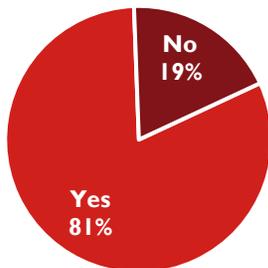


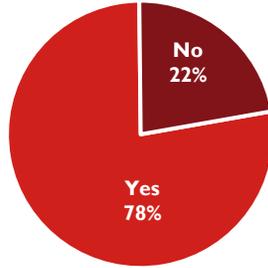
## ACADEMIC & HIGHLY SPECIALIZED MASTER'S DEGREES (MS DEGREES)

DOES THE UNIT OFFER MS DEGREES?

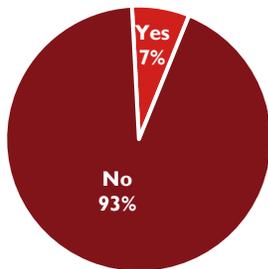
SPH 2017 (n=59)



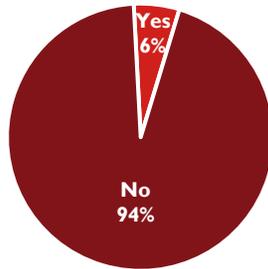
SPH 2019 (n=67)



PHP 2017 (n=113)



PHP 2019 (n=127)



Most PHP do not include MS degrees. During the period covered in this trends report, only one PHP added an MS degree to the unit of accreditation; no newly accredited PHP contained an MS degree; and two of the PHP that offered MS degrees in 2017 transitioned to the SPH category.

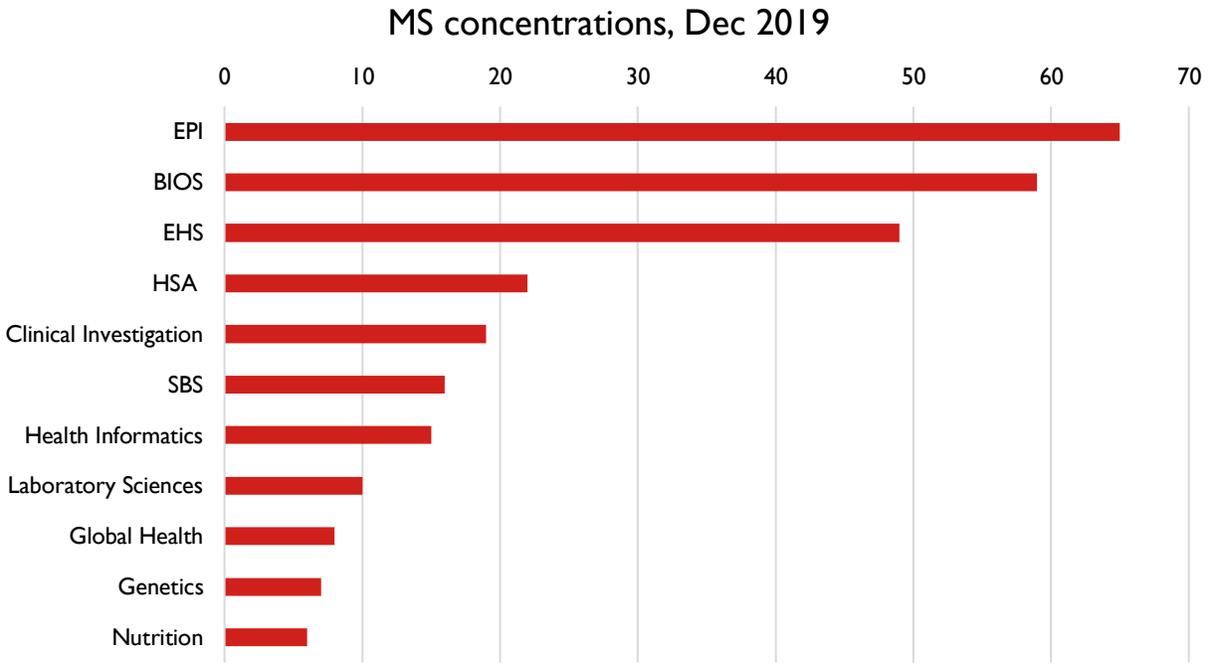
The 2016 Criteria define specific requirements for academic degrees, referred to in this section as MS degrees (regardless of the actual degree name, e.g., MSc, MSPH). Such degrees intend to prepare students in highly specialized scientific fields, rather than preparing students broadly as public health practitioners, as the MPH does.

The adoption of revised accreditation criteria clarified, but did not substantively change, the expectations for such degrees. MS degrees must provide students with a grounding in foundational public health knowledge and an introduction to population-based research methods. The degrees culminate in an inquiry-based final project and provide opportunities for students to engage in research aligned with the field of study.

Neither SPH nor PHP are required to offer MS degrees, and the percentage of units offering MS degrees has remained relatively stable. Most SPH offer MS degrees; between 2017 and 2019, three SPH discontinued all MS offerings (two of the three had only one MS offering in 2017); in two other SPH, the MS was reclassified to more accurately reflect its nature as a professional public health degree, equivalent to the MPH (n=1) or as a non-public health degree (n=1). Additionally, three new SPH without MS degrees received accreditation.

## CONCENTRATION TRENDS

As of December 2019, 59 units offered 265 MS programs of study. The following chart presents the distribution of MS degrees by concentration. See the [Background](#) document for a key to abbreviations.



*31 MS degrees cross disciplines and are counted in both categories, e.g., environmental epidemiology.*

*The following concentration categories have one to four offerings and are not included in this chart: demography, emergency preparedness, ethics, general public health, gerontology, health economics, mental health, and tropical public health.*