Domestic Migration: Trends and Patterns for New York State
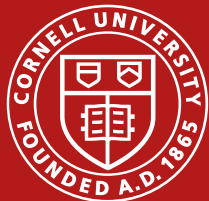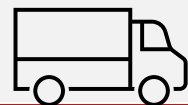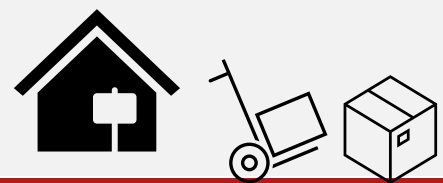
Leslie Reynolds

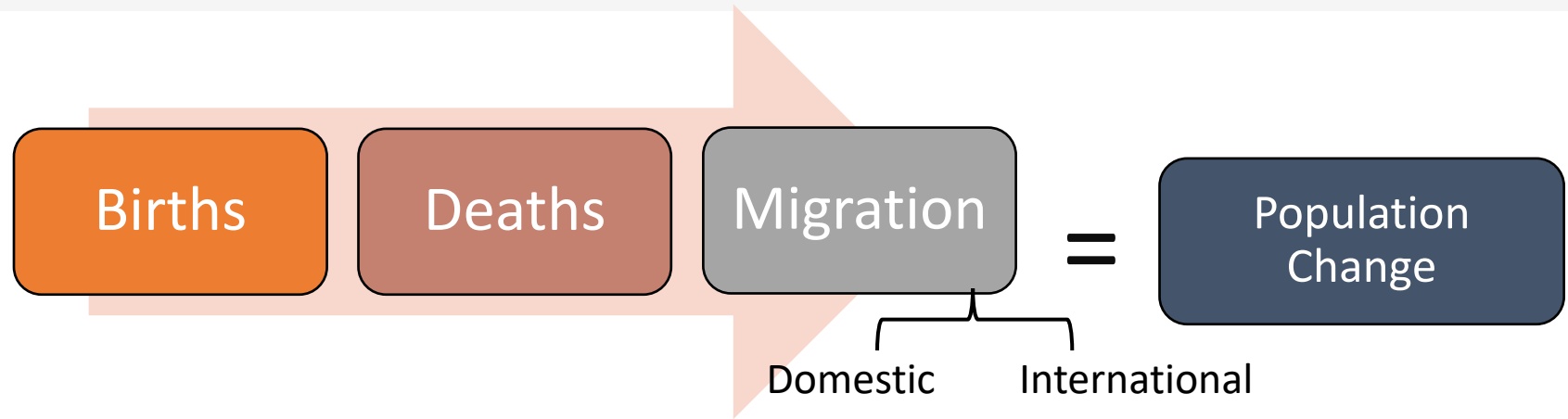Research Support Specialist

Cornell Program on Applied Demographics (PAD)

Cornell Brooks Public Policy

Why Study Domestic Migration?

Births | Deaths | Migration = Population Change

Domestic | International

- Movement between locations in the U.S. (excluding Puerto Rico)
  - Can be within or between geographies (place, county, state etc.)

- Most counties in New York State experiencing more deaths than births (especially in the past few years)

- Aging population + declining fertility:
  - migration can tip the scales toward growth, or create/worsen decline

Why Study Domestic Migration? (cont.)

- Domestic migration generally of higher magnitude than international

- Population losses in New York State and NYC have drawn concern in the past few years
  - Observed losses are due to domestic migration rather than international

- New York State experienced negative net migration, despite recent influx of international migrants
  - Difficult to capture with current data
  - Will be focusing on international migration in future reports

NYS Population Losses Draw Public Attention

BLOG
NY's population loss slowed a bit in '23, but loss still worst in U.S.

More than half a million people left New York in 2022. Here's where they resettled.

About 545,500 residents left New York last year, heading for Florida, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Few moved to states like Wyoming, Montana, Iowa and Mississippi.

Americans are Fleeing California and New York for These 10 Sun Belt Cities

LONG ISLAND
Thousands moving out of New York, Census figures show, possibly due to appeal of remote work

Housing Costs, Not Taxes, Drive Migration out of New York

On average, savings from lower housing costs are 15 times greater than savings from taxes

Pandemic-driven population shift within NYS winds down — and flight to rest of US continues

Over 545,000 New Yorkers left the state in 2022 — headed for Florida, Texas and farther: census bureau

Leaving New York: These are the top destinations for people who move out

Our Work and Domestic Migration

- Utilize migration metrics for our projections
    - Domestic migration flows by single year of age
    - Migration turnover and efficiency
    - Net migration rates

- Annual Population Estimates Reports (Components of change)
    - Net migration (domestic and international) for counties and economic regions

- Our first TiDbit (Topics in Demography) brief of the year covered domestic migration, focusing on New York State
    - Where people are moving
    - Migration profiles of NYC and NYS over time

Data on Domestic Migration

- Census Population Estimates report net domestic and net international migration (moving in - moving out)
  - Can't know whether changes in net migration over time are due to more people moving in/less people moving out

- American Community Survey (ACS) data can be used for in and out-migration rates
  - ROYA: Residence one-year ago
  - Survey uncertainty

- Census also publishes state, county, and metro area migration flows (5-year ACS data)
  - Most recent is 2020 5-year

- Current Population Survey (CPS)
  - Reason for move, distance of move
  - Can be sample size issues even at state level

Measuring Domestic Migration

Migration Rates:

In-Migration

$$\frac{\# \text{ Moving in}}{\text{Population at Midpoint}} * 100$$

Out-Migration

$$\frac{\# \text{ Moving out}}{\text{Population at Midpoint}} * 100$$

Net-Migration

$$\frac{\text{Net [Moving in - Moving out]}}{\text{Population at Midpoint}} * 100$$

Measuring Domestic Migration (cont.)

Migration turnover:
$$\frac{\text{Gross [Moving in + Moving out]}}{\text{Population at Midpoint}} * 1{,}000$$

Migration efficiency:
$$\frac{\text{Net [Moving in-Moving out]}}{\text{Gross [Moving in + Moving out]}} * 1{,}000$$

(Turnover * Efficiency)/1,000 = Net Migration Rate

Why households in the U.S. move...

To another state?

New job or job transfer (33.5%)

Unspecified family reasons (11.7%)

Other reasons (7.1%)

For cheaper housing (6.2%)

Wanted new or better housing (6.0%)

To establish own household (4.5%)

Within the same state?

New or better housing (16.4%)

To establish own household (11.1%)

For cheaper housing (10.5%)

To own not rent (8.2%)

New Job or Job transfer (7.1%)

Unspecified family reasons (6.8%)

- Motivation for moving differs between move types

- Around one-third of movers between states move for their job

- Most common reason to move within a state Is for new/better housing (16.4%)
  - Only 7% of movers within state move for their job

Data: 2023 Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC)

Note: Analysis excludes people living in group quarters; due to CPS residence rules college students are counted at home.

Net Migration in New York State

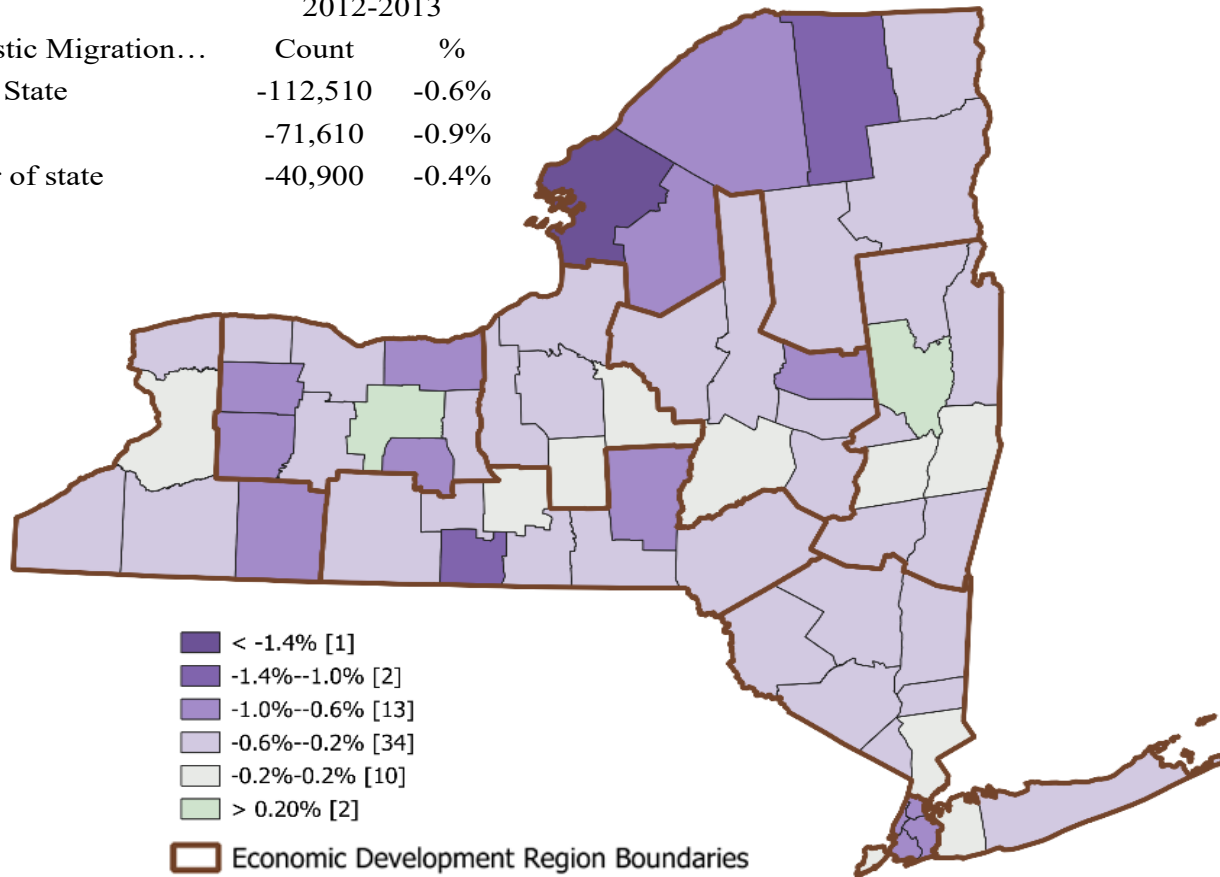Net Migration in New York State, 2010-2023*
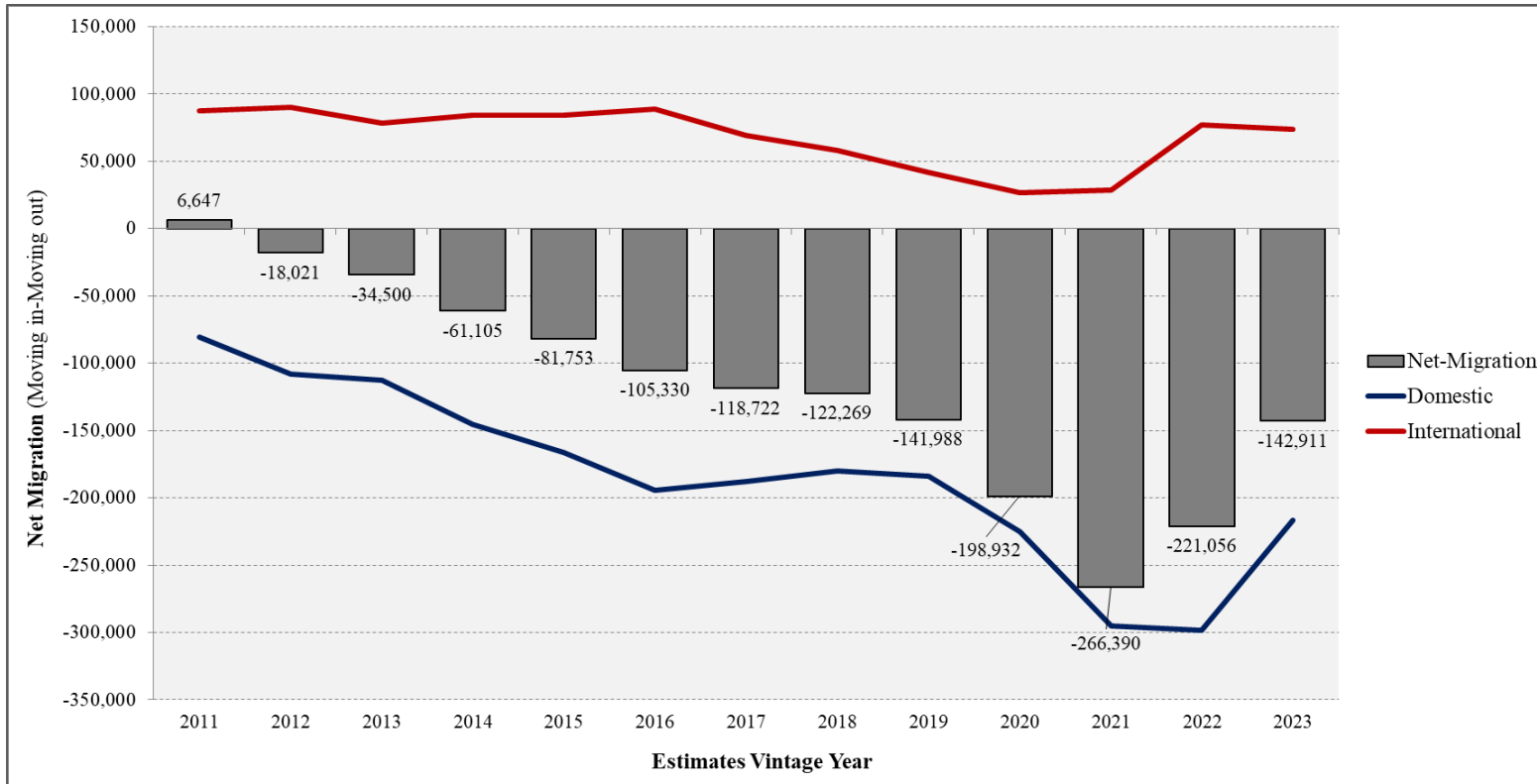
*Year represents the end of the estimate period (e.g. 2011 is the period of July 2010 to July 2011)

Data: Vintage 2020 and 2023 Annual Population Estimates

- More people leaving than entering since July 2011/2012 period

- In 2022 net international migration rebounded back to 2016 levels

- In the most recent year (2022-2023) net migration returned to pre-pandemic numbers
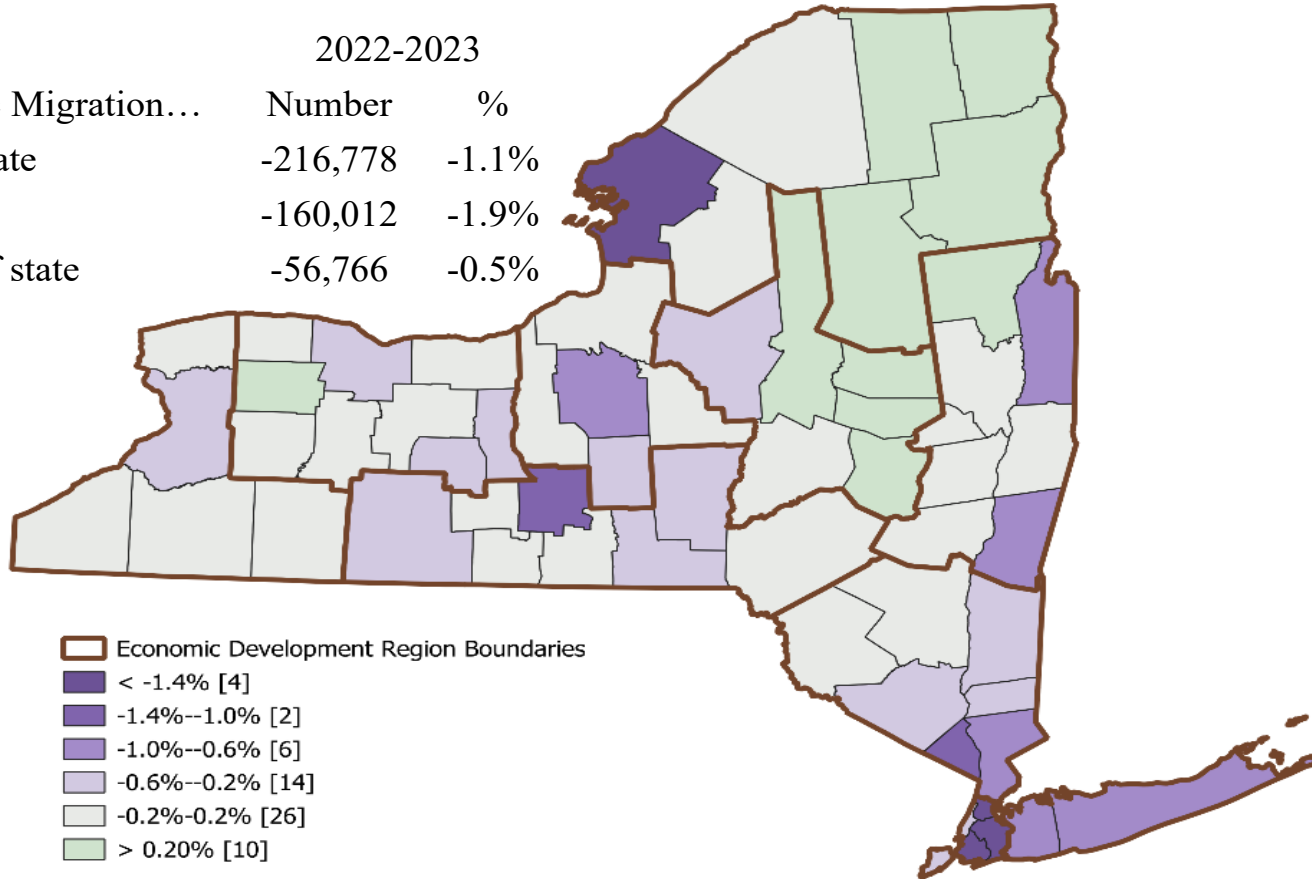
Net Domestic Migration Then: 2012-2013

	2012-2013	
Net Domestic Migration…	Count	%
New York State	-112,510	-0.6%
NYC	-71,610	-0.9%
Remainder of state	-40,900	-0.4%

Legend:
- < -1.4% [1]
- -1.4%--1.0% [2]
- -1.0%--0.6% [13]
- -0.6%--0.2% [34]
- -0.2%-0.2% [10]
- > 0.20% [2]
- ▭ Economic Development Region Boundaries

- Modest decline due to domestic migration overall
  - Slightly larger decline for NYC

- Only two counties gained more than 0.2% from domestic migration

- Only one county experienced losses over 1.4%

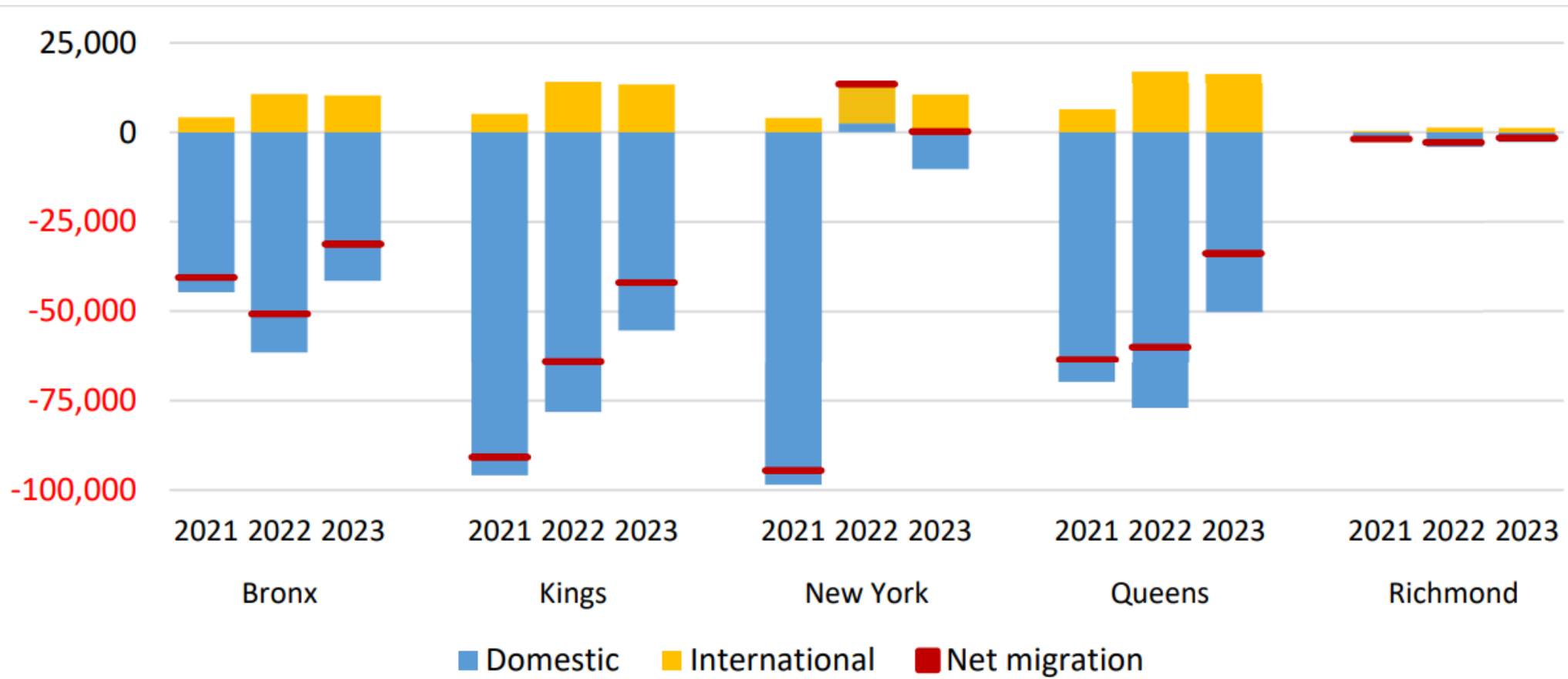Data: 2010-2020 Intercensal Estimates (Created by PAD)

A Decade Later (2022-2023)...

Net Domestic Migration...	2022-2023 Number	%
New York State	-216,778	-1.1%
NYC	-160,012	-1.9%
Remainder of state	-56,766	-0.5%

Economic Development Region Boundaries
- < -1.4% [4]
- -1.4%--1.0% [2]
- -1.0%--0.6% [6]
- -0.6%--0.2% [14]
- -0.2%-0.2% [26]
- > 0.20% [10]

Data: Vintage 2020 and 2023 Annual Population Estimates

- More counties gained population due to migration

- More counties with losses over 1.4%.
  - 3 of 4 were NYC boroughs

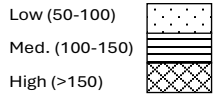- NYC drove the state's losses due to domestic migration

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Net Migration in New York City, 2021-2023

Components of Net Migration

Migration Turnover (per 1,000)

Low (50-100)
Med. (100-150)
High (>150)

Migration Efficiency (per 1,000)

| Very Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Very Positive
(< -120)	(-120 to -40)	(-40 to 40)	(40 to 120)	(> 120)
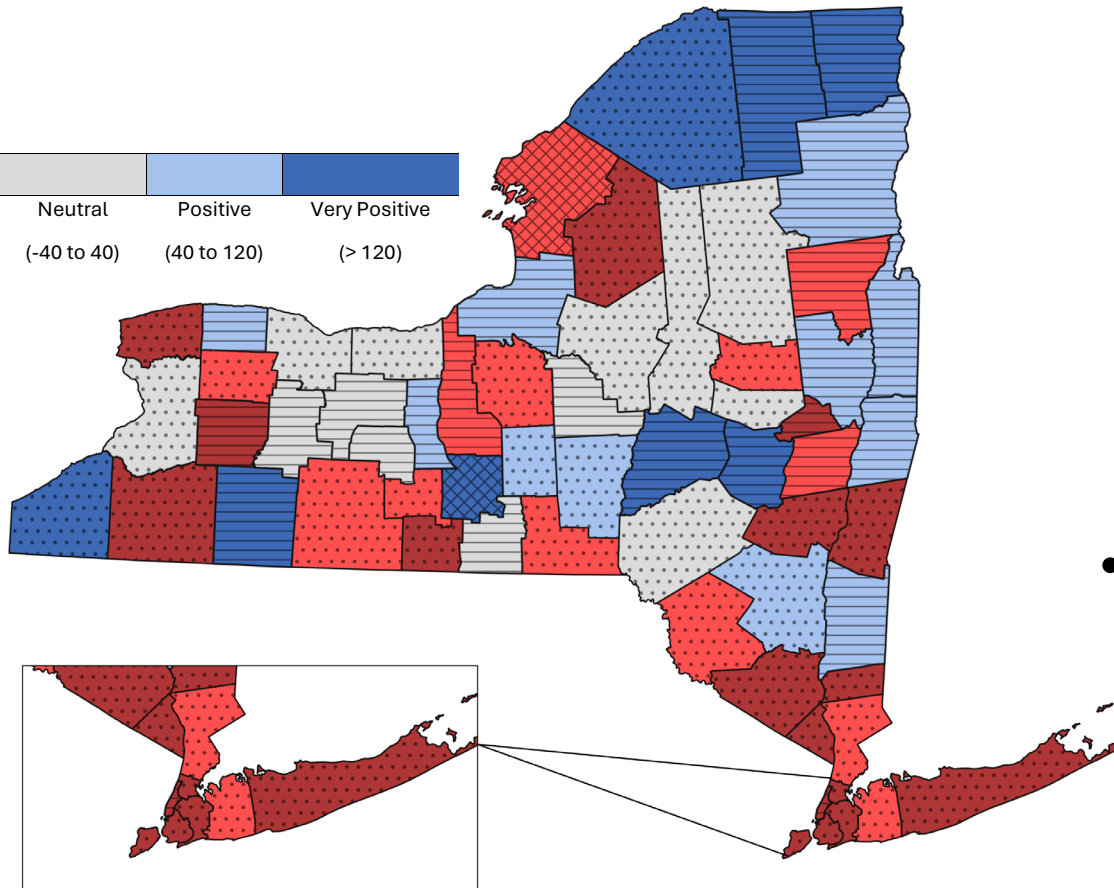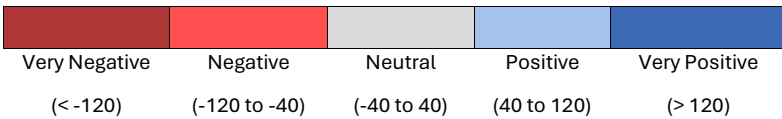
- 9 of 11 "Downstate" counties experienced concentrated negative losses
  - Low turnover relative to population (exception of Manhattan, with medium turnover)

- Only two counties with high turnover: Tompkins and Jefferson

2019 5-year ACS County-to-county flows
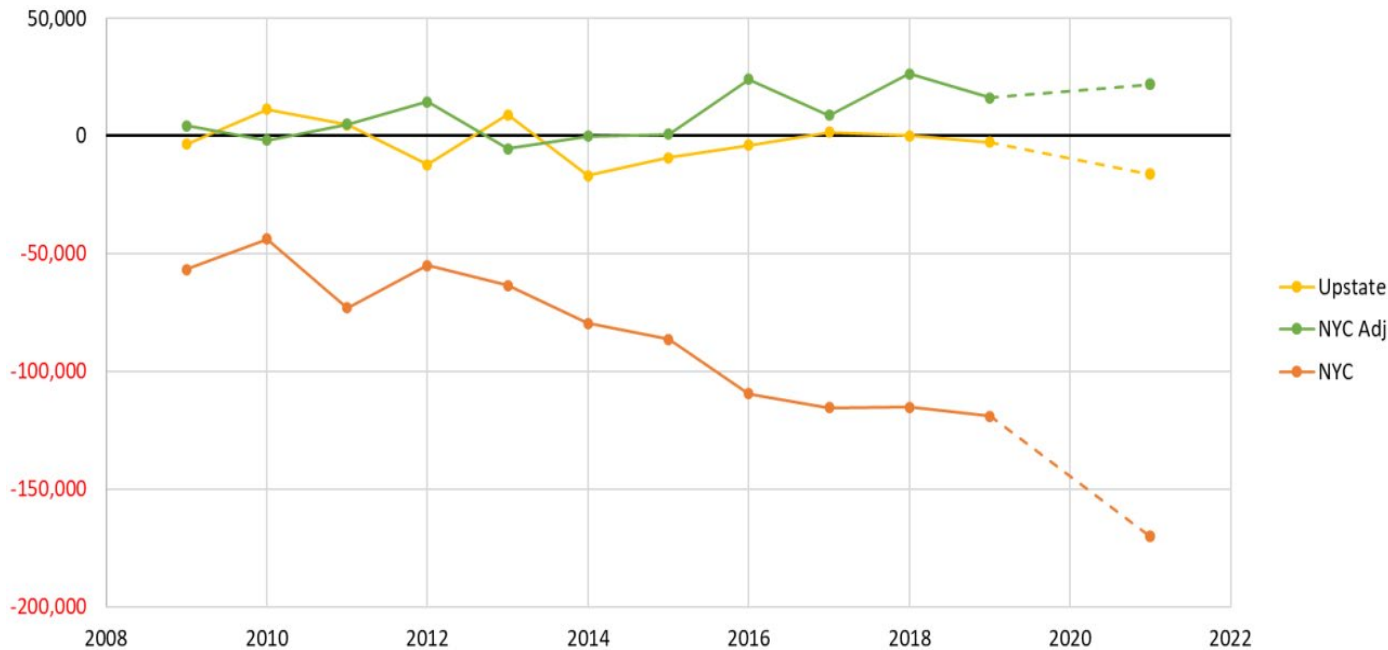
NYS Net Domestic Migration, by Household Type
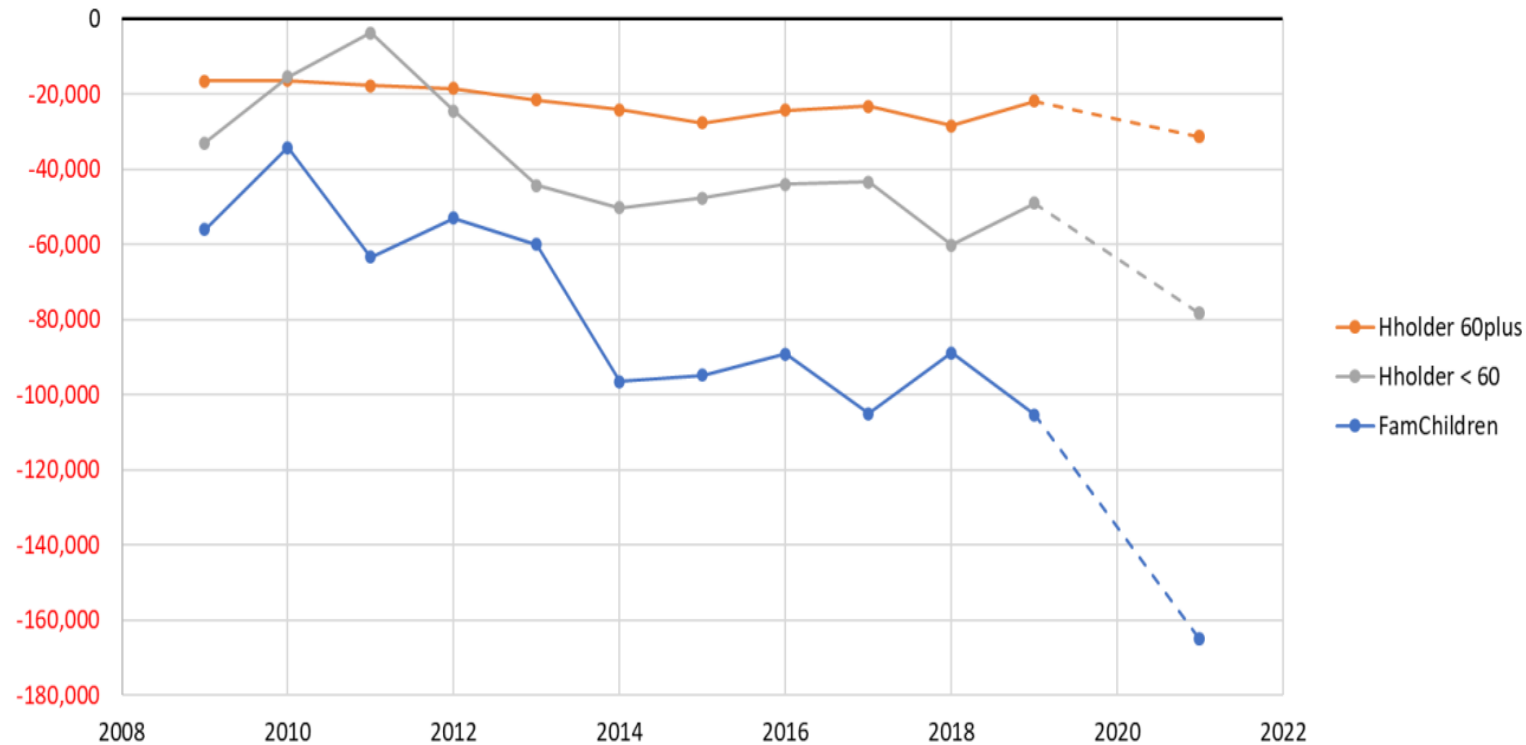
Data: 2009-2021 American Community Survey 1-year estimates
Note: No value included for 2020 due to experimental data/quality issues. Instead, dotted line extrapolates between 2019 and 2021.

- Migration losses were smallest for householders over age 60 since 2012

- Largest numerical losses for family households with children since 2009
  - Steepest decline from 2019 to 2021

- Households with householders under age 60 also experienced net migration at unprecedented levels this decade

# NYS Net Domestic Migration by Region
Family Households with Children

Data: 2009-2021 American Community Survey 1-year estimates
Note: No value included for 2020 due to experimental data/quality issues. Instead, dotted line extrapolates between 2019 and 2021.

- NYC adjacent counties (Westchester, Rockland, Nassau and Suffolk) gained families with children since 2015

- Upstate, the net loss of families with children declined slightly in 2021

- Pattern of families with children from previous slide mirrored by NYC, and slightly by upstate

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The Changing Profile of Movers
New York City
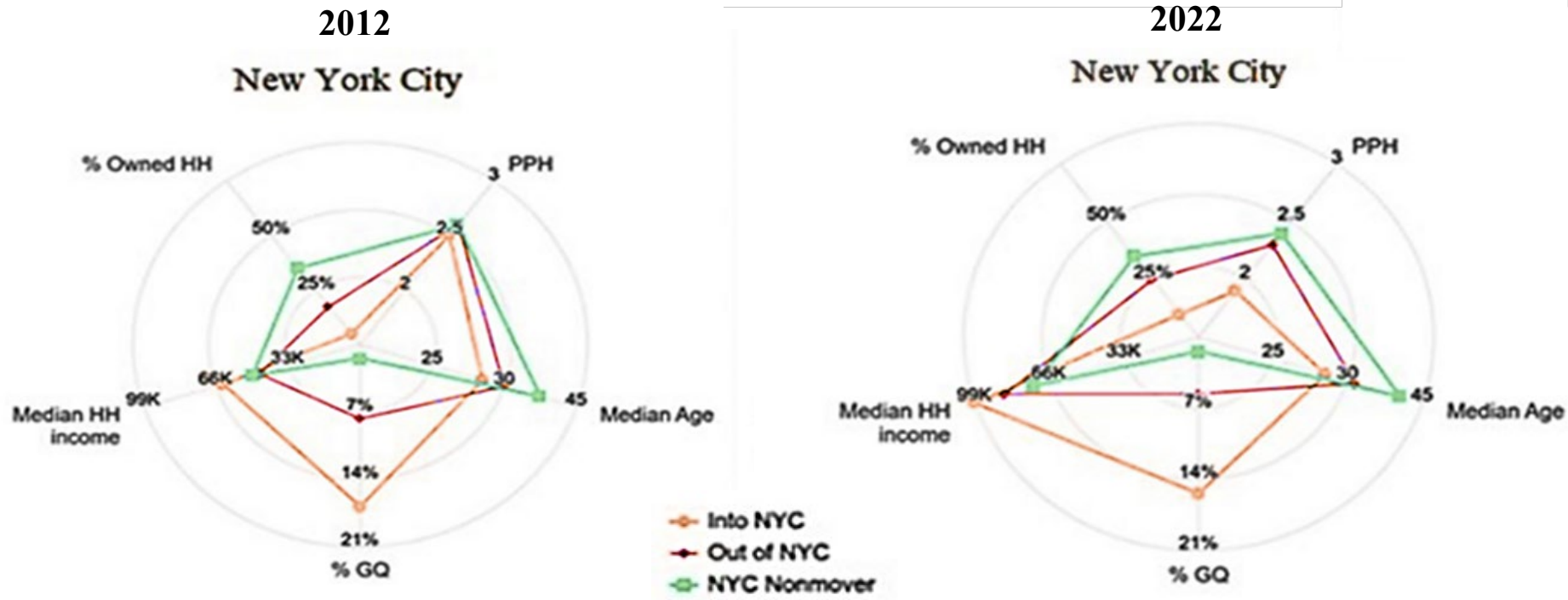
Data: 2012 and 2022 1-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)
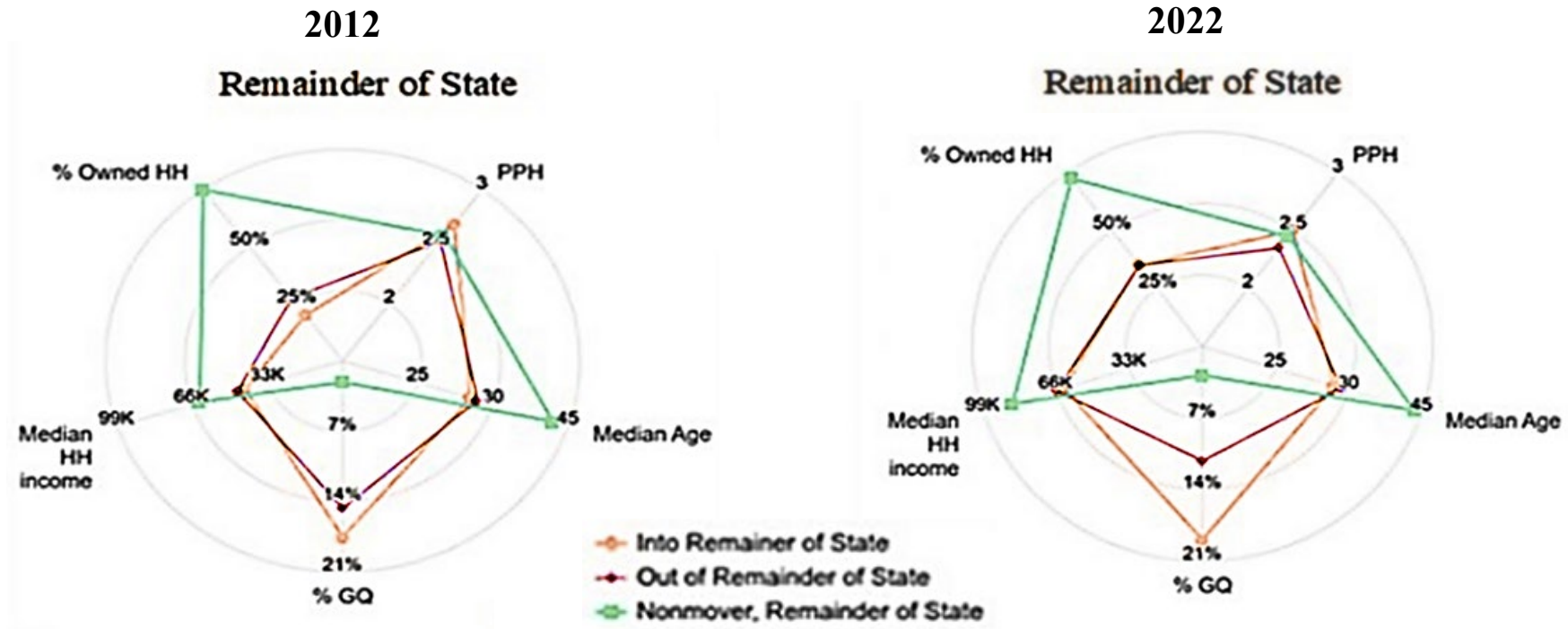
Table Abbreviations

Median HH Income	Median Household Income
% Owned HH	Percent Owned Households
% GQ	Percent in Group Quarters
PPH	Persons Per Household

The Changing Profile of Movers
Rest of NYS

2012

2022

Data: 2012 and 2022 1-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

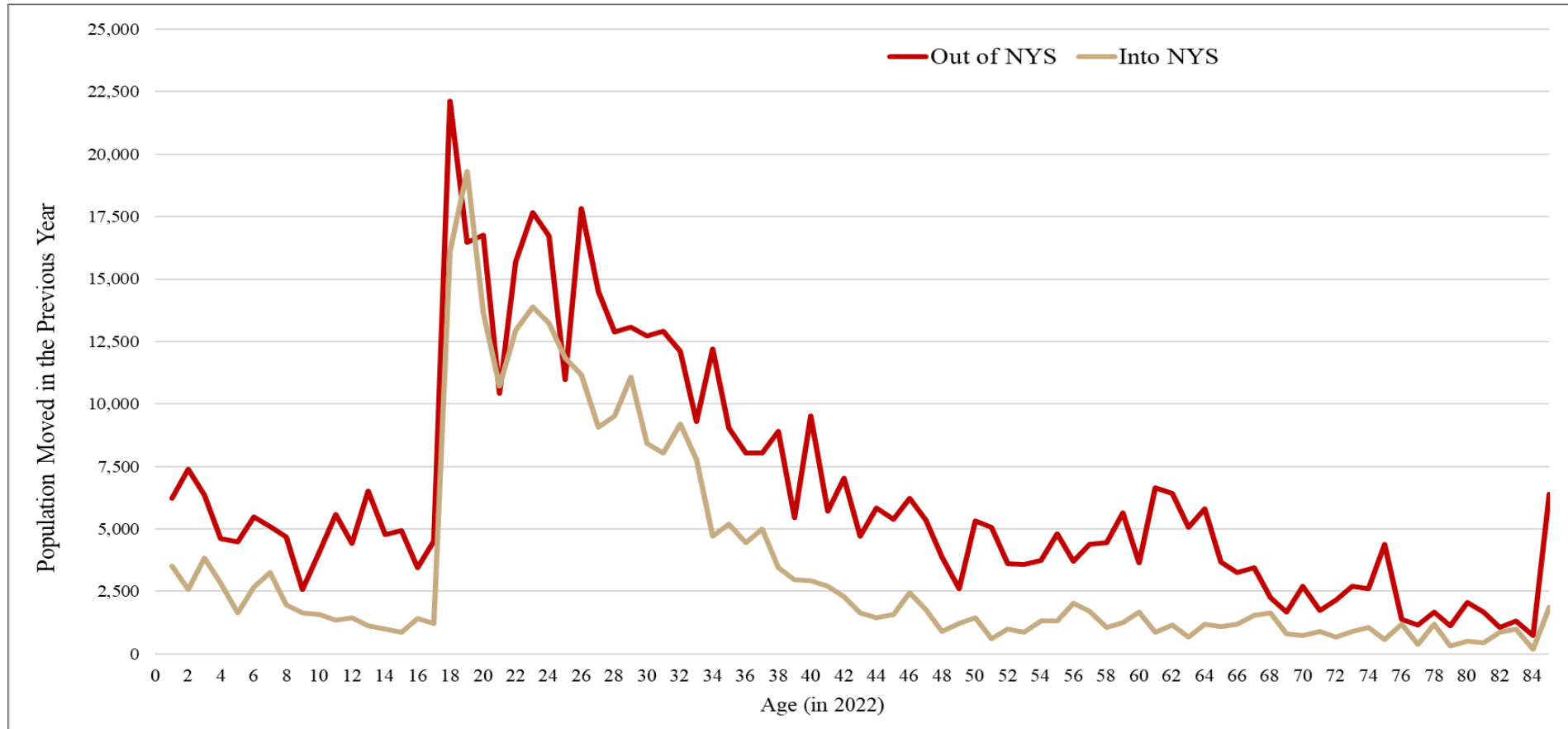**Table Abbreviations**

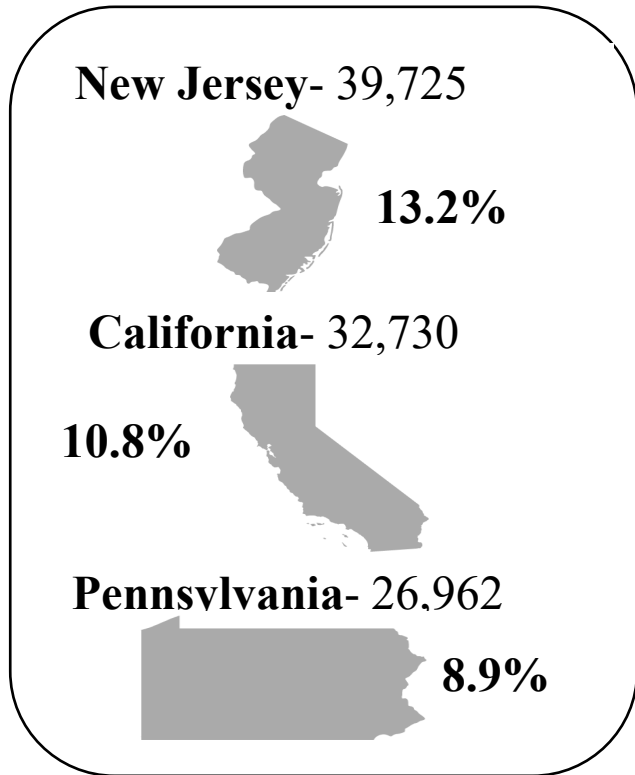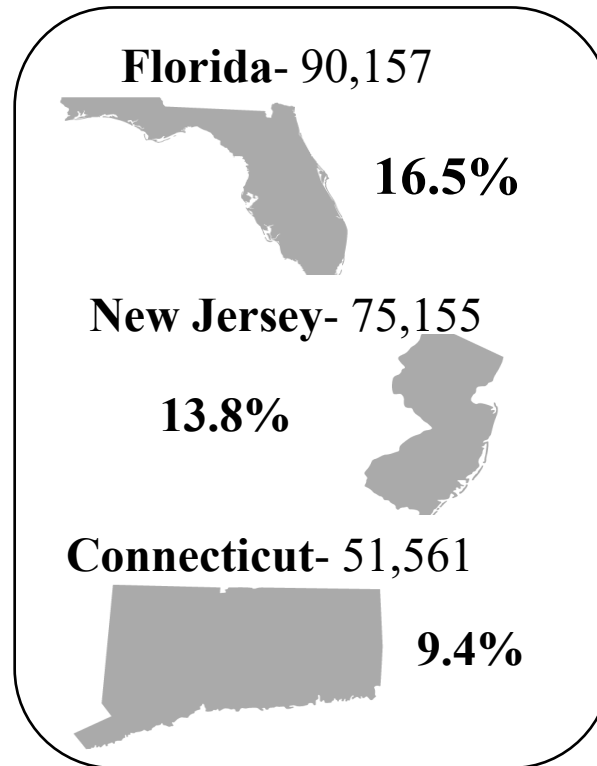|	
Median HH Income	Median Household Income
% Owned HH	Percent Owned Households
% GQ	Percent in Group Quarters
PPH	Persons Per Household

More Moving out than in at Almost Every Age

Data: 2022 1-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Where people move

Top 3 Origins

New Jersey- 39,725

13.2%

California- 32,730

10.8%

Pennsylvania- 26,962

8.9%

Top 3 Destinations

Florida- 90,157

16.5%

New Jersey- 75,155

13.8%

Connecticut- 51,561

9.4%

- New Jersey was the most common origin state of movers into NYS in 2022
  - It was also the second most popular destination for movers out of the state

- Florida was the most popular destination for people moving out of NYS (16.5% of movers out)
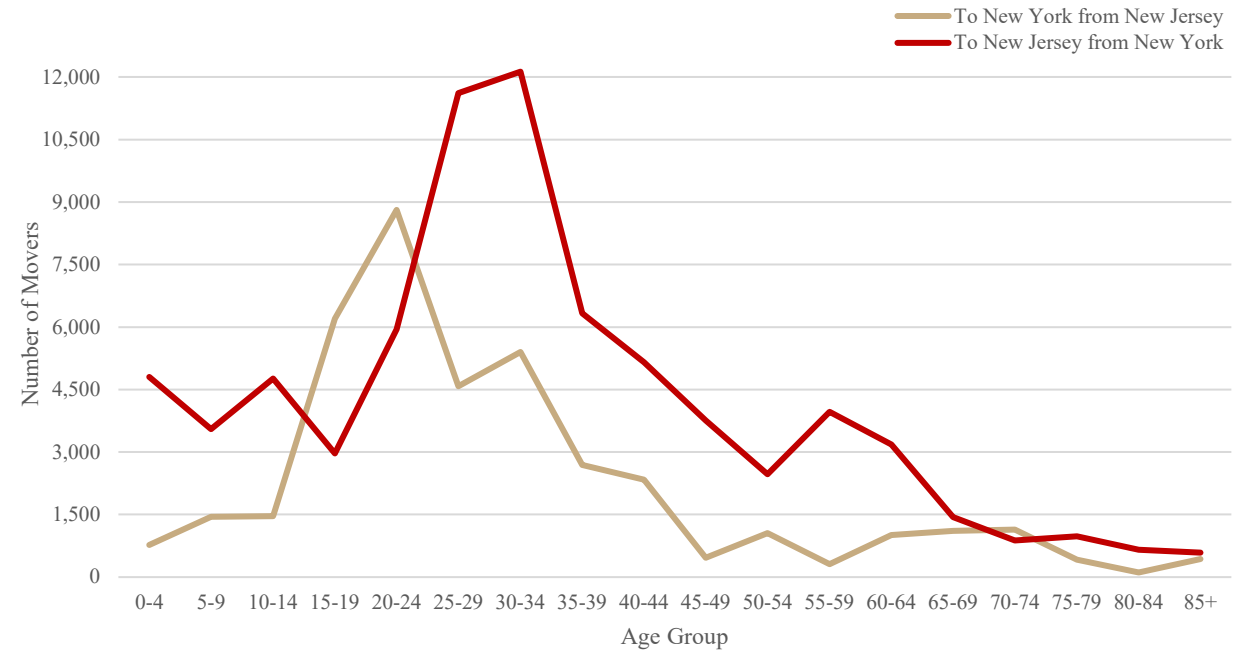
Data: 2022 1-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Age Distribution of Movers Between…

New York and Florida, 2022
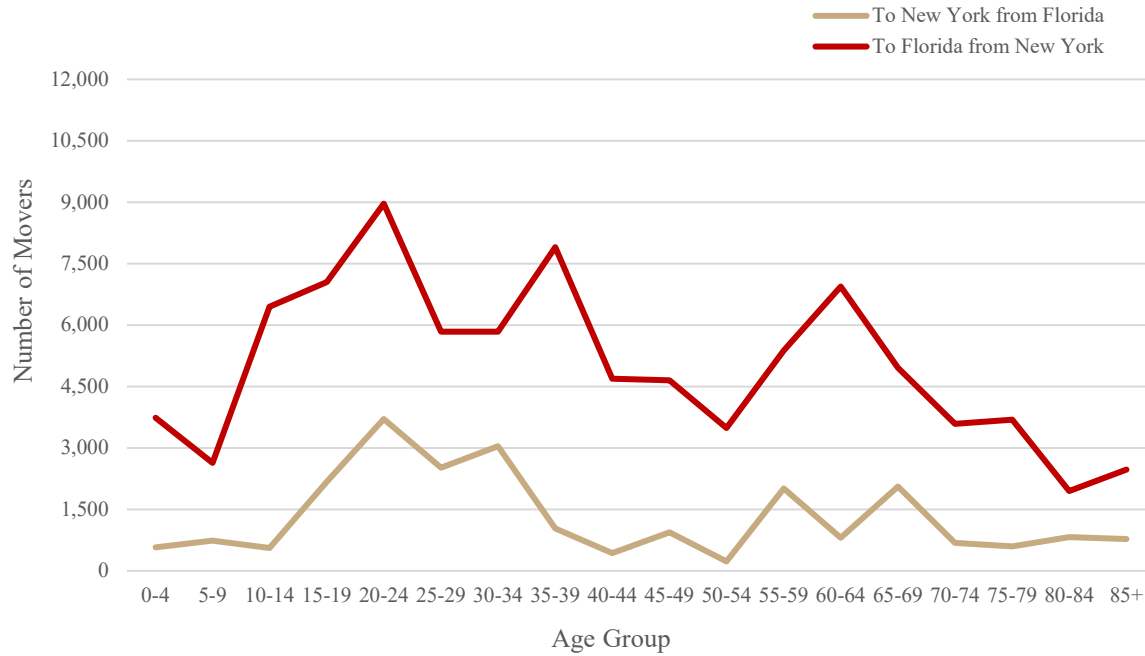
New York and New Jersey, 2022

Data: 2022 1-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

- Consistently more movers into Florida than out at every age
- More people moving from New Jersey than into it during late high school and early college age (15-24) and ages 70-74

Conclusions

- More people have been leaving than coming into New York State since 2012
  - The Pandemic exacerbated migration losses, driven by more people leaving than entering New York City
  - Net migration returned to near pre-pandemic levels in 2023
- Manhattan's net migration trend rebounded the fastest of the 5 boroughs from 2021 to 2023
- More families have been leaving than entering New York State for over a decade, but net losses increased after the onset of the Pandemic
- Average household size (PPH) decreased substantially this past decade for households moving into NYC
- Median income of movers and non-movers grew this decade, especially for movers in and out of NYC
- Florida receives more NYS movers than it contributes across all ages (not just retirement ages)

Resources

- Our TiDbit: The "New York State" of Domestic Migration https://pad.human.cornell.edu/TiDbit/TiDbit_24-01.html

- County-to-county migration Flows: https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2019/demo/geographic-mobility/county-to-county-migration-2015-2019.html

- American Community Survey (ACS):

- Census Annual Population Estimates: https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-total.html

- Wisconsin Applied Population lab: https://netmigration.wisc.edu/

- IRS migration Data: https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-migration-data-2020-2021

- Current Population Survey: https://www.census.gov/topics/population/migration/data/tables.html

- IPUMS USA, IPUMS CPS: https://www.ipums.org/

Questions?

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