

Demographic Changes in South Orange and Maplewood



SOUTH ORANGE | MAPLEWOOD
COMMUNITY COALITION ON RACE

Our Mission: Stable Integration

Markers of stable integration:

- ▶ **Overall Town Diversity**
- ▶ **Neighborhood Integration**
- ▶ **Housing Values**
- ▶ **School District Demographics**
- ▶ Civic Life
- ▶ Businesses
- ▶ Social Integration



Executive Summary

The two towns of South Orange and Maplewood have demonstrated a commitment to racial integration through their support of the Community Coalition on Race since 1996. Stable racial integration in housing and all aspects of community life has been an essential component of the Community Coalition on Race's intentional integration mission for 20 years. This report presents a demographic profile of the two towns over time in order to establish where we have been, where we are now, and what trends we see in residential integration in SOMA.



This study asks:

- What have SOMA's demographics looked like over the last 20 years?
- What events have impacted our demographics?
- Where are we now?
- Are there observable trends that forecast our future demographic profile?



We used the following sources to gather information:

- Census Data
- Home Mortgage Data Assessments
- American Community Survey data
- SOMSD school enrollment data

Using these sources, we researched racial/ethnic demographics, housing, income, and school enrollment for SOMA



What we found:

- After experiencing swift demographic change in the late 1990s, the overall demographics of the towns remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2010.
- Housing prices rose more rapidly than other Direct towns through 2005 at the same time that the Black population share grew.
- The income of South Orange Black residents in the late 1990s through 2007 exceeded that of Whites; now the income of Black residents in both towns is lower and there is an increasing income gap between Blacks and Whites.
- There is now a distinct trend in the increase of White in-movers in SOMA, an increase in Asian and Hispanic in-movers, and a decrease in Black in-movers.
- There is a clear increase in the White population in the elementary and middle schools that will manifest in the high school soon.



Racial Integration Summary

- ▶ SOMA experienced dramatic demographic change in the late '90s that stabilized between 2000 and 2010.
- ▶ SOMA has a higher percent of Black residents than surrounding comparable communities.
- ▶ 23% of SOMA residents are foreign born; of those, 41% are People of Color.
- ▶ Asians, Hispanics, and Multi-racial people are groups that are showing an increase in population share since the 2010 Census.
- ▶ Neighborhood integration varies, with 2 sections of Maplewood showing concentrations of White or Black residents.



SOMA race/ethnicity/group shares compared to Essex County, NJ, and US based on 2010 US Census

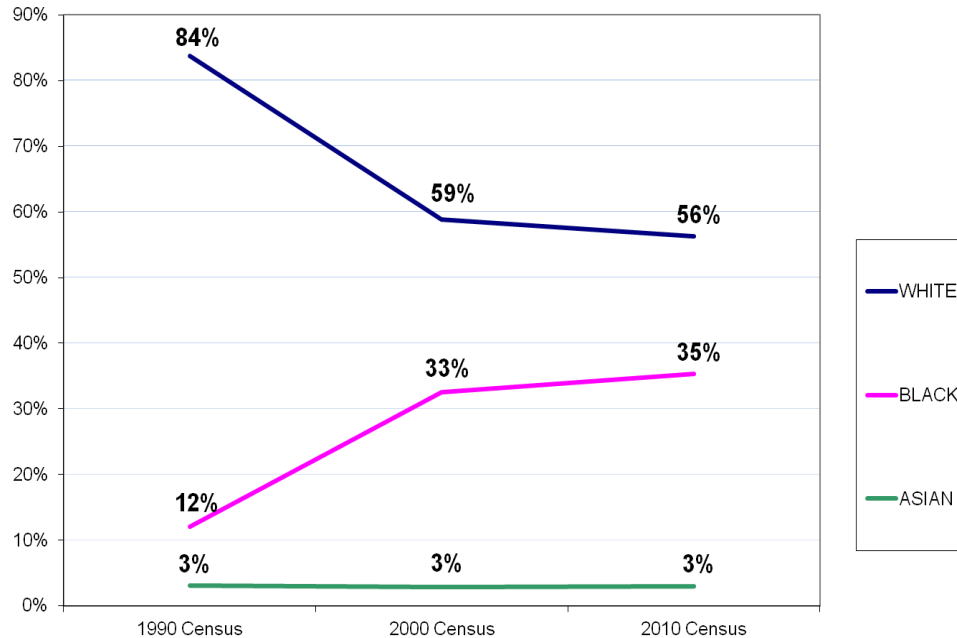
Demographics	SOMA	Essex County	NJ	US
White	57.9	42.6	68.6	72.4
Black or African American	32.6	40.9	13.7	12.6
Asian	3.9	4.6	8.3	4.8
2 or more races	3.6	3.2	2.7	2.9
Some other race alone	1.8	8.4	6.4	6.2
Alaskan or Native American Indian	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.9
Hispanic or Latino (all races)	6.5	20.3	17.7	16.3
Same Sex Housholds	2.2	0.5	0.4	0.5

Sources: 2010 Census and, for same-sex households, ACS 2009-2013

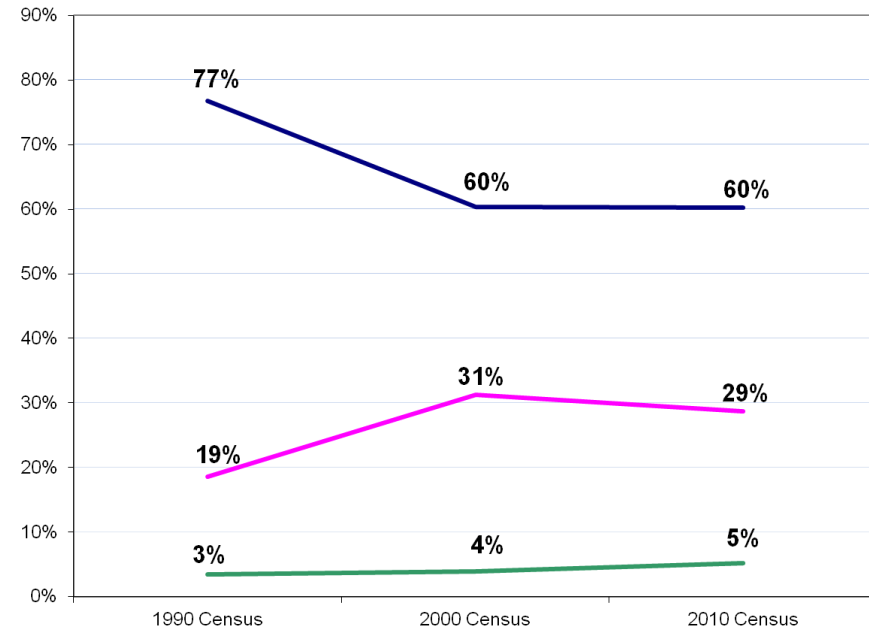


Dramatic Racial shifts in SOMA stabilized between 2000 and 2010

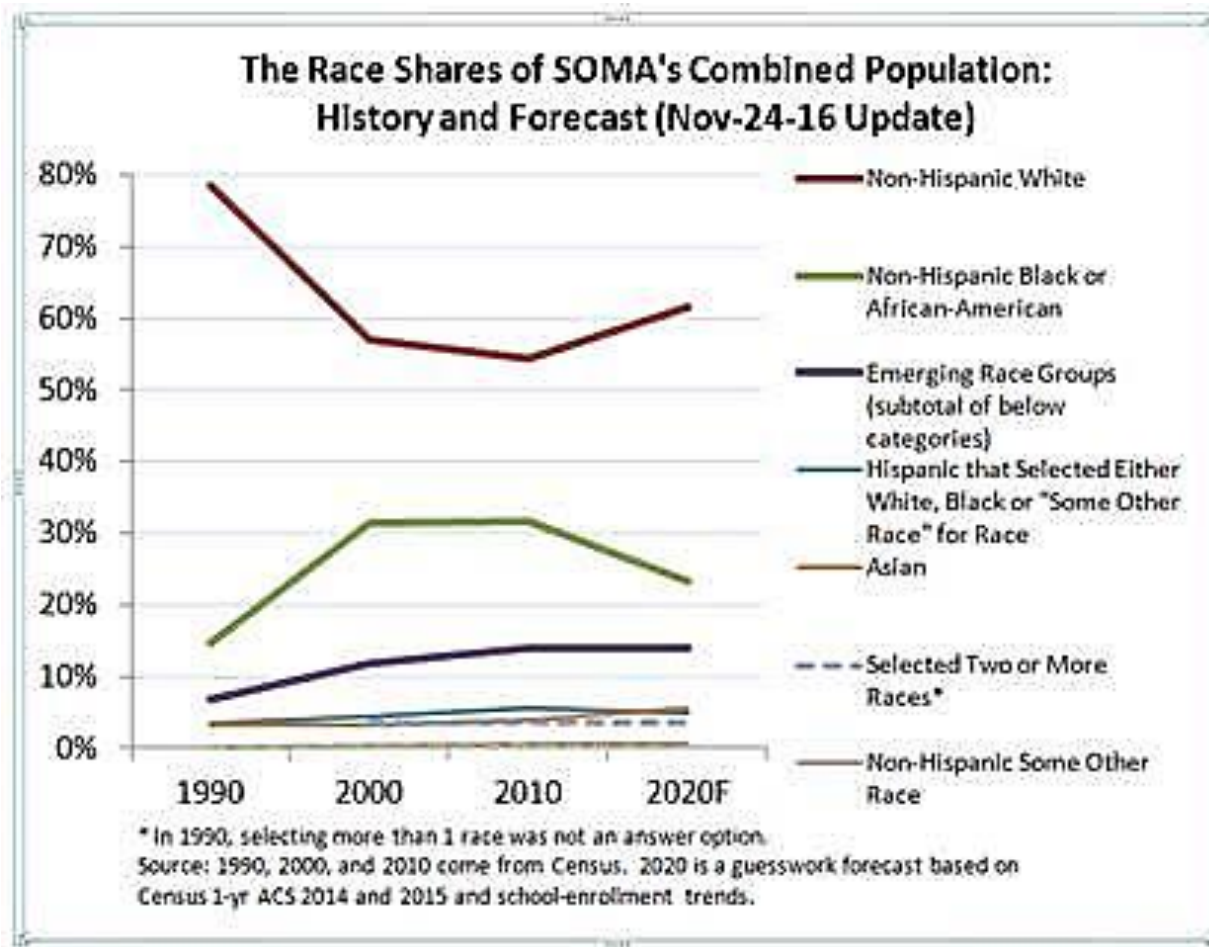
Maplewood



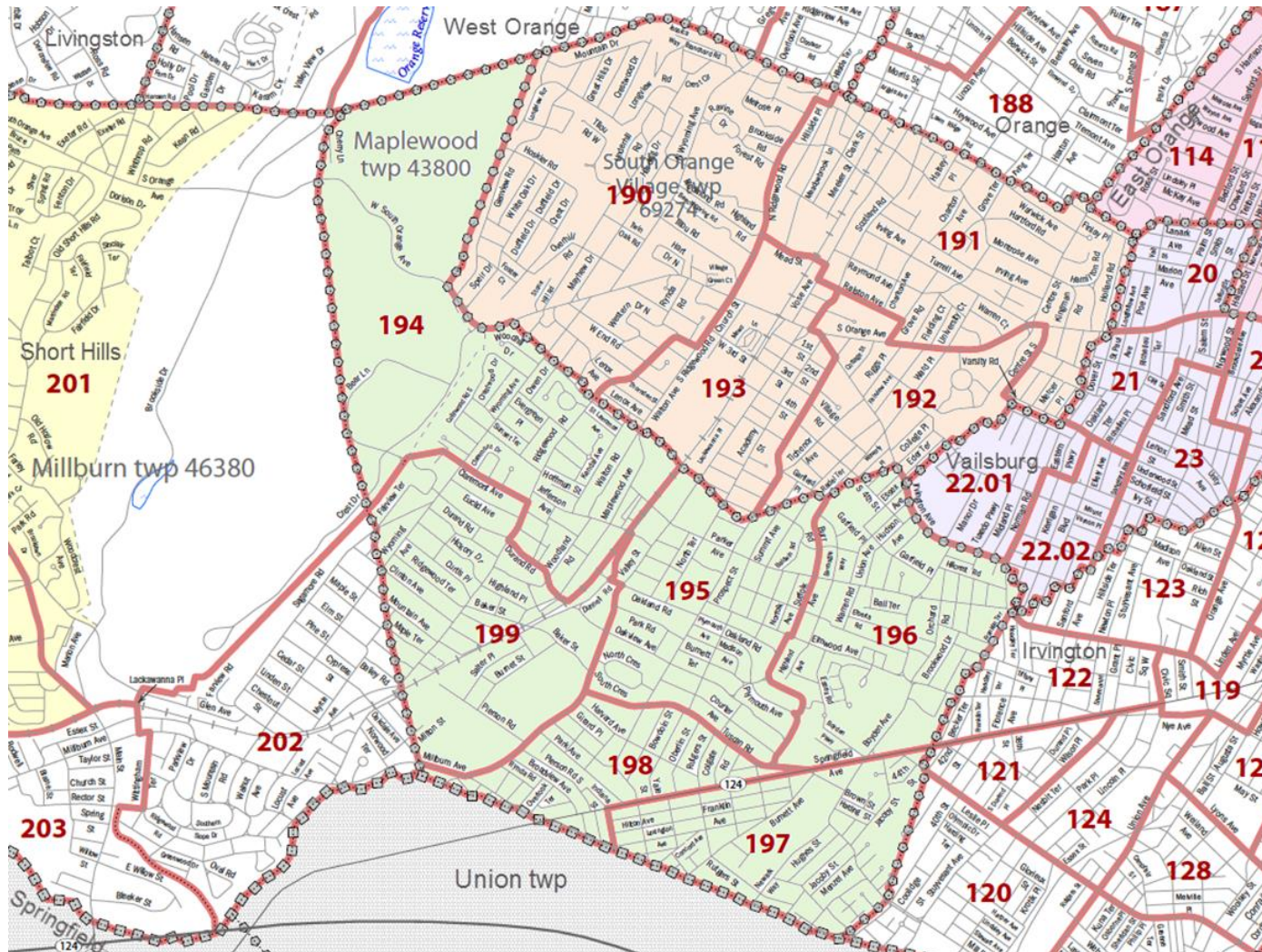
South Orange



Based on census and school enrollment data, by 2020 the Black share of the population will continue to fall, but remain above the combined population share of emerging race/ethnic groups in SOMA—Asians, Hispanics, and Multi-racial. The White population will continue to grow rapidly.



SOMA Census Tracts: 190-199



Within SOMA, our towns' success at Black/White residential integration varies from neighborhood to neighborhood. Maplewood, in particular, has concentrations of Whites in the western sections and Blacks in the Eastern section.

African-American Share of Each SOMA Tract

Census Tract Number	Black Share of Residents	Approximate Description	Town
197	69%	Hilton	Maplewood
196	52%	NE Maplewood	Maplewood
191	42%	NE South Orange	South Orange
192	30%	SE South Orange	South Orange
193	26%	Downtown/Valley	South Orange
198	22%	College Hill	Maplewood
190	18%	Wyoming/Newstead	South Orange
195	11%	North of Tuscan Rd.	Maplewood
194	5%	NW Maplewood	Maplewood
199	4%	SW Maplewood	Maplewood

Source: Census 2010, Summary File 1.



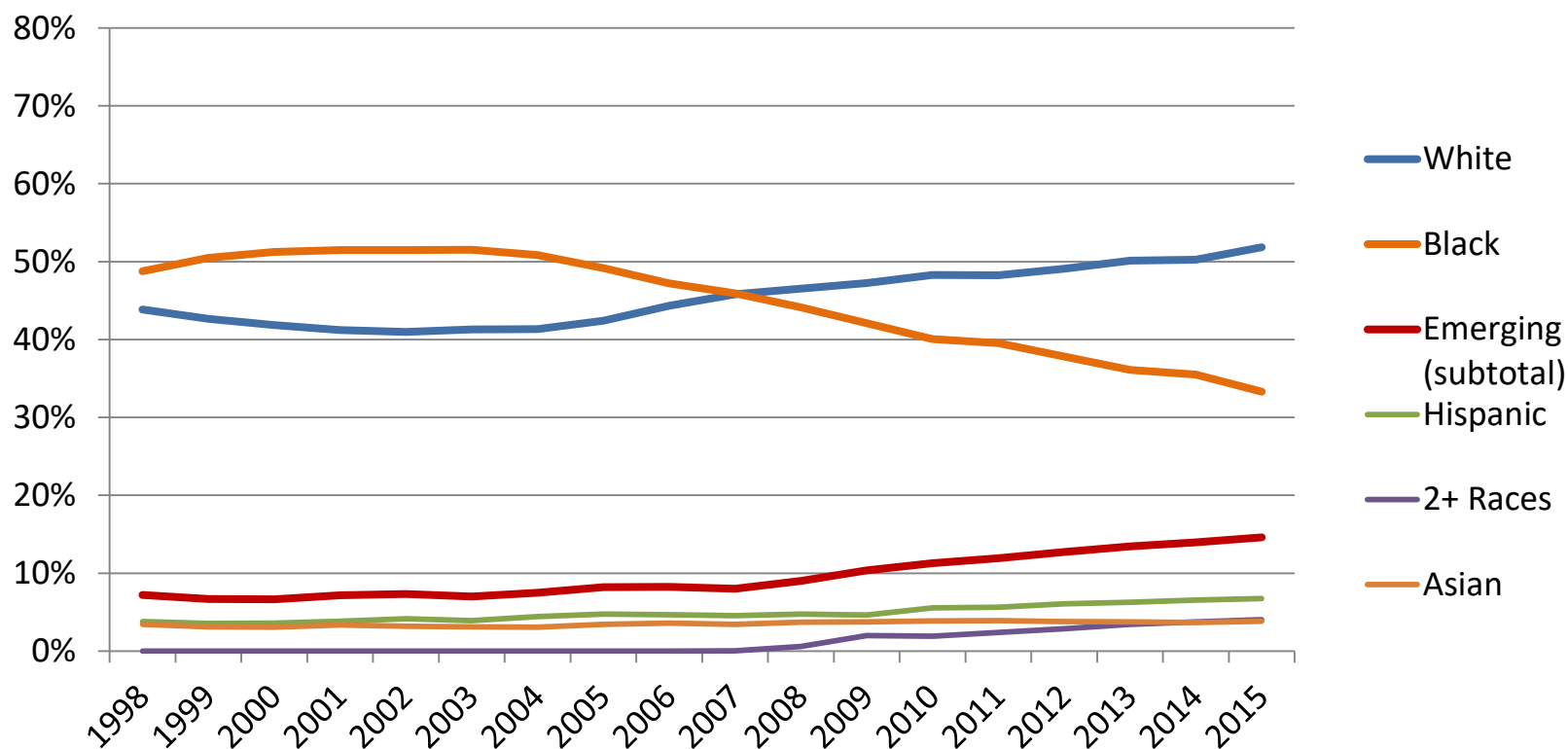
School Enrollment Trends Summary

- ▶ Total student enrollment has averaged 6200 since 1998 and is very high at 6,752 for 2015-16.
- ▶ By ACS 2009-2013 estimates, 10.7% of SOM School District children attend private school. (Statewide, the data show that 11.2% percent of all students attend private schools).
- ▶ Overall Black enrollment has decreased for 10 consecutive years; between 1998 and 2014 it fell 18%.
- ▶ Overall White enrollment has increased for 10 consecutive years; between 1998 and 2014 it increased 22%.
- ▶ Hispanic enrollment has increased over time; the 2014 Hispanic share is higher than the 1998 share in every grade.
- ▶ The growth of Asian total enrollment counts plateaued in 2011; as the years pass, the Asian share is rising in lower grades.



Looking at the race shares of the total school population, we see the Black share of SOMA's public school students dwindling gradually since 2004.

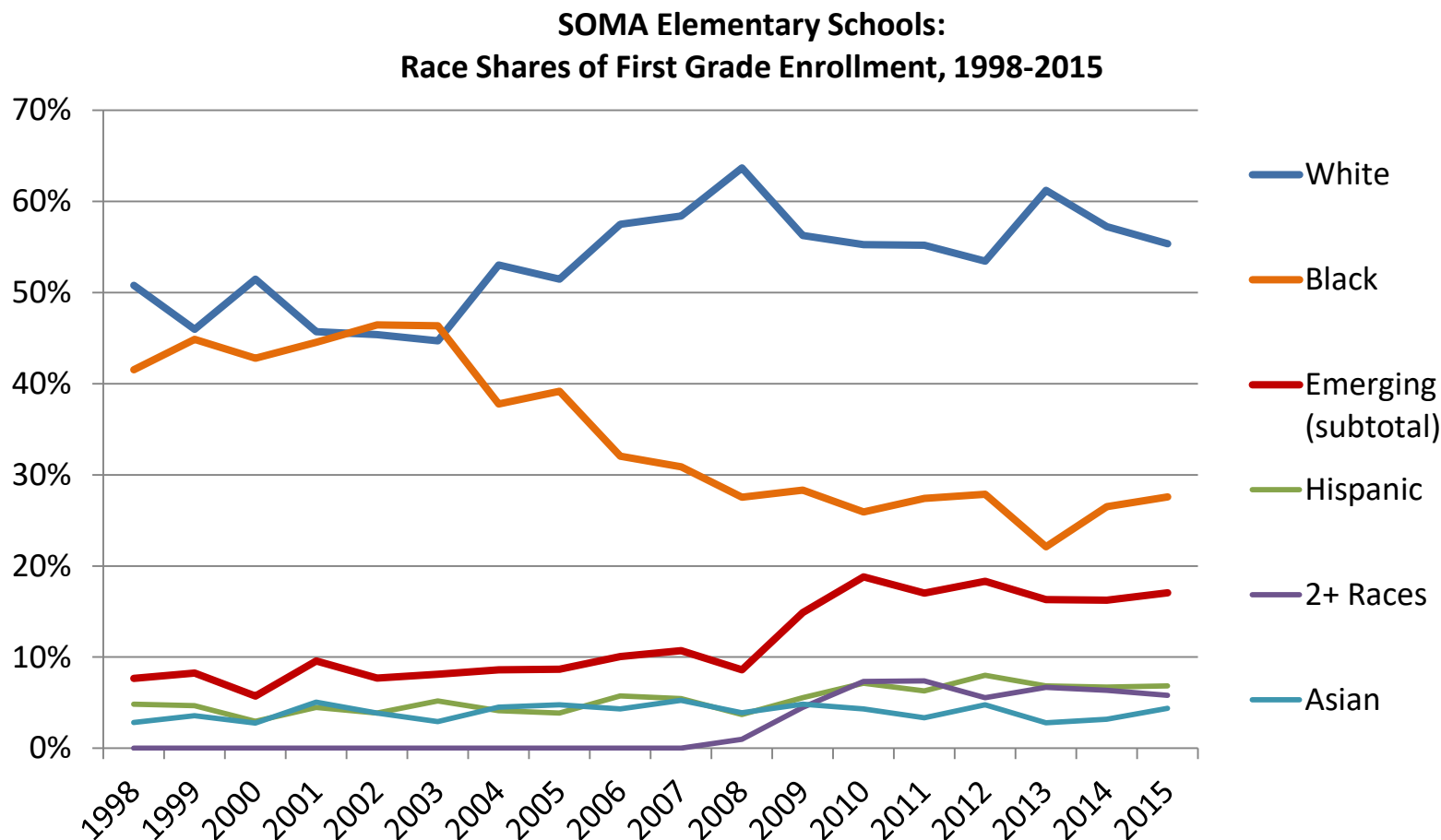
South Orange/Maplewood Public School Enrollment: Race Shares: 1998-2015



Source: NJ DOE enrollment tables, K-12 (2015 = '15-'16). "2+ races" share understates reality, because it was not a new-student answer option until 2007-2008.



Looking at 1st grade enrollment, we can see the racial shift was much more dramatic and mostly occurred 10 years ago, when children born in the years after the 1996 introduction of the Direct reached 1st grade.

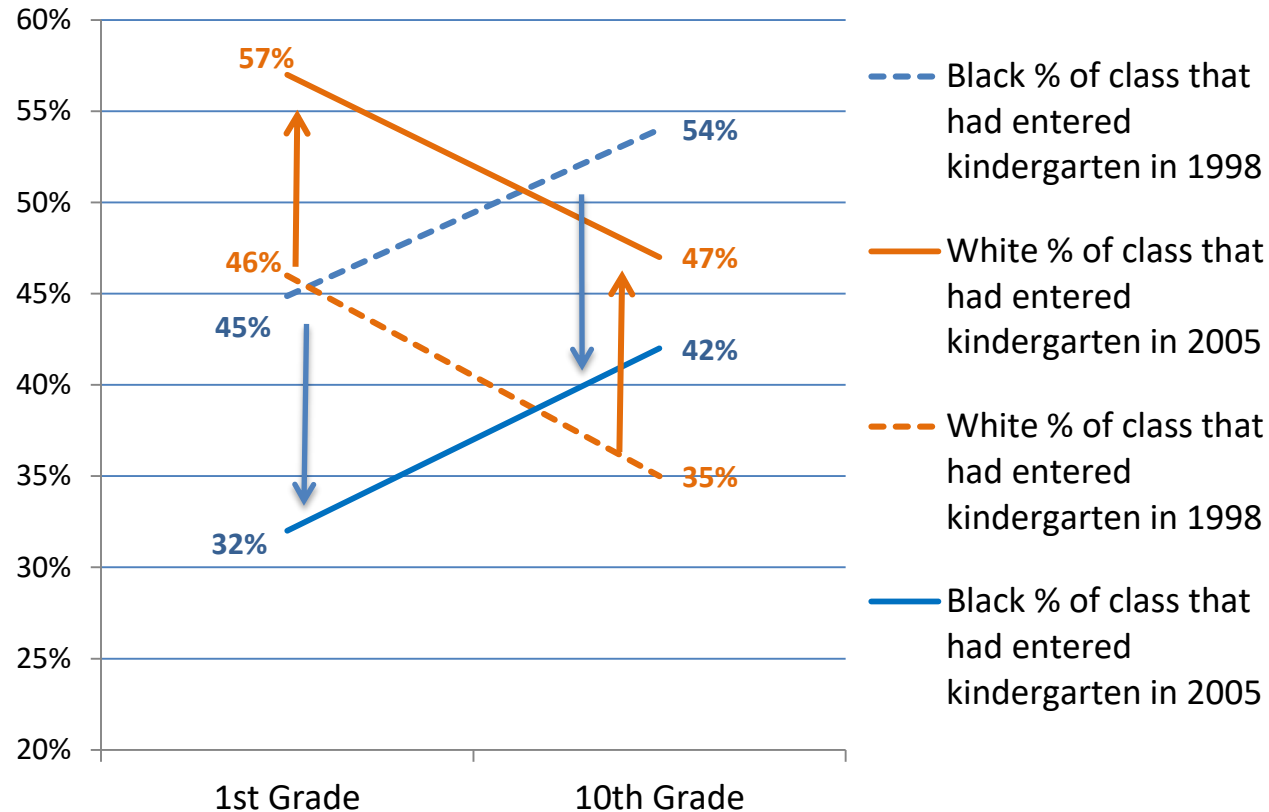


Source: NJ DOE public school enrollment tables, K-12; 2015 = '15-'16;
Emerging: Sum of Hispanic, 2+ Race, and Asian shares



The increased White share of 1st grade enrollment in the mid-2000s is now affecting the later grades: the 10th grade White share (47%) now exceeds the 10th grade Black share (42%)

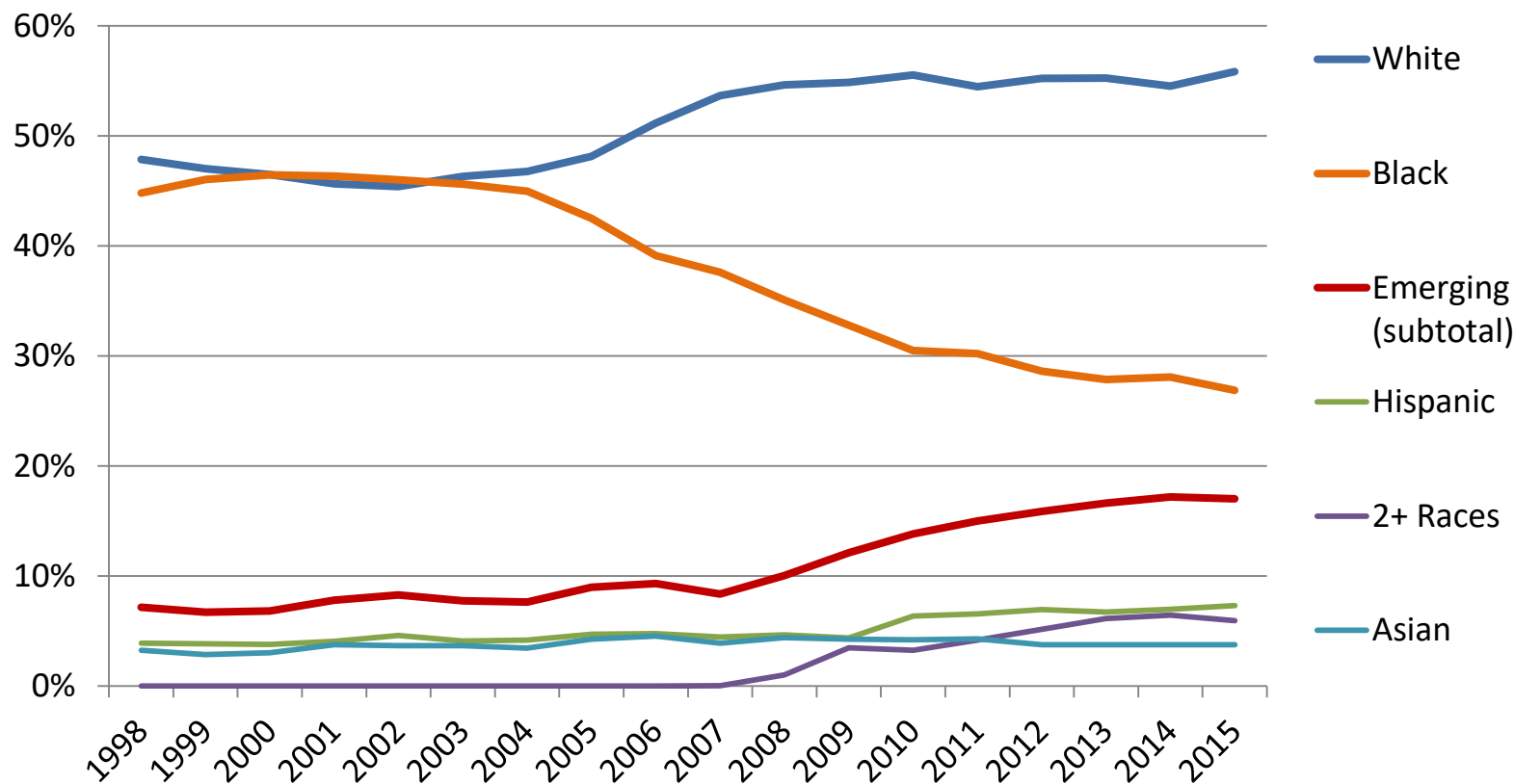
White and Black Shares of the Cohorts that Entered SOMA Public Schools in 1998 and 2005. The 2005 cohort reached 10th Grd in '15-'16.



Source: NJ DOE Enrollment Data, as of April 2016

In SOMA's public elementary schools, the White share sharply increased beginning in 2006. Since then, the share of emerging race/ethnic groups in SOMA—Asians, Hispanics, and Multi-racials—has also been rising.

**SOMA Elementary Schools:
Race Shares of Student Enrollment, 1998-2015**

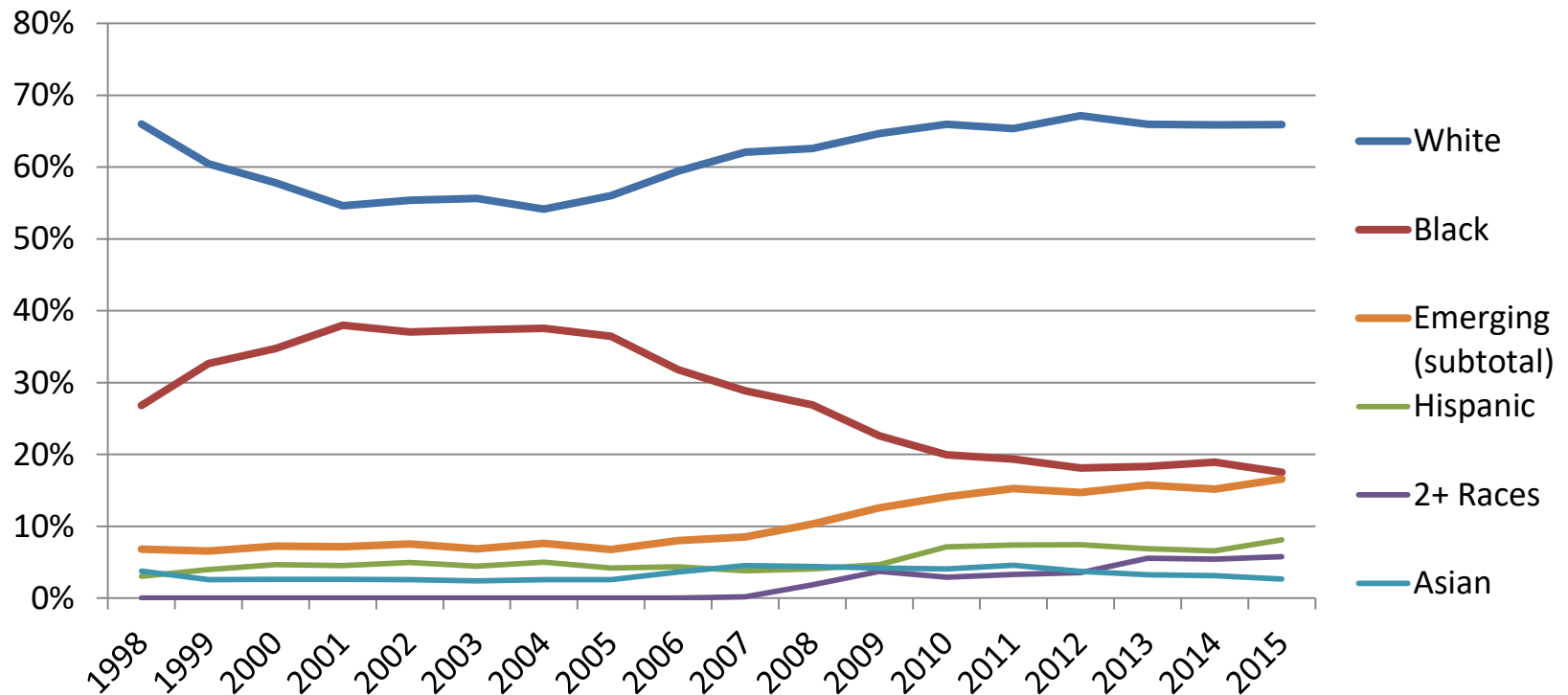


Source: NJ DOE public school enrollment tables, K-12; 2015 = '15-'16;
Emerging: Sum of Hispanic, 2+ Race, and Asian shares



The increase in White share and decrease in Black share began in 2005 at Tuscan. The trend for this school now is the growth of the emerging race groups.

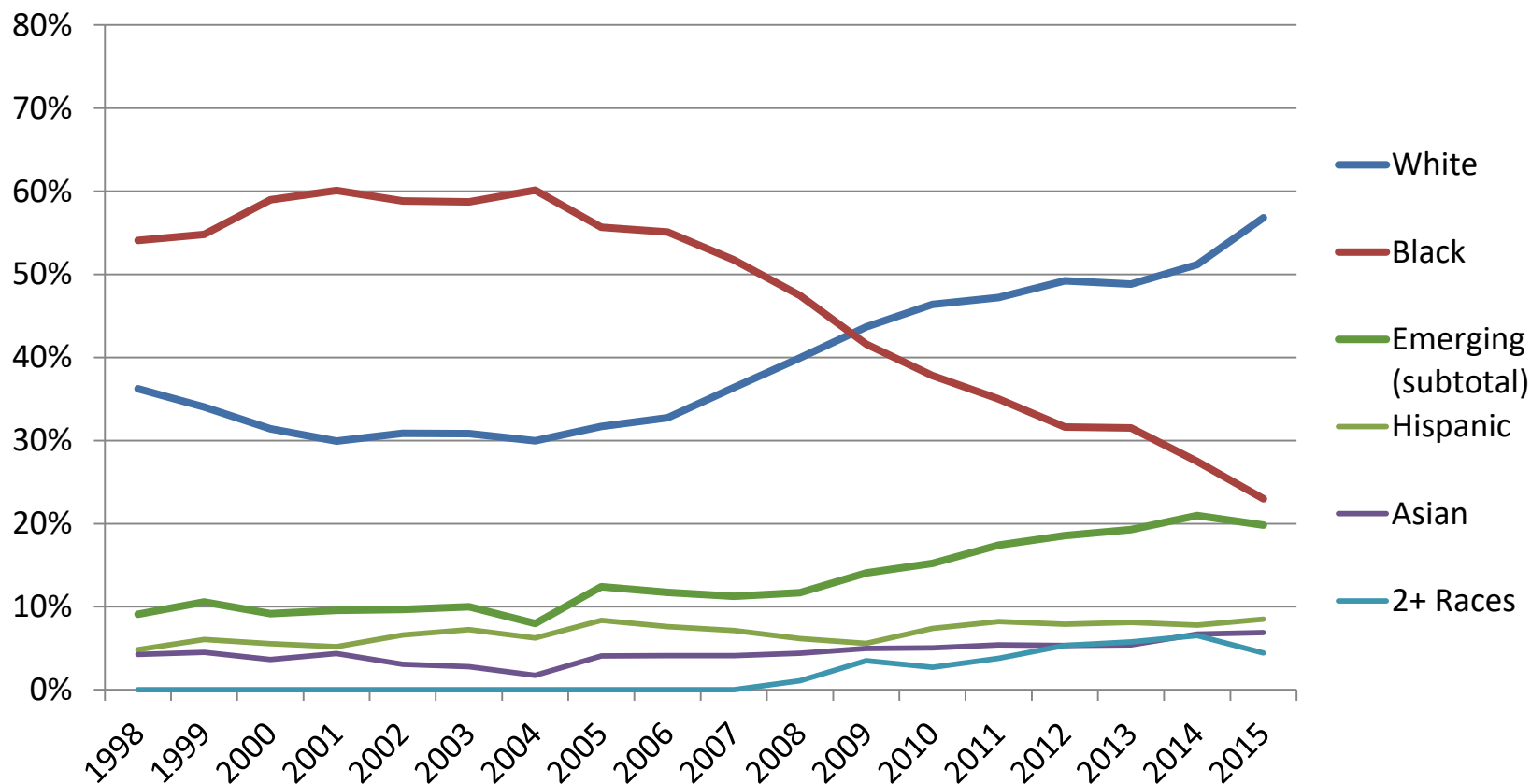
**Tuscan Elementary School Enrollment:
Race Shares, 1998-2015**



Source: NJ DOE enrollment tables, K-12; 2015 = '15-'16; Emerging: Hisp, 2+ Race and Asian combined

At Clinton Elementary School (central-and-north east Maplewood, plus southeast South Orange), the increase in the White share continues along side a surge in the emerging-race share and a steep drop in the Black share.

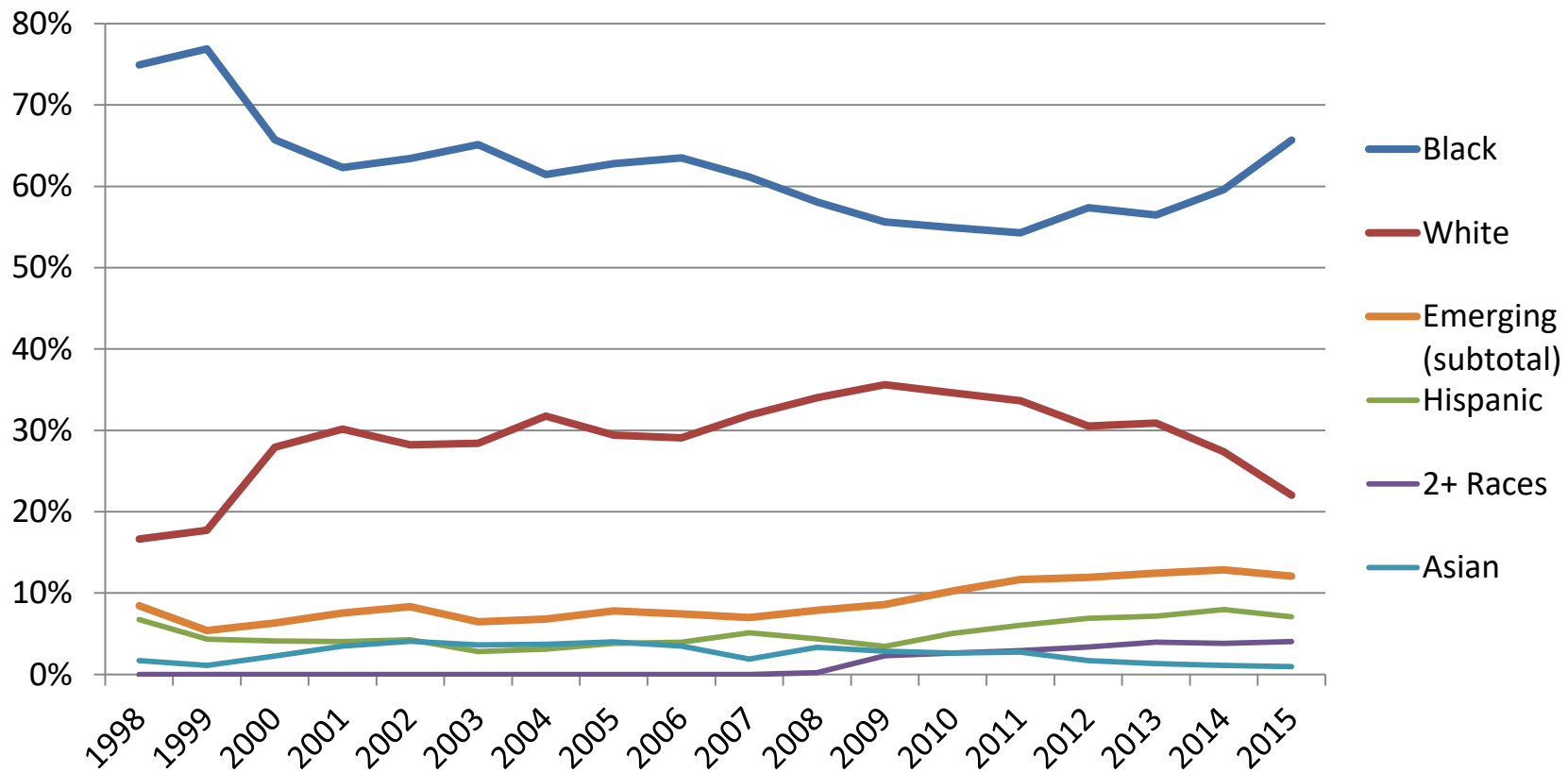
**Clinton Elementary School Enrollment:
Race Shares, 1998-2015**



Source: NJ DOE enrollment tables, total enrollment; 2015 = '15-'16; Emerging: Hisp, 2+ Race and Asian combined

Conversely, Seth Boyden Elementary School, covering the southeast of Maplewood, has seen a drop in its share of White students and an increase in Black students. Its growth of emerging-race students has been mild.

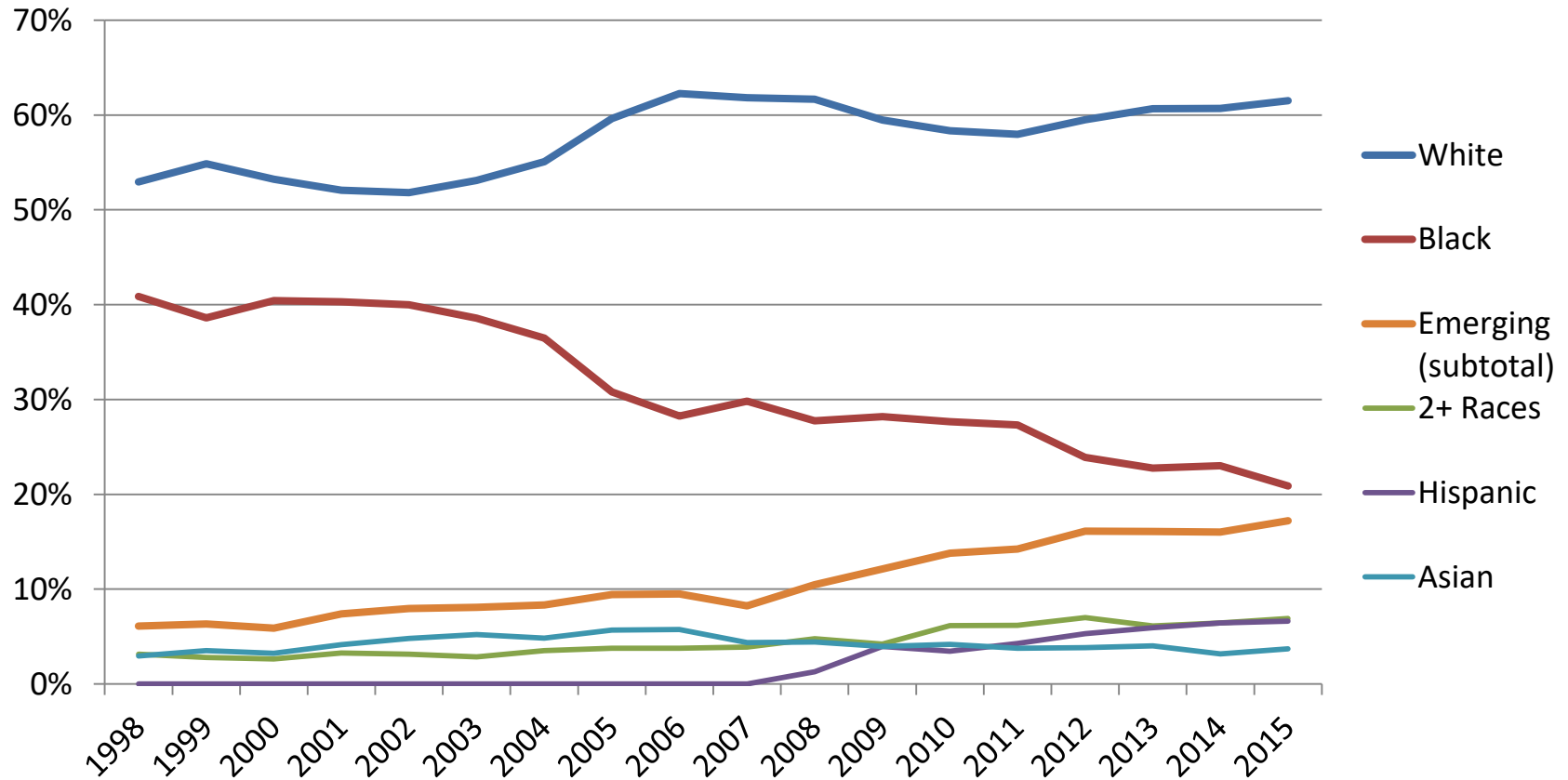
**Seth Boyden Elementary School Enrollment:
Race Shares, 1998-2015**



Source: NJ DOE enrollment tables, total enrollment; 2015 = '15-'16; Emerging: Hisp, 2+ Race and Asian combined

At Marshall /Jefferson (Montrose area of South Orange plus western Maplewood), the emerging-race share of students has been rising steadily. The White-share increases ended long ago and the decrease in Black shares continues.

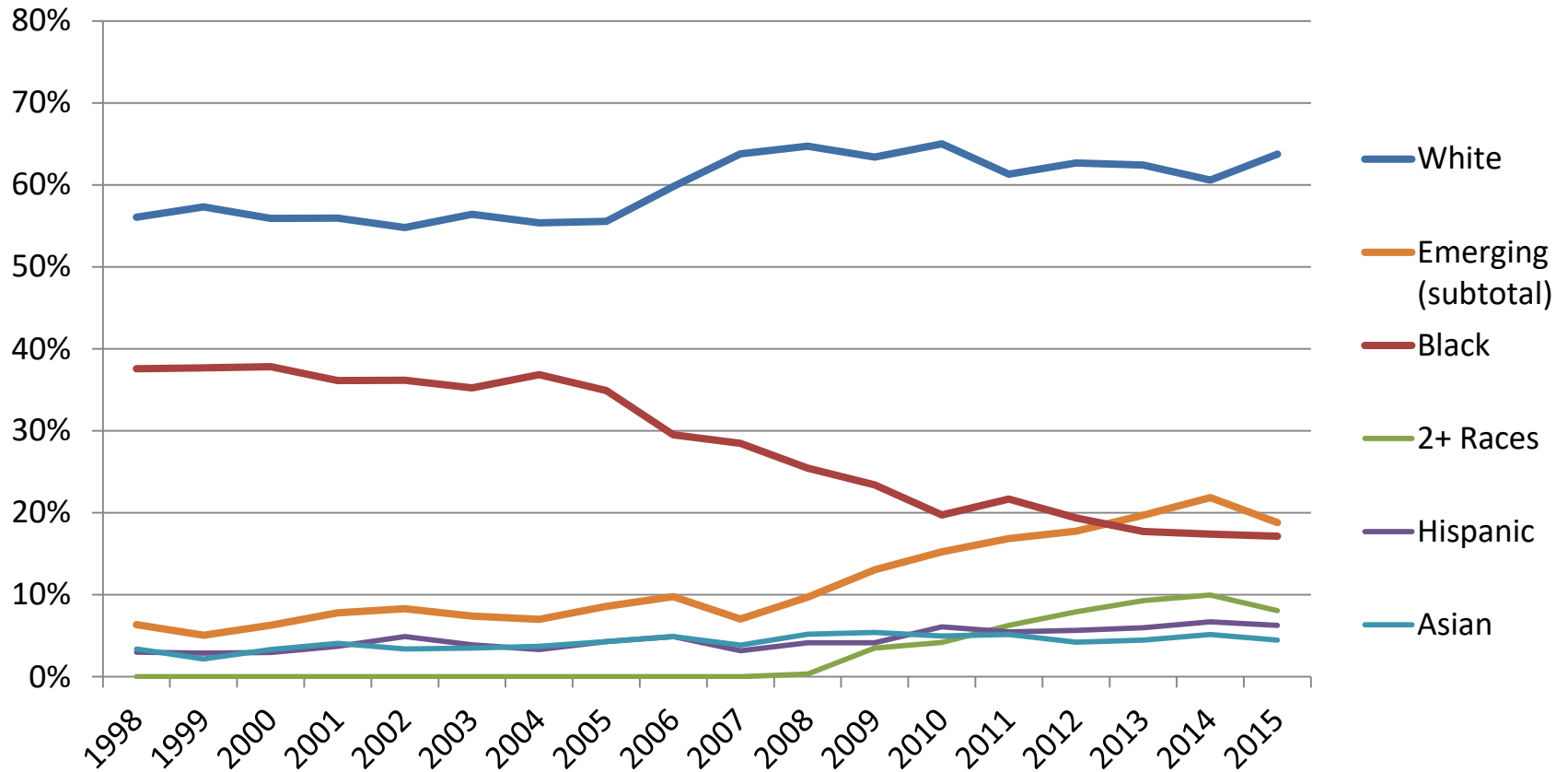
**Marshall/Jefferson Elementary School Enrollment:
Race Shares, 1998-2015**



Source: NJ DOE enrollment tables, total enrollment; 2015 = '15-'16; Emerging: Hisp, 2+ Race and Asian combined

At South Mountain Elementary School (western South Orange), the emerging-race share of students has been rising rapidly, too, except in the latest year, when the White share rose.

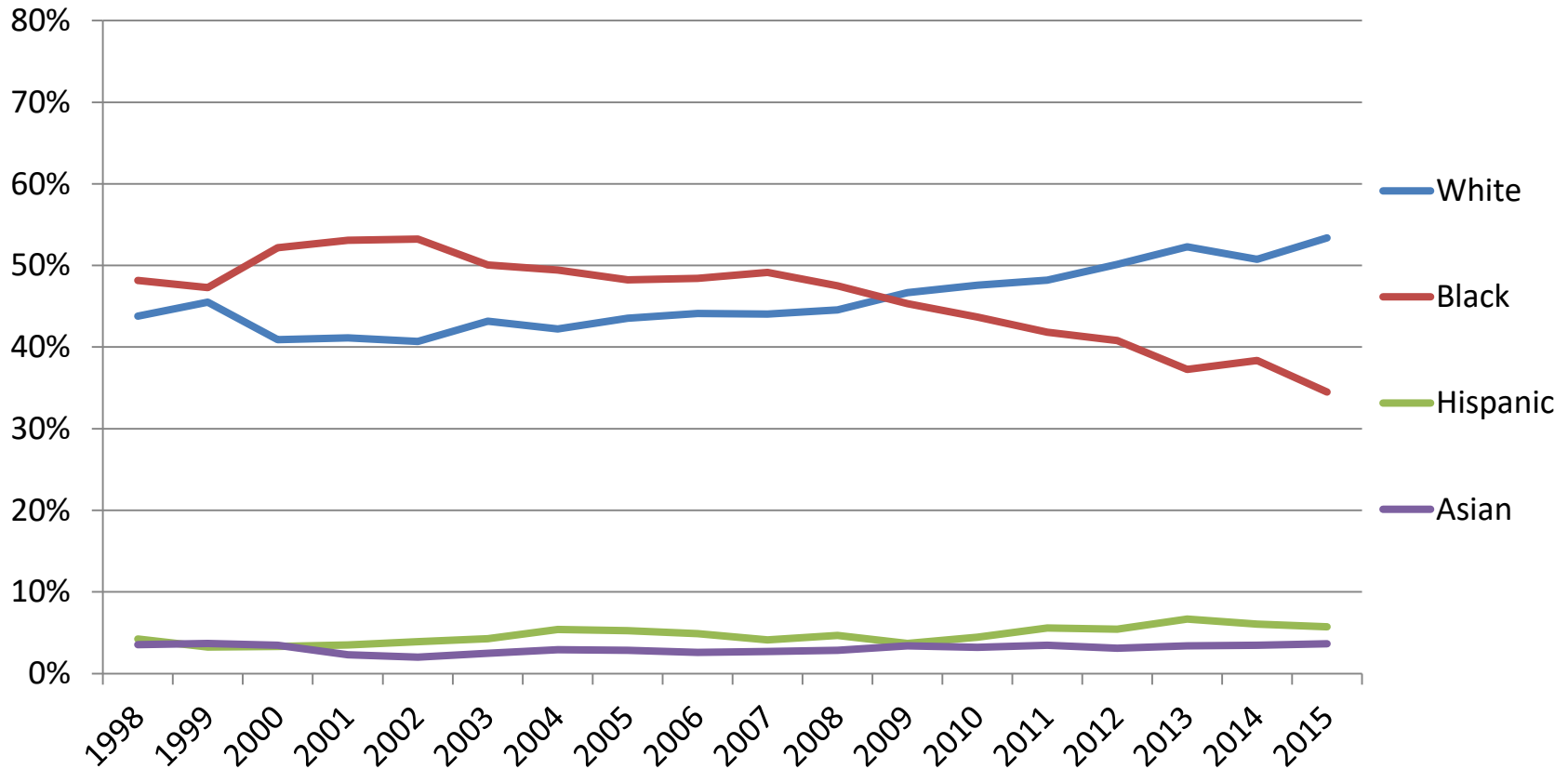
South Mountain Elementary School Enrollment:
Race Shares, 1998-2015



Source: NJ DOE enrollment tables, total enrollment; 2015 = '15-'16; Emerging: Hisp, 2+ Race and Asian combined

At Maplewood Middle School (covers all of Maplewood except the Clinton zone), the White share of students continues to rise and now exceeds the Black share by 19 percentage points.

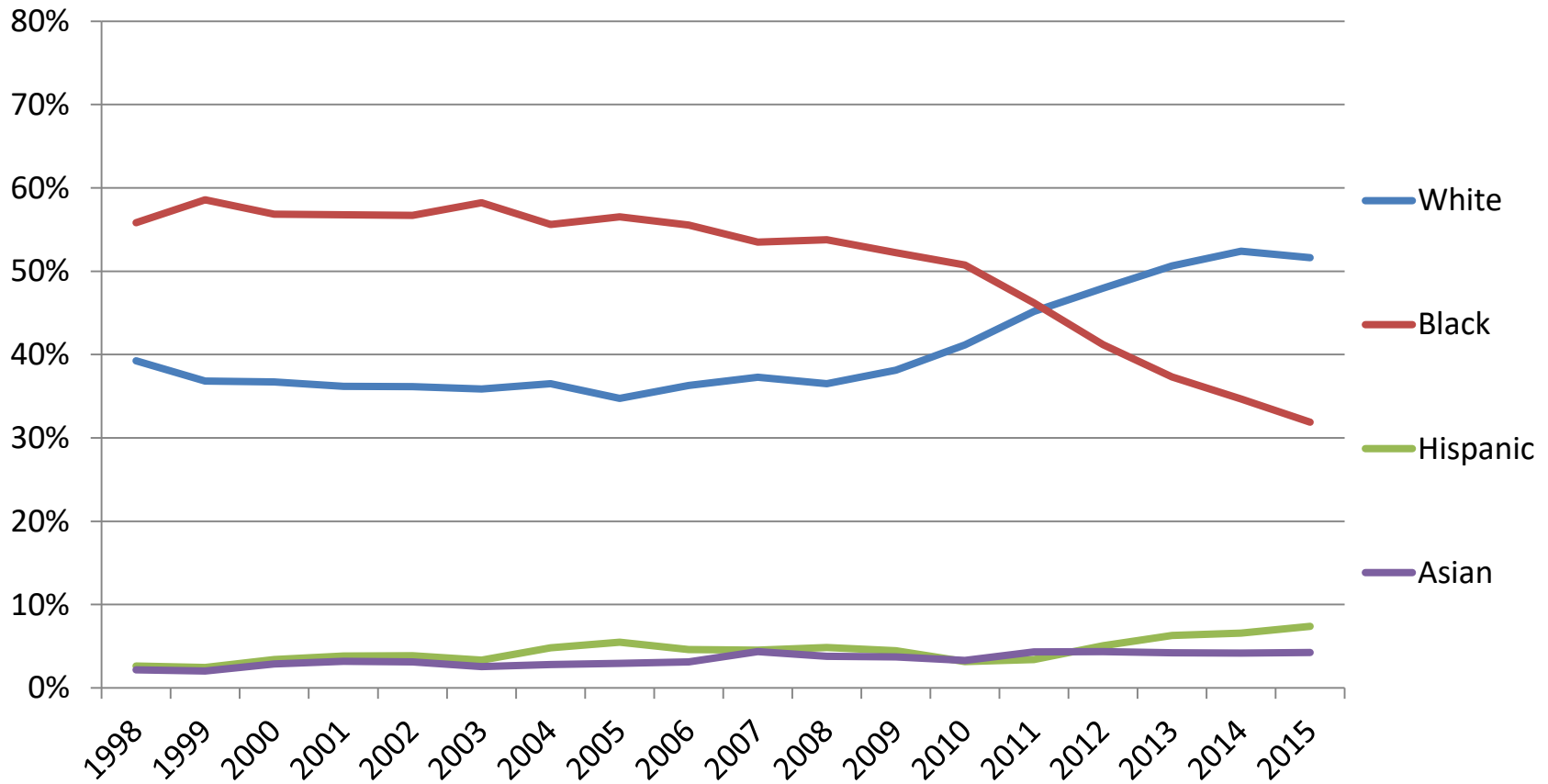
**Maplewood Middle School Enrollment:
Race Shares, 1998-2015**



Source: NJ DOE enrollment tables, total enrollment (2015 = '15-'16); "2+ races" not shown, because "2+" was not answer option for many in this age.

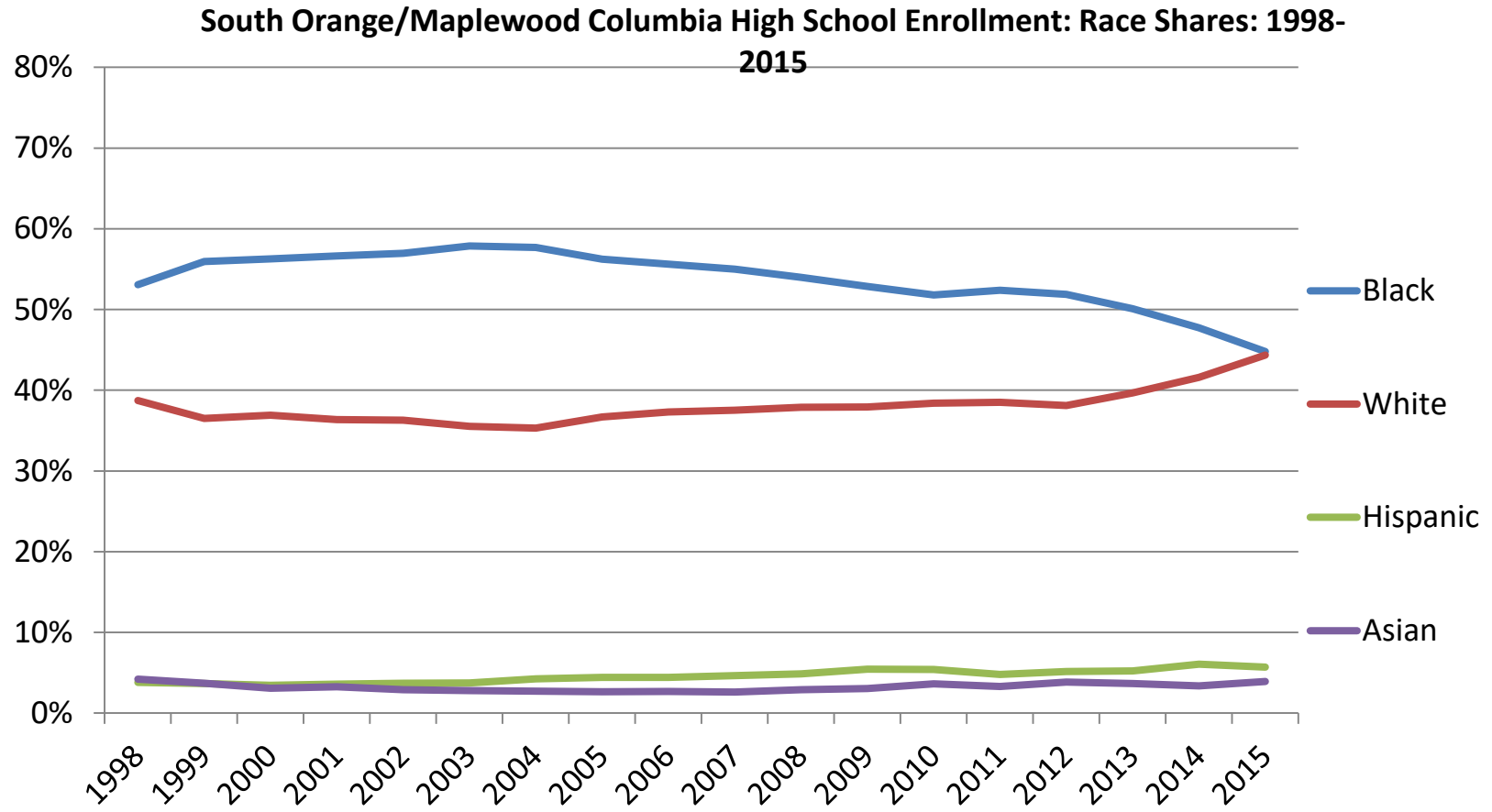
At South Orange Middle School (all of South Orange plus the Maplewood portion of the Clinton zone), the White and Hispanic shares have been growing. The Black share peaked in 1999.

**South Orange Middle School Enrollment:
Race Shares, 1998-2015**



Source: NJ DOE enrollment tables, total enrollment (2015 = '15-'16); "2+ races" not shown, because 2+ was not answer option for many in this age range.

In the 2015-2016 school year, the White share of Columbia High School students almost reached the Black share of students for the first time in nearly 20 years. The White share will continue to rise for a some years, as the students now in the middle schools, which are still getting whiter, enter CHS.



Source: NJ DOE enrollment tables, total enrollment (2015 = '15-'16). "2+ races" not shown because 2+ not answer option for most in this age range.



Past efforts to integrate schools or handle space issues

1970's

First Street and Montrose Elementary Schools are closed or repurposed

1981

Fielding Elementary School is closed and students are sent to Clinton

1982

Marshal and Jefferson Elementary Schools are paired through grade clusters and busing to achieve racial balance

Early 1990's

Redrawing of the attendance zone near Clinton School (the “wedge,” an area between of Irvington Avenue South Orange Avenue) to send students to South Mountain

1990

All 5th graders move to Middle Schools (called the ‘Middle School Philosophy’), an arrangement that was undone within a few years

1996

5th grade from Seth Boyden is sent to Jefferson School; this is followed by a contentious community debate about ‘redistricting.’

1999

The establishment of Seth Boyden as a Demonstration School with limited in-district zoning and a reliance on opt-ins from other attendance zones

2000's

School District adjusts attendance zones multiple times



We also looked at the diversity of the teaching staff. The Schools Committee has advocated for improved outreach to teachers of color through attendance at minority hiring fairs, special outreach to HBCUs and local teaching programs, and helped initiate an in-district Diversity Hiring Fair.

SOMSD Teachers, by School by Race: 2015-2016

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Total	Minorities as % of row total
Total	425	64	31	13	3	536	21%
Columbia High School	117	17	9	3	1	147	20%
South Orange Middle School	43.4	13	7	2	1	66.4	35%
Maplewood Middle School	41	11	7	3	1	63	35%
Clinton	42	4	2	1	0	49	14%
Seth Boyden	40	4	1	0	0	45	11%
Marshall	36	6	2	0	0	44	18%
Tuscan	38.4	2	1	2	0	43.4	12%
Jefferson	32	4	2	1	0	39	18%
South Mountain/Annex	34.1	3	0	1	0	38.1	10%
District Office	1	0	0	0	0	1	0%

Source: <http://www.nj.gov/education/data/cs/>

Certified employees in administrative and special-services roles are excluded from the above subset of data

Observations

- ▶ Since 1997, the Community Coalition on Race, the Midtown Direct, the rise in SOMA housing prices, and the Great Recession have all had an effect on who moves to SOMA.
- ▶ The lack of lower cost housing has an effect as well—we currently serve well those making over \$100,000 in terms of housing affordability but have fewer options for those earning less than \$100,000.
- ▶ Even with the increase in Whites and the emerging race groups, there is a very high Black presence in SOMA—much higher than in nearby comparable communities.
- ▶ Blacks tend to stay longer in SOMA—and that has contributed to the stability of the Black percentage of the population at least through 2010—but that may change.



Observations, continued

- ▶ While 20 years ago there was a concern about “White flight,” the issue we’re facing today is a strong White “re-entry” and a decrease in Black in-movers.
- ▶ The SOMA increase in Asians and Hispanics is consistent with national trends in suburban demographics.
- ▶ The SOMA increase in Whites and decrease in Blacks, however, is inconsistent: in the US overall, White presence in suburbs has dropped by 16% and Black presence is growing modestly.
- ▶ Nationwide, Whites and Asians tend to live in wealthier neighborhoods than Blacks and Hispanics earning the same annual income.
- ▶ This pattern is reflected in the strong growth of Asian populations in places like Millburn and Livingston, and of Blacks and Hispanics in West Orange.

Final Thoughts

- ▶ SOMA's reputation—based on its strong branding and marketing—as welcoming, inclusive, and diverse succeeded in attracting White homebuyers looking for exactly that (i.e., not their parents' suburbs)--along a train line, with more space than the cities and good schools.
- ▶ The Great Recession reduced many people's buying powers, and the decrease in asset ownership has been proportionally greater among minority households nationally.
- ▶ Some nearby communities have broader economic diversity, more lower-priced homes, growing racial diversity, strong schools, and lower property taxes—and are now increasingly attractive to Blacks and Hispanics, regardless of their income.
- ▶ The good news is we may be witnessing a broader regional growth in diverse communities.
- ▶ **The question for SOMA is how do we stay competitive in attracting and retaining non-white populations and maintain the diversity we cherish as we face the 'white re-entry' phenomenon?**



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