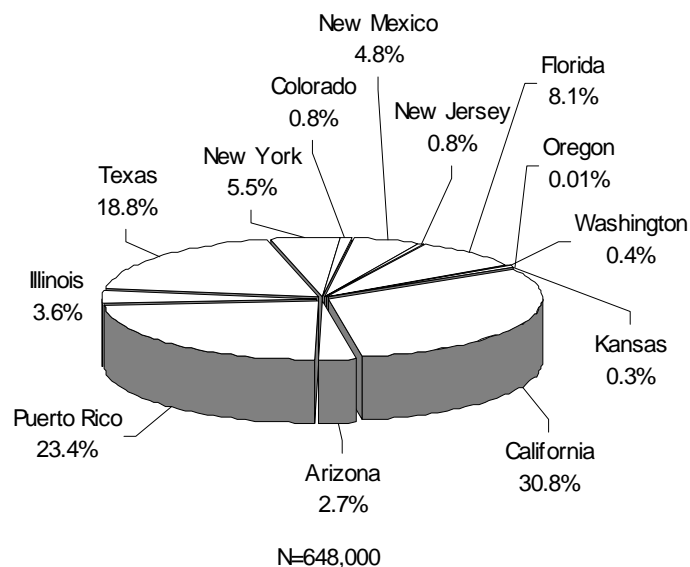
Percent Institutions that are HSIs and Percent of Hispanics Attending HSIs, Fall 1997



Source: HACU Analysis of Fall 1997 IPEDS

Figure 8

Hispanic Student Enrollment at HSIs by State and Puerto Rico, Fall 1997



Source: HACU Analysis of Fall 1997 IPEDS

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (continued)

HACU also includes Associate Member Institutions (AMIs), which enroll at least 1,000 Hispanic students or at least 10% of the student body is Hispanic. Of the 87 AMIs, 27 are two-year institutions and 26 are public. Forty-five of the 60 four-year institutions are public, and the remaining 15 are private.

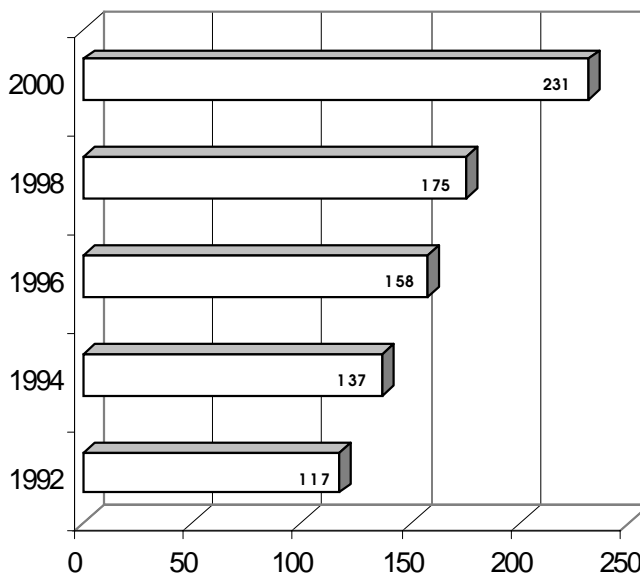
Almost one-third, of the 168,000 Hispanic students attend AMIs in California. Approximately 21 % are enrolled at AMIs in Texas, followed by Florida (13%), Arizona (9%), New York (8%), Illinois (4%), and Colorado and Wisconsin each with about 3% . A range of 1.5% to 0.3% can be found in Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Washington (see Figure 10).⁹

Summary Conclusions

- ◆ The Hispanic college-age population continues to increase. However, the gap between the percentage of Hispanic college enrollment and non-Hispanic White enrollment continues to increase as well.
- ◆ About two-thirds of all Hispanic students attend an HSI or a HACU-member institution, giving them a lead role in turning the statistics around.
- ◆ Given the projected increase of college-age Hispanics, the number of HSIs is expected to continue increasing as HACU strives to champion Hispanics in higher education.

Figure 9

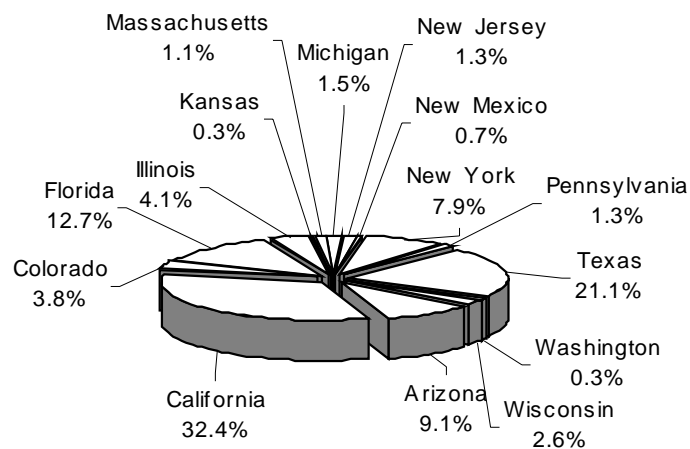
Hispanic-Serving Institution Growth from 1992 to 2000



Source: HACU Analysis of IPEDS and Self-reported Data

Figure 10

Hispanic Student Enrollment at AMIs by State, Fall 1997



N=167,579

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