

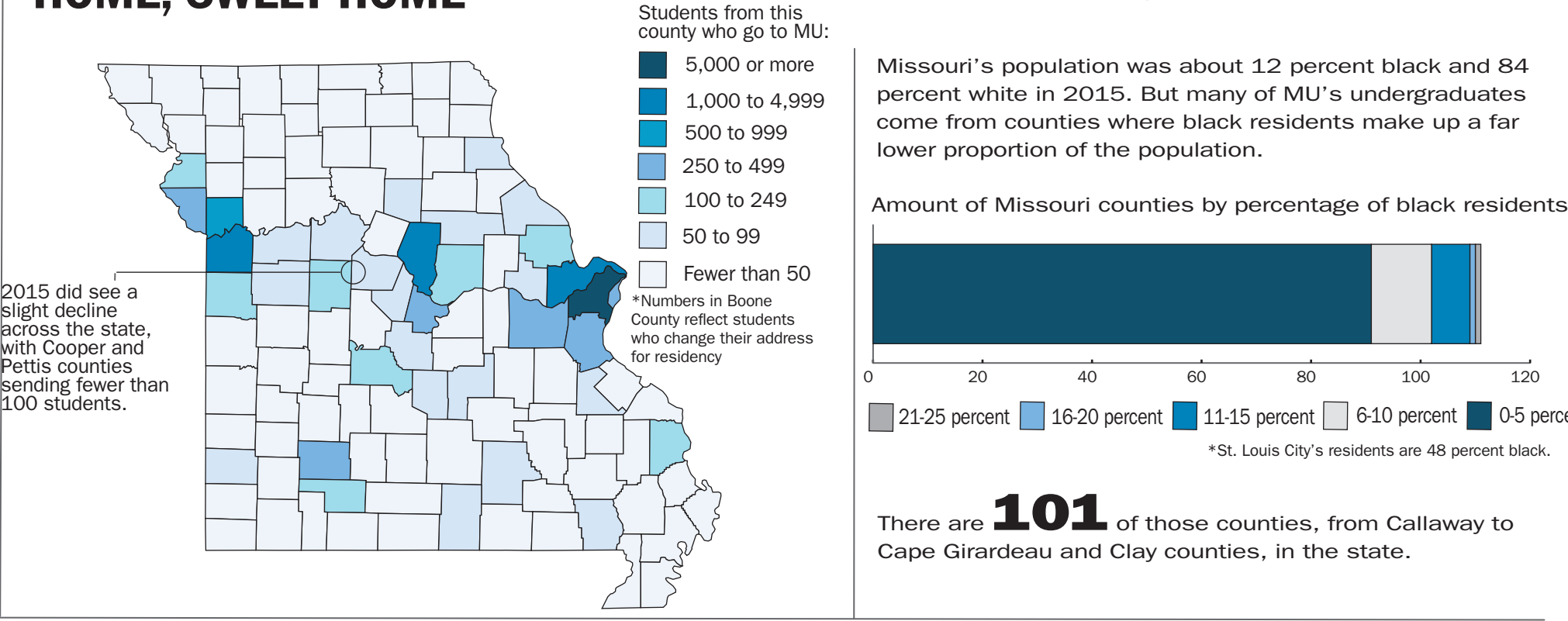
Mapping MU's students

The state’s flagship university experienced a 20 percent enrollment decline between fall 2015 and fall 2016. Reasons include the fall 2015 protests, fewer high school graduates in Missouri, and greater competition from other universities, MU says. But the decline has shone a spotlight on demographic divides on campus – while taxpayers across the state help fund MU, most of the Missouri residents who attend the university are white and from urban areas.

Ruth Serven

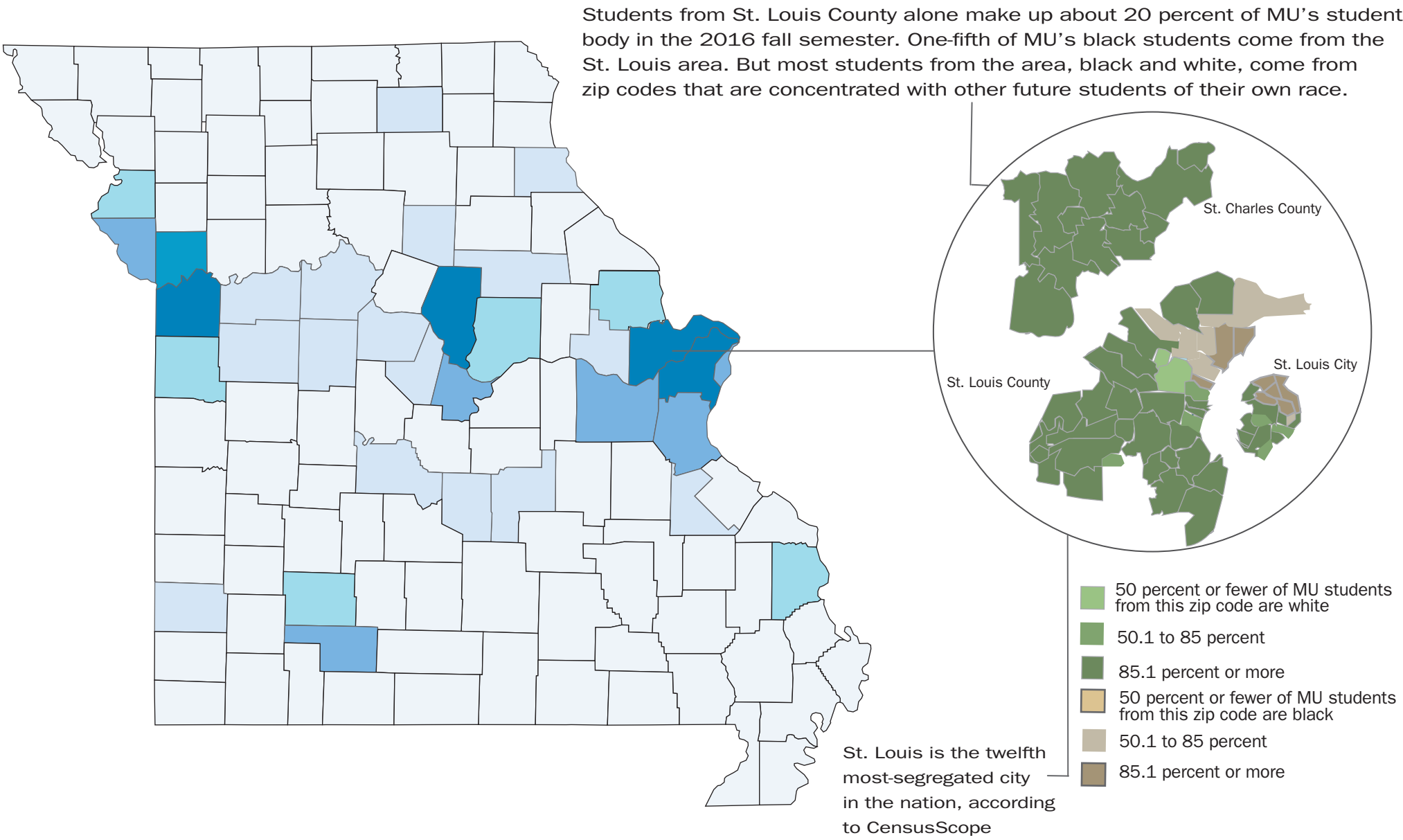
HOME, SWEET HOME

Missouri students accounted for two-thirds of MU's undergraduates in 2015



A STEEP DECLINE

In the 2016 school year, undergraduate enrollment shrank by over 2,000 students – roughly 10 percent across the state. Freshmen enrollment shrank by even more, by about 20 percent.



AN URBAN-RURAL DIVIDE

Roughly one-fifth of MU’s student body comes from the St. Louis metropolitan area; nearly half of undergraduate students come from urban counties.

COUNTY	ST LOUIS	ST CHARLES	BOONE	JACKSON	CLAY	PLATTE	COLE	JEFFERSON	GREENE	ST LOUIS CITY
2014	5,379	1,885	1,874	1,626	659	470	454	425	403	356
2015	5,264	1,882	1,857	1,585	656	453	431	438	391	333
2016	4,863	1,772	1,748	1,507	628	412	394	451	341	274