

A Preliminary Look At Portland: A 50-City Comparison

City Council Budget Work Session

November 4, 2014



The Project

- Compare Portland data from four primary Census tables included in the annual American Community Survey to the 50 largest cities in the 50 largest Metro areas
 - Also captured data for Metro Areas
 - Each year include 'special topic'
 - Income Inequality

Project Considerations

- Make it replicable
 - Allows for longitudinal studies (not just where we are, but are we “improving”)
- Not exactly 50 largest cities (Tucson vs. Pittsburgh)
- Note: Most results are correlated



The Purpose

- What it is:
 - Provide a broad-based annual look at how the City compares with the largest cities in the country on a variety of demographic and economic measures.
 - Provide an opportunity to analyze policy issues based on which cities most closely resemble Portland
 - Different issues may result in a different set of comparison cities

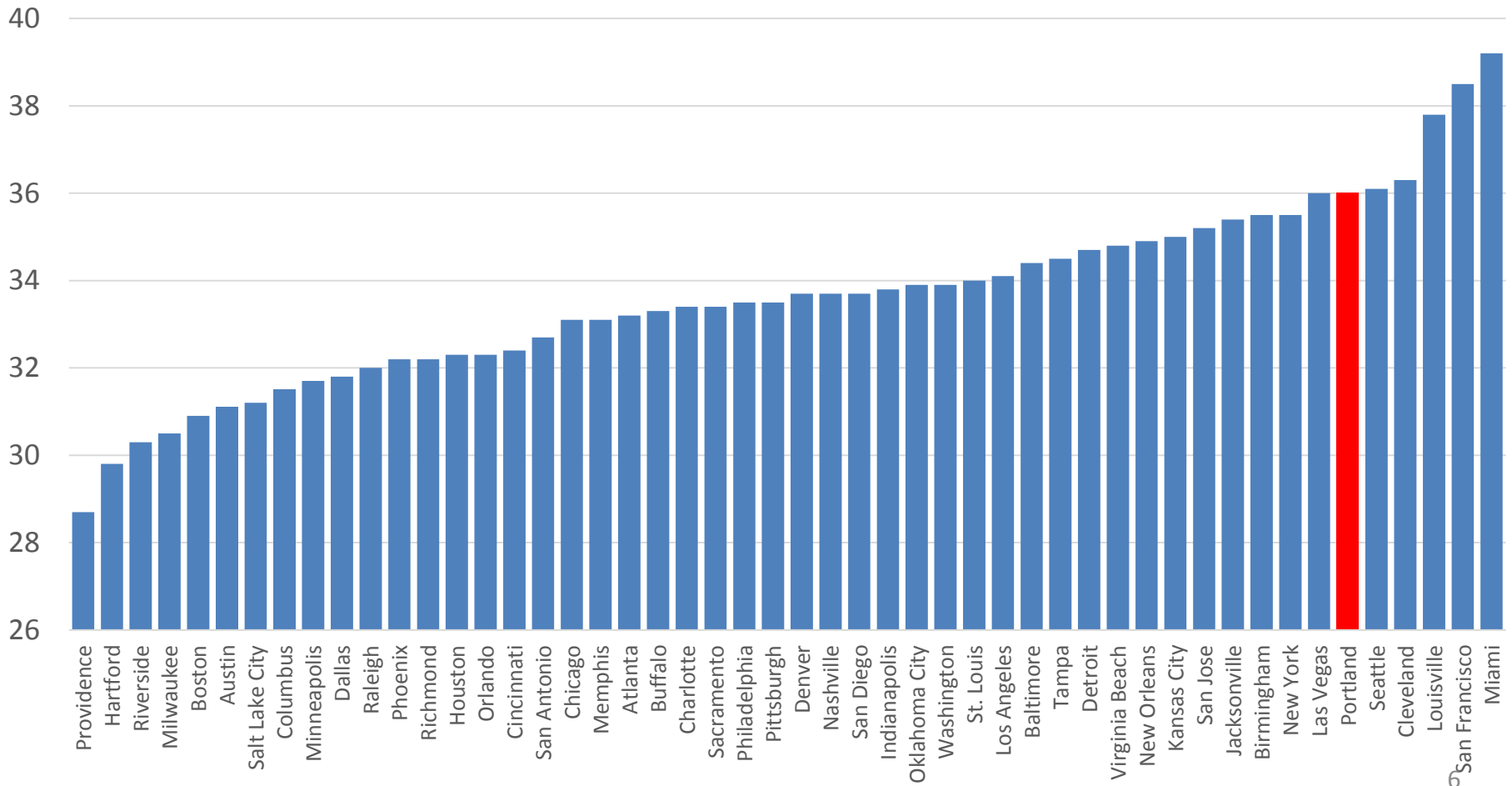
The Purpose

- What it is not:
 - An attempt to describe all Portlanders' experiences, especially compared to other Portlanders or people with similar characteristics in other cities



Wait...Portlanders are Old?

Median Age



Yes, Technically, But...

- This occurs largely because we have relatively few children in Portland as compared to other cities.
- Portland Rankings (as % of population):
 - Under 25: 47th
 - 25-64: 3rd
 - Over 65: 27th

Only City Phenomenon

- Metro Area much more balanced
 - High in 25-34 year olds & 55-59 year olds
 - Low in 15-24 year olds
 - Otherwise, close to median
 - Overall, 22nd in median age among metro areas

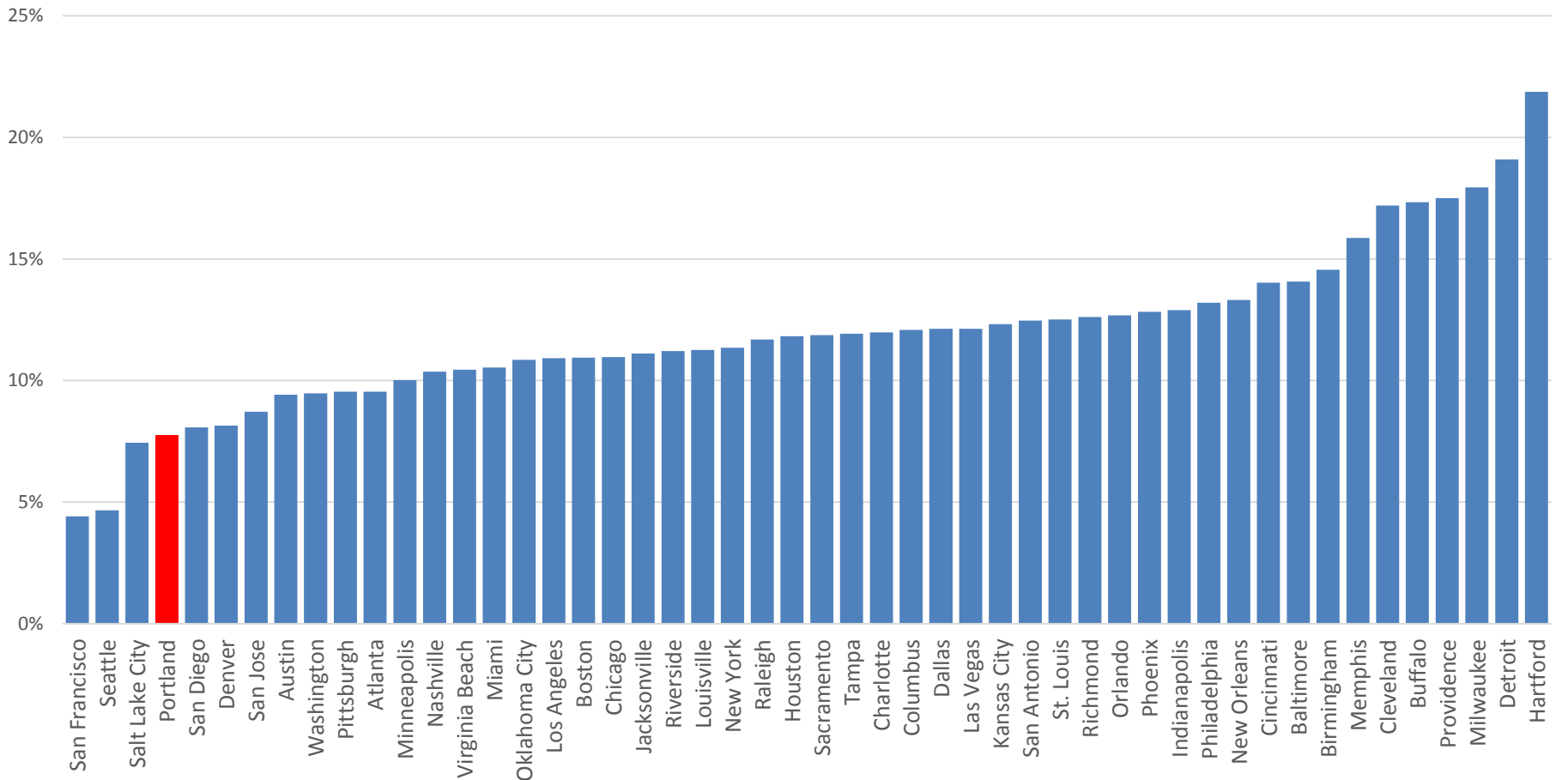


Of Those Children

- Disproportionate percentage attend nursery/preschool (ranked 7th) – not true of metro area (ranked 34th)
 - Two working parents?
 - Relatively affluent?
 - Expensive housing?

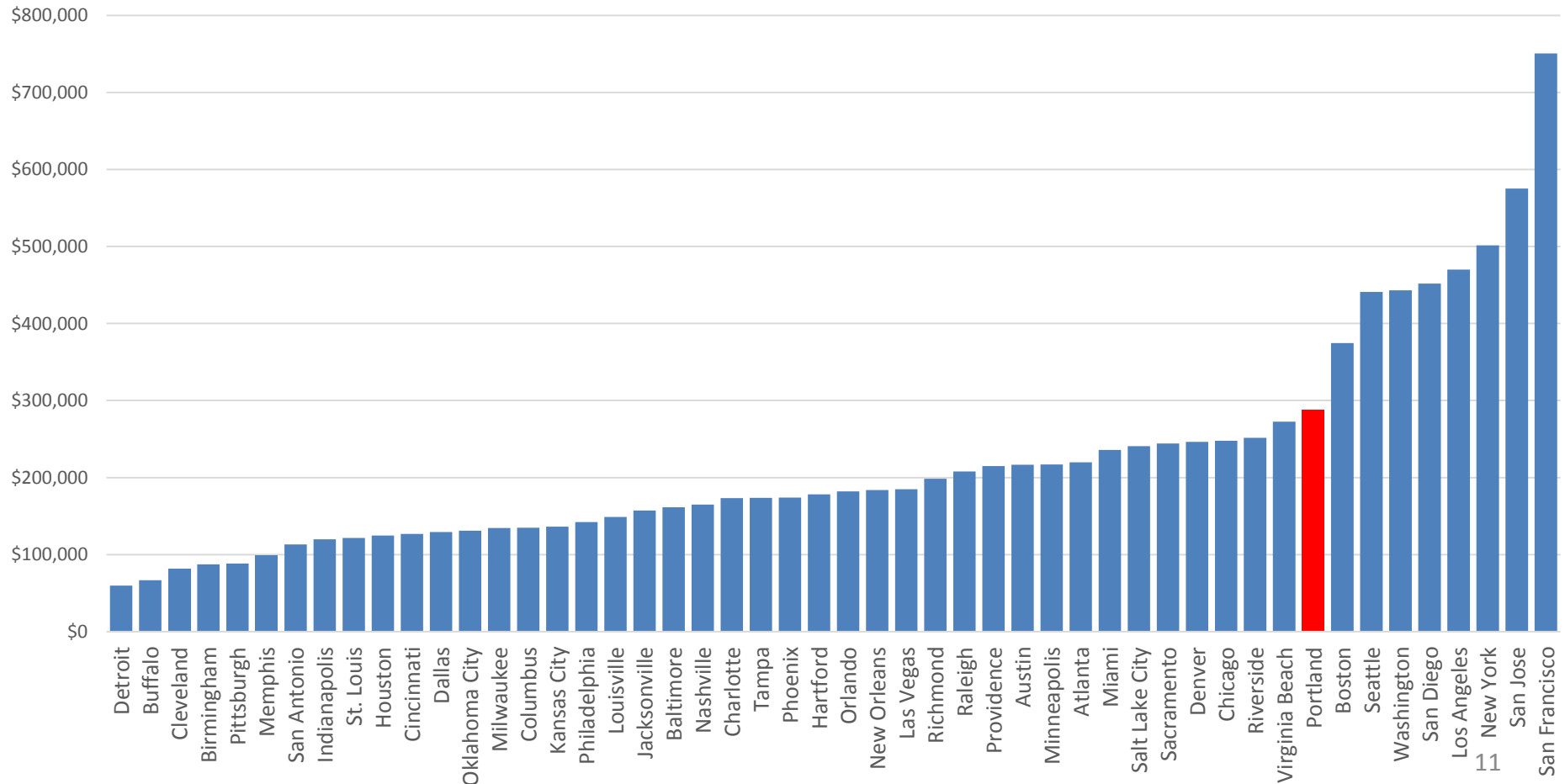
Other Correlations (Families)

Percent of Single-Parent Families



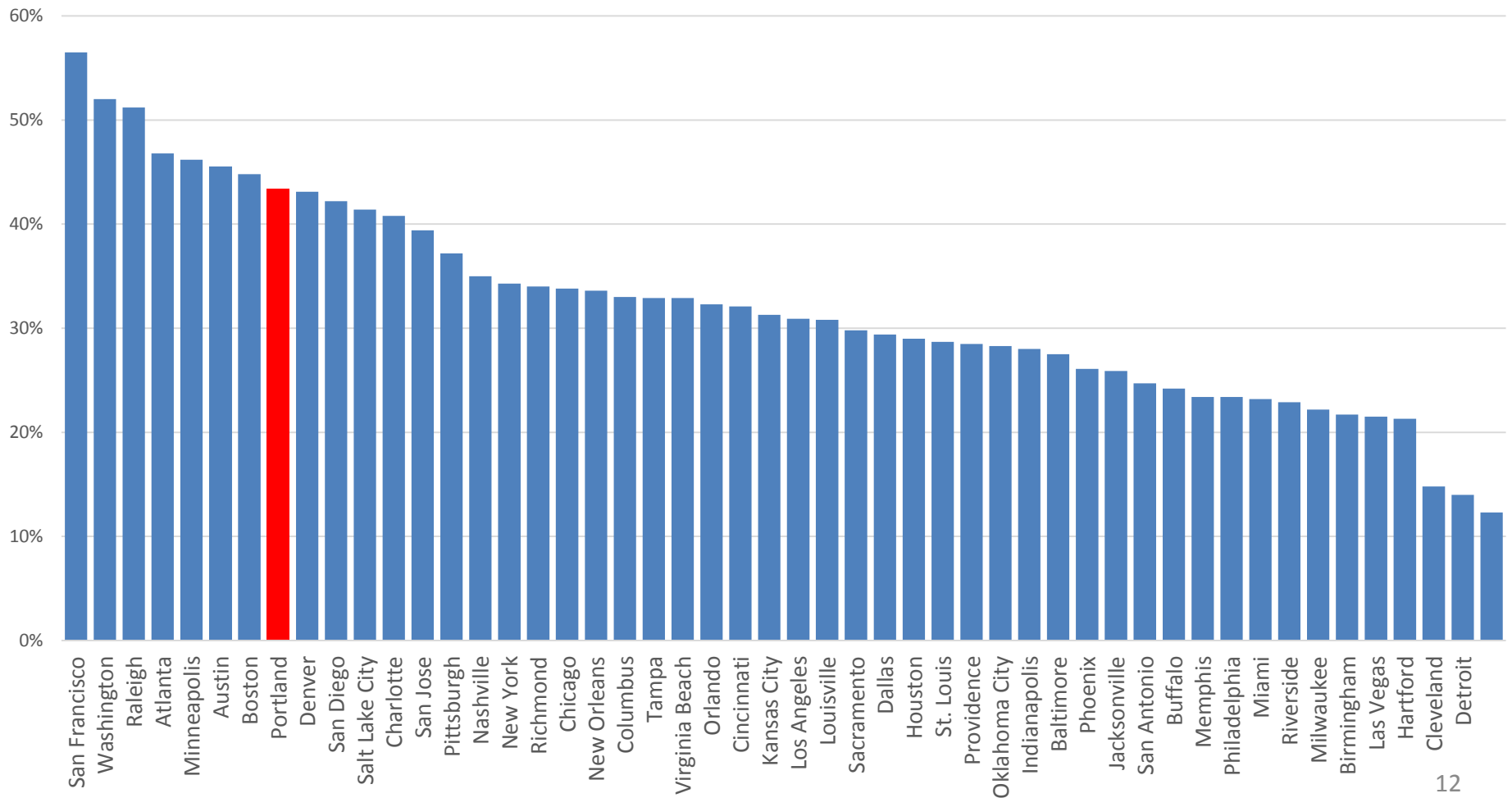
Other Correlations (Housing)

Median Home Value



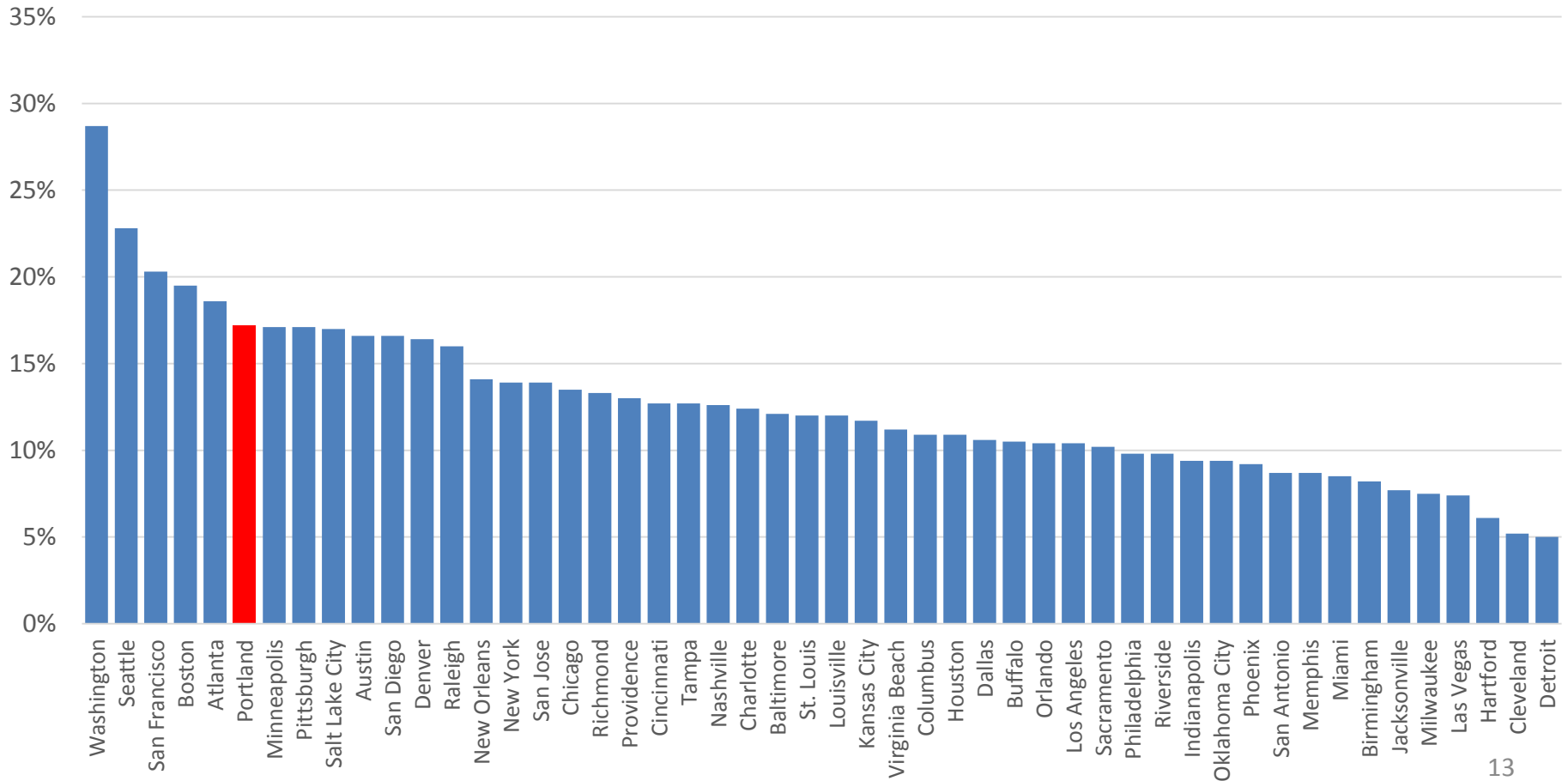
Educational Attainment

Bachelors Degree or Higher (% of Population 25 & Over)



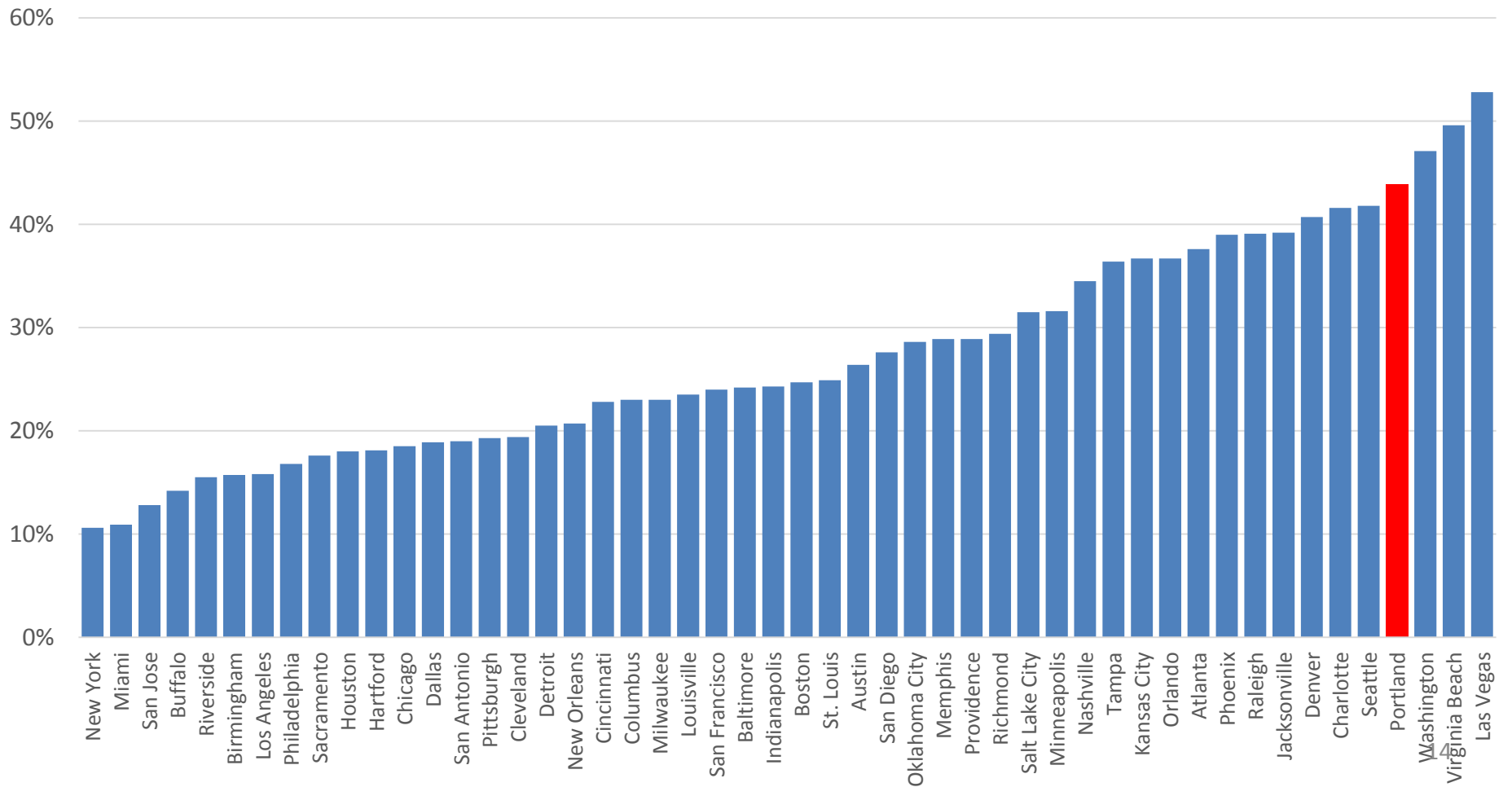
Educational Attainment

Graduate or Professional Degree (% of Population 25 & Over)



Birthplace

Percent Born in Another US State

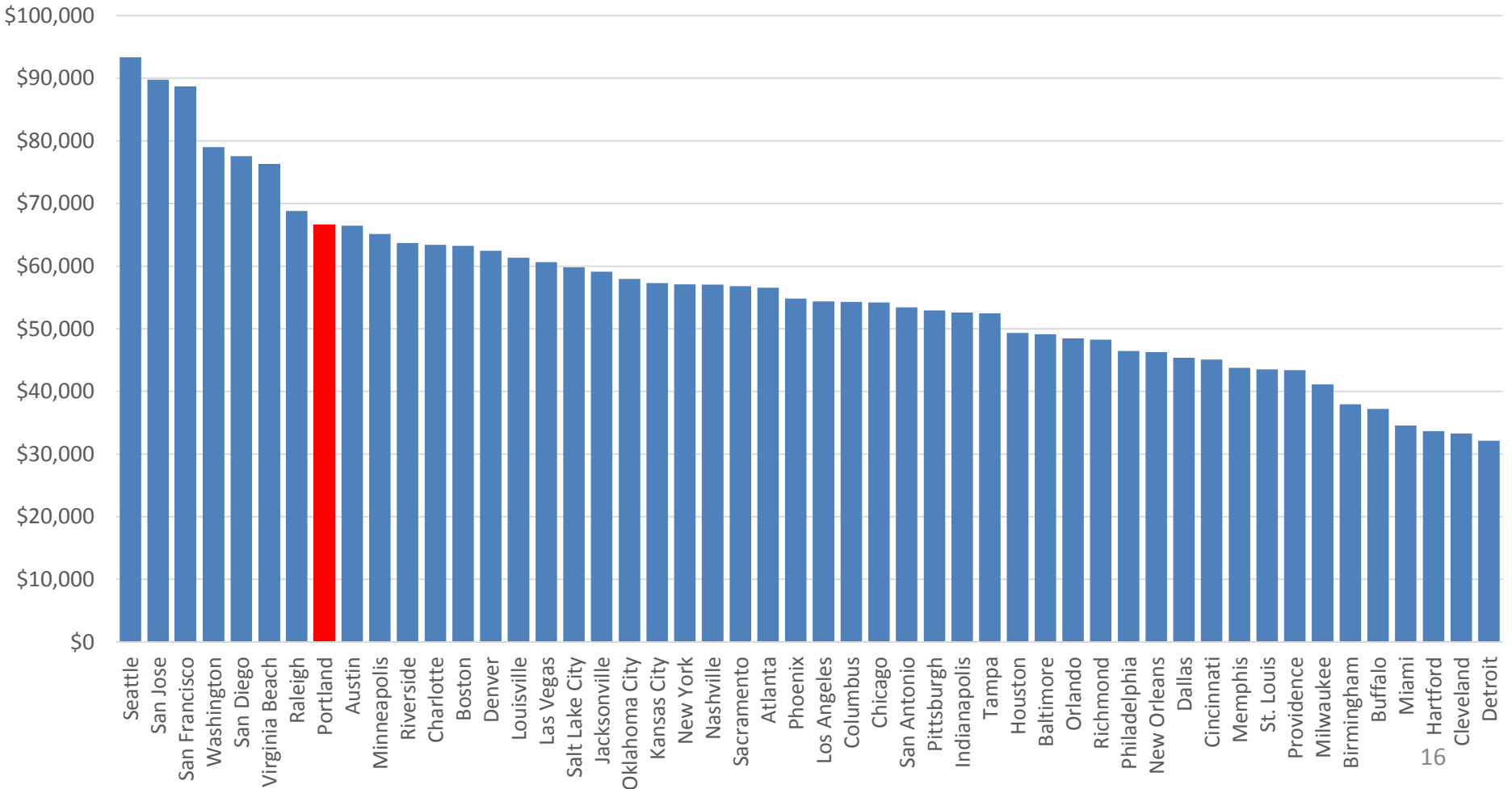


Employment/Labor Force Data

- In top 10
 - % of Population in Labor Force (10th)
 - % of Women in Labor Force (8th)
 - Metro Area (25th)
 - Self-employed (4th)
 - Manufacturing Employment (10th)
- Commuting
 - Car Alone (41st)
 - Work at Home (1st)

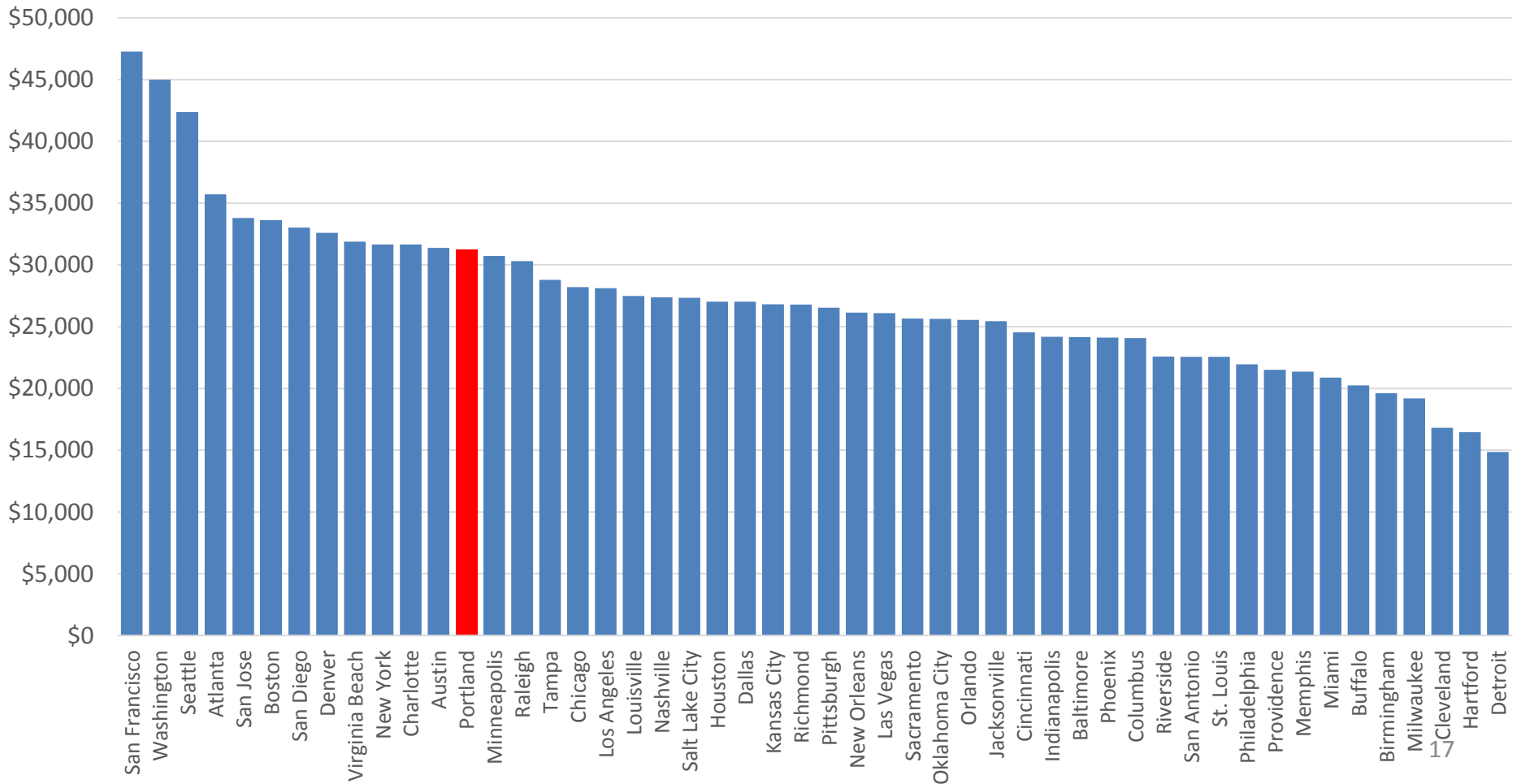
Incomes

Median Family Income



Incomes

Per Capita Income



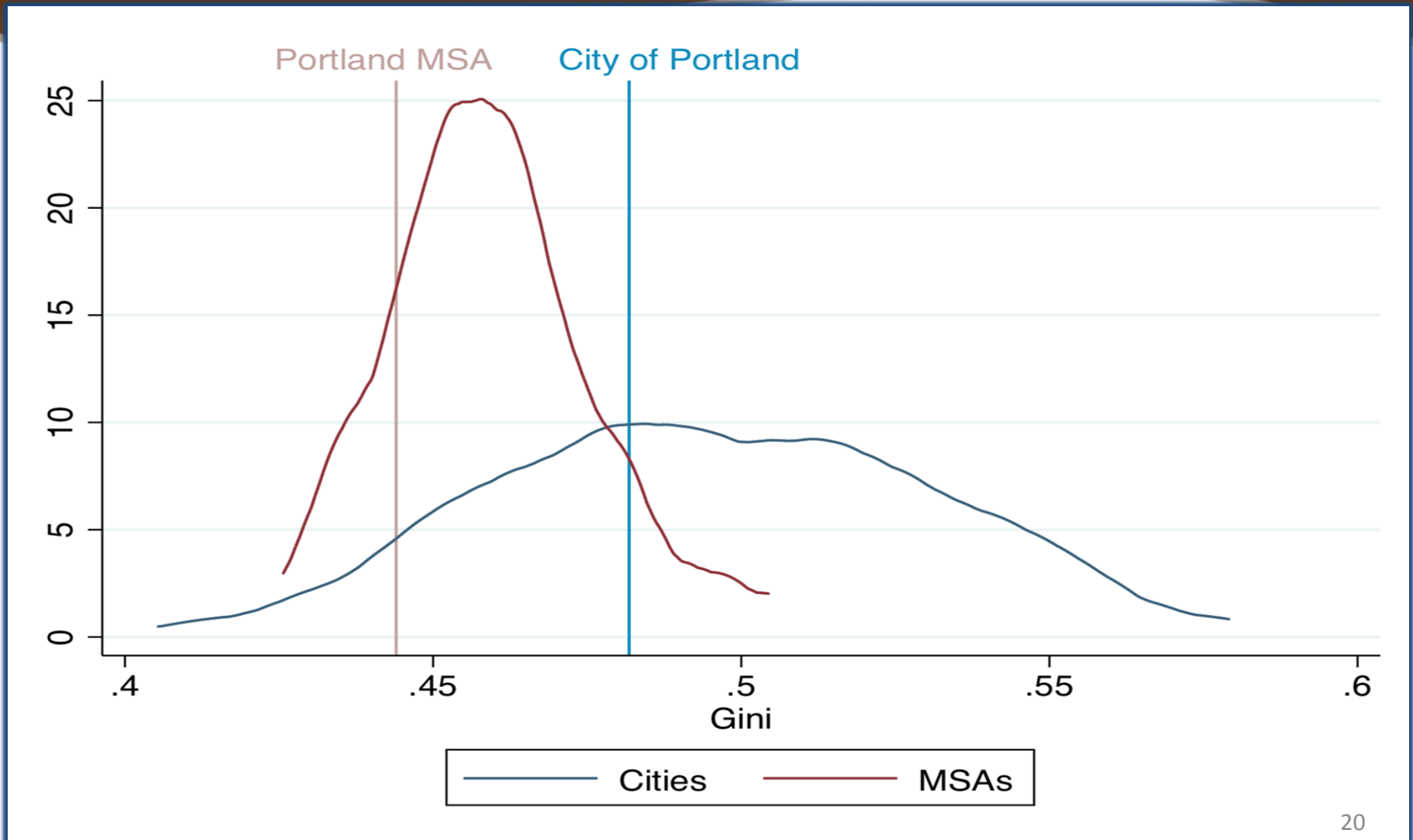
In Spite of Relatively High Incomes...

- Rank 16th in food stamp/SNAP benefit recipients (metro area ranked 4th)
- Relatively high percentage of income spent on housing
 - Nearly half spend at least 35% of income on housing (ranked 21st)

A Closer Look: Income Inequality

- GINI Coefficients
 - measures the statistical 'distance' from a perfectly even income distribution
 - 1 = complete inequality, in which one individual earns all the income
 - 0 = complete equality, in which every individual earns the same.

A Closer Look: Income Inequality



A Closer Look: Income Inequality

- Brookings Institute Analysis (2014)
 - Used 95/20 income ratios
 - Compares income in 95th percentile to that of the 20th percentile
 - Portland's ratio of 9.5 (i.e., the household at the 95th percentile makes 9.5 times the income of a household at the 20th percentile) ranked 25th among the 50 largest cities

Next Steps

- New Data released in December
- 1st Annual Report in late Jan./early Feb.

Questions, Thoughts, Etc:

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