



Southern
Illinois University
Carbondale

Enrollment Patterns for Illinois Public Universities

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Abstract

This project addresses the question: What are the enrollment patterns for the 12 public universities in Illinois 1997-2005? The universities studied consist of Chicago State University, Governors State University, Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, University of Illinois (Chicago, Springfield, and Champaign/Urbana), Southern Illinois University (Carbondale, and Edwardsville) and Western Illinois University. The data describes ethnicity and gender of enrollments, as well as the international enrollment from 1999 to 2007 at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Background

Illinois State Board of Higher Education (ISBHE) was developed in 1961 to track a variety of aspects for Illinois higher education institutions and associated organizations. The ISBHE provides reports of information on demographics, enrollments, budget allocation, and other basic programming information. The data is provided by each institution. For this reason the rate of error changes for each university due to "unknown" data.

There is enrollment interest for tracking correlations of census counts in surrounding areas to these universities. Census information is available for 2000 which was the mean year for the temporal span of the project.

Specific international enrollment data is available from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The transition over time from 1999 – 2005 shows a variance for country and continental enrollments.

The data used in this project was not inclusive of available programs to the universities, nor financial data such as tuition costs or available financial aid benefits which are often persuasive factors for student application.

Methods

- After collecting data for the 12 Public Universities, an excel database was developed to graph and map the following:
 - Changes in enrollments by gender (Figure 1 and Figure 2)
 - SIUC international enrollments for 1999-2005 transferred to excel data base, assigned to appropriate continent.
 - Symbology map of average International country enrollment in ArcMap 9.2 (Figure 4)
 - Identification of five surrounding counties for each Public University and develop an excel database of the census counts.
 - Symbology map of identified Illinois counties according to census count with ArcMap 9.2. (Figure 5)
 - Comparison map of location of Universities with enrollments averaged for 1997-2005 (Figure 6)

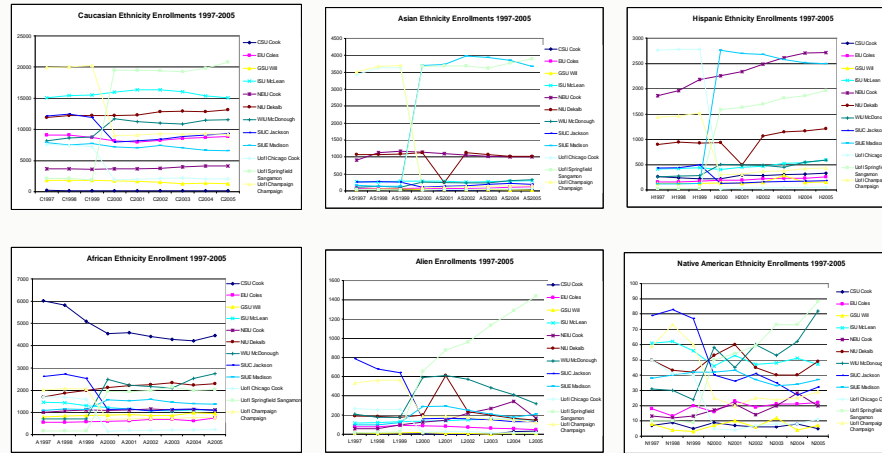


Figure 3: Ethnicity Enrollments by University

Source: Illinois State Board of Higher Education website

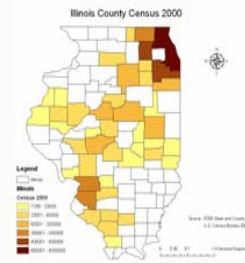


Figure 5: Census 2000 results by county

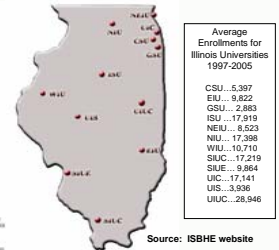


Figure 6: University locations and averages of enrollment 1997-2005

Results

The comparisons of county census and locations of the universities show similarity between the number of students enrolled and the county. With the exception of the Chicagoland area, universities are located in counties with relatively higher populations compared to the surrounding counties.

Gender enrollment has shown the greatest fluctuations occurred between 1999-2001. (figure 3 and Figure 4)

- Greatest decrease in male enrollment has been at Western Illinois University, and greatest increase at University of Illinois Springfield
- Greatest decrease in female enrollment has been at University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana, and greatest increase at University of Illinois at Springfield

Ethnicity enrollment showed the greatest fluctuations for African, Asian, Alien, Caucasian, and Hispanic between 1999-2001

There has been overall increase in international student enrollment at Southern Illinois University Carbondale from 1999-2005. However, there are still a number of countries that have not been represented in SIUC enrollment.

Conclusions

We found that during the years of 1999-2001 most changes occurred. Questions as to what caused these changes are up for debate. The causes could be social, financial, or due to programming changes. The international enrollment was not effected by the 1999-2001 period. Illinois enrollment was only effected by the 1999-2001 period leading us to believe that its causes were in the United States or just in Illinois.

We recommend additional study over time to address the overall patterns in student enrollment and to include possible causal factors such as financial aid and programming.

References & Acknowledgements

- ISBHE website
- ESRI State and County maps
- U.S. Census Bureau

Thank you to Mr. Dan Smith for all mapping questions and suggestions

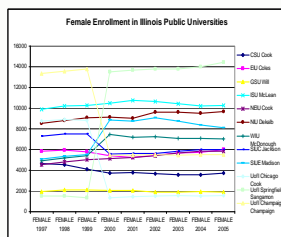


Figure 1: Female Enrollments 1997-2005

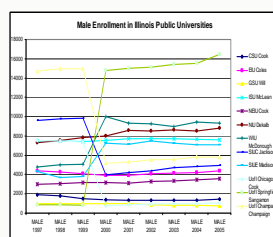


Figure 2: Male Enrollments 1997-2005

Southern Illinois University International Enrollment 1999

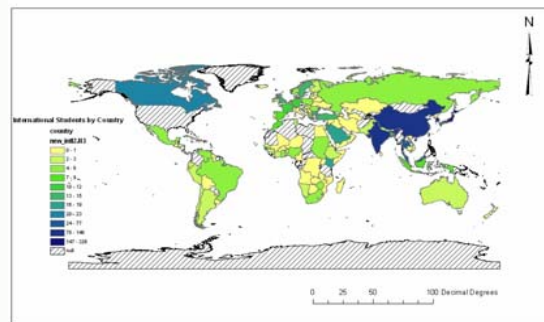


Figure 4: Comparison of International Student Enrollments at SIUC

Southern Illinois University International Enrollment 2005

