

# Climate Migration

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While human migration has yet to become the subject of extensive research within the climate change research community, there is a considerable body of scholarship on the migration responses of people to various environmental, social, political and economic conditions. There is historical evidence to suggest a link between climate and human migration, but this relationship is closely interwoven with other societal processes. Migration should not be considered as a simple or automatic response to a singular risk, climate-related or otherwise. Many factors combine to influence human spatial behaviour, and migration sensitivities and options vary greatly among regions and social groups.

*R. McLEMAN AND B. SMIT (2006) "Migration as an Adaptation to Climate Change" Climatic Change 76: 31–53, page 32*

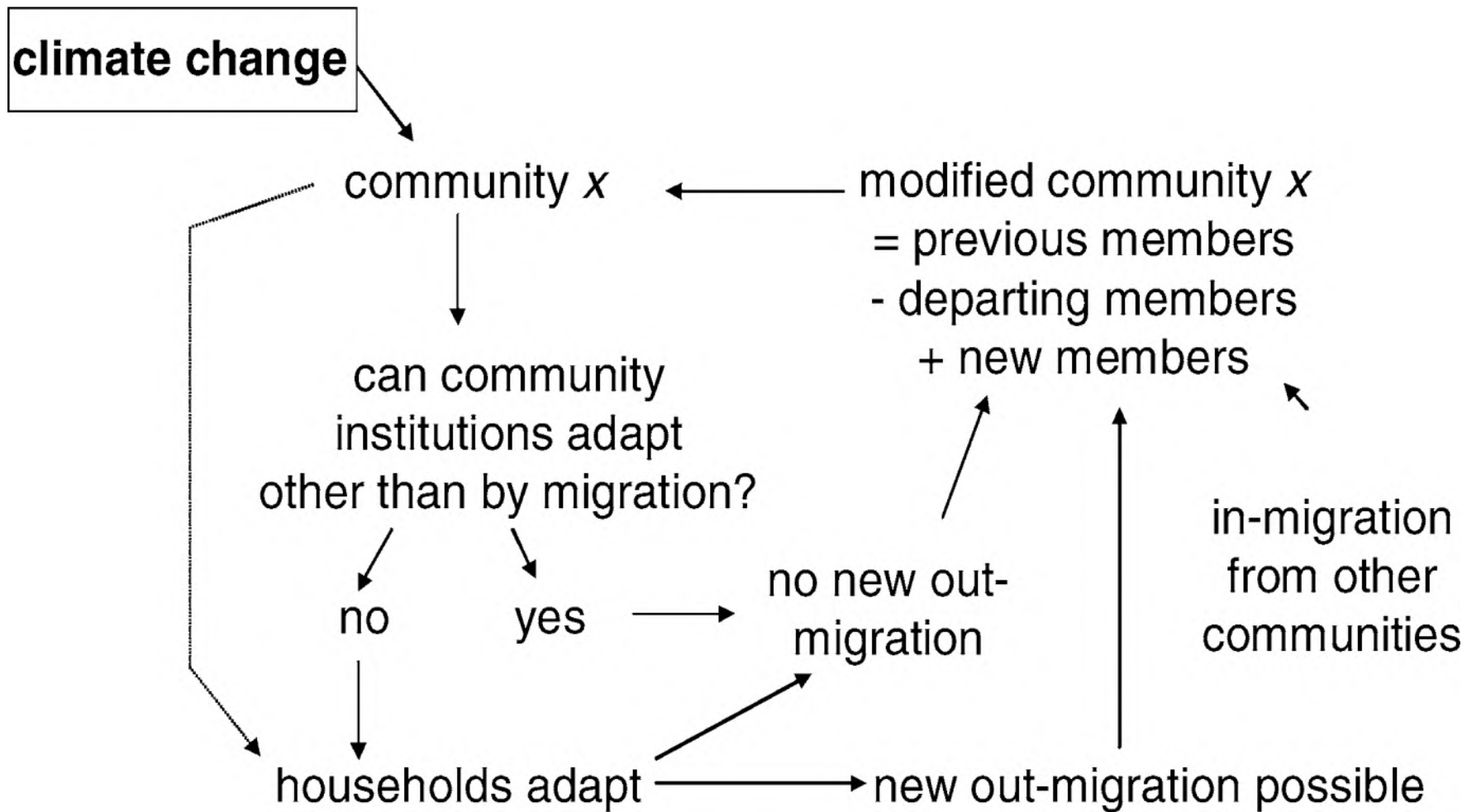
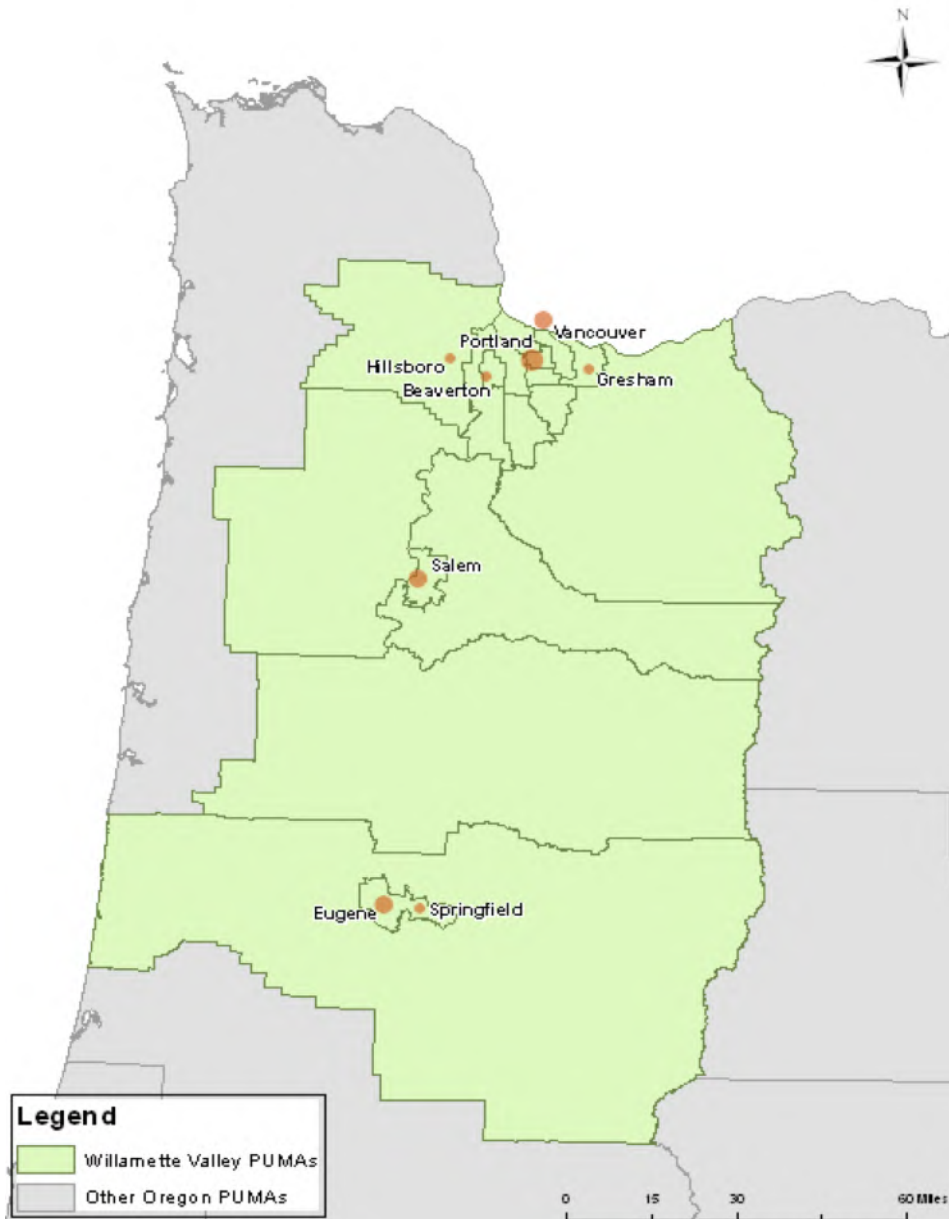


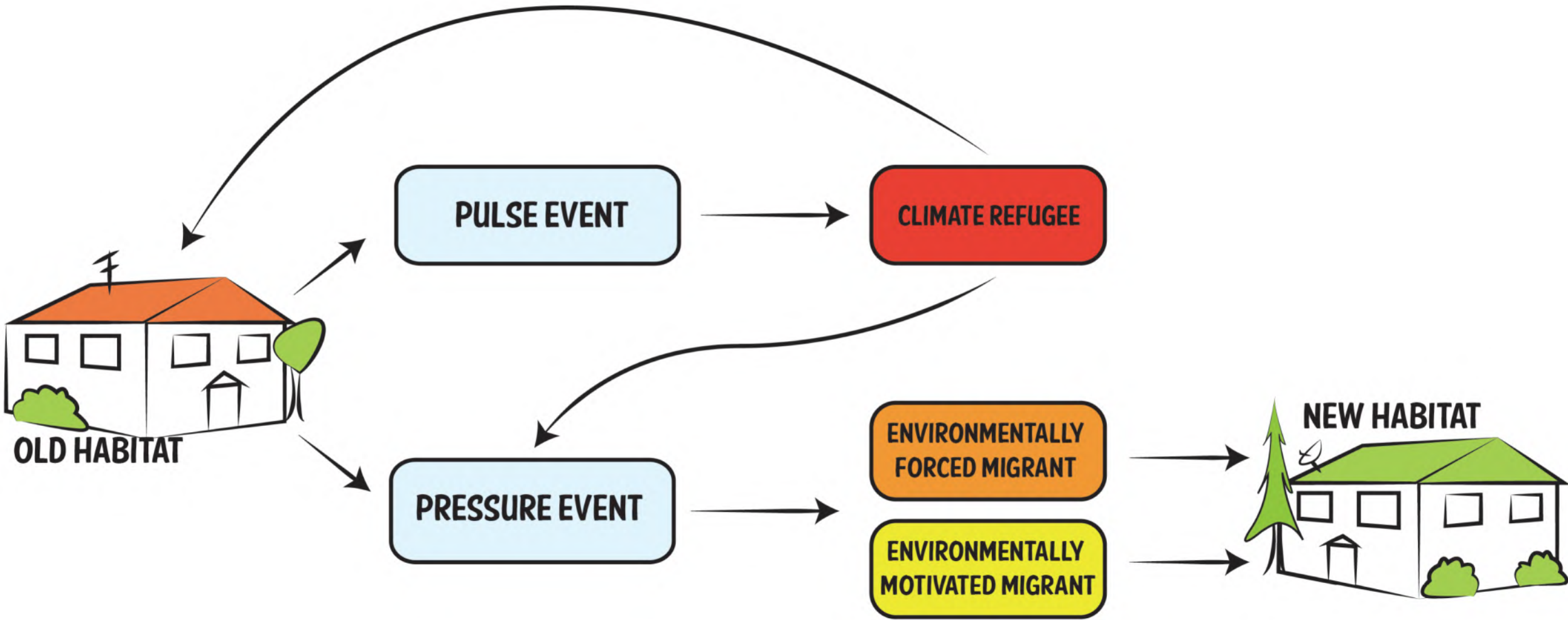
Figure 1. Model of migration in response to climate change.



**Challenge 1:** What is the current thinking about climate refugees, about climate refugees in the western US, and how they might affect population change in the Willamette Valley?

**Challenge 2:** What are the core principles for planning in the Willamette Valley based on broadly held community values, history, and the ecology of the place?

**Challenge 3:** How might unanticipated growth be accommodated in a manner that enhances livability, sense of place, and ecological sustainability and integrity? Under what, if any, circumstances could unanticipated growth be an important positive force for livability and furthering sustainability in the Valley?



*ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRANTS AND THE FUTURE OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY A Preliminary Exploration  
USP 594 Project, Portland State University, 2011*

# Key Findings....

- Climate migration is not well studied.
- More attention needs to be paid to modeling migration, and in particular, climate induced migration, to Oregon.
- New strategies for coordination among Valley jurisdictions need to be developed in order to accommodate growth while preserving the Valley's best assets.
- Additional measures need to be taken to protect key natural resources and to ensure that infrastructure can accommodate new population growth.
- We've been down this road before.

## 6 “Myths” about Climate Migration

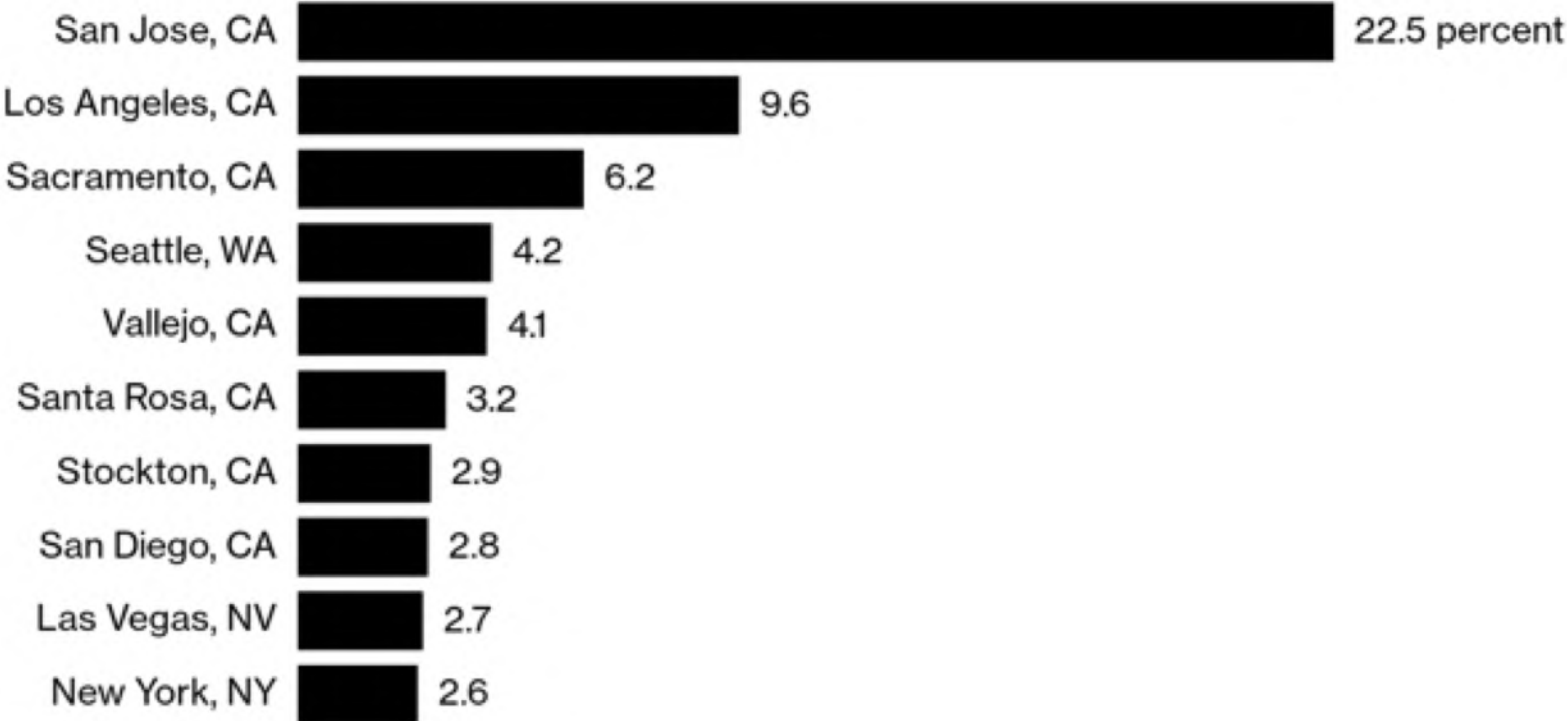
- Climate change is not the only thing “causing” migration, and in fact it might not be causing it significantly at all.
- The term “migration” itself is simply too general and broad to be useful. Better to speak of “mobility” and avoid the use of “migration”.
- Climate change will likely change the context for current mobilities, and needs to be understood in the entire range of reasons for moving.
- Climate mobility is not a linear phenomenon, and needs to be understood in the context of its true complexity.
- Affected populations need to be involved in any climate mobility research in order to capture its true complexity and interconnectedness.
- Research into climate mobility needs to shift part of its focus from sending to receiving areas. Border policies tend to focus attention solely on security concerns, often rooted in fear of the “other”.

*Nature Climate Change | VOL 9 | December 2019 | 898–903 |  
[www.nature.com/natureclimatechange](http://www.nature.com/natureclimatechange)*

# Where San Franciscans Want to Go

Bay Area renters are mostly looking to move within the state

■ share of outbound searches



city

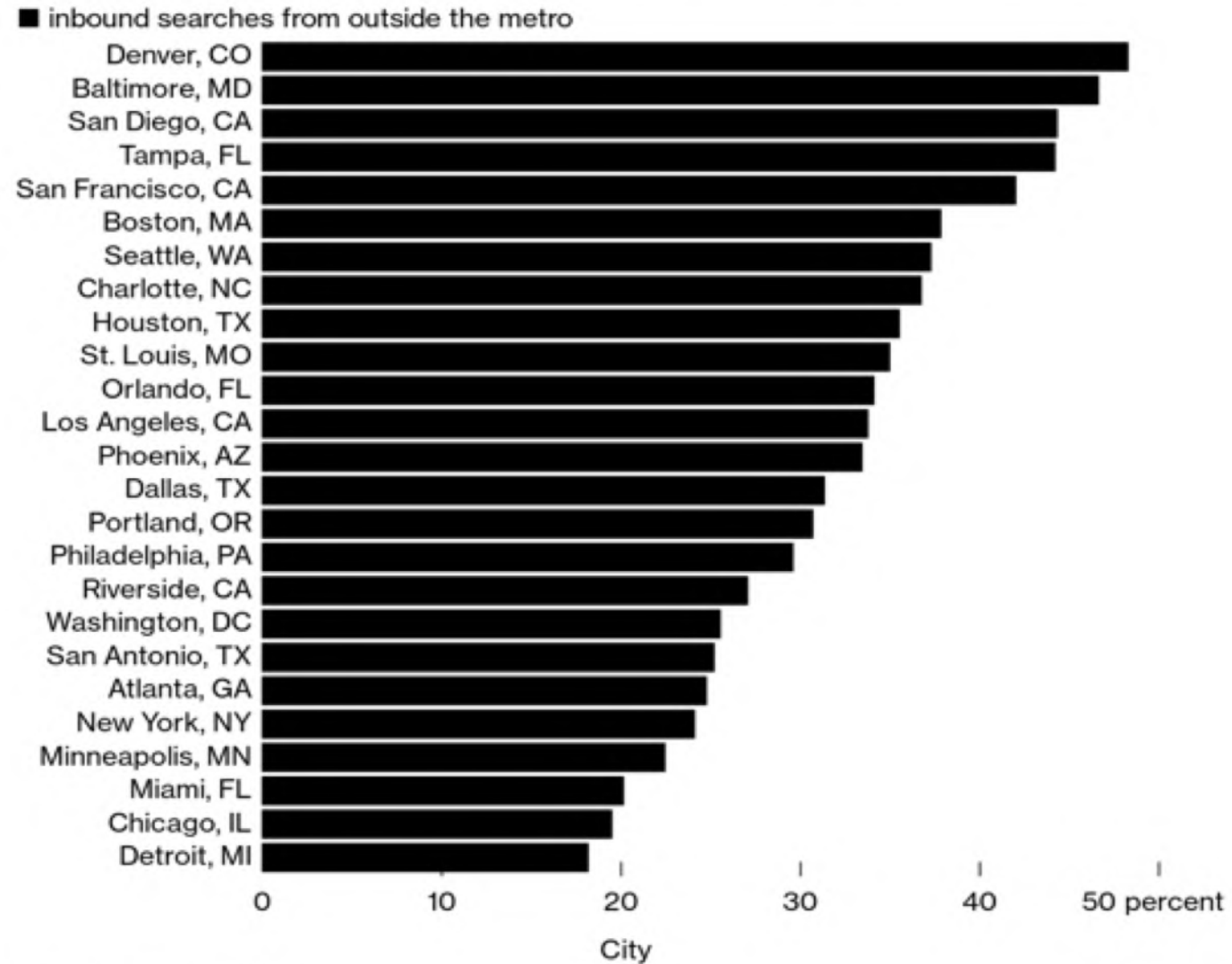
Source: ApartmentList  
This list represents the top 10 outbound searches

**Bloomberg**



## Where People Want to Go

Of the 25 largest cities, Denver is the most popular search from another metro

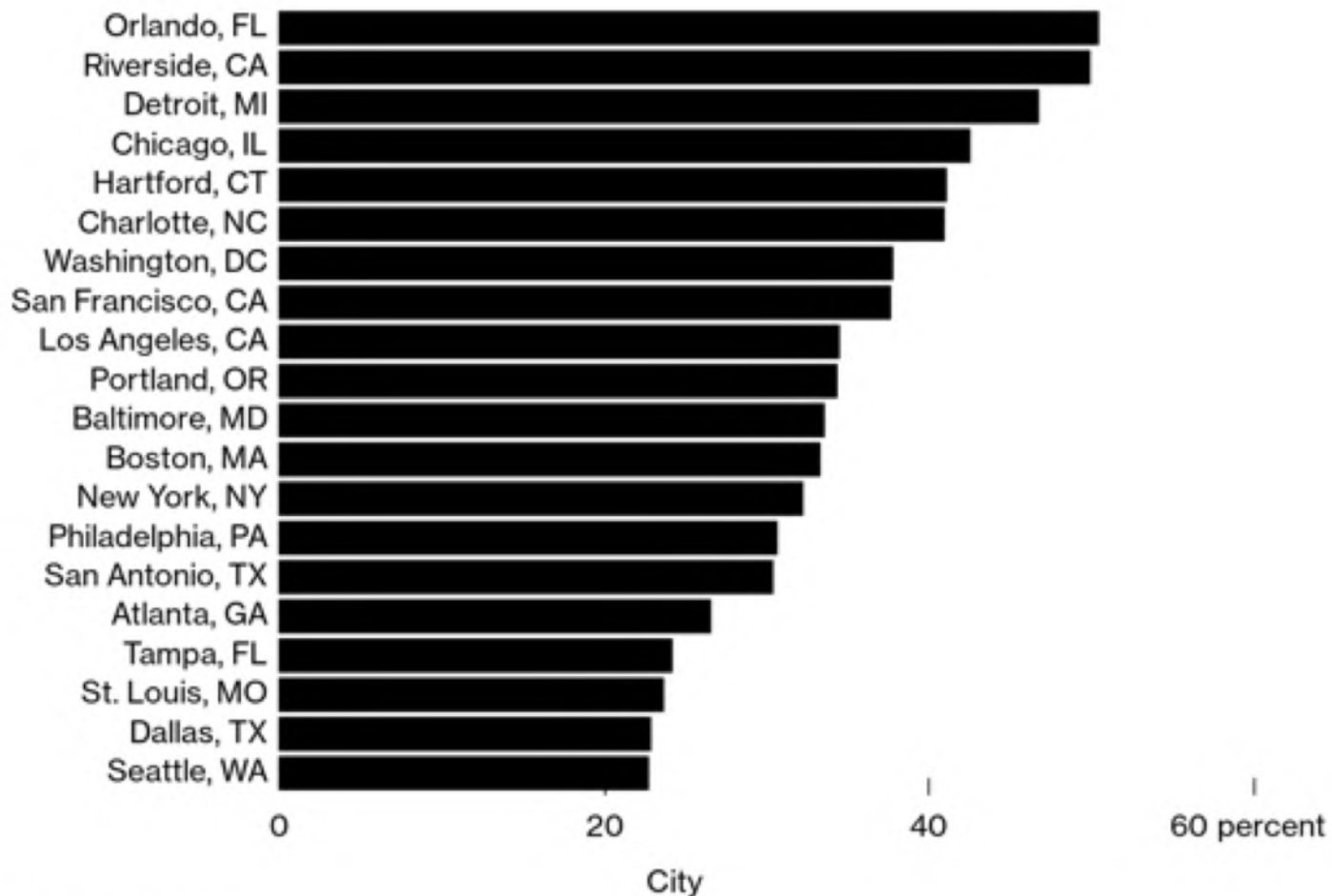


Source: ApartmentList

**Bloomberg**

## Where People Want To Leave

Of the 25 largest cities, Orlando and Riverside top the list of places to move away from



Source: ApartmentList

This list represents the top 20 cities among the 25 largest cities that have outbound searches outside of the metro

**Bloomberg**

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