

# Spring 2018 – Spring 2022

Five-Year Trend

Spring Semester Student Enrollment and  
Selective Demographics

**Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness**

Data and report contributors: Dr. Arlene Blaylock, Dr. Bo Chan, Mr. Scott Poese, Ms. Daphne Alfelor  
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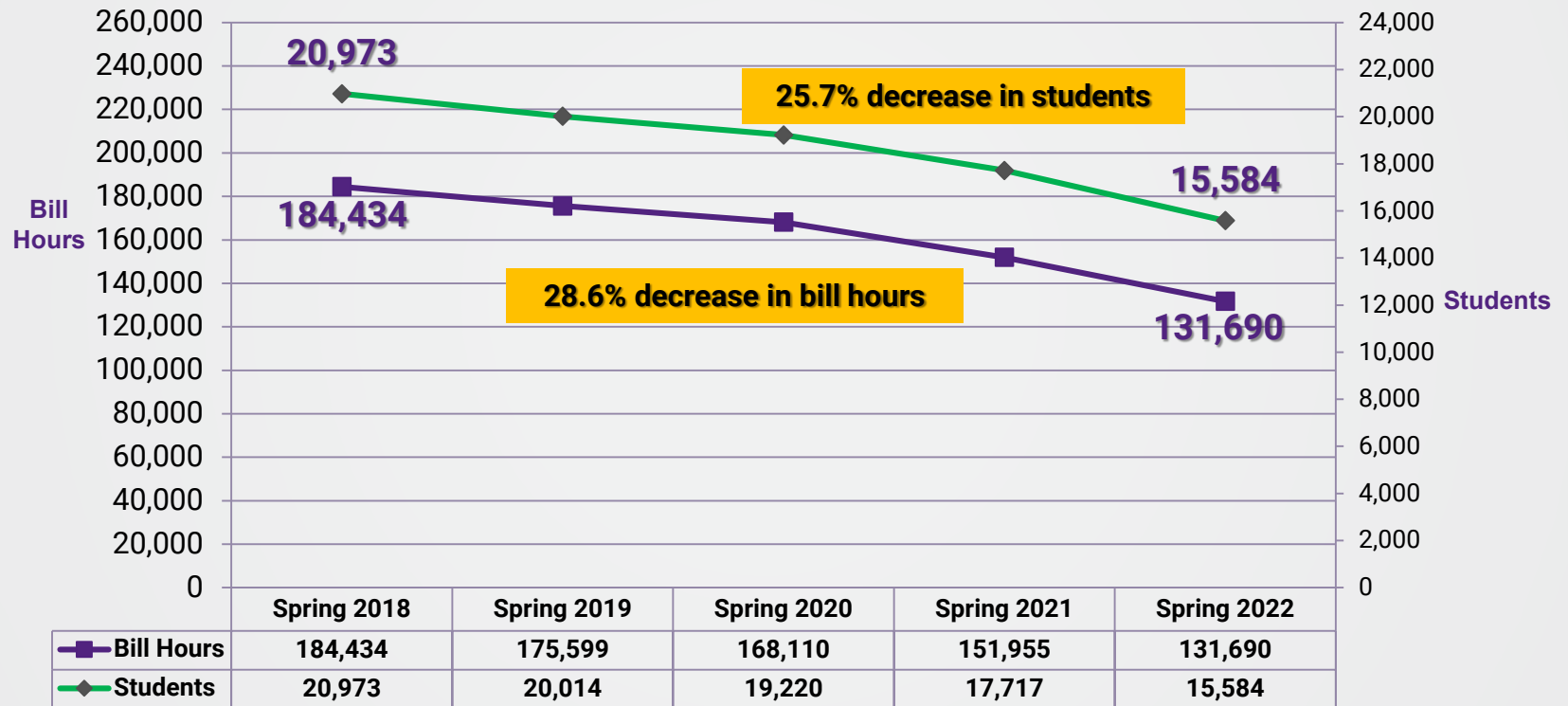
## Spring 2018 – Spring 2022

### Five-Year Trend on Spring Semester Student Enrollment and Selective Demographics

- Compared to the previous spring semester, official spring 2022 enrollment declined 12.0% percent in headcount and 13.3% in bill hours. Compared to spring 2018, student headcount and bill hours have declined 25.7% and 28.6%, respectively (**Figure 1**).
- Students are increasingly attending part-time: 67.2% in spring 2018 to 70.3% in spring 2022. This is the first time part-time enrollment reached the 70% threshold (**Figure 2**).
- Female students have consistently accounted for a higher percentage of enrollment compared to males (**Figure 3**). Students, on average, are progressively younger: an average of 25.2 years of age in spring 2018 to 24.3 percent in spring 2022, which might be influenced by dual enrollment of high school students (**Figure 4**).
- Among the largest race/ethnic groups (**Figure 5**), the percentage of Asian students has increased more than one percentage point in five years (11.2% Spring 2018 to 12.4% in spring 2022); black students are down about one percentage point (27.1% to 26.2%); Hispanic students have increased nearly two percentage points (24.3% to 26.0%); while the percentage of white students has declined more than two percentage points (23.3% to 20.9%).

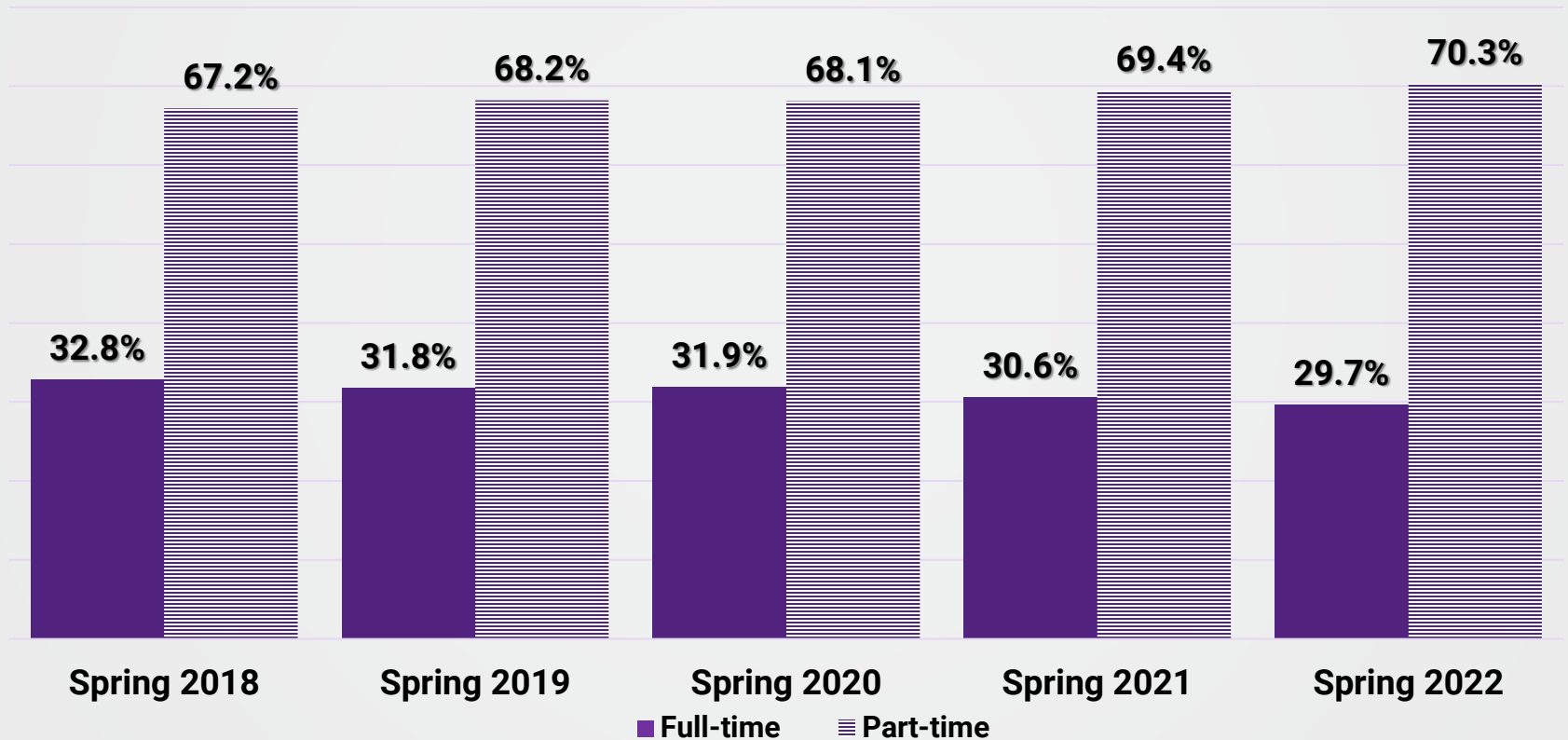
**Figure 1: Enrollment and Bill Hours: Spring 2018 to Spring 2022**

Over a five-year period, spring semester's student enrollment and bill hours are down by more than a quarter.



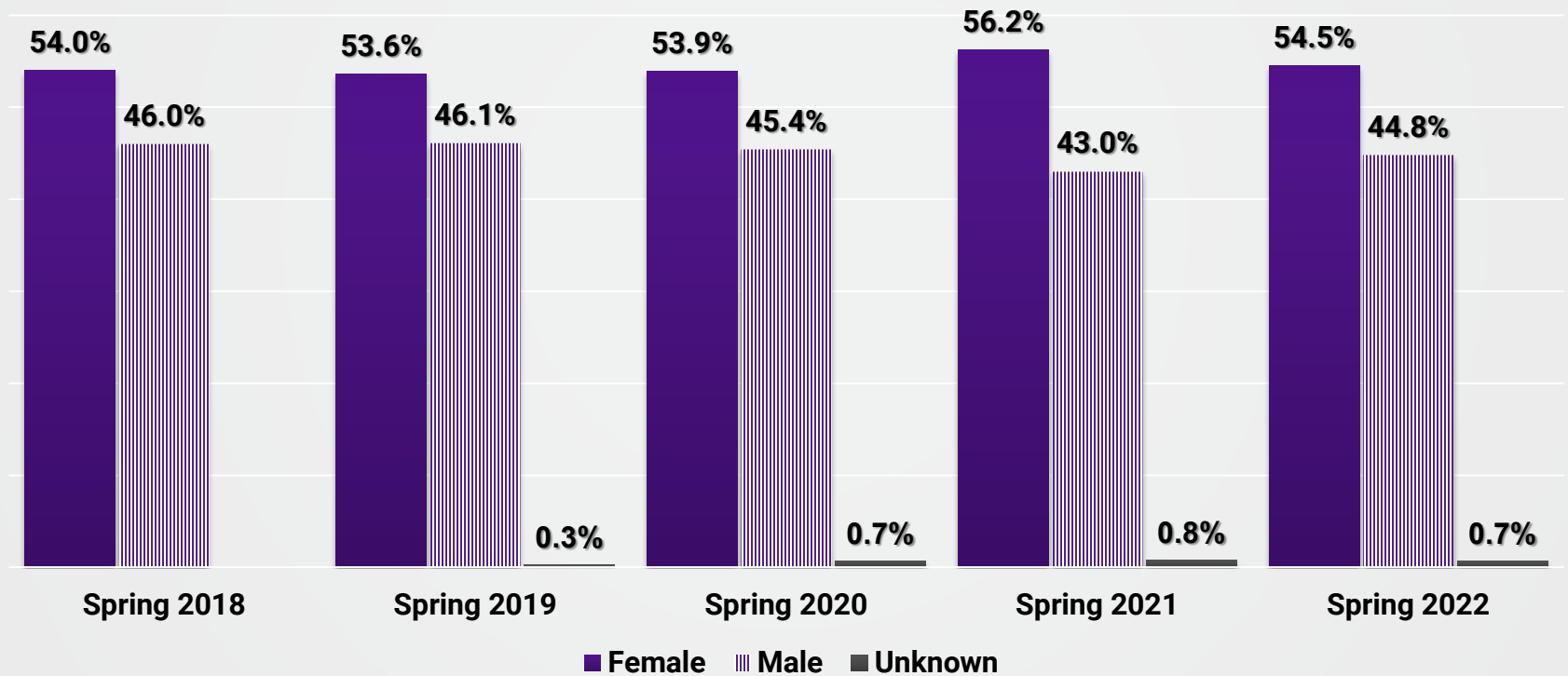
## Figure 2: Enrollment Status – Spring 2018 to Spring 2022

An increasing percentage of students enroll part-time -- and that percentage surpassed 70% in spring 2022.

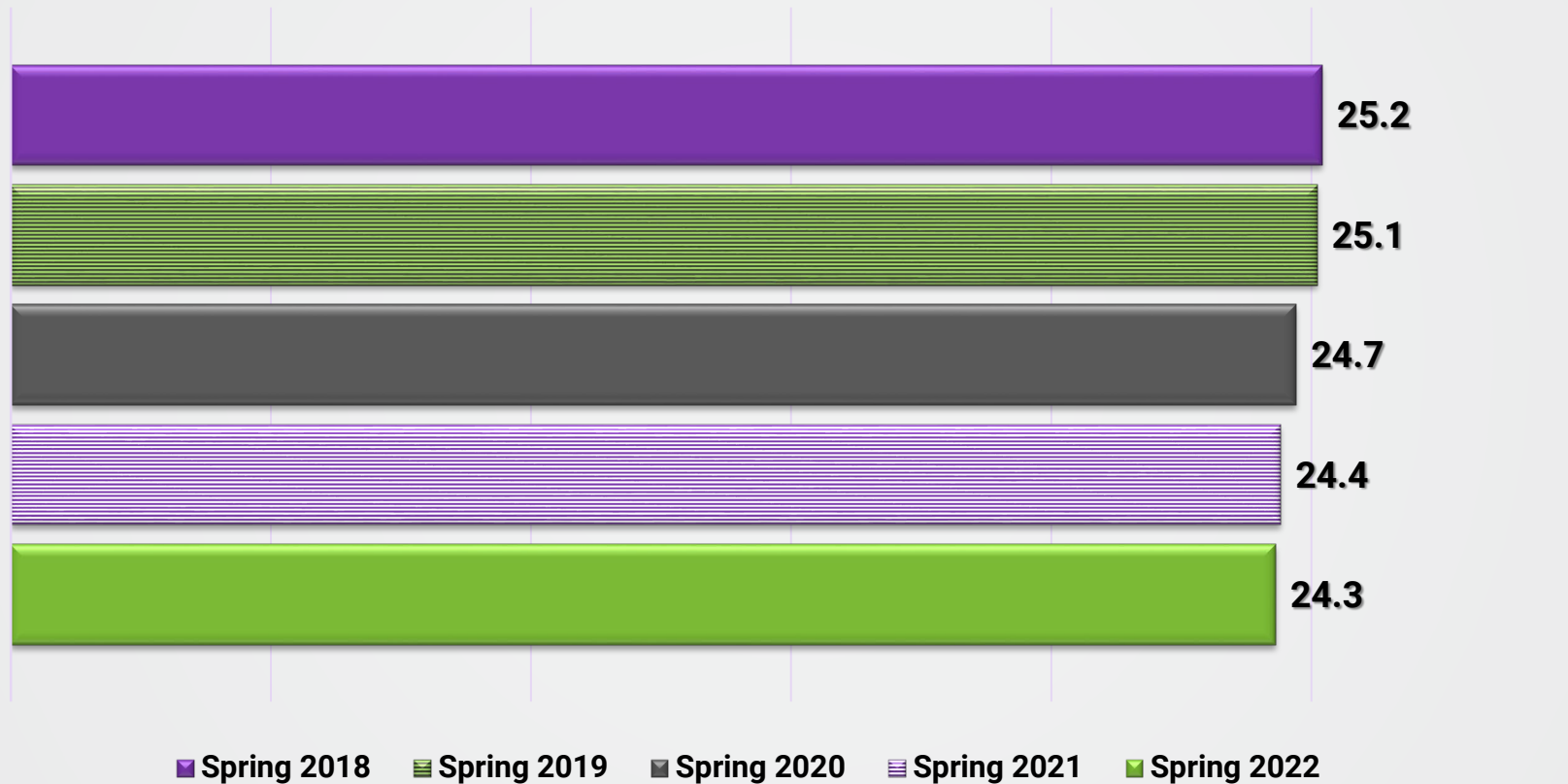


### Figure 3: Enrollment by Gender – Spring 2018 to Spring 2022

Female students have consistently accounted for a higher percentage of enrollment than male students.

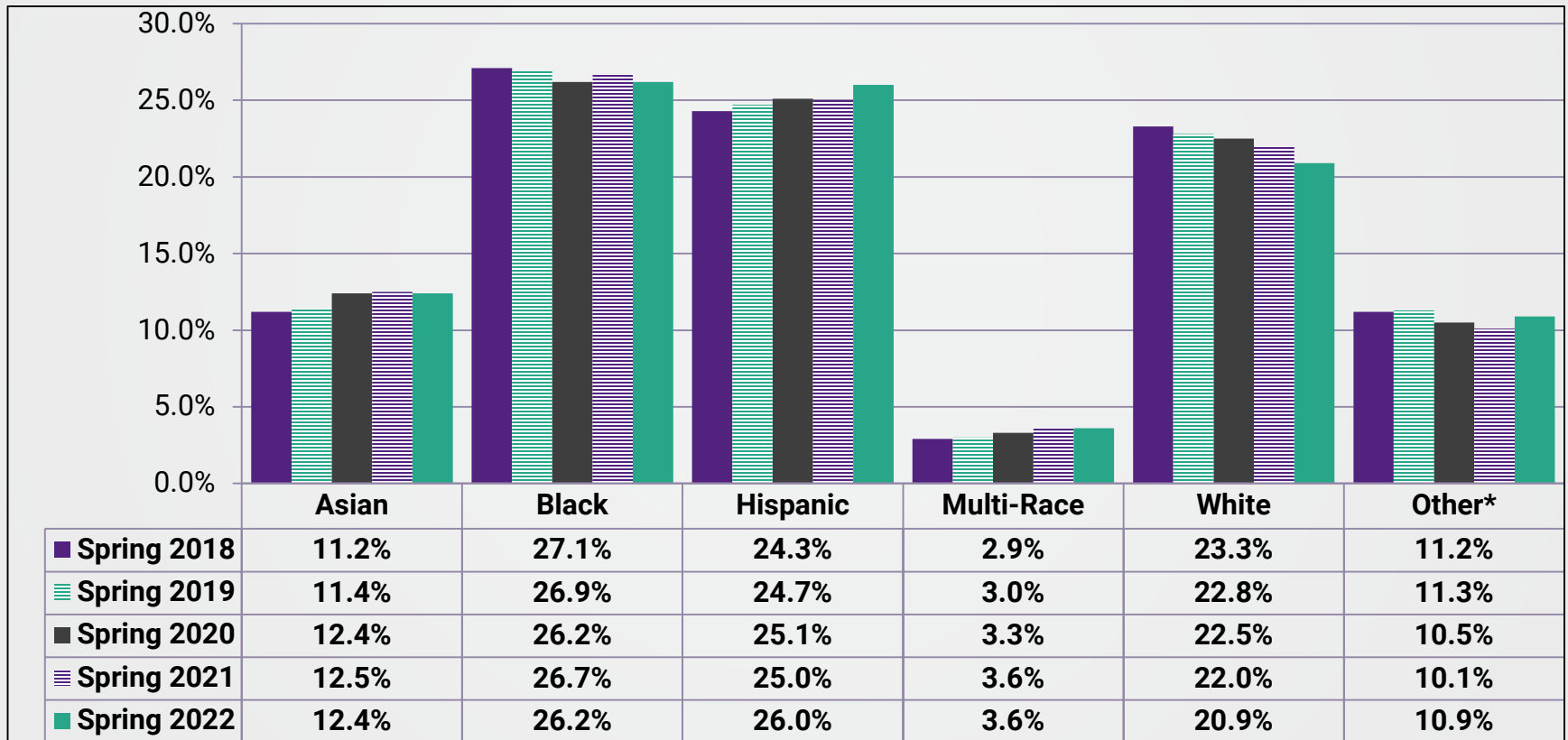


**Figure 4: Average Age of Montgomery College Students**  
The average age of students is gradually declining.



### Figure 5: Percentage of Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity – Spring 2018 to Spring 2022

Student representation by race/ethnicity, most notably, shows a declining percentage of white and an increasing percentage of Hispanic students.



\* Includes Native American, foreign, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Unknown

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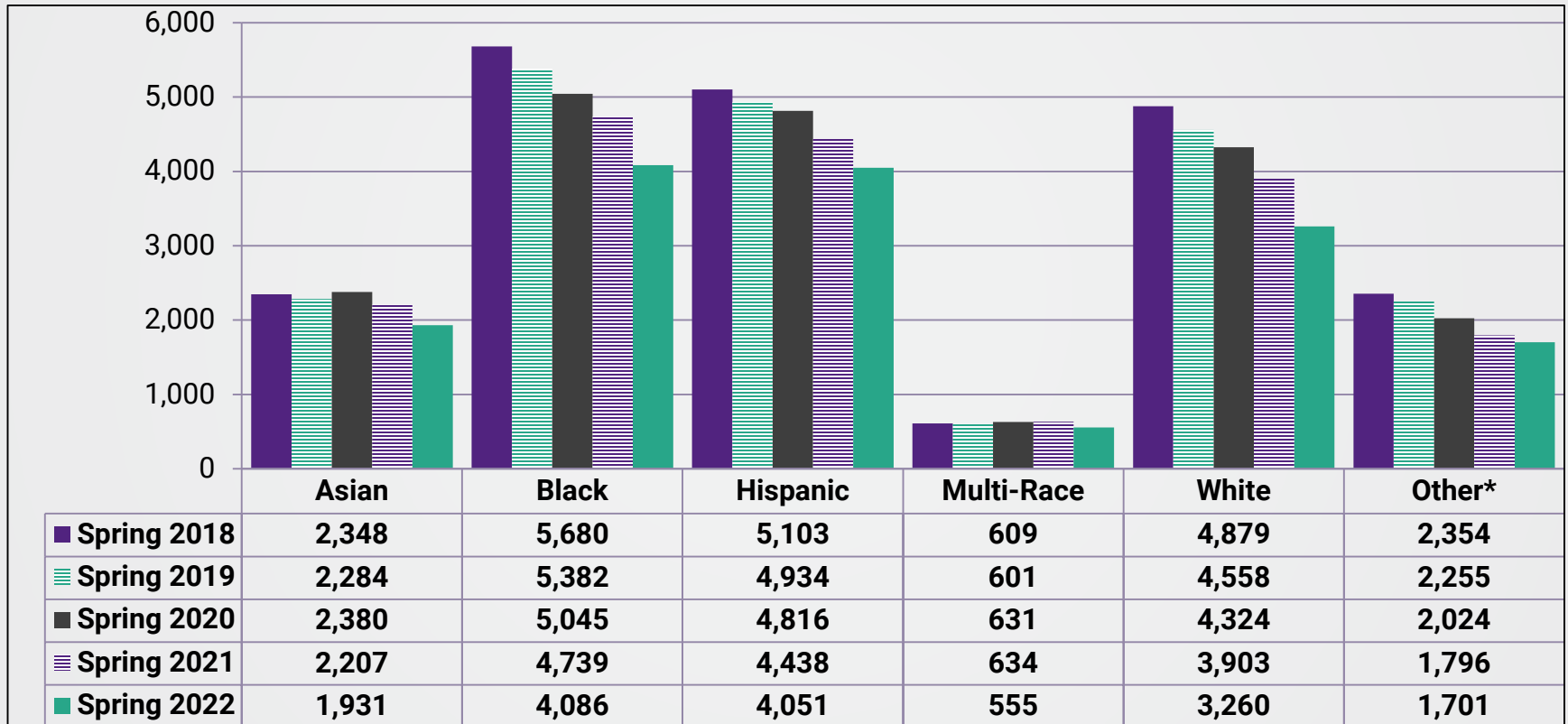
### A Deeper Look Into Spring Semester Student Enrollment Demographics

- **Figure 6** reveals successive contractions in student enrollment across race/ethnicity, particularly among white, black and Hispanic students, each with loss of more than 1,000 students.
- **Figure 7** shows the actual enrollment change in each subsequent spring semester. For example, there were 321 fewer white students in spring 2019 than in spring 2018, and 234 fewer white students enrolled in spring 2020 than in spring 2019, etc. With the exception of Asian students, the enrollment declines, in general, are progressively larger in subsequent spring semesters across race/ethnicity. The decrease in the number of black, Hispanic, and white students in spring 2022 is double the decline experienced in spring 2019. For Asian student, the decline more than quadrupled.
- **Figure 8** shows the percentage of declines for each subsequent spring semester by race/ethnicity, with single digit declines through spring 2021. In spring 2022 the decline in enrollment compared to spring 2021 dipped into double digits for three of the four largest race/ethnic groups, with the largest decline in white students (-16.5%).
- **Figure 9:** In spring 2022, Montgomery College enrolled 5,389 fewer students than the enrollment in spring 2018. The largest decline in enrollment in this five-year span was among white (-1,619), black (-1,594), and Hispanic (-1,052) students, respectively.
- **Figure 10:** Of the 5,389 student decline over five years, the four largest contractions in enrollment were in black females (-903) white males (-838), white females (-805), and black males (-728).
- **Figure 11** shows enrollment figures in three age groups: 19 and under, 20-24, and 25 and older. Note the general decline in enrollment across age groups and corresponding percentage decline for each subsequent spring semester.
- **Figure 12** reveals the hardest hit area of student enrollment is in students who are 25 years of age and older – 35.3% fewer students in this age groups are enrolled in spring 2022 than they were in spring 2018. A 26.4% decline is noted for students between the ages of 20 and 24.



### Figure 6: Number of students by Race/Ethnicity – Spring 2018 to Spring 2022

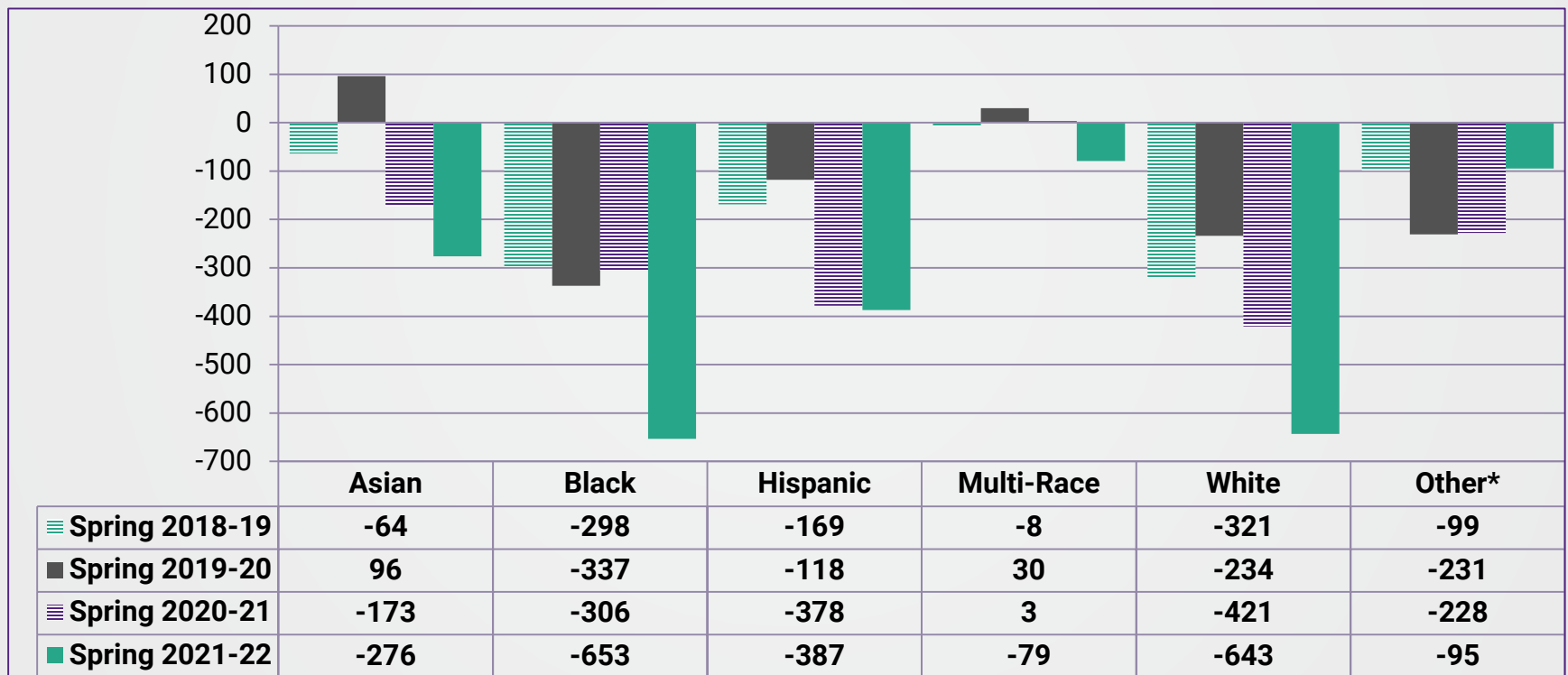
In each subsequent year in this five year trend, there were substantial and unwavering enrollment contractions in black, Hispanic, and white students.



\* Includes Native American, foreign, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Unknown

## Figure 7: Student Enrollment Changes by Race/Ethnicity Compares to the Previous Spring Semester

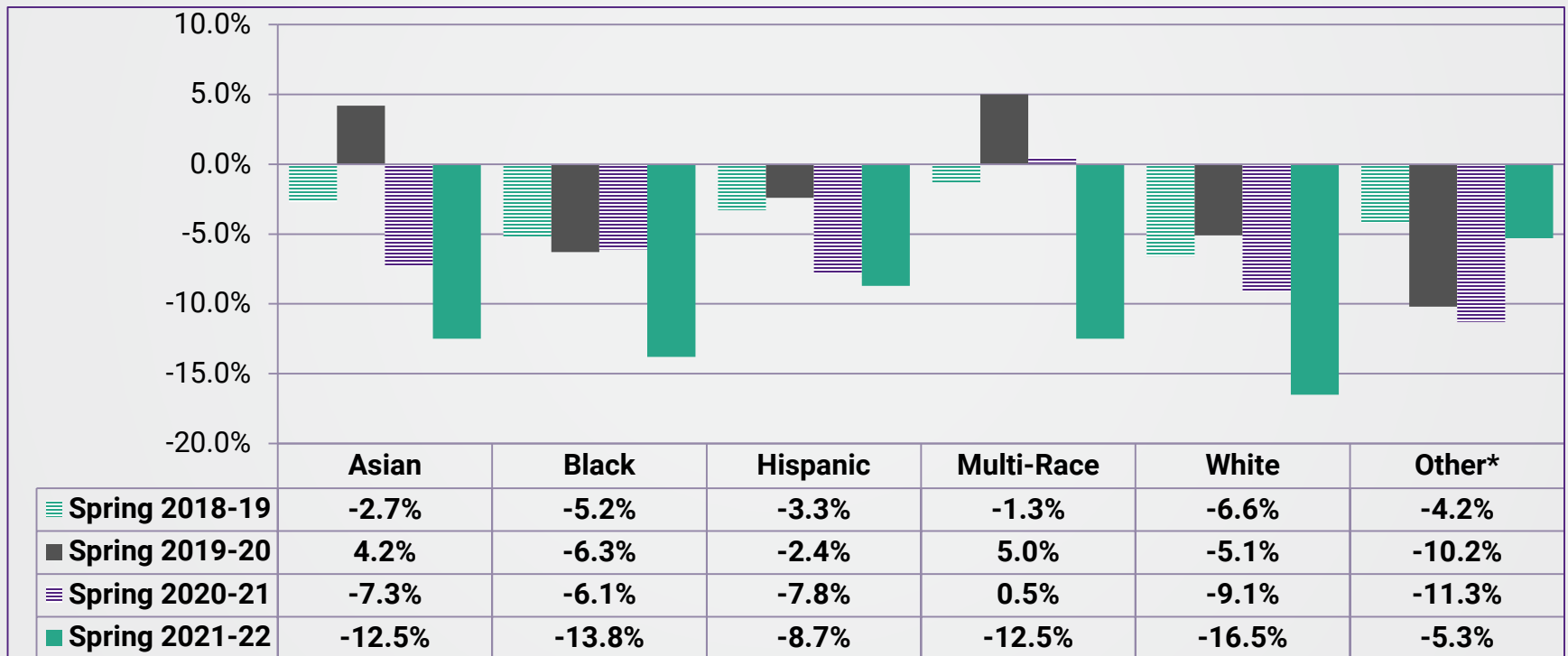
The largest decline in student enrollment was in the number of black and white students. The decline in black students more than doubled between spring 2021 and spring 2022.



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## Figure 8: Student Enrollment Changes by Race/Ethnicity Compared to the Previous Spring Semester in Percentages

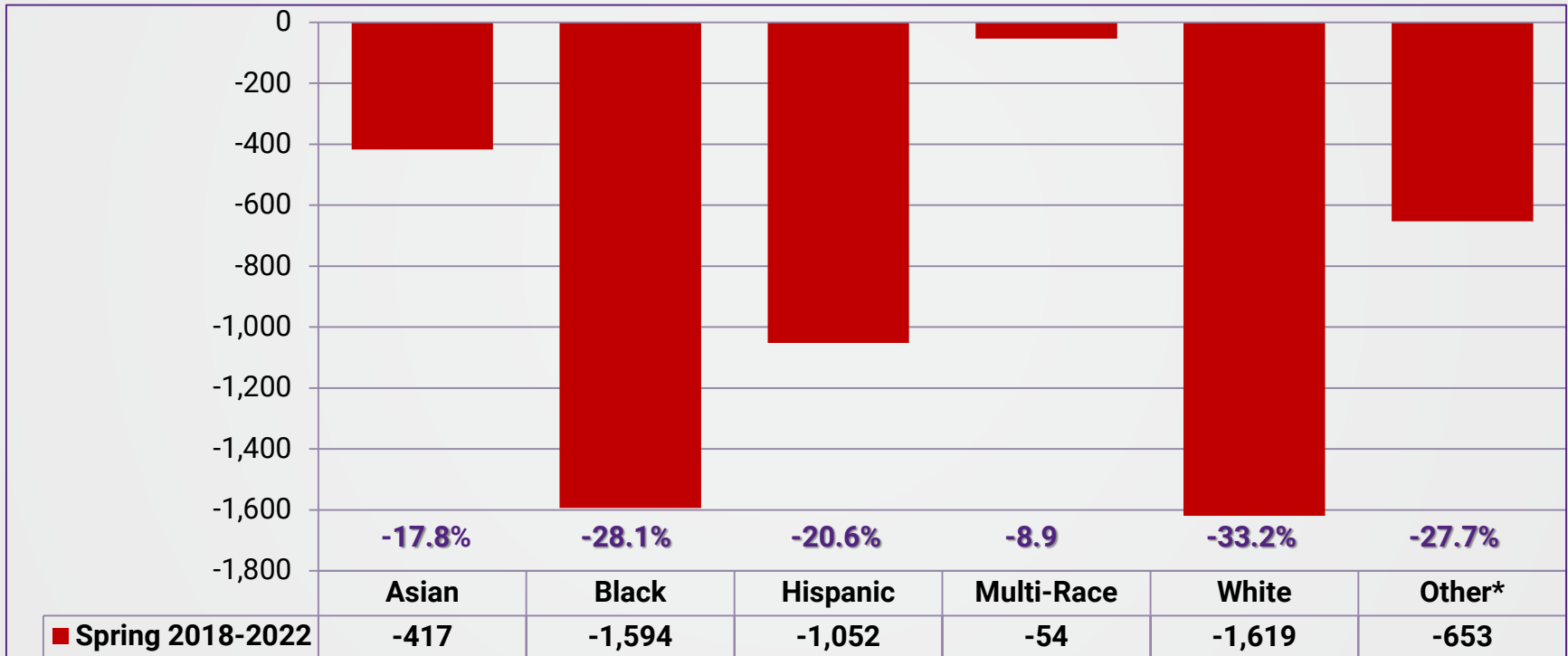
Compared to spring 2021, the decline in enrollment reached double-digits in spring 2022 for three of the four largest race/ethnic groups: Asian, black and white students, with the largest double-digit decline in white students.



\* Includes Native American, foreign, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Unknown

### Figure 9: Five-year Enrollment Contractions by Race – Spring 2018 to Spring 2022

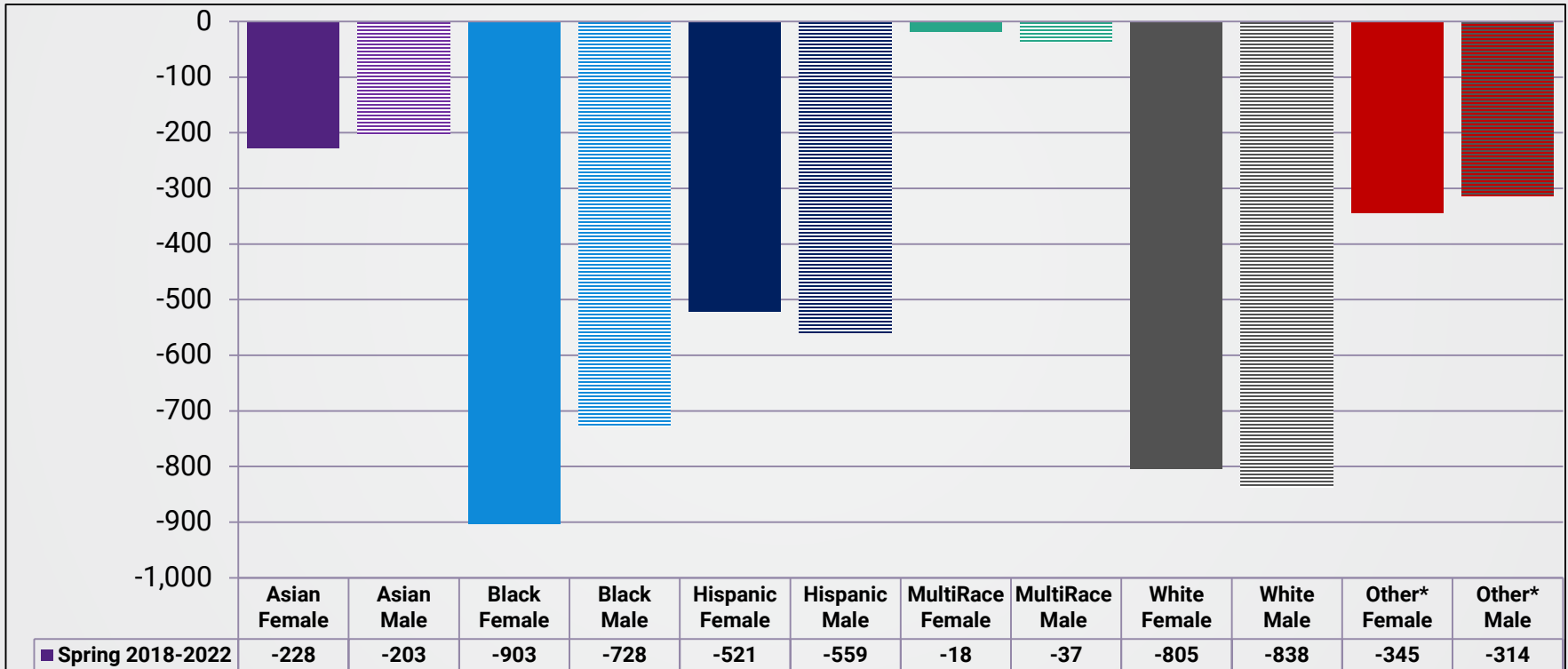
The College has 5,389 fewer students in spring 2022, than it had in spring 2018. There are 33.2 percent fewer white students and 28.1 percent fewer black students in spring 2022 than there were in spring 2018.



\* Includes Native American, foreign, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Unknown

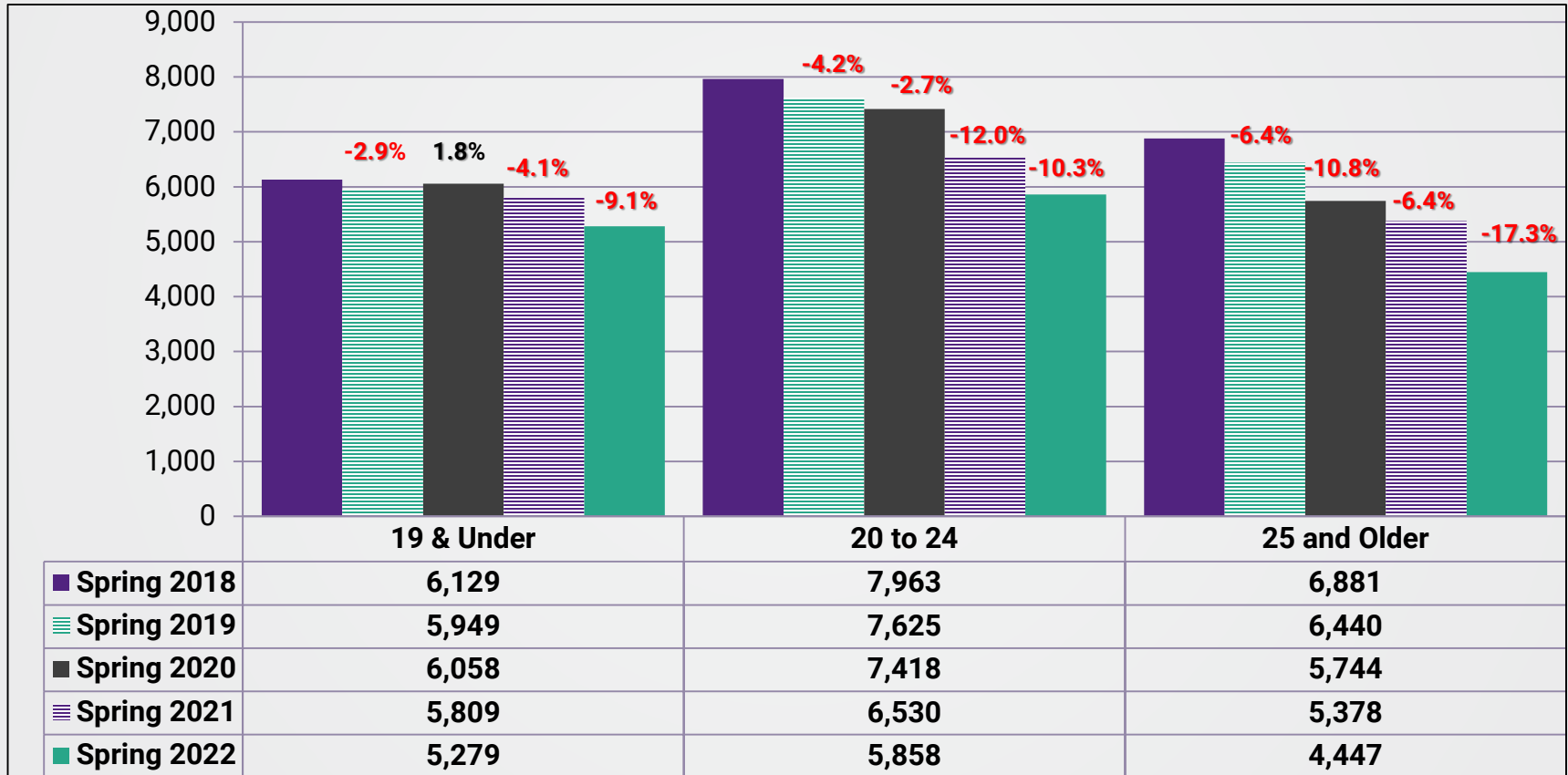
## Figure 10: Five-year Enrollment Contractions by Gender within Race/Ethnicity – Spring 2018 to Spring 2022

The single largest enrollment decline between spring 2018 and spring 2022 was in black female students.



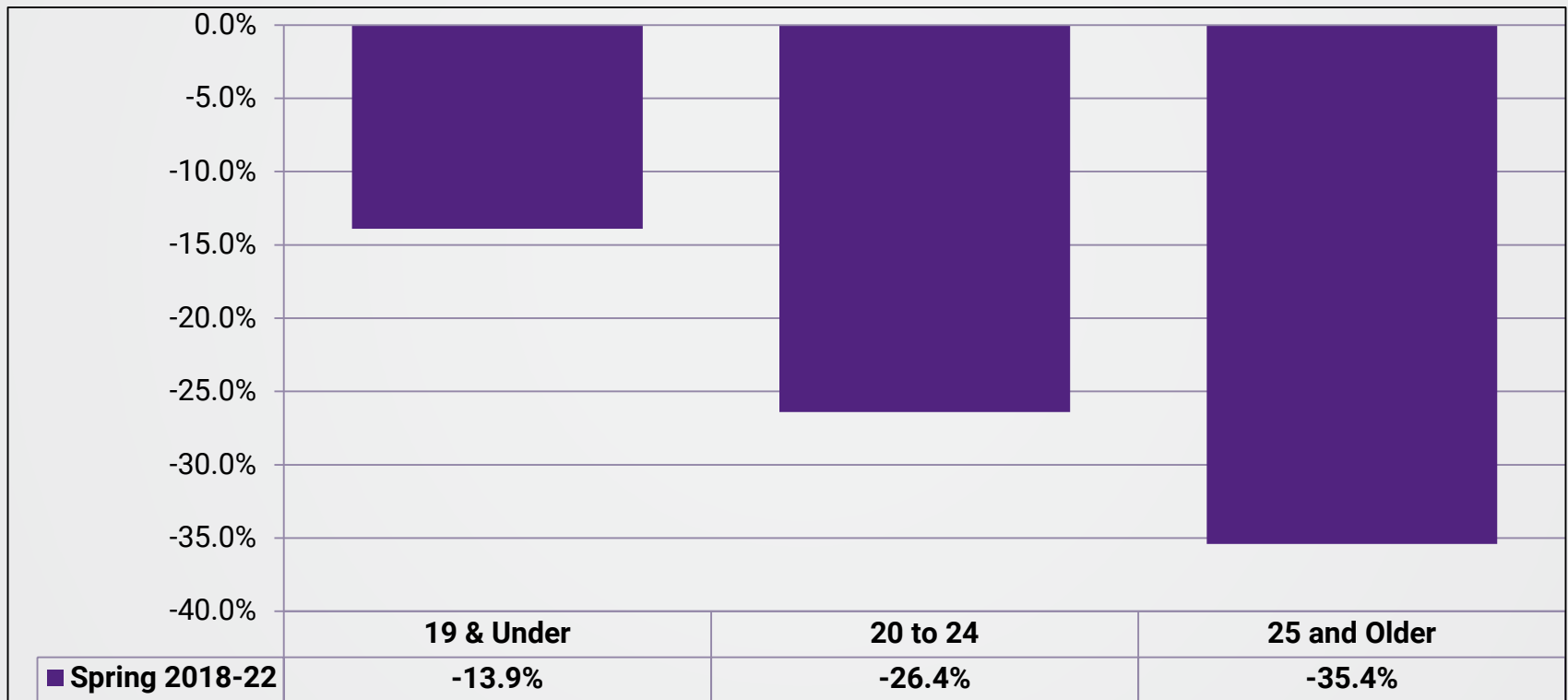
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**Figure 11: Number of students within specific age groups– Spring 2018 to Spring 2022**  
Student enrollment is declining in each age group, but most notably in the 25 and older age category.



**Figure 12: Number of Students Within Specific Age Groups– Spring 2018 to Spring 2022**

Over a five year period, the most substantial decline in enrollment is in students who are 25 years of age and older, followed by students in the 20-24 age group.



## Spring 2018 – Spring 2022 Enrollment Closing Thoughts

- Student enrollment at community colleges nationwide took a major hit in fall 2020 due to the COVID pandemic – and enrollment at Montgomery College continues to be impacted by that event. Much of the enrollment loss resides outside the College’s control. One factor to be considered is the labor market. There are shortages in employees in various sectors and salaries are moving well above the minimum wage. Consequently, it is feasible to suggest that many students have moved into the job market and have become gainfully employed – thereby putting higher education on the back burner, at least for now.
- A decrease in student enrollment over five years of more than 25 percent should be alarming – and the decline in enrollment also has financial implications for the College. Enrollment has taken a hit across gender and race/ethnicity – not as much in Asian students, but most definitely in white, black, and Hispanic students – and a substantial loss in adult students must be noted.
- The University of Maryland changed its admissions standards, whereby ACT and SAT scores are currently optional through the fall 2023 application cycle. That is to say, that the change in standards for admission opened the door for students who might not have qualified for admission to many of the UMD schools in the past, which further erodes the draw rates of potential students in MC’s service area. Also, the uncertainty of COVID and its impact cannot be understated.
- While these dynamics are at play (e.g., COVID, the labor market, etc.), the College’s enrollment management efforts should take center stage – to at least stabilize enrollment from further contractions. Those efforts might include greater attention to retention, expanding messaging to adult student populations, and increased flexibility in teaching structure (e.g., teaching modality, length-of-terms), which might have a positive impact on future enrollment. Finally, there might need to be a broad conversation with current and prospective students about the changing academic needs and interests of students, the changing dynamics or landscape of higher education, micro-credentialing, and the benefits of higher education experiences and degree attainment.