



**Fall 2021 UVAW Forum:**  
***Climate Migration – What is it & why it’s worth  
planning for***

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# The What: What is Climate Migration?

Here?



Or Here?



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**For a thriving New England**

## Our Mission

CLF protects New England’s environment for the benefit of all people. We use the law, science and the market to create solutions that preserve our natural resources, build healthy communities, and sustain a vibrant economy.



## Upper Valley's Attractive Amenities

Open space

Clean air  
(i.e., no wild  
fires (?))

Safe from sea  
level rise &  
storm surge

Plentiful  
groundwater  
resources (?)

Relatively close  
to Boston/NYC



# Climate change: Could ‘climigration’ help reverse Vermont population trends?

By **Elizabeth Gribkoff**

Sep 17 2019

- Profiled three “climate migrants” to VT:
  - Family moved from MT due to concerns over increased wildfires and attendant poor air quality
  - Young couple moved from Washington DC for the state’s “abundant groundwater and resilient communities”
  - Family moved from MT for quality of life, abundant water, and lack of wildfires

Sept. 15, 2020

# HOW CLIMATE MIGRATION WILL RESHAPE AMERICA

Millions will be displaced. Where will they go?

The millions of people moving north will mostly head to the cities of the Northeast and Northwest, which will see their populations grow by roughly 10 percent, according to one model. Once-chilly places like Minnesota and Michigan and Vermont will become more temperate, verdant and inviting. Vast regions will prosper; just as

# As Climate Change Drives Migration To N.H., Towns Face Tension And Opportunity

New Hampshire Public Radio | By **Annie Ropeik**

Published January 11, 2021 at 11:21 AM EST



▶ LISTEN • 4:48



**What's the data?**

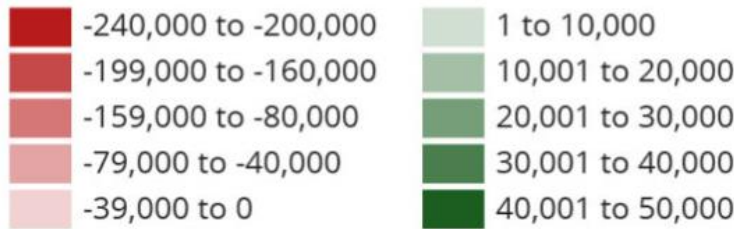
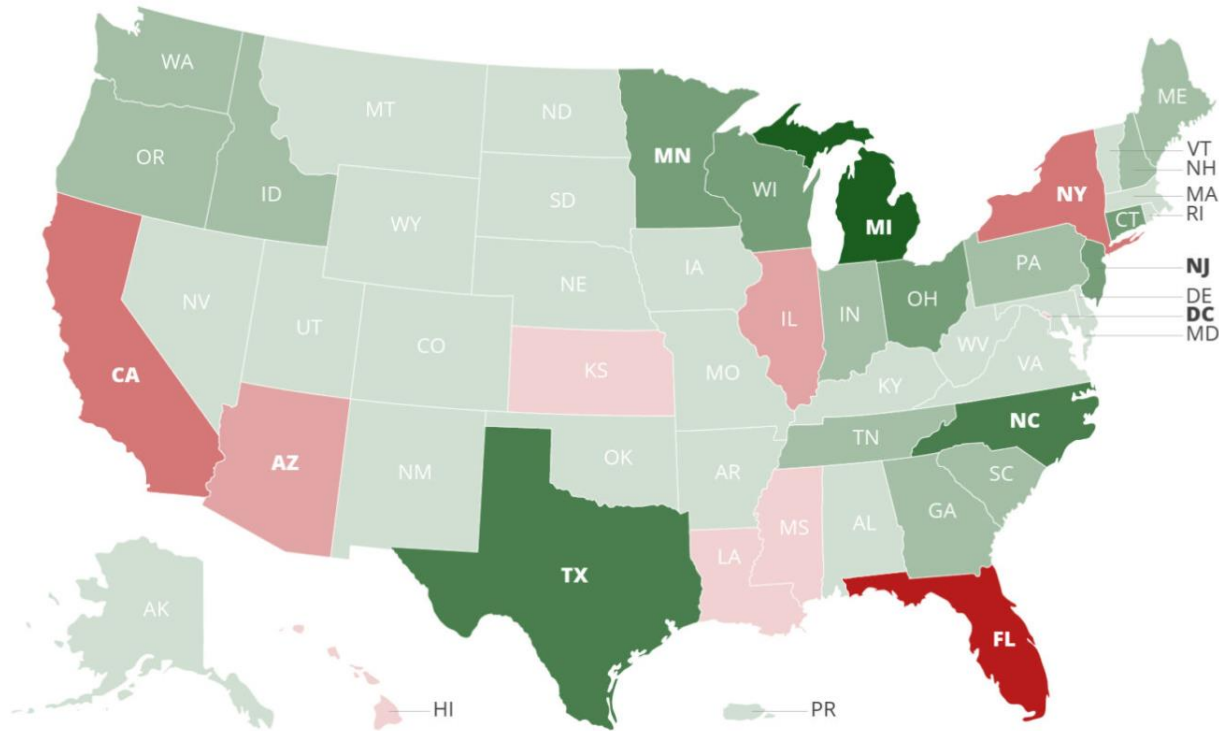
**Can we learn about climate migration through covid migration?**



# STATES THAT GAINED AND LOST THE MOST MOVERS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS

Florida, New York, and California — states with big cities that experienced a surge in infection rates during the onset of the pandemic — lost the largest number of movers. Michigan, North Carolina, and Texas gained the most movers.

## WHERE ARE PEOPLE MOVING?



### HIGHEST NET LOSS

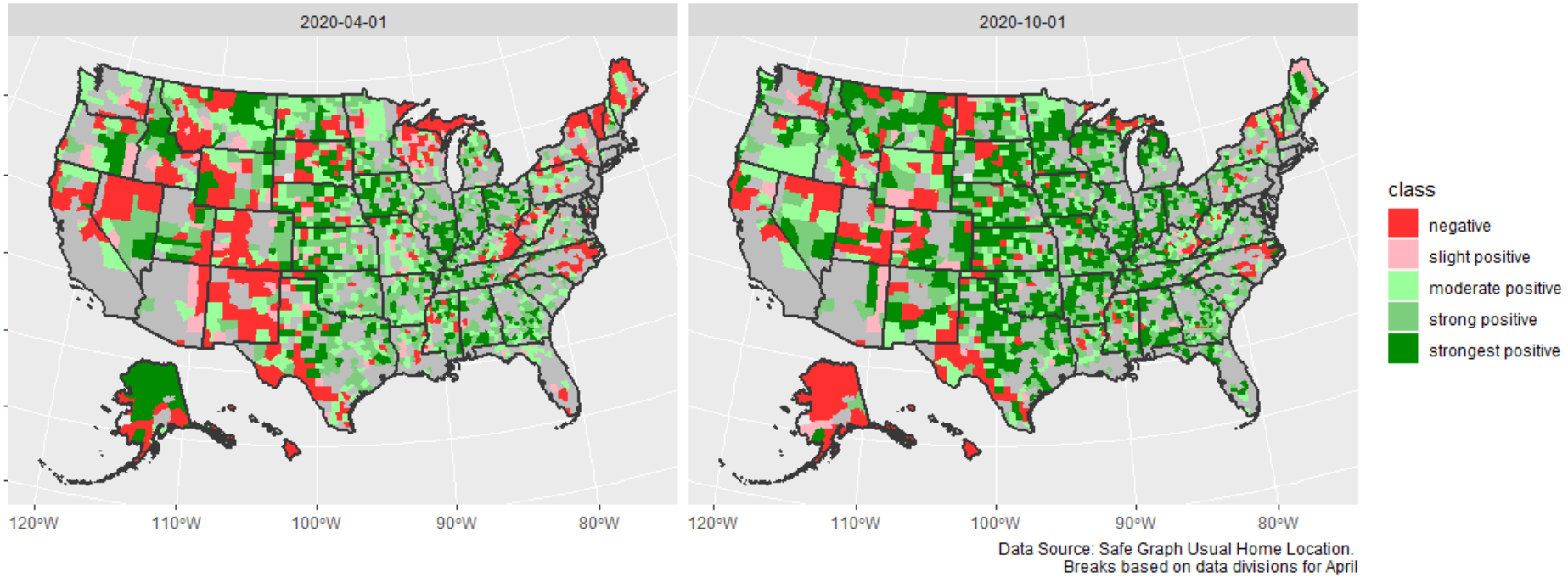
<b>FL</b>	-235,765
<b>NY</b>	-117,251
<b>CA</b>	-87,750
<b>AZ</b>	-41,923
<b>DC</b>	-15,638

### HIGHEST NET GAIN

<b>MN</b>	25,315
<b>NJ</b>	25,738
<b>TX</b>	30,603
<b>NC</b>	37,971
<b>MI</b>	45,408

\*Data pulled from total USPS change-of-address requests filed between February 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020. To calculate the data, we took the total number of moves to each state and subtracted the total number of moves from it.

## Year over Year Shifts in Mobile Devices

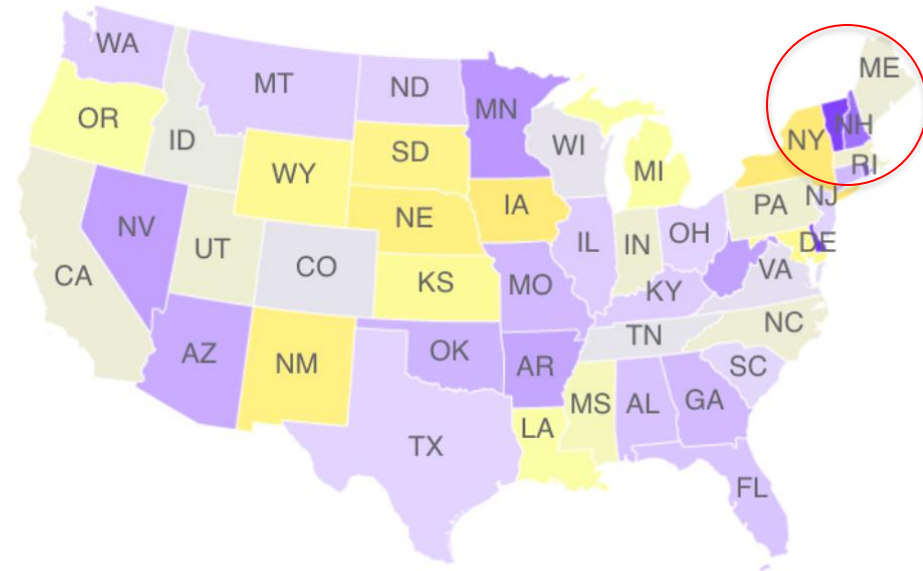
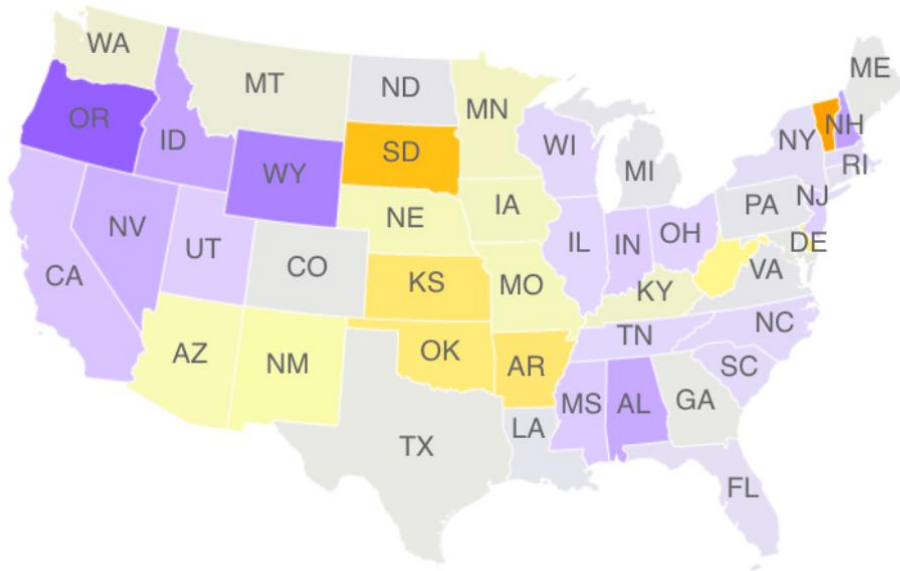
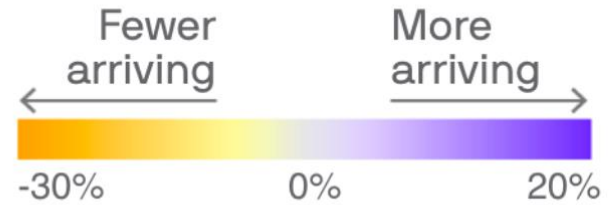
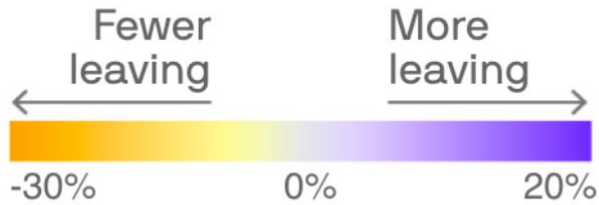


Slide from Peter Nelson, Prof. of Geography at Middlebury College

Change among Americans earning more than \$100,000 per household, Jan. 2019–March 2020 compared to April 2020–Feb. 2021

### Origin

### Destination



## WHO IS MOVING?

The New York Times logo is displayed in a white, gothic-style font against a background of a wooden roof and green foliage.

The New York Times

September 26, 2020

A green Harley-Davidson truck is parked in a wooded area. The truck has a Harley-Davidson logo on the back window. The background is filled with green trees and foliage.

*The Virus Sent Drones to a Small Town.  
Suddenly, It's Not So Small.*

The population boomed in Winhall, Vt., as people tried to get away from Covid-19 hot spots. Bear complaints are up. Plumbers are booked until Christmas. And the dump is “sheer pandemonium.”

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**WHAT'S THE IMPACT?**

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NEWS + OPINION > CORONAVIRUS

SEPTEMBER 09, 2020

## The New Vermonters: Fleeing COVID-19, Newcomers Find Temporary – or Permanent – Refuge in the Green Mountains

By [CHELSEA EDGAR](#) [@CHEDGAR31](#), [COURTNEY LAMDIN](#) and [SASHA GOLDSTEIN](#)

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## Center for Future of VT Survey (2020)

Interviewed 230 people taking refuge in VT during COVID:

- More than 1/3 said they were “likely” or “very likely” to stay in Vermont
- Attributes key to them staying: landscape, environment, community, safety



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# Are we planning for climate migration?

## Not really (at least not directly).

- Vermont [2018 hazard mitigation plan](#) mentions in-state migration as a possible future climate change concern
- VT Climate Action Plan – not coming up in discussion

## But folks want us to!

- Question on 2020 Vermonter Poll:

Do you feel action should be taken in VT to prepare for climate migration?	
YES	63.2%
NO	36.8%



# Areas of opportunity

- Injection of capital, energy, families, vitality
- ARPA/infrastructure bill \$\$ towards housing/sewer/other infrastructure
- Act 250 in VT
- Identify and address structural social and racial inequities in housing, healthcare, access to amenities, and more

share with ~~warn~~ the Upper Valley ~~that it's~~ a likely destination for climate migration, and we ~~should~~ plan for it 😊

It's an OPPORTUNITY if



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# Questions?

