#1 of 10: Share of Texas Colleges and Universities in the Top Three Texas Counti

62.1% of Texas colleges are in just three counties

Harris, Dallas, and Bexar dominate higher education concentration

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THE DATA

62.1%

Share of Texas Colleges and Universities in the Top Three Texas Counties (2022)

The top three Texas counties house over six in ten of the state's colleges and universities.

This concentration reveals a structural imbalance in access to higher education infrastructure. With nearly two-thirds of academic institutions located in just three counties, the geographic distribution of educational opportunity is deeply uneven across Texas. This is not a matter of population density alone—it reflects decades of institutional clustering around urban hubs.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 6113 (Colleges, universities, and professional schools) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-28-ai-higher-ed-conc-6113-county

01

Innovation follows institutions

The clustering of colleges in Harris, Dallas, and Bexar counties is not coincidental—it drives regional innovation ecosystems. These counties host the highest density of research output, startup incubation, and AI-driven academic partnerships in Texas. The presence of multiple institutions creates a multiplier effect: shared labs, joint faculty appointments, and cross-institutional AI research initiatives flourish where scale and proximity coexist.



02

Equity gaps widen in the shadow of concentration

As academic infrastructure becomes increasingly centralized, rural and emerging urban counties face systemic disadvantages. Students from counties with fewer institutions have less access to specialized AI programs, research fellowships, and industry partnerships. This concentration risks entrenching regional inequality, where talent and investment follow institutions rather than being distributed equitably across the state.

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