2017

FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

2017

2017 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

AUTHORED BY

Wendy P. Warcholik, Ph.D.

Director, Family Prosperity Initiative

Senior Research Fellow, American Conservative Union Foundation

J. Scott Moody, M.A.

Director, Family Prosperity Initiative

Senior Research Fellow, American Conservative Union Foundation

FEBRUARY 2017

Family PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

Tel 202.347.9388 | Fax 202.347.9389

familyprosperity.org FamProsperity

AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION FOUNDATION

American Conservative Union Foundation

1331 H St., NW, Washington, DC, 20005

conservative.org ACUConservative

AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION FOUNDATION

The American Conservative Union Foundation's purpose is to educate everyday Americans, officeholders, and opinion leaders on why conservative principles work better to solve problems, as well as to equip them with the tools necessary to become stronger conservatives and effective problem solvers. The ACU Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) organization, includes five policy centers: the Center for Human Dignity, the Center for 21st Century Property Rights, the Center for Criminal Justice Reform, the Center for Statesmanship and Diplomacy, and the Center for Arts & Culture.

Family PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

The Family Prosperity Initiative is a project of the American Conservative Union Foundation. While fully integrated with the ACU Foundation, the Initiative has a distinct mission and its own advisory board. The Family Prosperity Index, the centerpiece of the Family Prosperity Initiative, is the first resource to provide comprehensive and integrated state-by-state rolling five-year data that demonstrates the link between economic policy, social policy and family prosperity variables at the state level. No other measure provides more credible insights into how the economy affects families and how families affect the economy.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Family Prosperity Index (FPI) provides federal, state, and local policymakers—as well as religious and civic leaders and community-minded citizens—with the roadmap needed for the development of economic and social policies that improve the well-being and prosperity of American families and the communities in which they live. No other measure provides more credible and comprehensive insights into how the economy affects families, and how families affect the economy.

Unlike Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the unemployment rate, and other standard measures of relative economic performance, the FPI recognizes the vital, central role that families play as the engine that powers the American economy. Only by including the family as the central actor can any measure provide a complete, accurate, and useful picture of American economic prosperity and cultural well-being.

The FPI is hierarchical in nature and consists of six major indexes—**Economics, Demographics, Family Self-Sufficiency, Family Structure, Family Culture,** and **Family Health** (weighted equally at 16.67%)—with each having five sub-indexes (weighted equally at 20%). Each sub-index consists of one or more variables out of the 60 total (generally weighted equally) with each variable having two measures: the level (worth 80%) and 5-year average annual growth rate (worth 20%).

The **Economics** major index broadly explores the two factors that most directly impact the *financial* well-being of families—income and jobs. While this appears to be a simple task, defining income and jobs is actually quite complex. How and where income is earned determines the value of its ultimate use which is to purchase a lifestyle. At the same time, a job may not express a person's highest and best use. The five **Economics** sub-indexes are:

- Private Sector Share of Personal Income
- Per Household Income
- Cost of Living
- Entrepreneurship
- Unemployment

The **Demographics** major index reveals that the American demographic pendulum has reached its crest with the Baby Boom generation and is now swinging the other way due to the significantly smaller generations behind it. Some are so small, in fact, that maintaining current population levels in several states, such as Maine and West Virginia, is already impossible without strong in-migration. This demographic bust is called "Demographic Winter." The five **Demographics** sub-indexes are:

- Percent of Population Under Age 18
- Percent of Population Over Age 65
- Net Natural Population Change
- Net Domestic Migration
- Fertility Rate

The **Family Structure** major index is based on the fact that families drive the American economy. When families break down, there are very real economic costs to their communities. Marriage is the institutional structure from which families are born, and this index measures the extent to which marriage influences prosperity. The five **Family Structure** sub-indexes are:

- Children in Married Couple Households
- Marriage Rate
- Divorce Rate
- State of Households
- Families with Related Children in Poverty

The **Family Self-Sufficiency** major index measures the degree to which families are free to pursue happiness. This ranges from zero freedom if an individual is incarcerated to complete voluntary freedom through charitable work. On the same continuum, social pathologies are born/reinforced in the former and mitigated in the latter. The five **Family Self-Sufficiency** sub-indexes are:

- Prison Population
- Medicaid Spending
- Welfare
- Government Burden
- Charity

The **Family Culture** major index measures the extent to which the culture of the family is conducive to bringing children into productive adulthood. The roots of pathology that, for instance, put an individual on a path to committing crime form in childhood. At the same time, a strong sense of religion or higher level of educational attainment can lead one to a successful and productive adulthood. The five **Family Culture** sub-indexes are:

- Births to Unwed Mothers
- Violent Crime Rate
- Property Crime Rate
- Religious Attendance
- Educational Attainment

The **Family Health** major index measures the physical and mental well-being of the family through each individual member. An unhealthy member of the family creates an economic drag on the unit as a whole through lower incomes (associated with reduced productivity), increased medical expenses, and in the case of the death of a provider, lost income. The five **Family Health** sub-indexes are:

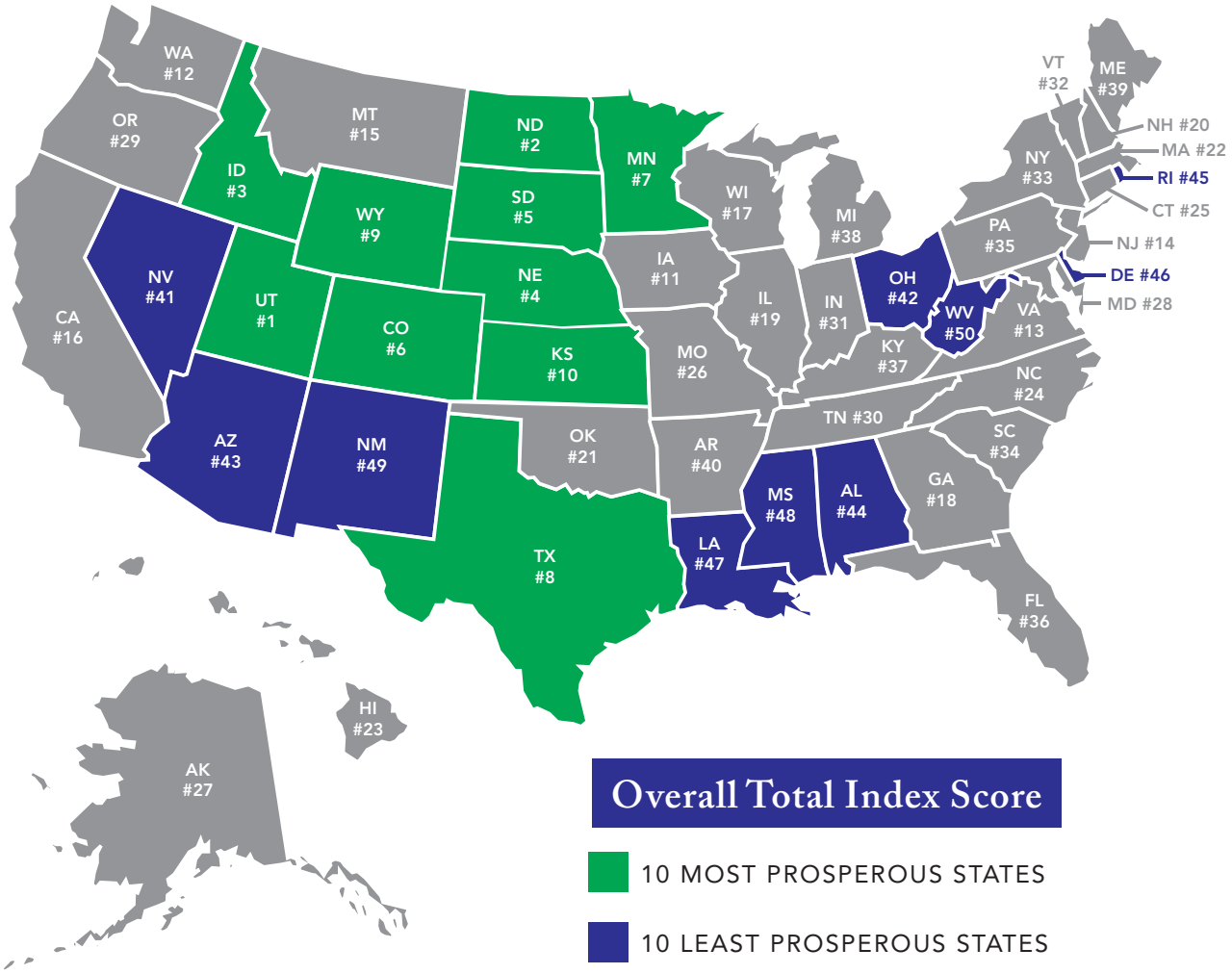
- Years of Productive Life Lost
- Risk Behavior
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Infant Survival
- Self-Mortality

The FPI comprehensively measures the economic and social factors that are indicative of family prosperity, offering a way to fill in the gaps around GDP. A state that scores high on the FPI is one that is moving toward the goal of facilitating family prosperity, whereas a state that scores low is moving in the opposite direction.

Based on the 2017 Family Prosperity Index:

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES ARE:		
1	Utah	7.24
2	North Dakota	6.32
3	Idaho	6.23
4	Nebraska	6.00
5	South Dakota	5.94
6	Colorado	5.93
7	Minnesota	5.91
8	Texas	5.89
9	Wyoming	5.78
10	Kansas	5.69

THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Nevada	4.46
42	Ohio	4.46
43	Arizona	4.42
44	Alabama	4.35
45	Rhode Island	4.20
46	Delaware	4.16
47	Louisiana	4.13
48	Mississippi	4.06
49	New Mexico	3.58
50	West Virginia	3.50



INTRODUCTION

"But even if we act to erase material poverty, there is another greater task, it is to confront the poverty of satisfaction – purpose and dignity – that afflicts us all. Too much and for too long, we seemed to have surrendered personal excellence and community values in the mere accumulation of material things. Our Gross National Product, now, is over $800 billion dollars a year, but that Gross National Product – if we judge the United States of America by that – that Gross National Product counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for the people who break them. It counts the destruction of the redwood and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. It counts napalm and counts nuclear warheads and armored cars for the police to fight the riots in our cities. It counts Whitman's rifle and Speck's knife, and the television programs which glorify violence in order to sell toys to our children. Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country, it measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile. And it can tell us everything about America except why we are proud that we are Americans."

-Robert F. Kennedy, University of Kansas, March 18, 1968.[1]

1 http://www.jfklibrary.org/Research/Research-Aids/Ready-Reference/RFK-Speeches/Remarks-of-Robert-F-Kennedy-at-the-University-of-Kansas-March-18-1968.aspx

The Family Prosperity Index (FPI) broadens the definition of "prosperity." Common metrics, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), show prosperity merely as an amorphous aggregate measured strictly in economic terms.[2] Such measures fail to provide a complete picture of family prosperity because they ignore the social factors that determine the quality of our lives.

Data transformations such as "per capita GDP" still leave much to be desired even as they help control for demographic differences among areas. For example, children are not factored into these measures the same way adults are, yet their economic activity is co-mingled with their adult parents or caregivers.

The family is the core socio-economic unit from which to judge prosperity and should be the focus of political and civic leaders. Families seeking a reliable gauge of prosperity when determining where to live and work look beyond economic measures like GDP. They take a more holistic approach that considers such factors as safety, opportunity, education, and health, to name a few. In turn, the states that perform the best in relation to these factors are the ones that are truly prospering.

In fact, to that point, according to a landmark study published in the Quarterly Journal of Economics:

> *"Intergenerational mobility varies substantially across areas. For example, the probability that a child reaches the top quintile of the national income distribution starting from a family in the bottom quintile is 4.4% in Charlotte but 12.9% in San Jose. The spatial variation in intergenerational mobility is strongly correlated with five factors: (1) residential segregation, (2) income inequality, (3) school quality, (4) social capital, and (5) family structure."*[3]

Another study also found that:

> *"... [S]hifts in marriage and family structure are important factors in states' economic performance, including their economic growth, economic mobility, child poverty, and median family income."*[4]

To this end, the FPI comprehensively measures the economic and social factors that are indicative of family prosperity, offering a true alternative to measures such as GDP.

---

2 Although, keep in mind, that "dollars and cents" measures do in fact make value judgments. In essence, anytime a dollar exchanges hands, whether for an abortion, divorce, gambling, etc., GDP considers it implicitly "good" through inclusion. Yet, for other nonmarket activities, such as the production of stay-at-home moms, GDP considers them "bad" through exclusion. For more information, see: Warcholik, Wendy P., "Some Economic Applications of Evangelii Gaudium," Crisis Magazine, December 3, 2013. http://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/some-economic-applications-of-evangelii-gaudium

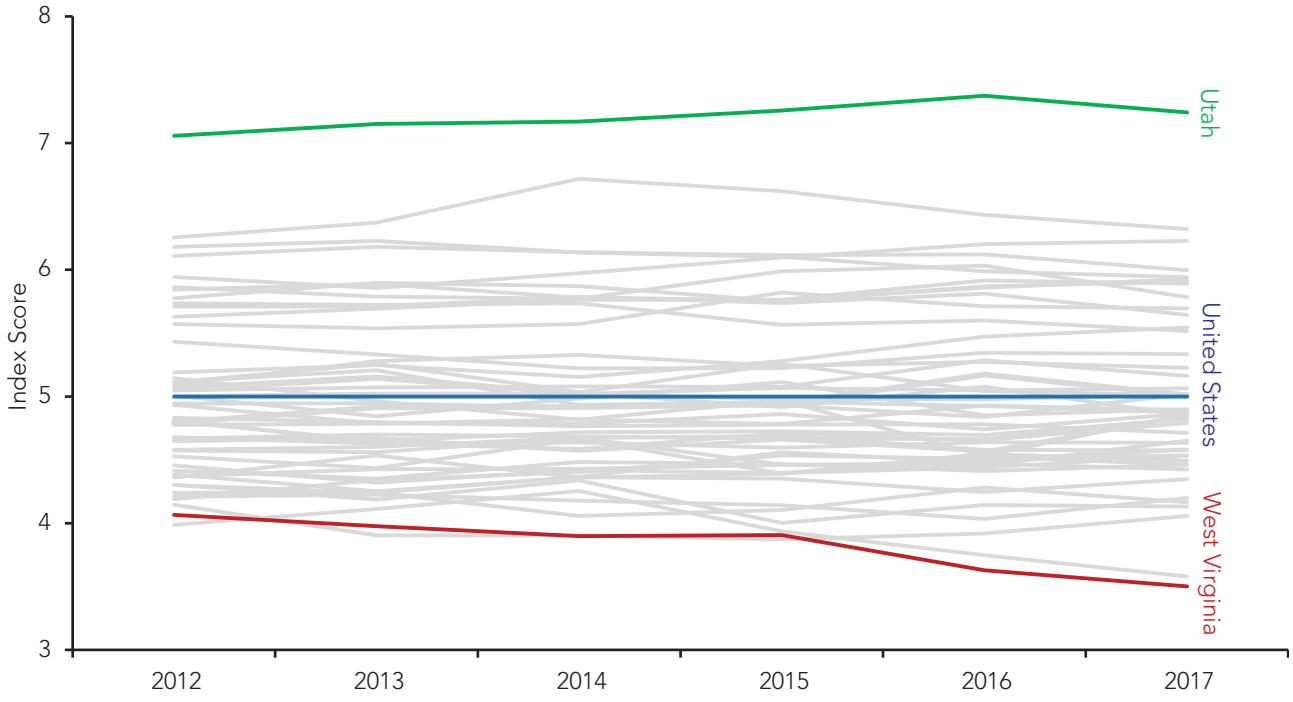
3 Chetty, Raj, Hendren, Nathaniel, Kline, Patrick, and Saez, Emmanuel, "Where is the Land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States," Quarterly Journal of Economics 129(4): 1553-1623, 2014 http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/assets/documents/mobility_geo.pdf

4 Lerman, Robert I., Price, Joseph, and Wilcox, W. Bradford, "Strong Families, Prosperous States: Do Healthy Families Affect the Wealth of States?" American Enterprise Institute and Institute for Family Studies, 2015. https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/IFS-HomeEconReport-2015-FinalWeb.pdf

As shown in **Chart 1** and **Table 1**, based on the 2017 Family Prosperity Index:

CHART 1

Total Index Score
2012 to 2017



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 1 | 2017 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	Economics	Rank	Demographics	Rank	Family Self-Sufficiency	Rank	Family Structure	Rank	Family Culture	Rank	Family Health	Rank	Total	Rank
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	3.54	47	4.52	34	4.60	36	4.65	32	4.51	36	4.26	41	4.35	44
Alaska	4.73	29	7.42	3	3.51	49	5.32	17	3.98	45	4.20	44	4.86	27
Arizona	4.58	35	5.63	16	4.34	40	3.61	49	3.45	48	4.92	27	4.42	43
Arkansas	4.06	45	5.27	20	4.12	43	5.45	16	3.90	46	4.14	46	4.49	40
California	5.98	6	5.17	23	5.12	25	4.73	31	4.38	38	5.60	12	5.16	16
Colorado	7.06	2	5.98	9	5.58	12	5.70	10	5.97	10	5.27	18	5.93	6
Connecticut	5.25	21	2.66	47	5.29	20	4.36	37	6.13	6	5.55	13	4.87	25
Delaware	5.05	24	4.18	38	3.64	46	4.08	42	4.15	43	3.88	49	4.16	46
Florida	5.54	13	3.96	41	5.40	17	4.02	45	4.07	44	4.51	37	4.58	36
Georgia	4.96	25	5.94	10	5.52	14	4.55	33	4.68	31	4.46	38	5.02	18
Hawaii	4.35	41	4.46	35	4.19	42	5.80	8	4.37	39	6.22	2	4.90	23
Idaho	5.50	15	7.39	4	5.59	11	6.77	2	6.04	8	6.07	6	6.23	3
Illinois	5.28	20	4.34	37	4.96	30	5.01	25	5.35	22	5.17	21	5.02	19
Indiana	4.82	28	5.38	19	4.96	29	4.33	38	4.51	35	4.94	26	4.82	31
Iowa	4.90	27	5.39	18	5.31	19	6.50	4	5.65	13	6.12	5	5.64	11
Kansas	5.87	8	5.62	17	6.02	5	5.50	14	5.62	15	5.54	14	5.69	10
Kentucky	4.36	40	5.06	25	3.73	44	4.41	36	5.47	20	4.43	39	4.57	37
Louisiana	4.37	39	5.84	13	3.58	48	4.06	44	3.57	47	3.37	50	4.13	47
Maine	4.49	37	2.28	49	4.76	33	5.16	21	5.47	19	5.03	22	4.53	39
Maryland	4.63	33	4.64	31	5.34	18	5.20	19	5.08	25	4.22	43	4.85	28
Massachusetts	5.41	17	3.07	44	5.85	7	4.22	39	5.73	11	5.44	15	4.95	22
Michigan	4.43	38	4.14	39	4.67	34	4.17	40	5.16	24	4.63	34	4.53	38
Minnesota	6.29	5	5.72	15	5.43	16	5.59	13	6.29	4	6.12	4	5.91	7
Mississippi	3.00	48	4.89	27	3.69	45	3.96	46	4.66	33	4.15	45	4.06	48
Missouri	5.10	22	4.79	28	4.86	31	4.93	26	4.52	34	4.99	25	4.87	26
Montana	4.95	26	5.24	21	5.54	13	5.99	6	4.80	28	4.84	29	5.23	15
Nebraska	5.63	12	6.69	7	5.69	9	5.65	11	6.12	7	6.20	3	6.00	4
Nevada	5.09	23	6.07	8	5.11	26	3.33	50	2.59	49	4.58	35	4.46	41
New Hampshire	5.74	10	2.55	48	6.03	4	5.60	12	5.44	21	4.70	32	5.01	20
New Jersey	5.52	14	3.99	40	5.74	8	4.78	29	6.20	5	5.79	7	5.33	14
New Mexico	2.50	49	4.52	33	3.33	50	4.46	34	2.56	50	4.11	48	3.58	49
New York	5.46	16	3.74	42	4.54	38	3.94	47	5.56	16	5.02	23	4.71	33
North Carolina	4.12	44	5.15	24	5.26	22	4.81	28	5.23	23	4.79	31	4.89	24
North Dakota	8.38	1	6.96	5	5.52	15	5.48	15	6.34	3	5.25	19	6.32	2
Ohio	4.63	32	4.54	32	4.40	39	3.81	48	4.99	26	4.38	40	4.46	42
Oklahoma	5.78	9	5.94	11	5.08	27	4.73	30	4.26	41	4.26	42	5.01	21
Oregon	4.50	36	4.78	29	4.66	35	5.19	20	4.66	32	5.28	17	4.84	29
Pennsylvania	4.73	30	3.37	43	4.81	32	4.42	35	5.63	14	4.86	28	4.63	35
Rhode Island	4.28	43	3.00	45	4.27	41	4.12	41	4.94	27	4.57	36	4.20	45
South Carolina	3.82	46	5.03	26	5.04	28	4.86	27	4.35	40	4.80	30	4.65	34
South Dakota	5.64	11	6.96	6	6.05	3	5.88	7	5.49	18	5.63	10	5.94	5
Tennessee	4.66	31	5.21	22	5.14	24	5.14	23	4.17	42	4.65	33	4.83	30
Texas	6.84	4	7.91	2	5.28	21	5.15	22	4.47	37	5.70	8	5.89	8
Utah	6.92	3	9.12	1	7.26	1	7.46	1	6.39	2	6.30	1	7.24	1
Vermont	4.34	42	2.00	50	4.58	37	6.55	3	6.04	9	5.25	20	4.79	32
Virginia	5.29	19	4.77	30	5.64	10	5.26	18	6.48	1	5.67	9	5.52	13
Washington	5.30	18	5.87	12	6.22	2	5.76	9	4.70	30	5.42	16	5.54	12
West Virginia	1.78	50	2.69	46	3.63	47	4.08	43	4.71	29	4.12	47	3.50	50
Wisconsin	4.62	34	4.43	36	5.16	23	5.07	24	5.52	17	5.61	11	5.07	17
Wyoming	5.96	7	5.74	14	5.95	6	6.40	5	5.66	12	5.00	24	5.78	9

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

METHODOLOGY

Construction

As noted above, the index itself is hierarchical in nature, built from six major indexes—**Economics, Demographics, Family Self-Sufficiency, Family Structure, Family Culture, and Family Health** (weighted equally at 16.67%)—with each consisting of five sub-indexes (weighted equally at 20%). Each sub-index consists of one or more variables out of the 60 total (generally weighted equally) with each variable having two measures: the level (worth 80%) and 5-year average annual growth rate (worth 20%).

In addition to the comprehensive scope of variables, the data sources are also varied, which insures the results are not just an artifact of the source. Sources range from pure survey data (e.g., American Community Survey published by Census Bureau) to pure administrative data (e.g., income data published by Internal Revenue Service) to hybrid survey/administrative data (e.g., data from Bureau of Economic Analysis).

Relative Index

The FPI is a relative index among the 50 states and does not compare the states to an ideal status. For instance, Utah is ranked the best among the 50 states, but many of Utah's measures are declining, albeit more slowly than in the other states (see Trend Index section). For example, Utah has the highest percent of population under 18 and the top score in this sub-index, but it is lower in 2015 (30.5%) than it was in 2000 (32.2%). The FPI does not define the optimal level.

Normalization

The scores for each sub-index are normalized to ensure that they are comparable. In some instances, there may be an outlier state that compresses the score of other states significantly above/or below an average score of 5.00. This, in effect, increases/decreases the weighting of that particular sub-index relative to other sub-indexes. As such, normalization is performed by multiplying every state score by a constant (+/-) until the 50-state average is equal to 5. This can also lead to multiple states having a score of 10 since that is the highest score allowed.

Dynamic Relationships

Currently, the FPI is static, which means that a change in any one variable only affects the score of that variable. Over time, the FPI will employ dynamic relationships between variables where a change in one variable will impact the score of two or more variables. These will be released on a rolling basis through a series of FPI issue papers documenting these relationships. Additionally, the FPI online database will be updated with these dynamic relationships.

Notable Changes Between 2016 and 2017 Family Prosperity Index

There have been a few modifications to the Family Prosperity Index between the 2016 and 2017 editions, which expand its usefulness as a comprehensive measure.

First, the most significant addition to the FPI may be found in the **Family Health** major index. A new sub-index was added, *years of productive life lost* (YPLL), which measures mortality after birth but before the age of 75 (the standard cut-off age). Put simply, a person who dies at 25 would have 50 years of productive life lost (75 – 25 = 50). This calculation is made for every death in each state per 100,000 in population.

Second, in order to accommodate the addition of YPLL, *illicit drug use* was incorporated into the *alcohol-tobacco-obesity* sub-index and renamed the *risk behavior* sub-index. Additionally, *illicit drug use* has been disaggregated into *marijuana use* and *illicit drug use other than marijuana* in order to account for the differential physical impacts of marijuana vs. harder drugs such as heroin, cocaine, crystal meth, etc. Also, marijuana is becoming less illicit as more states (e.g., California, Nevada, Massachusetts, and Maine in 2016) legalize its use. The five variables in the *risk behavior* sub-index are weighted equally.

The final modification to the 2017 FPI is the addition of net income migration data from the Internal Revenue Service to the *migration* sub-index. As our state studies in Wisconsin and Rhode Island showed, the income associated with people who are migrating has a significant short-term impact (+/-) on the overall health of a state's economy. The *migration of people* variable is weighted 80 percent and the *migration of income* variable is weighted 20 percent of the *migration* sub-index.

As a result of these methodological changes, as well as normal revisions to the data, the scores in the 2017 FPI supersede those of earlier editions.

TREND INDEX

The FPI is a relative index which means that it shows how well a state is doing against the other states or national average. What it doesn't tell you is whether or not the long-term trend of these variables is positive or negative.

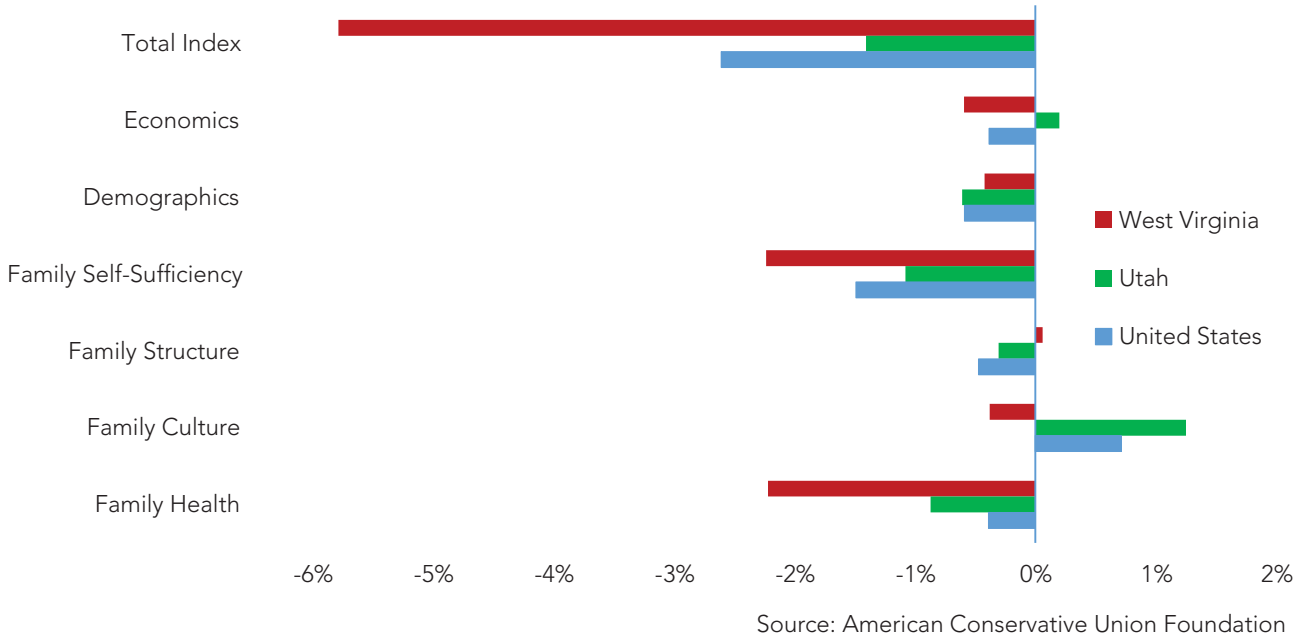
The Family Prosperity Trend Index (FPTI) was created to answer that question. The FPTI calculates the average annual percentage change (AAPC) over the entire available time period, 2003 to 2014, for every variable and applying the same FPI weights. This provides a snapshot of the overall trend of the FPI over time.

As shown in **Chart 2**, the FPTI for the U.S. average is decidedly negative with an AAPC of -2.61 percent over the 2003 to 2014 time period.[5] **Family Culture** was the only major index that was positive thanks to the decline in violent and property crime. This means that states are being ranked around a worsening trend.

5 Migration and cost-of-living variables were excluded for the U.S. average since they net to zero at the national level.

CHART 2

Family Prosperity Trend Index 2003 to 2014



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

To better highlight this, **Chart 2** also shows the FPTI for the top-ranked (Utah) and bottom-ranked (West Virginia) states in the 2017 FPI. While Utah manages positive AAPC in the **Economics** and **Family Culture** major indexes, Utah's overall FPTI was still -1.4 percent. West Virginia barely manages a positive AAPC in the **Family Structure** major index, but fares extremely poorly overall with a -5.78 AAPC.

ECONOMICS

While seemingly self-explanatory, the **Economics** major index involves a complicated calculation of the factors that most directly affect the bottom line of family budgets: income and the means by which it is earned - jobs. These two data points go a long way - but not all the way - toward determining the prosperity of families in a given state. Specifically, how and where income is earned is a key determinant.

Personal income comes from two sources: the **private sector and the public sector.** The distinction between the two sectors is important because only the private sector creates new income. The public sector, in contrast, can only redistribute income through taxes and spending. More specifically, public sector spending consists of personal current transfer receipts (Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, etc.) and government employee compensation (federal, state, and local).

This information is important because there is a significant positive correlation between per household personal income and the private sector share of personal income.[6] Put simply, the larger the private sector in a particular city or state, the greater the per household personal income in that community. When examining the lower 48 states, on average, a one-percentage point decrease in the size of the private sector yields a decrease in per household income of approximately $3,300.[7]

6 As such, the public sector crowds out the private sector. For example, see: Moody, J. Scott, "Expanding Medicaid Will Hurt North Carolina's Families, Lower Income, and Reduce Jobs," Federalism In Action, No. 5, March 23, 2015. http://www.federalisminaction.com/study-no-5

7 Alaska and Hawaii are excluded, as is common practice in state analysis, due to their unique economic characteristics.

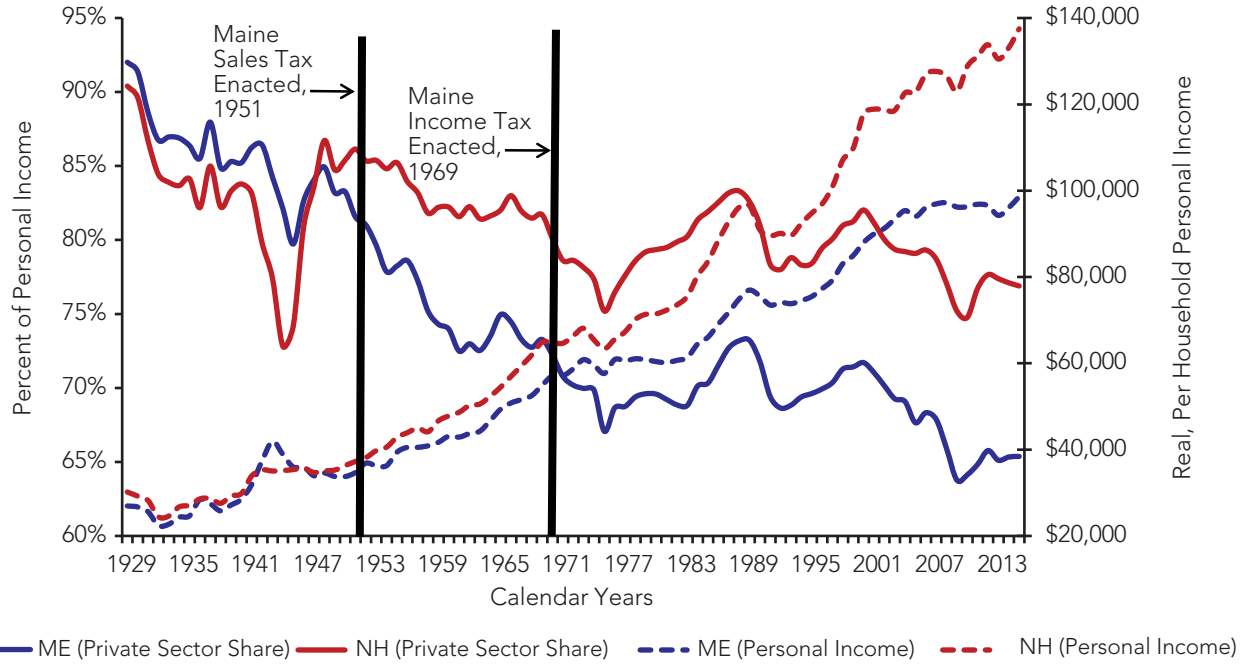
Of course, correlation does not equal causation; however, there are two states that allow for a very strong natural comparison to better show causation—New Hampshire and Maine. These two states are similar in many areas—geography, climate, demographics, and culture—but they diverge significantly in their approach to public policy.

As shown in **Chart 3,** between 1929 and 1950, Maine and New Hampshire had similar per household incomes (adjusted for inflation) and private sectors (as a percent of personal income). In 1951, Maine enacted the sales tax, which led to increased public sector spending and crowded out the private sector. Consequently, New Hampshire's per household income began to steadily pull away from Maine.

CHART 3

New Hampshire's Larger Private Sector Leads to Higher Income vs. Maine

2012 to 2017



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis and American Conservative Union Foundation

This trend accelerated in 1969 when Maine enacted its income tax—a few years after the federal government enacted Medicaid. With this new source of revenue, Maine was able to dramatically expand its welfare system, especially Medicaid. In fact, as of FY 2010, Maine had the third highest percentage of population on Medicaid at 31 percent.

In stark contrast, New Hampshire remains the only state in the Union not to have enacted a state or local sales tax or state or local income tax (see **Family Self-Sufficiency**).

This difference in public policy has resulted in dramatic differences in the size of each state's private sector. Between 1929 and 2015, Maine's private sector shrank by 29 percent to 65.4 percent from 92 percent and now has only the 41st largest private sector in the country. By contrast, New Hampshire has seen its private sector shrink by a much smaller 14.9 percent—to 76.9 percent from 90.4 percent —and now has the 2nd largest private sector in the country.

As a result, New Hampshire's private sector in 2014 is 17.6 percent larger than Maine's—76.9 percent and 65.4 percent respectively. Consequently, New Hampshire's per household income in 2015 is 39 percent higher than Maine's—$137,511 and $98,632, respectively.

This matters because personal income is an important economic measure of a family's well-being. Higher levels of personal income mean that a family is able to buy more goods and services such as a home, a car, education, and healthcare.

For comparison purposes, three adjustments have to be made to personal income data:

- First, personal income has to be adjusted for inflation, which erodes purchasing power over time, so the data is shown in constant 2015 dollars.
- Second, personal income has to be adjusted for differences in demographics, so the data is divided by the number of households. Per capita personal income provides a bonus to older states with fewer children, so for the purposes of the index, the household is an approximation for the family.
- Third, income must also be adjusted for differences in purchasing power stemming from geography. For example, it is common knowledge that the price of goods and services, especially housing, is generally higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Therefore, states that have high nominal household personal income are also very likely to be high cost of living areas and vice-versa.[8]

8 Cost of Living is significantly overlooked in policy discussions. For instance, the federal tax code adjusts for inflation, but does not do the same for cost of living. As a result, federal tax payments can vary dramatically even if the real purchasing power of one's income is the same. For more information, see http://keypolicydata.com/cost-living/federal-taxes-and-cost-living/

Of course, income must be earned and, for the vast majority of people, that comes through having a job. But jobs don't just appear out of thin air. They are a result of entrepreneurship. Therefore, understanding the strength of entrepreneurship in a state is essential to understanding the growth—or lack thereof—in jobs there. As economist Tim Kane puts it:

> *"The oft-quoted American sports slogan, 'Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing!' could well be attributed to the economic importance of firm formation in creating jobs. A relatively new dataset from the U.S. government called Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS) confirms that startups aren't everything when it comes to job growth. They're the only thing."*[9]

Finally, we are accustomed to thinking that a person is either employed or unemployed. However, there are many shades of unemployment and in recognition of such, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has developed 6 different measures of unemployment, called "Alternative Measures of Labor Utilization."

For example, the breadwinner of a family fighting hard to make ends meet might be forced to take a part-time job in lieu of more stable full-time work. Economists refer to this as underemployment and it is captured in the "U6" measure, which is the broadest measure of un/underemployment.

9 Kane, Tim, "The Importance of Startups in Job Creation and Job Destruction," Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, July 2010. http://www.kauffman.org/~/media/kauffman_org/research%20reports%20and%20covers/2010/07/firm_formation_importance_of_startups.pdf

As shown in **Chart 4** and **Table 2**:

Based on the 2017 Family Prosperity Index:

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN ECONOMICS ARE:		
1	North Dakota	8.38
2	Colorado	7.06
3	Utah	6.92
4	Texas	6.84
5	Minnesota	629
6	California	5.98
7	Wyoming	5.96
8	Kansas	5.87
9	Oklahoma	5.78
10	New Hampshire	5.74

THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Hawaii	4.35
42	Vermont	4.34
43	Rhode Island	4.28
44	North Carolina	4.12
45	Arkansas	4.06
46	South Carolina	3.82
47	Alabama	3.54
48	Mississippi	3.00
49	New Mexico	2.50
50	West Virginia	1.78

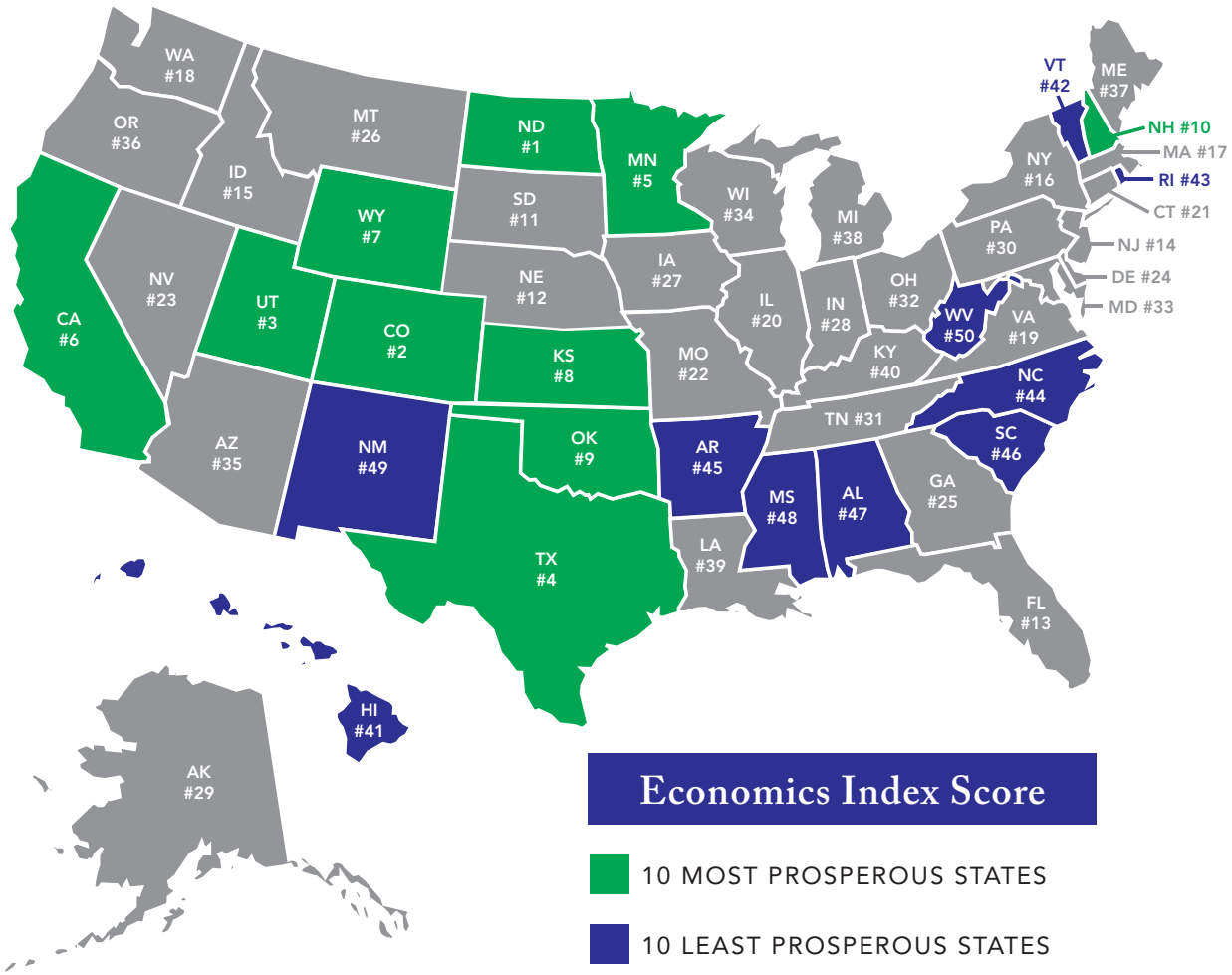
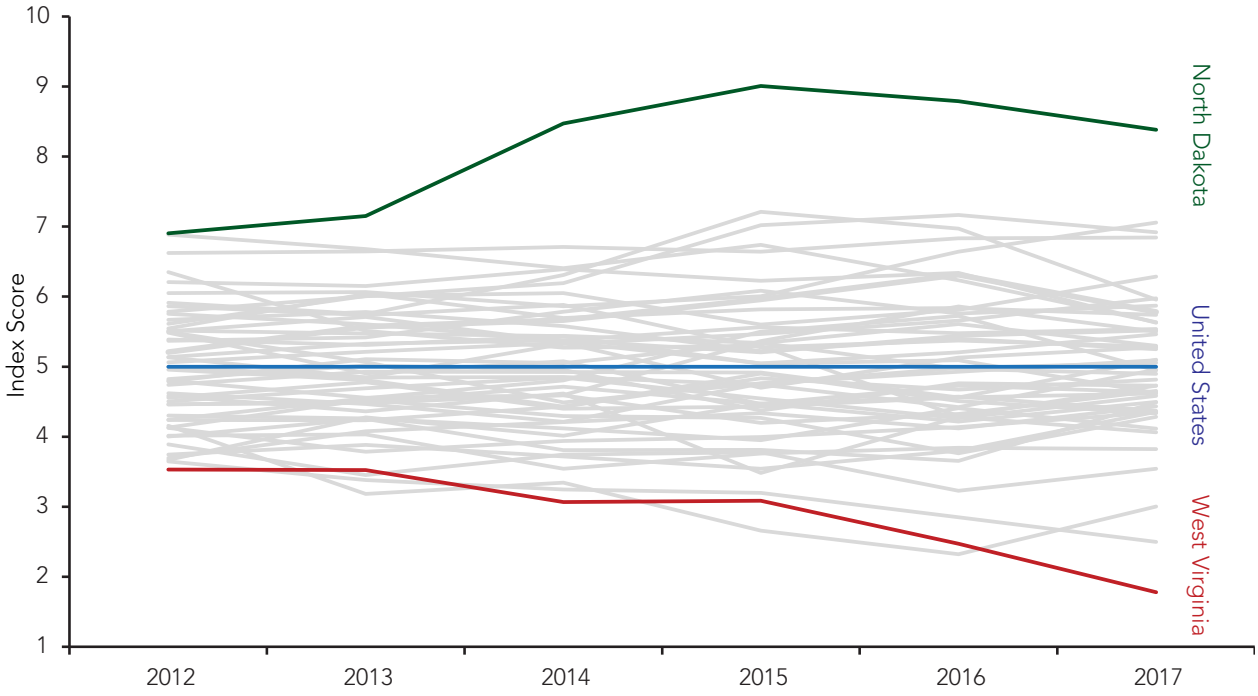


CHART 4

Economics Index Score
2012 to 2017



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 2 | 2017 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX ECONOMICS SUB-INDEXES

	PRIVATE SECTOR SHARE OF PERSONAL INCOME	RANK	REAL PER HOUSEHOLD PERSONAL INCOME	RANK	COST OF LIVING	RANK	ENTREPRENEURSHIP	RANK	UNEMPLOYMENT	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	2.66	46	1.15	47	7.21	4	3.54	33	3.15	43	3.54	47
Alaska	3.74	40	8.28	7	2.71	43	8.15	8	0.76	49	4.73	29
Arizona	4.20	37	2.27	42	5.26	26	8.10	9	3.09	44	4.58	35
Arkansas	3.36	43	1.80	46	7.37	2	2.98	35	4.81	24	4.06	45
California	6.24	12	10.00	1 (Tie)	1.52	47	8.84	5	3.29	41	5.98	6
Colorado	6.91	7	6.85	14	3.78	38	9.60	2	8.15	4	7.06	2
Connecticut	8.07	1	10.00	1 (Tie)	2.22	45	2.52	43	3.43	38	5.25	21
Delaware	4.09	39	5.15	23	3.51	40	7.93	10	4.58	26	5.05	24
Florida	5.48	23	4.01	29	4.50	34	9.32	4	4.38	28	5.54	13
Georgia	5.51	22	2.87	37	6.22	19	6.56	13	3.64	37	4.96	25
Hawaii	2.89	44	8.04	9	0.65	49	2.58	39	7.58	8	4.35	41
Idaho	5.58	20	2.60	39	5.57	23	6.52	14	7.23	11	5.50	15
Illinois	6.59	9	6.34	16	4.17	36	6.01	16	3.28	42	5.28	20
Indiana	5.76	18	3.87	32	6.40	15	1.92	46	6.12	19	4.82	28
Iowa	5.10	28	3.95	31	6.71	10	0.74	50	8.00	5	4.90	27
Kansas	5.90	15	4.80	25	6.66	11	5.68	21	6.32	16	5.87	8
Kentucky	2.16	47	1.82	45	7.23	3	5.93	17	4.65	25	4.36	40
Louisiana	4.93	29	4.36	28	6.27	18	3.99	29	2.30	46	4.37	39
Maine	3.37	42	1.95	44	5.43	25	5.34	23	6.36	15	4.49	37
Maryland	4.52	36	8.24	8	1.90	46	4.15	28	4.31	29	4.63	33
Massachusetts	7.04	5	10.00	1 (Tie)	2.62	44	2.54	42	4.84	23	5.41	17
Michigan	5.24	26	4.01	30	5.85	20	2.56	41	4.51	27	4.43	38
Minnesota	6.51	10	6.05	18	4.90	32	6.63	12	7.34	10	6.29	5
Mississippi	1.26	48	0.73	49	7.61	1	2.94	37	2.48	45	3.00	48
Missouri	4.70	32	2.83	38	6.97	6	5.70	20	5.31	22	5.10	22
Montana	4.66	35	2.54	40	5.70	22	4.89	26	6.95	12	4.95	26
Nebraska	6.28	11	5.33	22	6.55	14	1.48	48	8.50	2	5.63	12
Nevada	5.47	24	2.88	36	5.12	28	10.00	1	1.99	47	5.09	23
New Hampshire	7.29	3	7.55	10	3.22	42	2.96	36	7.66	7	5.74	10
New Jersey	7.14	4	10.00	1 (Tie)	0.80	48	6.33	15	3.31	40	5.52	14
New Mexico	0.27	49	0.76	48	5.51	24	5.12	24	0.82	48	2.50	49
New York	5.57	21	9.83	6	0.52	50	7.13	11	4.26	31	5.46	16
North Carolina	4.19	38	2.36	41	6.33	17	3.90	31	3.81	35	4.12	44
North Dakota	7.56	2	9.84	5	6.38	16	9.41	3	8.72	1	8.38	1
Ohio	4.84	30	3.59	34	6.90	7	2.35	44	5.49	21	4.63	32
Oklahoma	5.85	16	5.45	21	6.62	12	4.79	27	6.19	18	5.78	9
Oregon	4.69	34	4.37	27	4.48	35	5.01	25	3.94	33	4.50	36
Pennsylvania	5.76	17	5.55	19	4.96	31	3.07	34	4.29	30	4.73	30
Rhode Island	4.69	33	6.11	17	4.51	33	2.69	38	3.42	39	4.28	43
South Carolina	2.87	45	2.12	43	6.57	13	3.88	32	3.67	36	3.82	46
South Dakota	6.24	13	4.84	24	7.07	5	2.21	45	7.82	6	5.64	11
Tennessee	5.18	27	3.36	35	6.87	8	3.99	30	3.88	34	4.66	31
Texas	6.99	6	7.07	12	5.05	29	8.66	6	6.45	14	6.84	4
Utah	6.90	8	5.47	20	5.16	27	8.61	7	8.46	3	6.92	3
Vermont	3.43	41	4.40	26	3.72	39	2.57	40	7.55	9	4.34	42
Virginia	4.84	31	6.43	15	3.84	37	5.80	19	5.54	20	5.29	19
Washington	6.20	14	7.27	11	3.31	41	5.67	22	4.04	32	5.30	18
West Virginia	0.18	50	0.15	50	6.76	9	1.24	49	0.57	50	1.78	50
Wisconsin	5.65	19	3.81	33	5.84	21	1.59	47	6.20	17	4.62	34
Wyoming	5.43	25	6.95	13	4.97	30	5.87	18	6.56	13	5.96	7

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

State Highlight: RHODE ISLAND[10]

RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR FREEDOM & PROSPERITY

Every state strives to identify and implement the best approach to creating a productive public-private environment where individuals and families can thrive, with varying degrees of success. For instance, in recent decades, Rhode Island has taken the path of spending heavily on public assistance programs, which has led to its poor FPI rankings on the *Medicaid* (47th) and *government burden* (39th) sub-indexes.

While such programs are well-intentioned, this long-held public policy approach—which mainly seeks to address the material hardships of Rhode Island residents—has actually led to diminished prosperity for families by ignoring their cultural and familial needs; hence, the state's rank of 46th on the 2017 FPI. Consequently, the lack of opportunity in the Ocean State has forced many Rhode Islanders to migrate to states that offer a greater sense of hope and prosperity.

The government's attempt to fight poverty, via a massive system of social welfare and social engineering programs, has crowded out the roles that the private sector and civil society have traditionally played in facilitating prosperity and a sense of personal dignity. Instead, the state has created an over-reliance on government assistance, which has reduced the opportunity for family upward mobility,

As Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a creator of the American social safety net state as we know it, said in 1935:

> *[C]ontinued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual and moral disintegration fundamentally destructive to the national fiber. To dole out relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit.*[11]

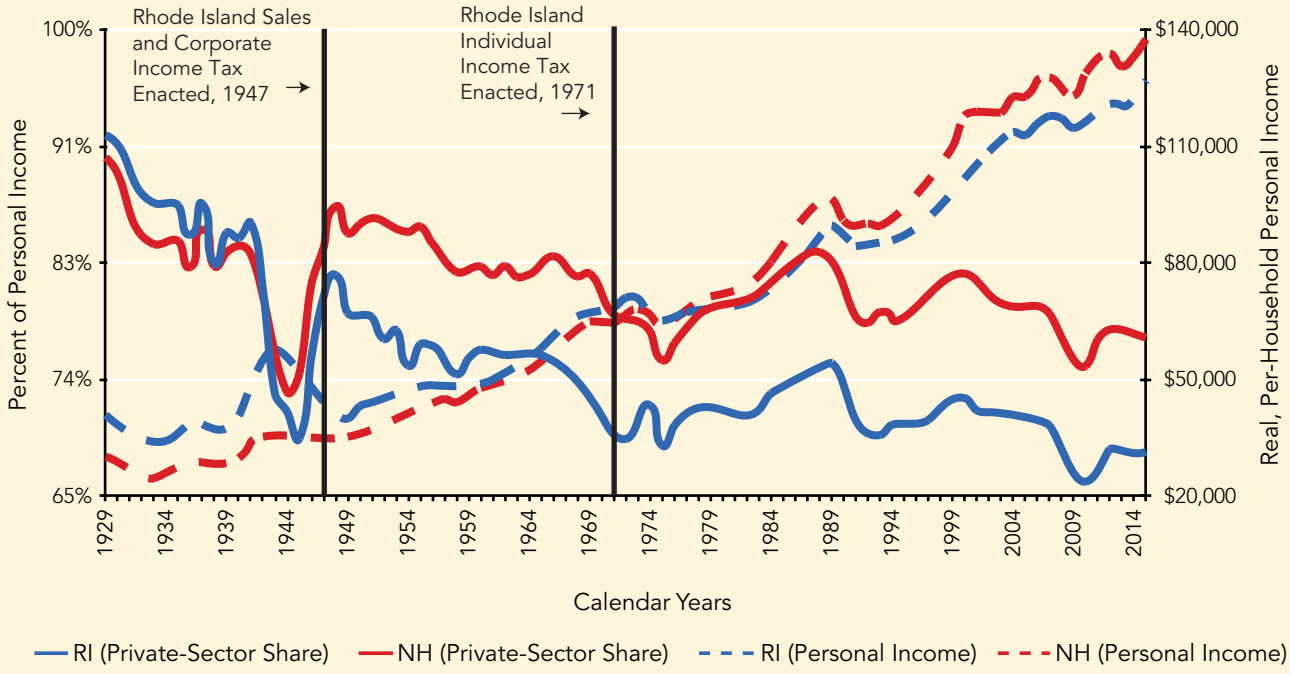
To illustrate this point, like the Maine example above, Rhode Island can also be directly compared to New Hampshire. As shown in **Chart A**, prior to WWII, Rhode Island had higher per household incomes (adjusted for inflation) and a larger private-sector share (as a percentage of personal income) than New Hampshire.

10 The full Rhode Island study can be found here: http://familyprosperity.org/application/files/6814/8233/0327/RhodeIsland-FPI-Study-122116.pdf

11 Roosevelt, Franklin D., "Annual Message to Congress," January 4, 1935. http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=14890

CHART A

Rhode Island Versus New Hampshire
Calendar Years 1929 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau,
Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity, and American Conservative Union Foundation

In 1947, Rhode Island enacted the sales tax and corporate income tax, which led to increased public sector spending and essentially started to crowd out the private sector. Consequently, New Hampshire's per household income began to steadily converge with Rhode Island's.

This trend accelerated in 1971 when Rhode Island enacted the personal income tax, a few years after the federal government enacted Medicaid. With this new source of revenue, Rhode Island continued to spend, which further expanded its public sector at the expense of the private sector.

Medicaid's role in this divergence is highlighted in the spending per capita, where Rhode Island spent $2,513 per person in 2015 (4th highest in the nation), while New Hampshire spent $1,291 per person (35th highest in the nation).

This difference in approach to public policy, as illustrated by the variations in Medicaid spending, has resulted in a dramatic difference in the size of each state's private sector. Between 1929 and 2015, Rhode Island's private sector shrank by 25.8 percent, to 68.3 percent, from 92.1 percent, and is now only the 34th largest private sector in the country. New Hampshire, on the other hand, has seen its private sector shrink by a much smaller 14.9 percent, to 76.9 percent, from 90.4 percent, and now has the 2nd largest private sector in the country.

As a result, New Hampshire's private sector, based on 2015 data, is 12.5 percent larger than Rhode Island's—76.9 percent and 68.3 percent, respectively. Consequently, New Hampshire's per household income is now eight percent higher than Rhode Island's—$137,511 and $126,882, respectively. This is a complete turnaround from the situation prior to WWII, when Rhode Island's per household income was higher than New Hampshire's.

If Rhode Island's private-sector share of personal income had been at the national average, that would have meant an additional $1 billion pumped into Rhode Island's private sector. This investment in the private sector would, in the long run, result in significantly higher incomes for all Rhode Islanders and, most likely, also a higher ranking on FPI's social sub-indexes.

Rhode Island can begin to improve its ranking — and the well-being of its residents — by reversing the crowd-out of the private sector and of civil society by an over-intrusive government. The data shows that higher self-sufficiency and productivity and lower reliance on government assistance is the true path to happiness and success.

Ronald Reagan once said about too much government intervention:

> *[It] robbed us of our tiller and set us adrift. Helping to restore these values (faith, family, neighborhood, work and freedom) will bring new strength, direction and dignity to our lives and to the life of our nation. It's on these values that we'll best build our future.*[12]

To that end, and throughout history, major Democrat and Republican icons — and people from across the philosophical spectrum — agree on the vital importance of work and strong families. Rhode Island's politicians would do well to focus on minimizing government encroachment on its citizens by reducing its onerous tax burden, which, in turn, would spark new entrepreneurship and jobs.

In dollar terms, lowering Rhode Island's state and local tax burden to the national average would require a $359 million tax cut out of the $5.8 billion in taxes raised in FY15. To match Florida, where a plurality of Rhode Island out-migrants choose to settle, would require a tax reduction of $1.7 billion.

Keep in mind, of course, that these are static estimates and that any move to reduce tax burdens at this level would be a strong boost to the private sector — thus significantly reducing the needed size of the tax cut in dollar terms because of naturally increased tax revenue.

12 Reagan, Ronald, "Radio Address to the Nation on Administration Policies," August 25, 1984.

Ironically, a debate in Rhode Island years ago about repealing its state sales tax might have been just what the doctor ordered. But political leaders were not ready for such bold action then. A thorough economic modeling of the tax plan by economists at the Beacon Hill Institute found that by eliminating this regressive tax — which disproportionately harms average and low-income families — Rhode Island could create up to 25,000 new jobs.

This kind of reform can improve the quality of life for Rhode Islanders today and snowball to create even more good jobs that will attract Americans — especially young people — from other states to move into the Ocean State in the future.[13]

As the FPI demonstrates, the job security and individual economic opportunity resulting from a reform of the sales tax or similar measures would likely have the added benefit of improved social and cultural circumstances for Rhode Island families. Lowering the state and local tax burden on Rhode Island's families and businesses should be a major policy priority. This can only happen effectively if overall government spending is reduced.

Rhode Island must set itself on a path to grow its family and business population, thus increasing its productivity and tax base and improving the quality of life for its resident families. The Ocean State can ill afford to continue to lose even more of its workforce or business and community leaders to other states.

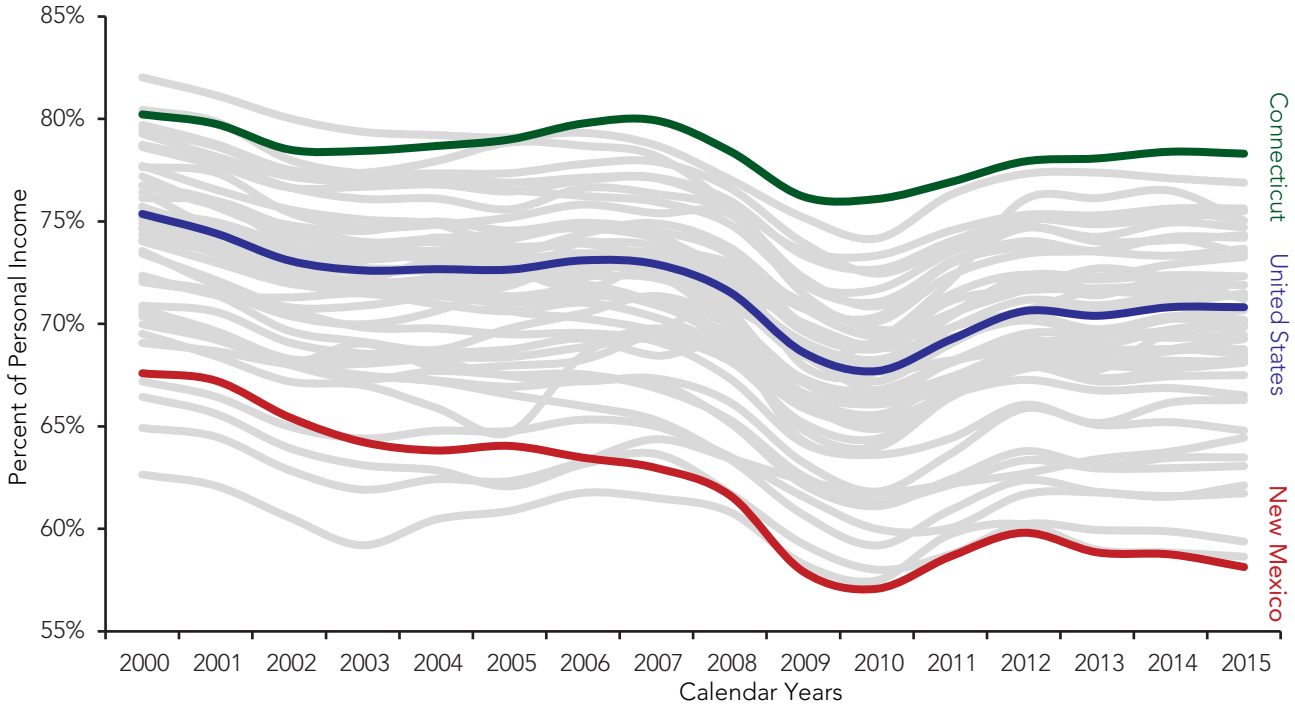
13 The Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity's "Zero.Zero" plan, based on the elimination of the state sales tax, can be found at http://rifreedom.org/0-0-sales-tax/

Private Sector Share of Personal Income

As shown in **Chart 5**, the **private sector share of personal income** (hereafter "private sector") fell nationally by 6 percent to 70.8 percent in 2015 from 75.4 percent in 2000. Of course, the private sector is still rebounding from the "Great Recession" and is likely to continue its improvement, albeit slowly, in the coming years.[14]

CHART 5

Private Sector Share of Personal Income
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis and American Conservative Union Foundation

At the same time, there is a large variance in the size of the private sector among the 50 states. In 2015, Connecticut had the largest private sector at 78.3 percent, while New Mexico had the smallest private sector at 58.1 percent—a difference of 35 percent.

Overall, for the *private sector sub-index*, Connecticut had the highest score (8.07), followed by North Dakota (7.565), New Hampshire (7.29), New Jersey (7.14), and Massachusetts (7.04). West Virginia had the lowest sub-index score (0.18), followed by New Mexico (0.27), Mississippi (1.26), Kentucky (2.16), and Alabama (2.66).

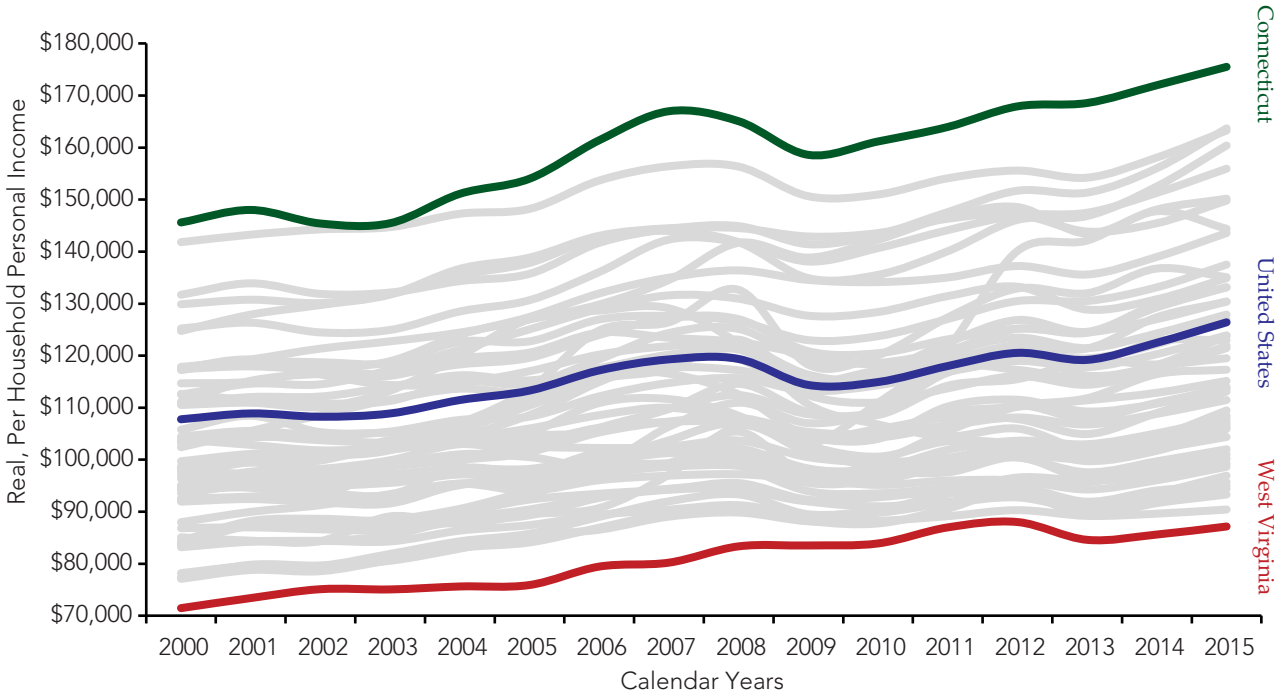
14 Regional Data, U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis http://www.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1#reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1

Real, Per Household Personal Income

As shown in **Chart 6,** **real, per household personal income** increased nationally by 17 percent to $126,408 in 2015 from $107,769 in 2000. Not surprisingly, given the correlation found between the private sector and personal income, Connecticut in 2015 had the highest level of personal income at $175,515 while West Virginia had the lowest level of personal income at $87,159—a difference of 101 percent.[15]

CHART 6

Real, Per Household Personal Income (2015 Dollars) Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *personal income* sub-index, four states scored a perfect 10—California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. West Virginia had the lowest *personal income* sub-index score (0.15), followed by Mississippi (0.73), New Mexico (0.76), Alabama (1.15), and Arkansas (1.80).

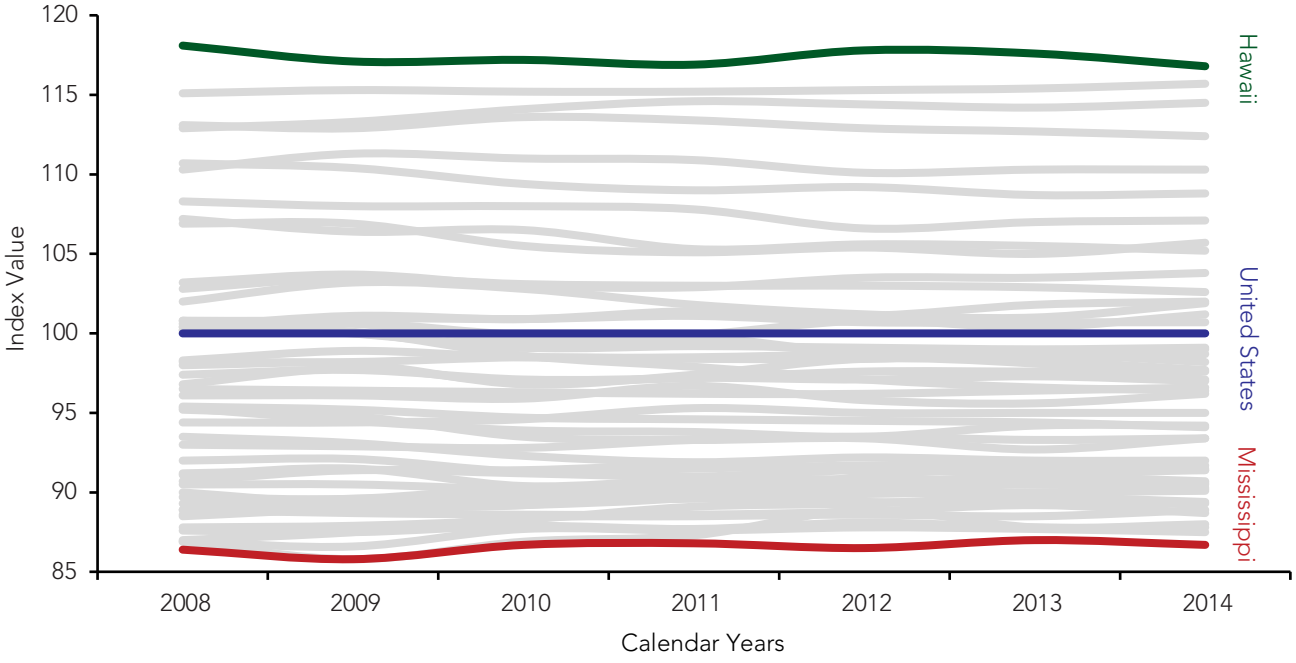
15 Regional Data, U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis http://www.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1#reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1

Cost of Living

As shown in **Chart 7,** there is a large **variance in cost of living among the 50 states.** In 2015, Hawaii had the highest cost of living with an index value of 116.8, while Mississippi had the lowest level of cost of living with an index value of 86.7—a difference of 35 percent.[16]

CHART 7

Cost of Living
Calendar Years 2008 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *cost of living* sub-index, Mississippi had the top score (7.61), followed by Arkansas (7.37), Kentucky (7.23), Alabama (7.21), and South Dakota (7.07). New York had the lowest score (0.52), followed by Hawaii (0.65), New Jersey (0.80), California (1.52), and Maryland (1.90).

Note: Due to data limitations, the measure for the year-to-year change could only be measured in one-year increments.

16 Regional Data, U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis http://www.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1#reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1

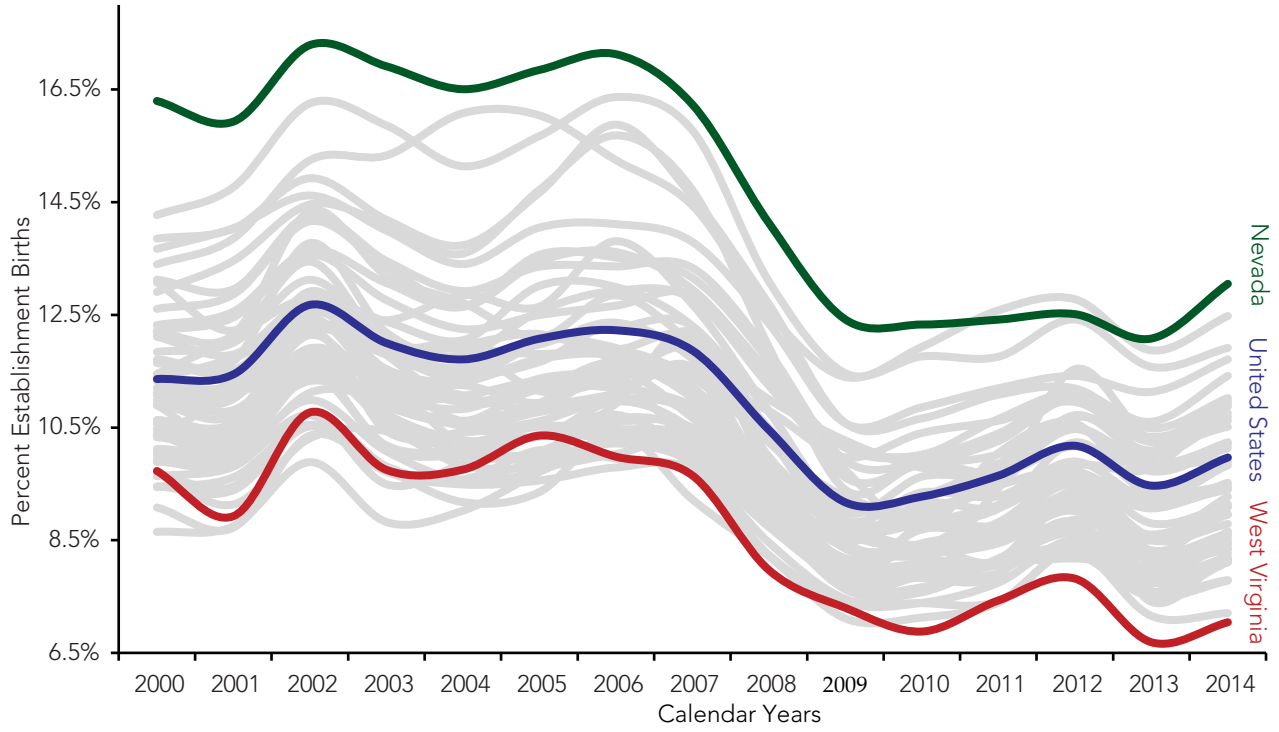
Entrepreneurship

Charts 8 and 9 show the **variance in the various measures of entrepreneurship** (establishment and job births) nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2014.[17]

As shown in **Chart 8**, **establishment births** (as a percent of total establishments) decreased nationally by 12 percent to 10 percent in 2014 from 11.4 percent in 2000. In 2014, Nevada had the greatest level of establishment births at 13.1 percent, while West Virginia had the lowest level of establishment births at 7 percent—a difference of 85 percent.

CHART 8

Establishment Births as a Percent of Total Establishments
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



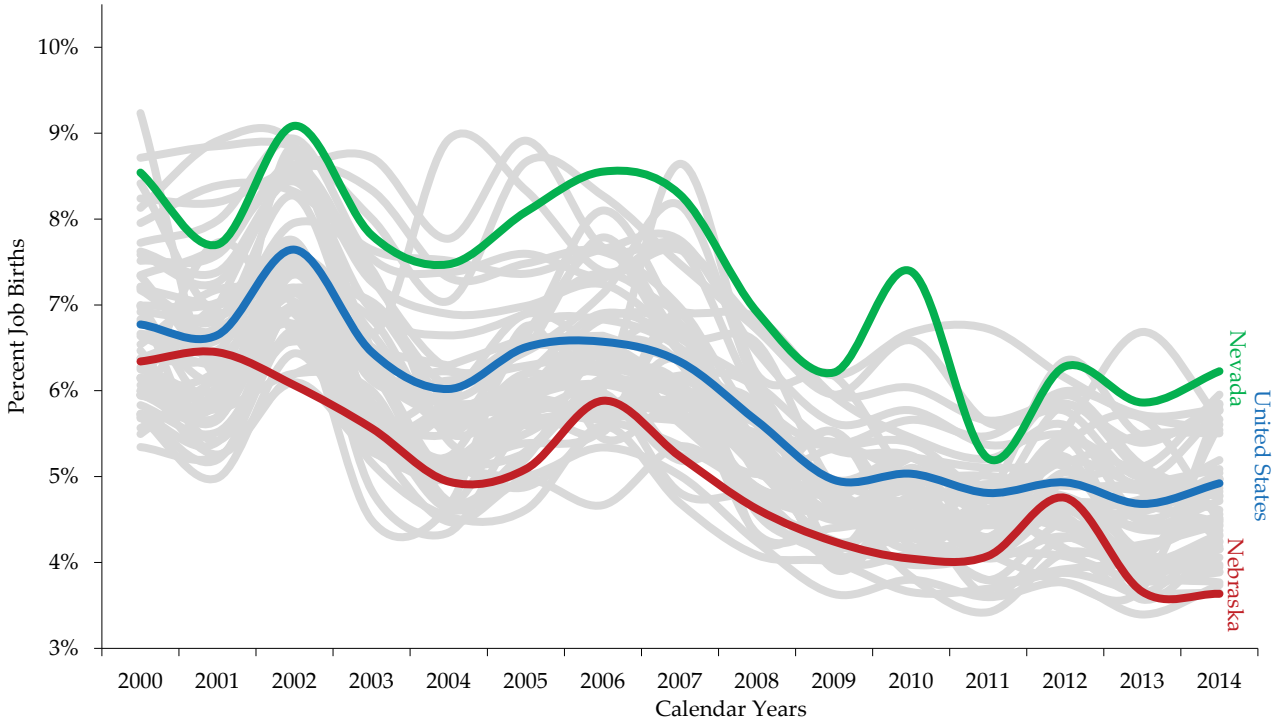
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

17 Business Dynamics Statistics, U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau http://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/bds/data_estab.html

As shown in **Chart 9**, **job births** (as a percent of total jobs) decreased nationally by 30 percent to 4.4 percent in 2014 from 6.3 percent in 2000. In 2014, Nevada had the greatest levels of job births at 5.7 percent, while Nebraska had the lowest levels of job births at 3.1 percent—a difference of 83 percent.

CHART 9

Job Births as a Percent of Total Jobs
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *entrepreneurship* sub-index, Nevada had the top score (10.00), followed by Colorado (9.60), North Dakota (9.41), Florida (9.32), and California (8.84). Iowa had the lowest score (0.74), followed by West Virginia (1.24), Nebraska (1.48), Wisconsin (1.59), and Indiana (1.92).

Note: The establishment births and job births were weighted equally in the entrepreneurship sub-index.

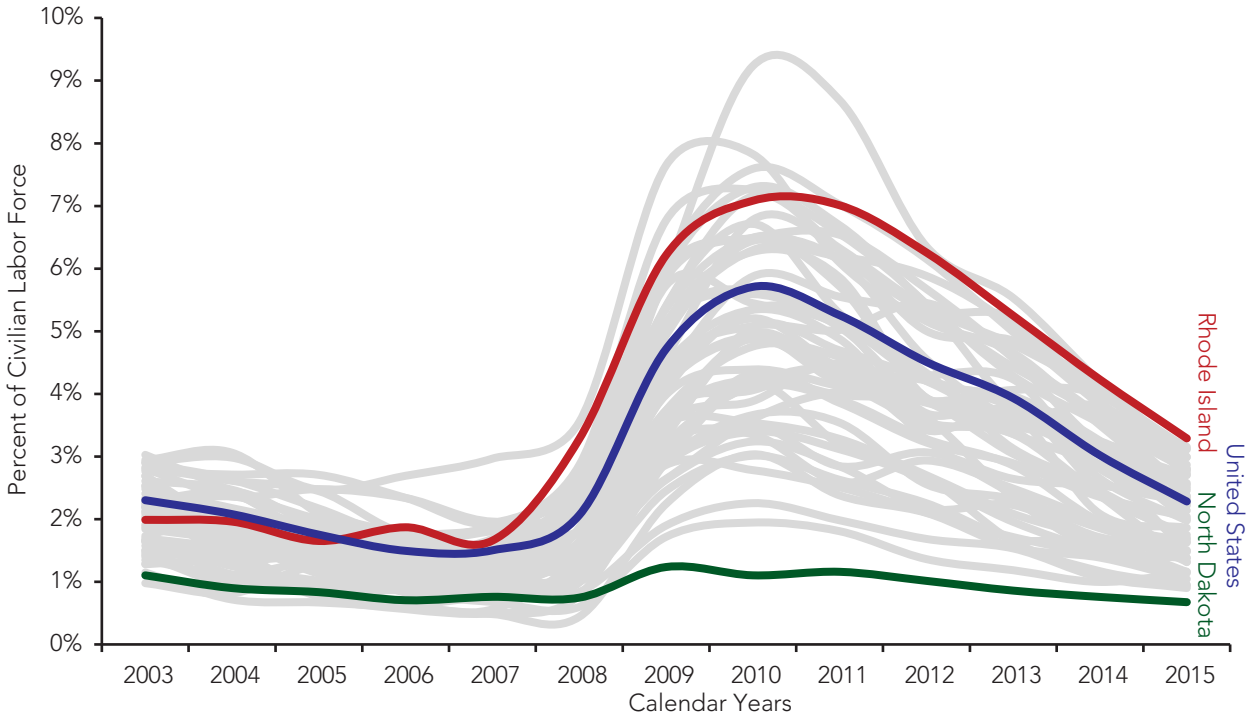
Unemployment

Charts 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 show the **variance in the various unemployment rates** nationally and in the 50 states from 2003 (the first year of available data) to 2015.[18]

As shown in **Chart 10**, the **U1 unemployment rate** measures the number of people unemployed for 15 weeks or longer as a percent of the civilian labor force. U1 declined nationally by 1 percent to 2.3 percent in 2015 from 2.3 percent in 2003. In 2015, Rhode Island had the highest U1 unemployment rate at 3.3 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 0.7 percent—a difference of 387 percent.

CHART 10

Unemployed for 15+ Weeks (U1)
Calendar Years 2003 to 2015



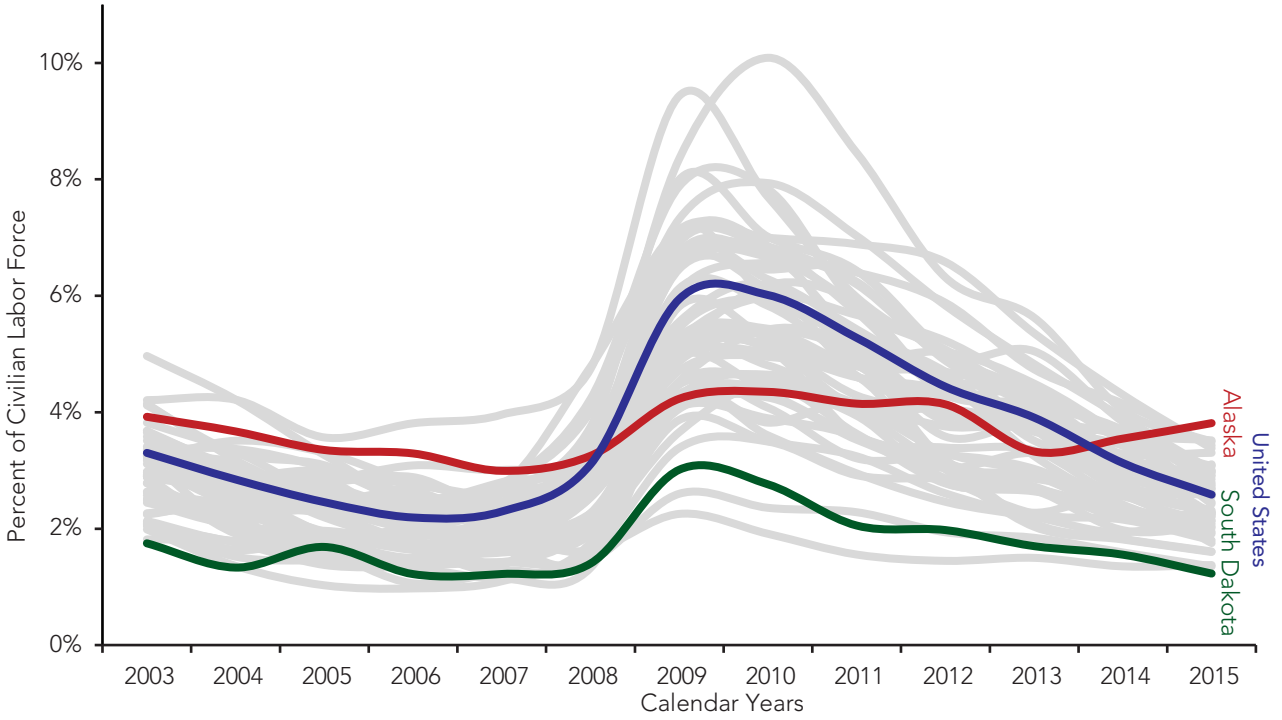
Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

18 "Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for States," U.S. Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics http://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt_archived.htm

As shown in **Chart 11**, the **U2 unemployment rate** measures the number of people who lost their job or completed a temporary job as a percent of the civilian labor force. U2 decreased nationally by 22 percent to 2.6 percent in 2015 from 3.3 percent in 2003. In 2015, Alaska had the highest U2 unemployment rate at 3.8 percent, while South Dakota had the lowest rate at 1.2 percent—a difference of 210 percent.

CHART 11

Job Losers (U2)
Calendar Years 2003 to 2015

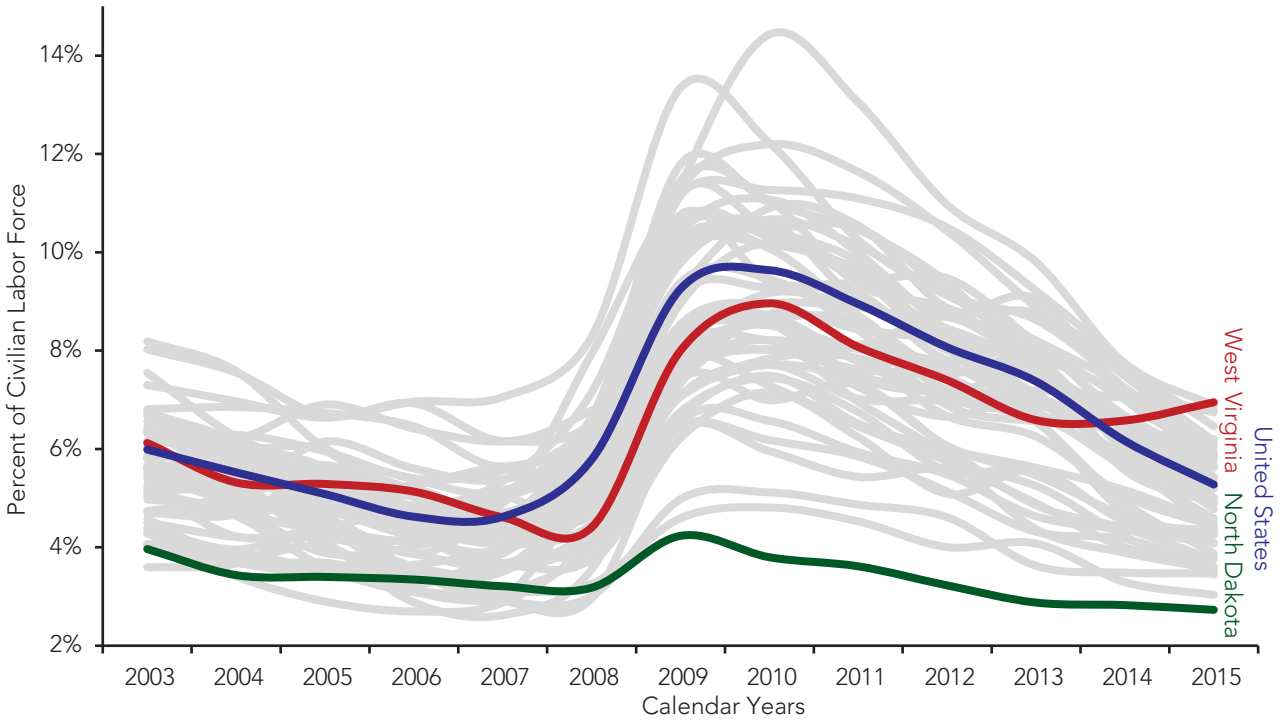


Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 12**, the **U3 unemployment rate** measures the number of unemployed people as a percent of the civilian labor force (and is the **official unemployment rate**). U3 decreased nationally by 12 percent to 5.3 percent in 2015 from 6 percent in 2003. In 2015, West Virginia had the highest U3 unemployment rate at 6.9 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 2.7 percent—a difference of 155 percent.

CHART 12

Unemployed (U3)
Calendar Years 2003 to 2015

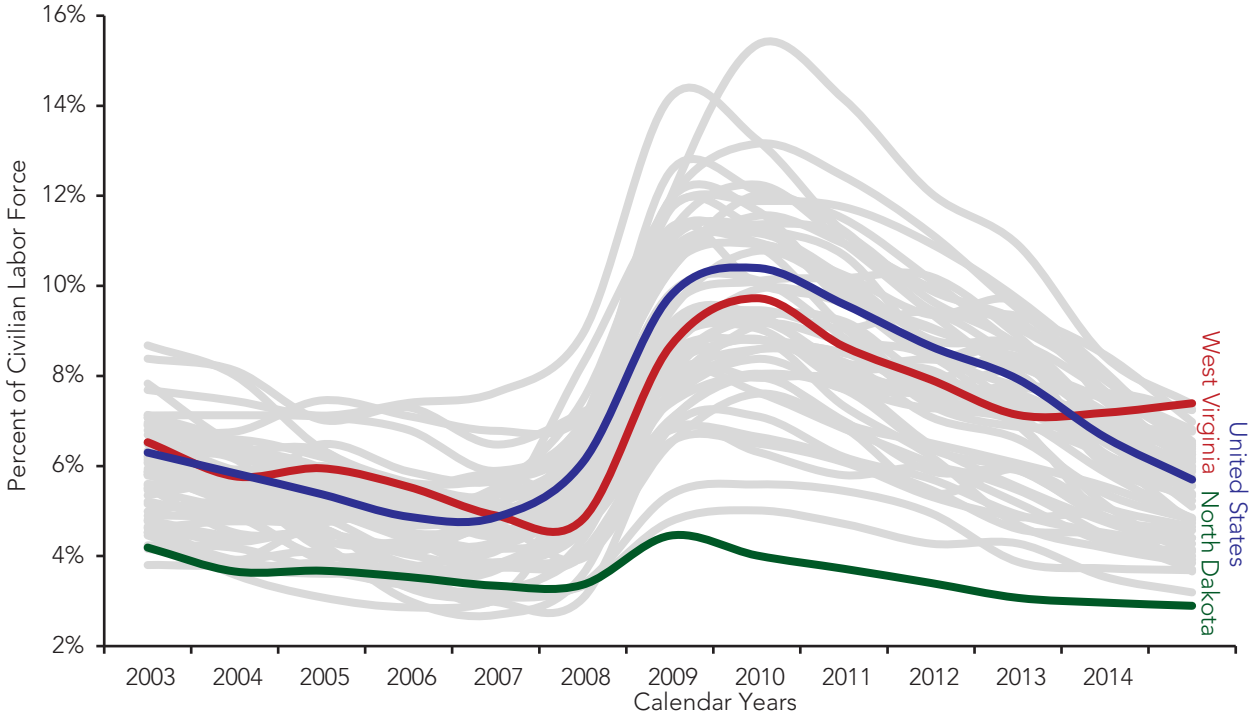


Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 13**, the **U4 unemployment rate** measures the number of unemployed people plus discouraged workers as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers. U4 decreased nationally by 10 percent to 5.7 percent in 2015 from 6.3 percent in 2003. In 2015, West Virginia had the highest U4 unemployment rate at 7.4 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 2.9 percent—a difference of 155 percent.

CHART 13

Unemployed and Discouraged Workers (U4)
Calendar Years 2003 to 2015

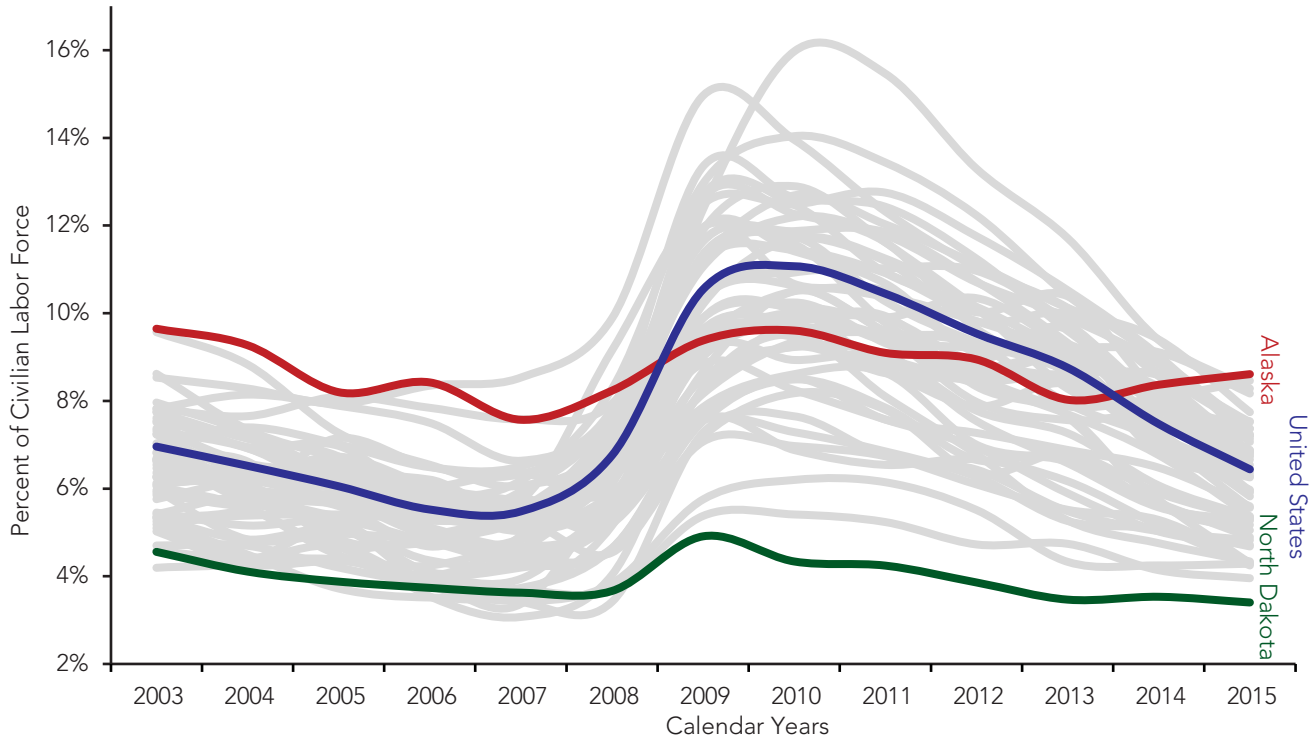


Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 14**, the **U5 unemployment rate** measures the number of unemployed people plus discouraged workers plus all other marginally attached workers as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all other marginally attached workers. U5 declined nationally by 8 percent to 6.4 percent in 2015 from 7 percent in 2003. In 2015, Alaska had the highest U5 unemployment rate at 8.6 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 3.4 percent—a difference of 153 percent.

CHART 14

Unemployed and All Marginally Attached Workers (U5)
Calendar Years 2003 to 2015

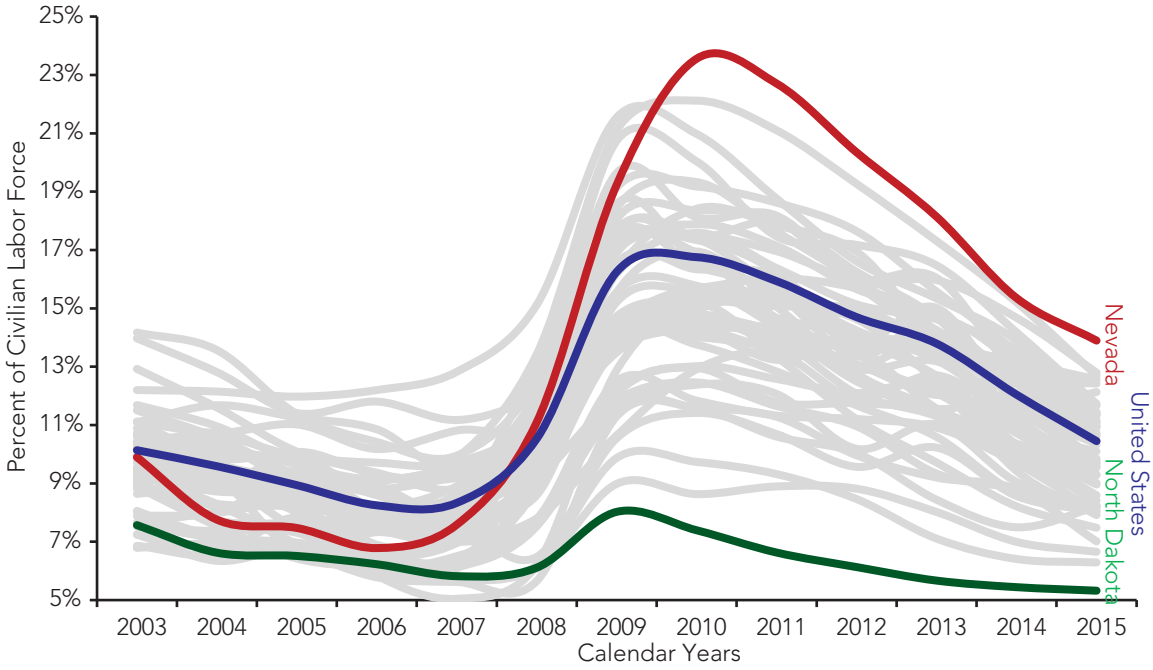


Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 15**, the **U6 unemployment rate** measures the number of unemployed people plus all marginally attached workers plus workers employed on a part-time basis for economic reasons as a percent of the civilian labor force. U6 increased nationally by 3 percent to 10.4 percent in 2015 from 10.1 percent in 2003. In 2015, Nevada had the highest U6 unemployment rate at 13.9 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 5.3 percent—a difference of 161 percent.

CHART 15

Unemployed, All Marginally Attached Workers, and Involuntary Part-Time (U6) Calendar Years 2003 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *unemployment* sub-index, North Dakota had the top score (8.72), followed by Nebraska (8.50), Utah (8.46), Colorado (8.15), and Iowa (8.00). West Virginia had the lowest score (0.57), followed by Alaska (0.76), New Mexico (0.82), Nevada (1.99), and Louisiana (2.30).

Note: U3 was weighted 50% of sub-index while U1, U2, U4, U5, and U6 were weighted equally (10%) for the remainder of the unemployment sub-index.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The term **"Demographic Winter"** sounds ominous, and rightly so. Shrinking population levels in certain regions of the country portend dire long-term economic conditions and the cascading consequences that accompany them. The **Demographics** major index measures population changes in the states and their impact on the potential for families and communities to thrive.

Economically, Demographic Winter will be akin to a slow-moving depression as a state – or the nation as a whole – shifts from population growth to population decline. With a growing population, businesses can plan on new customers simply because there are more people.

However, with a shrinking population, businesses not only lose the prospects of new customers, they must also face losing existing customers. If businesses are unable to find new markets, they will be faced with ongoing declines in revenue—or, put simply, an economic depression.

More specifically, researchers Robert Arnott and Denis Chaves state that based on their international demographic analysis:

> *[W]e show that the past 60 years—which we think of as 'normal'—enjoyed a demographic tailwind which we can quantify. It was worth about 1% per year, meaning that, if we think of 3% growth as normal, it's really 2% growth plus a demographic tailwind of 1%.*
>
> *The coming decades—due to the rising support ratios from the aging boomers—will experience a demographic headwind of (very roughly—these will be wildly out-of-sample conditions) roughly the same 1%. So, if 3% growth was normal, 1% growth (again, very roughly) becomes normal. This is the reason behind my concerns regarding the legacy of monetary and fiscal experiments, and debt and deficits we leave our children.*[19-20]

The general assumption is that the primary negative impact of Demographic Winter is a reduced labor supply. A new study published by RAND finds the consequences to be much greater, though, eventually resulting in overall slower growth in labor productivity:

> *We find that a 10% increase in the fraction of the population ages 60+ decreases the growth rate of GDP per capita by 5.5%. Two-thirds of the reduction is due to slower growth in the labor productivity of workers across the age distribution, while one-third arises from slower labor force growth. Our results imply annual GDP growth will slow by 1.2 percentage points this decade and 0.6 percentage points next decade due to population aging . . . [W]e interpret this as indicating that older and younger workers are complements in production, and so the productivity of the older workforce affects the productivity of younger workers. This pattern could also arise from a loss of positive productivity spillovers from older to younger workers if productive older workers are more likely to exit the labor force.*[21]

Demographic Winter alone will position the American economy at stall speed. Minor economic hiccups will quickly send the economy into an actual recession or even depression.

19 Mauldin, John, "Mind the [Expectations] Gap: Demographic Trends and GDP," Outside the Box, August 7, 2013. http://www.mauldineconomics.com/outsidethebox/mind-the-expectations-gap-demographic-trends-and-gdp

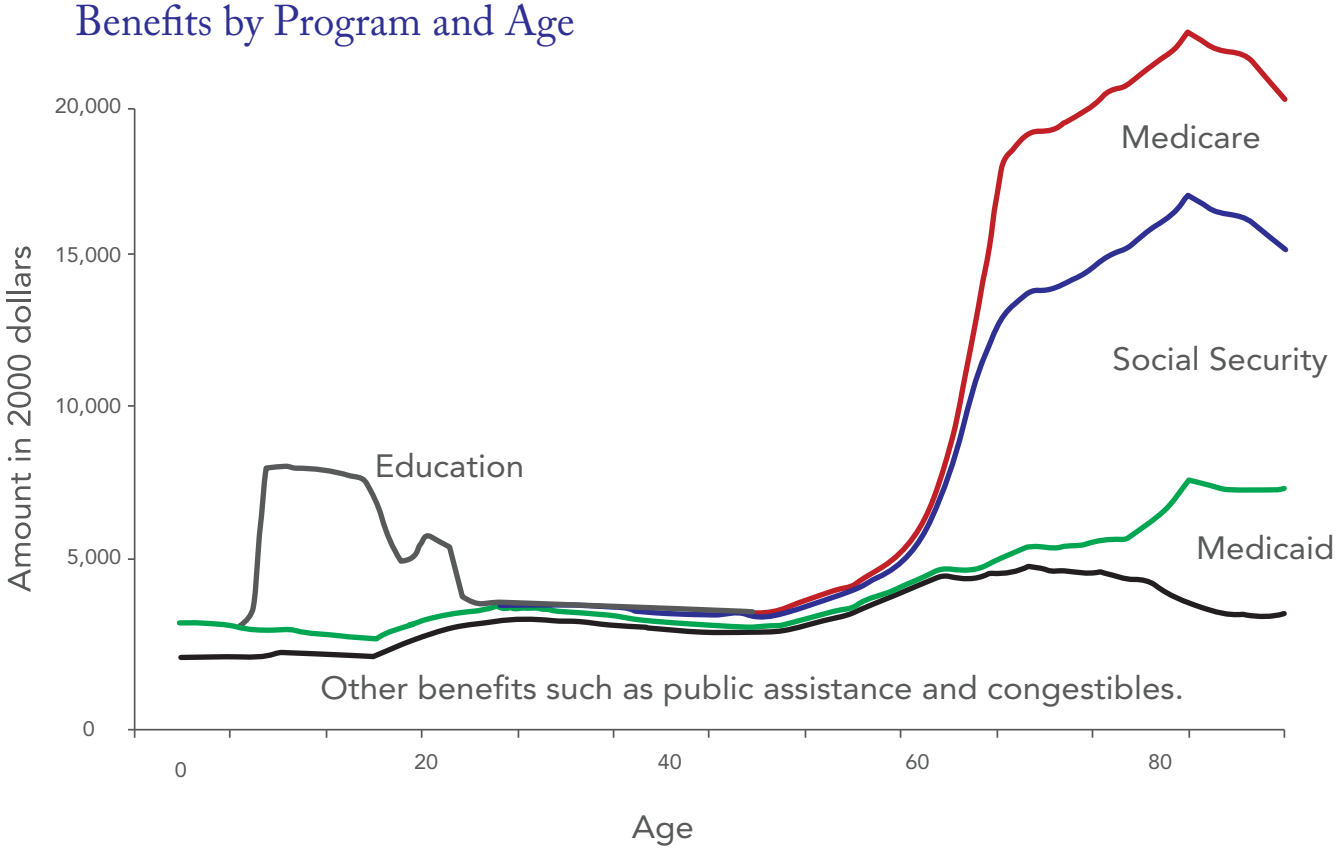
20 To read their full demographic analysis, see: Arnott, Robert D. and Chaves, Denis B., "Demographic Changes, Financial Markets, and the Economy," Financial Analysts Journal, Vol. 68, No. 1. http://www.cfapubs.org/doi/pdf/10.2469/faj.v68.n1.4

21 Maestas, Nicole, Mullen, Kathleen J., and Powell, David, "The Effect of Population Aging on Economic Growth, the Labor Force and Productivity," Rand Corporation, July, 2016. http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/working_papers/WR1000/WR1063-1/RAND_WR1063-1.pdf

Additionally, Demographic Winter will have a negative fiscal impact on federal, state, and local governments. First, people over the age of 65 impose significantly greater costs to government than younger age cohorts. **Chart 16** shows that a typical person over the age of 65 costs government nearly three times as much as a person under the age of 18—even with educational costs factored in.[22]

CHART 16

Benefits by Program and Age



Source: See footnote 22

While these costs predominantly fall on the federal government (Social Security and Medicare), state governments should be prepared for a significant spike in Medicaid costs for those over the age of 65, especially expenses associated with long-term care.[23]

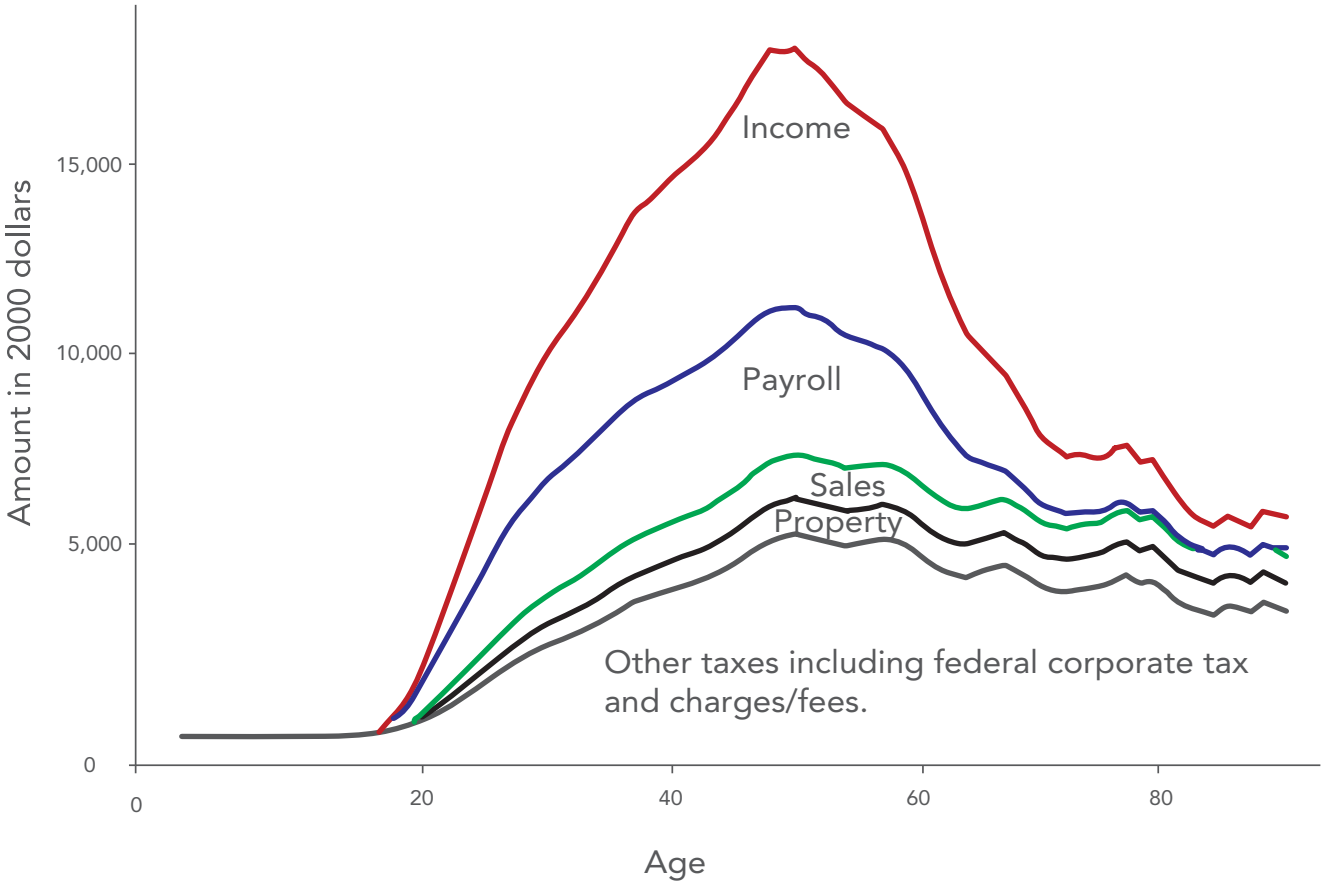
22 Edwards, Ryan and Lee, Ronald, "The Fiscal Impact of Population Aging in the US: Assessing the Uncertainties," Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging, UC Berkeley, 2002. http://escholarship.org/uc/item/9480n177

23 Moses, Stephen A., "Cassandra's Quandary: The Future of Long Term Care in New Hampshire," Federalism In Action and Center for Long Term Care Reform, March 2016. http://graniteinstitute.org/application/files/3514/7802/8415/FIA-Cassandra-Quandry.pdf

Second, while expenses soar for those over the age of 65, the taxes paid by this age cohort drop by two-thirds as shown in **Chart 17**.[24] The primary reason for this drop is the natural decline in payroll and income taxes as people retire from the labor force. As such, the primary fiscal concern for policymakers moving forward is the eroding income tax base as the country continues to age.

CHART 17

Taxes by Program and Age



Source: See footnote 22

Clearly, Demographic Winter will be the major economic and fiscal issue for the next few decades. Reversing it will not be an easy task. Of course, understanding why it is happening is the first step toward fixing it. To this end, let's examine the steep drop in the fertility rate (the number of children a woman gives birth to over her lifetime).

24 Edwards, Ryan and Lee, Ronald, "The Fiscal Impact of Population Aging in the US: Assessing the Uncertainties," Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging, UC Berkeley, 2002. http://escholarship.org/uc/item/9480n177

There is no single explanatory reason for the drop in the fertility rate. Some of the more common explanations include:

Higher opportunity costs for women: The mass entry of women into the workforce post-WWII significantly boosted household income, which allowed for greater consumption—another car, bigger homes, more vacations, etc. Having a child became a material sacrifice.[25]

Legalization of abortion and advent of "the pill" and other forms of contraception: A baby that is never born directly reduces the fertility rate.[26]

The decline in religiosity: Religious families have a higher fertility rate than non-religious families.[27-28]However, according to a recent study by the Pew Foundation, religiosity is in major decline in America. Between 2007 and 2014, the number of people who claim to be unaffiliated with any religion rose 6.7 percent to 22.8 percent from 16.1 percent.[29]

The increase in sexually transmitted disease (STD): A 2004 Report to Congress found that "more than 50% of all preventable infertility among women is a result of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), primarily chlamydial infection and gonorrhea."[30] In 2014, there were 1,436,496 cases of chlamydia and another 348,179 cases of gonorrhea (see section on STDs), which cause pelvic inflammatory disease that can then lead to infertility.

The increase in the average age of women having their first child: According to the CDC:

> *...[T]he average age of first-time mothers increased by 1.4 years from 2000 to 2014, with most of the increase occurring from 2009 to 2014 . . . This trend and the more recent uptick in delayed initial childbearing can affect the number of children a typical woman will have in her lifetime, family size, and the overall population change in the United States.*[31]

In the short run, states can shift the tides of demographic change through migration between the states. An economically thriving state will be attractive to families who are in search of greener pastures.

---

25 Bloom, David E., Canning, David, Fink, Gunther, and Finlay, Jocelyn E., "Fertility, Female Labor Force Participation, and the Demographic Dividend," National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 13583, November 2007. http://www.nber.org/papers/w13583.pdf

26 Kane, Thomas J., Levine, Phillip B., Staiger, Douglas, Zimmerman, David J., "Roe V. Wade and American Fertility," National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 5615, June 1996. http://www.nber.org/papers/w5615.pdf

27 Hayford, Sarah R. and Morgan, S. Philip, "Religiosity and Fertility in the United States: The Role of Fertility Intentions," Soc Forces, 2008, Vol. 86, No. 3, pp. 1163-1188. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2723861/

28 Zhang, Lee, "Religious Affiliation, Religiosity, and Male and Female Fertility," Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, April 2008, Vol. 18, No. 8, pp. 233-262. http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol18/8/18-8.pdf

29 Cooperman, Alan, Ritchey, Katherine, and Smith, Gregory, "America's Changing Religious Landscape," Pew Research Center, May 12, 2015. http://www.pewforum.org/files/2015/05/RLS-08-26-full-report.pdf

30 Gerberding, Julie Louise, "Report to Congress: Infertility and Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases 2000 – 2003," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, November 2004. http://www.cdc.gov/std/infertility/ReportCongressInfertility.pdf

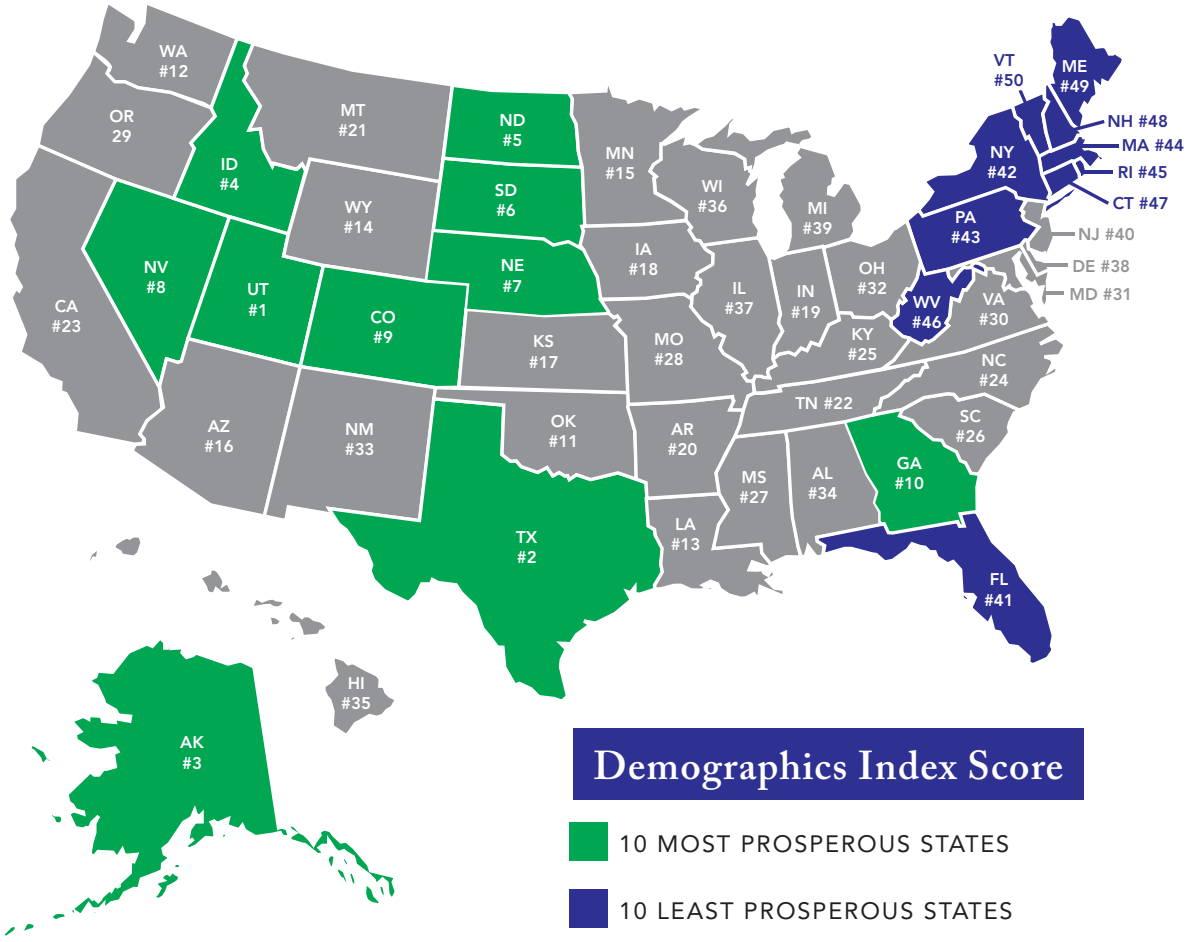
31 Hamilton, Brady E. and Matthews, T.J., "Mean Age of Mothers is on the Rise: United States, 2000-2014," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NCHS Data Brief, No. 232, January 2016. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db232.pdf

For example, Illinois has long seen its residents moving to states such as Texas and Florida.[32] The net migration (+/-) of families is an important feedback mechanism for state leaders, political and otherwise, to better understand the social and economic health of their state.

As shown in **Chart 18** and **Table 3**:

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN DEMOGRAPHICS ARE:		
1	Utah	9.12
2	Texas	7.91
3	Alaska	7.42
4	Idaho	7.39
5	North Dakota	6.96
6	South Dakota	6.96
7	Nebraska	6.69
8	Nevada	6.07
9	Colorado	5.98
10	Georgia	5.94

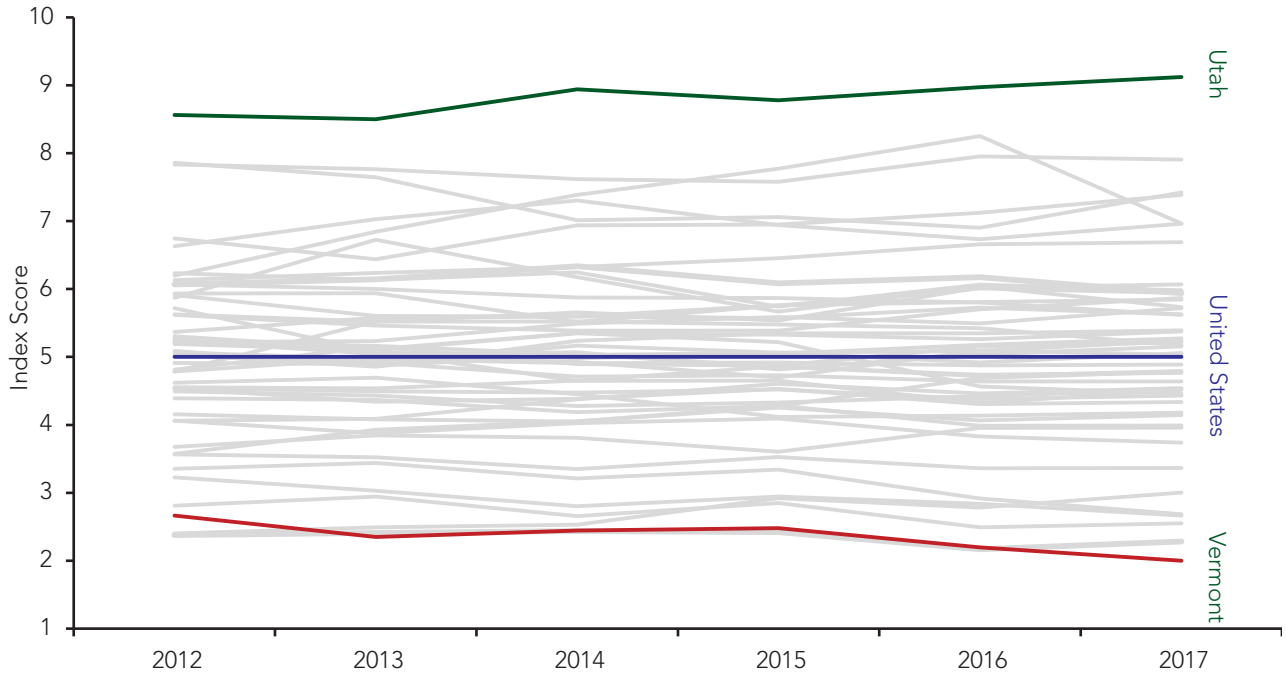
THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Florida	3.96
42	New York	3.74
43	Pennsylvania	3.37
44	Massachusetts	3.07
45	Rhode Island	3.00
46	West Virginia	2.69
47	Connecticut	2.66
48	New Hampshire	2.55
49	Maine	2.28
50	Vermont	2.00



32 Moody, J. Scott and Warholik, Wendy P., "Policy Lessons from Illinois' Exodus of People and Money," Illinois Policy Institute, Special Report, July 2014. https://d2dv7hze646xr.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Moody_out_migration1.pdf

CHART 18

Demographics Index Score
2012 to 2017



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 3 | 2017 FAMILY PROSPERITY DEMOGRAPHICS SUB-INDEXES

	UNDER 18	RANK	OVER 65	RANK	NET NATURAL POPULATION GROWTH	RANK	MIGRATION	RANK	FERTILITY	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	4.88	26	4.52	33	3.45	42	4.93	20	4.80	23	4.52	34
Alaska	7.44	7	9.34	2	8.77	2	2.54	44	9.02	3	7.42	3
Arizona	5.51	19	3.55	42	5.43	17	8.85	5	4.80	24	5.63	16
Arkansas	6.17	15	4.48	34	4.46	32	4.98	19	6.28	14	5.27	20
California	5.05	22	6.76	7	6.49	8	4.03	32	3.53	40	5.17	23
Colorado	4.91	25	6.79	6	6.31	9	8.54	8	3.36	42	5.98	9
Connecticut	2.79	44	4.67	30	3.38	43	1.42	48	1.05	48	2.66	47
Delaware	3.43	39	2.99	45	3.50	41	6.72	14	4.26	31	4.18	38
Florida	2.24	45	1.06	50	3.07	45	9.31	3	4.11	36	3.96	41
Georgia	6.72	10	6.97	5	5.57	14	6.31	15	4.13	35	5.94	10
Hawaii	4.31	37	3.59	41	5.15	21	3.28	38	5.95	17	4.46	35
Idaho	8.42	3	5.20	22	7.08	6	8.65	7	7.60	6	7.39	4
Illinois	4.87	27	6.02	9	5.05	25	1.39	50	4.35	30	4.34	37
Indiana	6.20	14	5.75	15	5.15	22	4.33	27	5.46	18	5.38	19
Iowa	5.98	16	4.61	32	5.34	19	4.53	24	6.50	12	5.39	18
Kansas	7.22	8	5.77	14	6.09	11	2.24	45	6.80	10	5.62	17
Kentucky	5.25	20	5.03	25	4.37	34	4.58	23	6.06	16	5.06	25
Louisiana	6.34	13	6.27	8	5.54	15	3.85	33	7.22	9	5.84	13
Maine	0.74	48	1.16	49	1.58	49	5.34	16	2.59	45	2.28	49
Maryland	4.73	30	5.95	10	5.07	24	3.04	42	4.41	29	4.64	31
Massachusetts	2.17	46	5.03	24	3.82	39	3.58	37	0.73	50	3.07	44
Michigan	3.95	38	4.40	36	4.01	38	4.15	28	4.21	33	4.14	39
Minnesota	5.85	17	5.57	17	6.17	10	4.81	21	6.19	15	5.72	15
Mississippi	6.50	12	5.50	19	4.09	37	3.62	36	4.73	26	4.89	27
Missouri	5.15	21	4.70	29	4.42	33	4.77	22	4.93	21	4.79	28
Montana	4.40	34	2.91	46	4.66	27	7.77	9	6.45	13	5.24	21
Nebraska	7.74	4	5.89	12	7.26	5	4.34	26	8.22	5	6.69	7
Nevada	4.99	23	5.13	23	5.50	16	9.92	1	4.79	25	6.07	8
New Hampshire	0.72	49	3.29	44	2.58	48	5.11	18	1.06	47	2.55	48
New Jersey	4.34	36	5.44	21	4.51	29	2.03	46	3.63	38	3.99	40
New Mexico	5.82	18	3.93	38	4.82	26	3.10	41	4.92	22	4.52	33
New York	3.35	40	5.49	20	5.11	23	1.40	49	3.33	43	3.74	42
North Carolina	4.82	28	4.97	26	4.53	28	7.46	11	3.99	37	5.15	24
North Dakota	6.95	9	7.49	4	8.51	3	1.86	47	10.00	1	6.96	5
Ohio	4.81	29	4.47	35	4.10	36	4.07	31	5.25	19	4.54	32
Oklahoma	7.58	6	5.91	11	5.26	20	4.41	25	6.54	11	5.94	11
Oregon	3.26	42	3.60	40	4.47	31	9.55	2	3.02	44	4.78	29
Pennsylvania	3.11	43	3.52	43	3.00	47	3.64	35	3.56	39	3.37	43
Rhode Island	1.60	47	4.35	37	3.01	46	4.08	29	1.97	46	3.00	45
South Carolina	4.38	35	3.74	39	3.80	40	9.10	4	4.15	34	5.03	26
South Dakota	7.59	5	4.93	27	7.05	7	5.25	17	9.98	2	6.96	6
Tennessee	4.97	24	4.84	28	4.35	35	6.88	13	5.02	20	5.21	22
Texas	8.68	2	8.49	3	8.16	4	6.89	12	7.31	8	7.91	2
Utah	10.00	1	9.86	1	9.75	1	7.51	10	8.48	4	9.12	1
Vermont	0.46	50	2.32	47	3.13	44	3.12	40	0.96	49	2.00	50
Virginia	4.64	31	5.88	13	5.39	18	3.68	34	4.24	32	4.77	30
Washington	4.61	32	5.54	18	5.79	13	8.76	6	4.63	27	5.87	12
West Virginia	3.34	41	2.04	48	1.43	50	3.18	39	3.43	41	2.69	46
Wisconsin	4.46	33	4.62	31	4.49	30	4.07	30	4.51	28	4.43	36
Wyoming	6.52	11	5.67	16	5.98	12	3.02	43	7.49	7	5.74	14

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

STATE HIGHLIGHT: WISCONSIN[33]

WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Two FPI variables are particularly responsible for the drag on Wisconsin's overall score (17th)—*entrepreneurship* (47th) and *marriage* (44th)—and three other measures show signs of worsening—the *fertility rate* (28th), *net natural population rate* (30th), and *domestic migration* (30th).

Wisconsin's fertility rate has persistently been below the national average. While the gap has closed in recent years, this is more a result of the national average falling more quickly than the Wisconsin average. Overall, in 2015, Wisconsin had only the 30th highest fertility rate. Not surprisingly, the long-term impact of a below-average fertility rate is also affecting the net natural rate of population growth, which is the difference between the number of births and deaths.

Since 2008, the national average has been trending downward and Wisconsin has followed that trend—due entirely to a drop in the birth rate, which fell 13 percent in Wisconsin from 2008 to 2016. In 2016, Wisconsin had the 29th highest net natural population rate.

More troubling, the data by county shows that 22 Wisconsin counties in 2015 (the year for which the most recent data is available) already had a negative net natural population rate—meaning they had more deaths than births. As the statewide trend of lower births continues, more and more counties will fall into this "Demographic Winter" category.

In the short run, states can shift the tides of demographic change through migration between the states. An economically thriving state will be attractive to families who are in search of greener pastures. The net migration (+/-) of families is an important feedback mechanism for state leaders, political and otherwise, to better understand the social and economic health of their state.

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, between 1991 and 2005, Wisconsin gained 107,717 residents from other states. However, in 2006, Wisconsin's in-migration quickly reversed to out-migration. Between 2006 and 2015, Wisconsin lost 76,810 residents to other states.

As such, nearly the entire gain in residents between 1991 and 2005 has been lost. To make matters worse, Wisconsin's out-migration shows no sign of abating with a record 15,568 people leaving in 2015 and another 12,395 in 2016.

33 The full Wisconsin study can be found at http://familyprosperity.org/application/files/9314/6712/8986/WisconsinFPI-Paper-DRAFT4.pdf and migration update: http://familyprosperity.org/application/files/8914/7708/4401/Wisconsin_Family_Prosperity_Index_Migration_Update_102016.pdf

While the Census Bureau data is comprehensive, it is also very shallow. Fortunately, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides an annual snapshot of taxpayer migration via tax returns, which provides for a much richer picture of migrants.[34] As shown in **Table A**, a key insight from this analysis is that the majority of the net out-migration of income is from taxpayers over the age of 45 earning more than $100,000.[35]

TABLE A

WISCONSIN'S NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION JULY 1, 1991 TO JULY 1, 2015

Year, as of July 1	Net Domestic Migration	Aggregate Change
1991	14,806	14,806
1992	15,831	30,637
1993	19,385	50,022
1994	11,466	61,488
1995	12,839	74,327
1996	10,910	85,237
1997	(1,063)	84,174
1998	(578)	83,596
1999	5,472	89,068
2000 (a)	3,865	92,933
2001	2,257	95,190
2002	4,358	99,548
2003	4,981	104,529
2004	3,150	107,679
2005	38	107,717
2006	(3,089)	104,628
2007	(6,732)	97,896
2008	(7,022)	90,874
2009	(5,672)	85,202
2010 (a)	(5,937)	79,265
2011	(6,202)	73,063
2012	(9,525)	63,538
2013	(7,620)	55,918
2014	(9,443)	46,475
2015	(15,568)	30,907

(a) Interpolated.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau, Wisconsin Family Council, and American Conservative Union Foundation

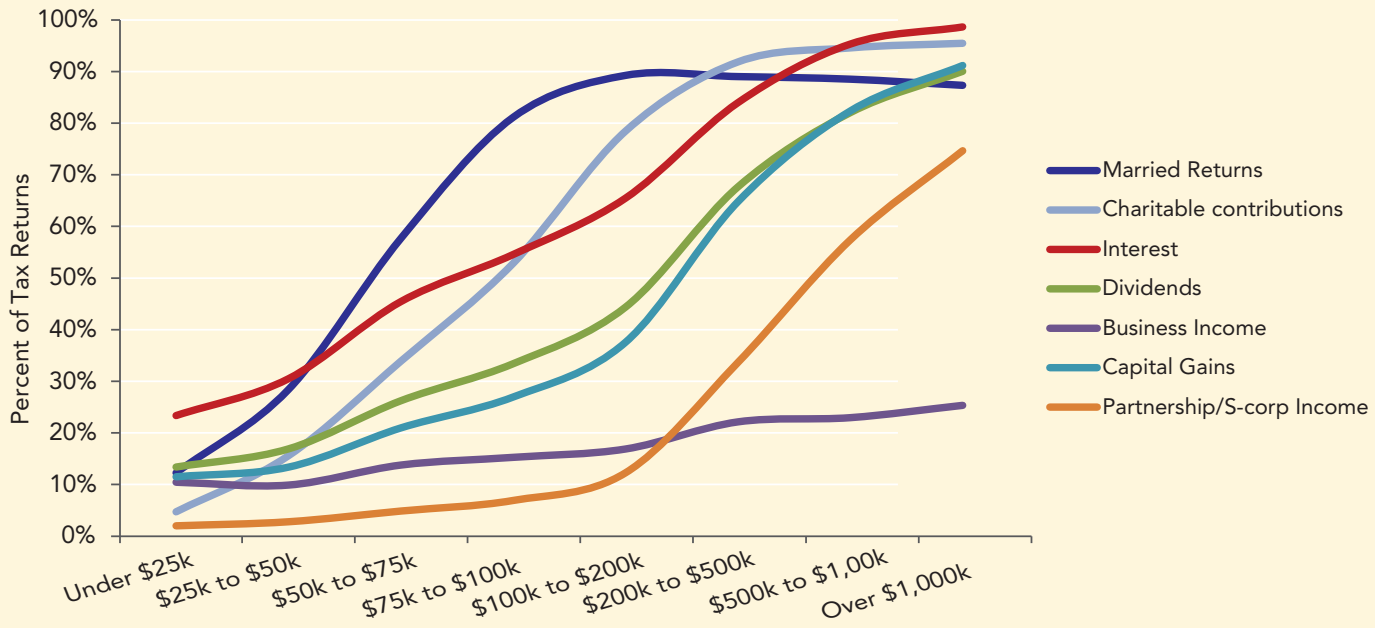
34 The IRS migration data is available at the state and county levels and can be found at https://www.irs.gov/uac/soi-tax-stats-migration-data

35 Internal Revenue Service, "Gross Migration File," Various Years, https://www.irs.gov/uac/soi-tax-stats-migration-data

Why is this important? As shown in **Chart B** there are significant differences in the characteristics of taxpayers earning more than $100,000 versus less than $100,000 (as a percent of taxpayers). They tend to be married (89 percent versus 32 percent), give to charity (81 percent versus 18 percent) and be heavily involved in business activity. Additionally, and just as importantly, average family size is higher (2.9 versus 1.7 children) among those at the $100,000+ income level.

CHART B

Characteristics of Wisconsin's Taxpayers 2013



Source: Internal Revenue Service, Wisconsin Family Council, and American Conservative Union Foundation

In other words, Wisconsin's net out-migrants predominantly fall in the demographic group most likely to be the state's business and community leaders. This further saps the state's entrepreneurial vitality as well as its share of successful, intact families—the two weakest areas identified by the FPI. Stemming this out-flow is the first step toward solving the state's entrepreneurship and marriage deficits.

This will not be an easy task since the two states benefiting most from Wisconsin's out-migration are Texas and Florida. While nothing can be done about the obvious temperature differences, Wisconsin has leveled half of the playing field with its enactment of Right-to-Work laws in the state. This will equalize union membership levels over time, thus making Wisconsin more attractive as a place to do business. However, not nearly as much progress has been made in equalizing the differences in tax burdens between Wisconsin and its migratory rivals.

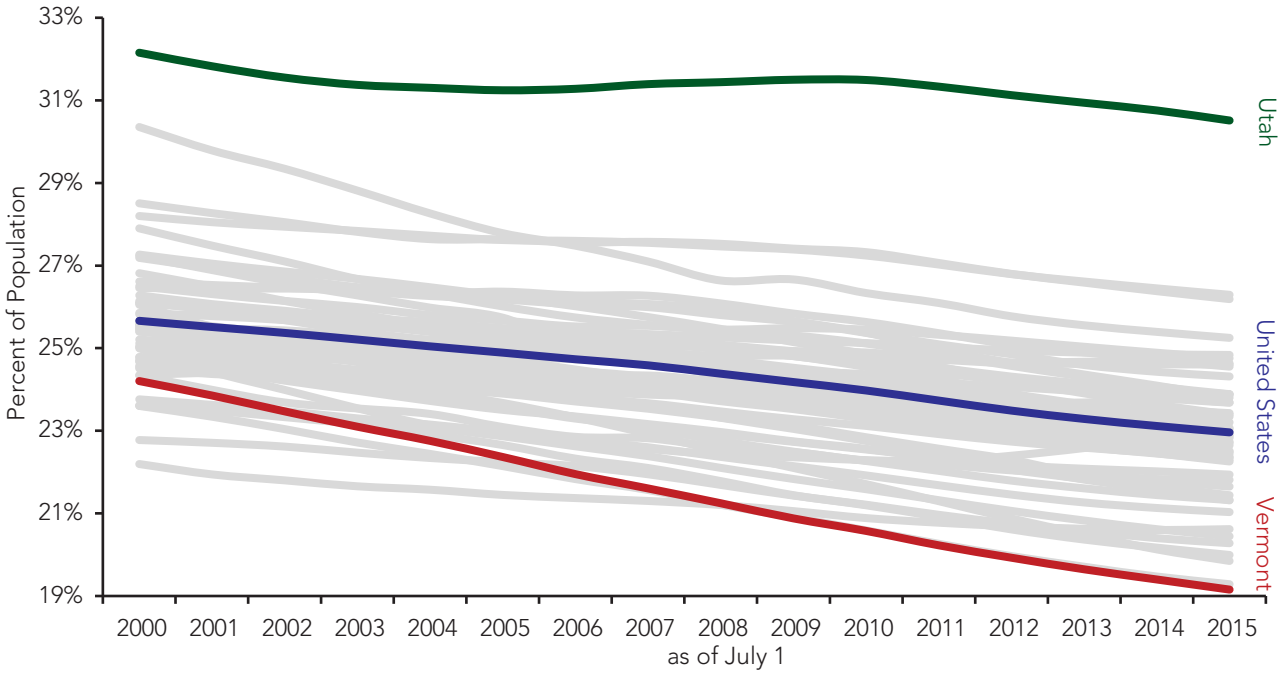
Lowering the state and local tax burden on Wisconsin's families and businesses would help boost entrepreneurship and job creation and should be an immediate policy priority.

Percent of Population Under Age 18

As shown in **Chart 19**, the **percent of the population under the age of 18** decreased nationally by 11 percent to 23 percent in 2015 from 25.7 percent in 2000. In 2015, Utah had the greatest under-18 population at 30.5 percent, while Vermont had the lowest under-18 population at 19.2 percent—a difference of 59 percent.[36]

CHART 19

Under Age 18
July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *under-18 sub-index*, Utah had the top score (10.00), followed by Texas (8.68), Idaho (8.42), Nebraska (7.74), and South Dakota (7.59). Vermont had the lowest score (0.46), followed by New Hampshire (0.72), Maine (0.74), Rhode Island (1.60), and Massachusetts (2.17).

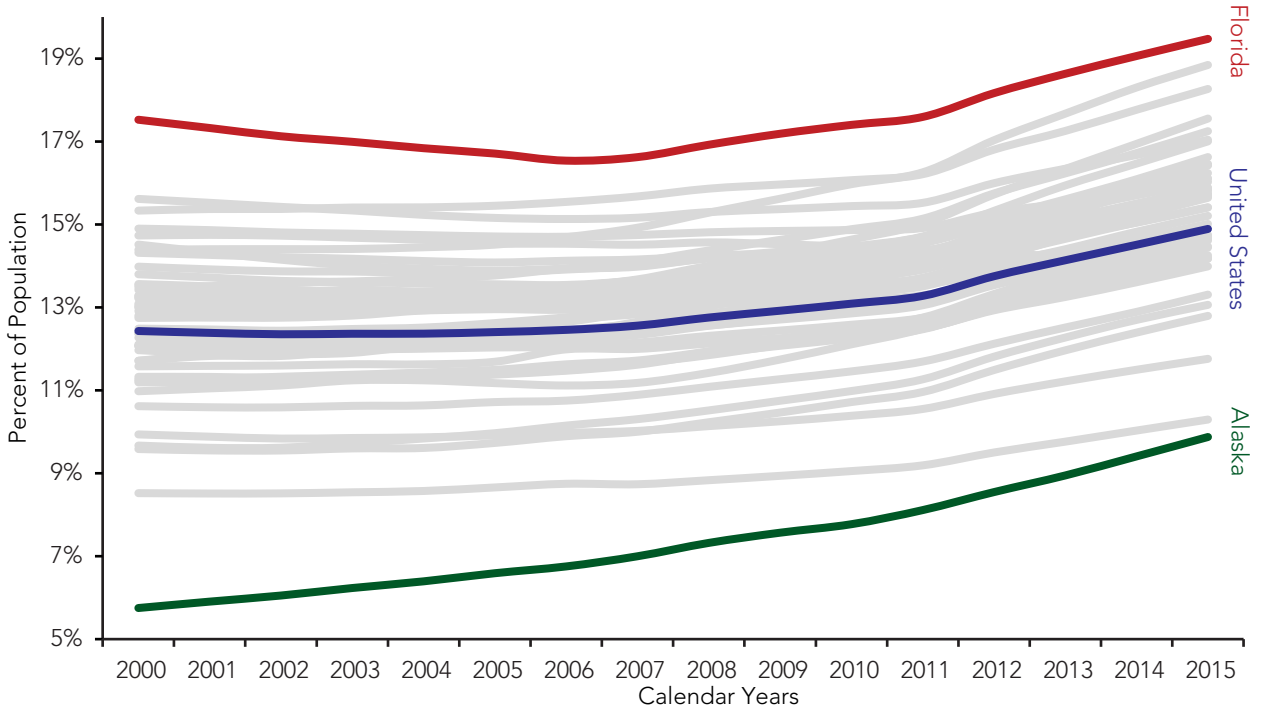
36 Population Estimates, U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau http://www.census.gov/data/tables/2015/demo/popest/state-detail.html

Percent of Population Over Age 65

As shown in **Chart 20**, the **percent of the population over the age of 65** increased nationally by 20 percent to 14.9 percent in 2015 from 12.4 percent in 2000. In 2015, Florida had the highest over-65 population at 19.5 percent, while Alaska had the lowest over-65 population at 9.9 percent—a difference of 97 percent.[37]

CHART 20

Over Age 65
July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *over-65* sub-index, Utah had the top score (9.86), followed by Alaska (9.34), Texas (8.49), North Dakota (7.49), and Georgia (6.97). Florida had the lowest score (1.06), followed by Maine (1.16), West Virginia (2.04), Vermont (2.32), and Montana (2.91).

37 Ibid.

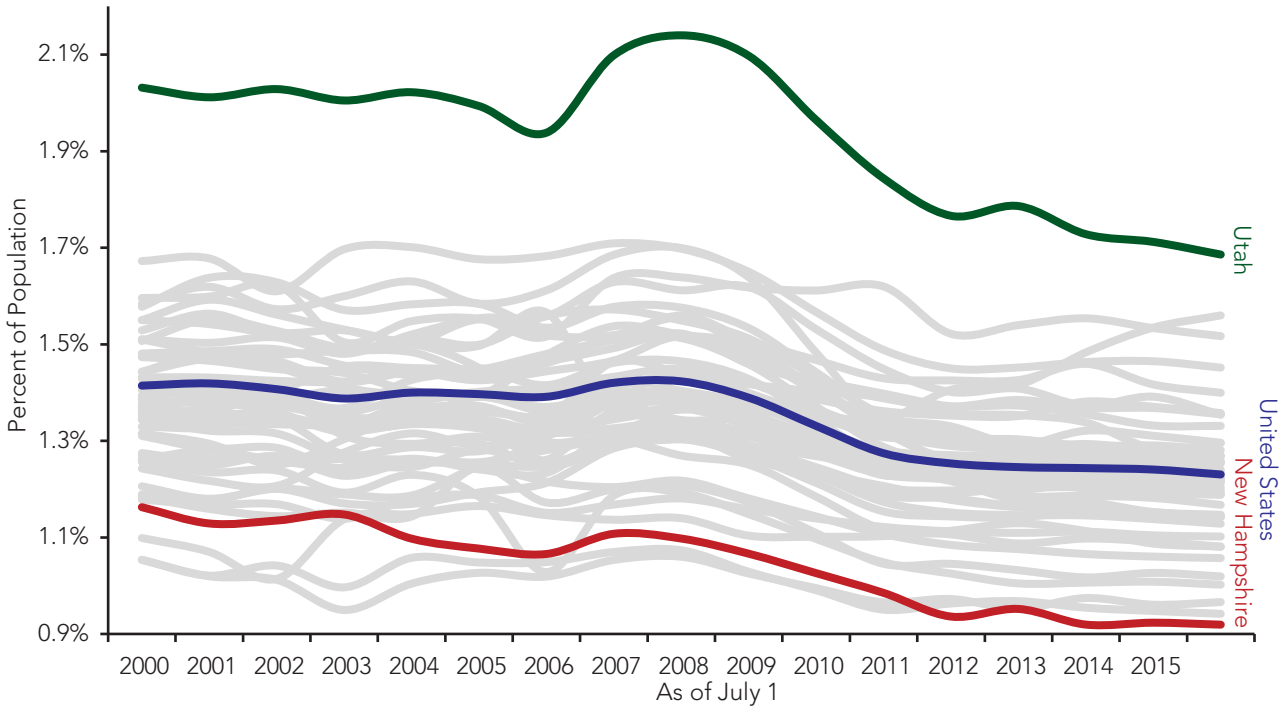
Net Natural Population Change

Charts 21 and 22 show the **variance in the net natural population change**—including births, deaths and the net difference—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2016.[38]

As shown in **Chart 21**, the **birth rate** (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 13 percent to 1.23 percent in 2016 from 1.41 percent in 2000. In 2016, Utah had the highest birth rate at 1.69 percent, while New Hampshire had the lowest birth rate at 0.92 percent—a difference of 83 percent.

CHART 21

Births
July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2016



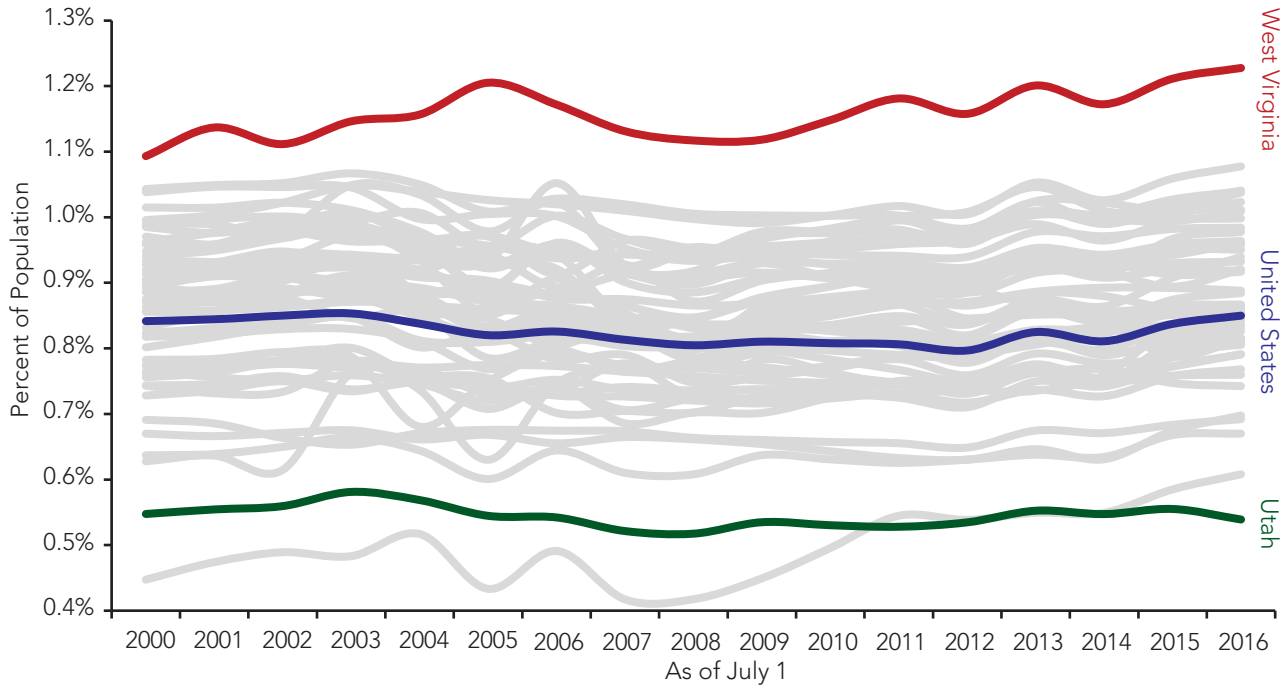
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

38 Ibid.

As shown in **Chart 22**, the **death rate** (as a percent of population) increased nationally by 1 percent to 0.85 percent in 2016 from 0.84 percent in 2000. In 2016, West Virginia had the highest death rate at 1.23 percent, while Utah had the lowest death rate at 0.54 percent—a difference of 128 percent.

CHART 22

Deaths
July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2016

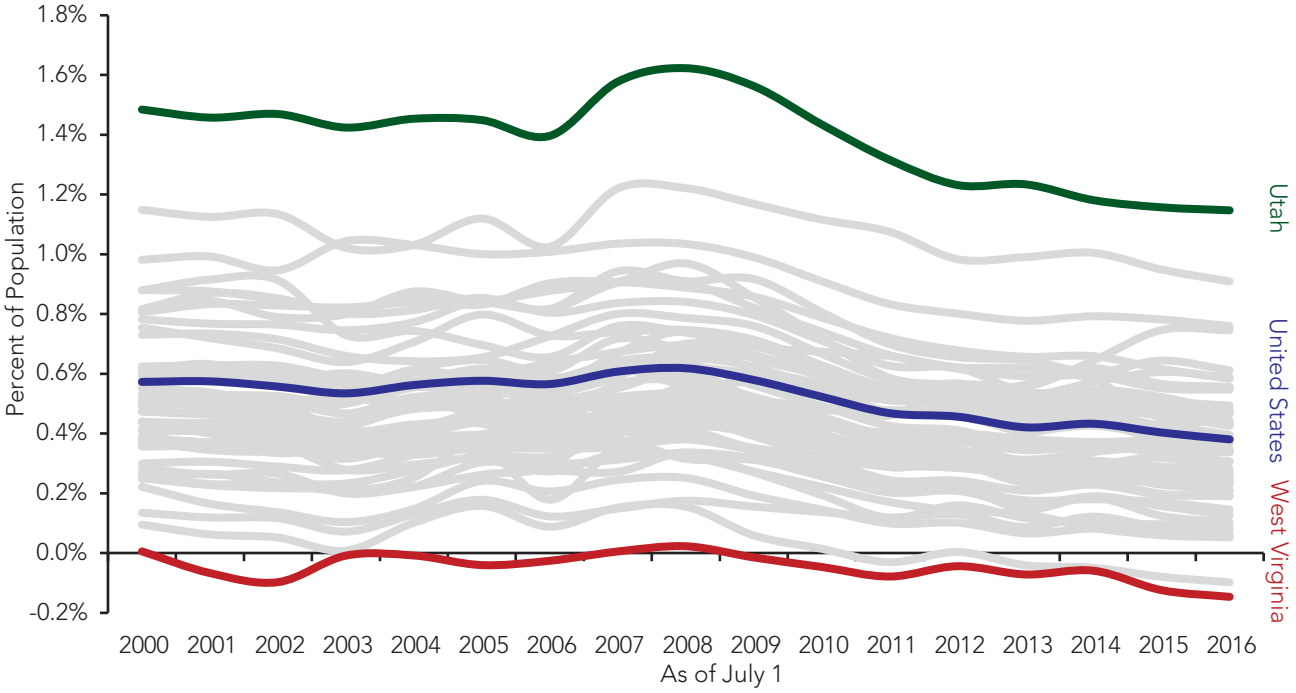


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 23**, there is a large **variance in the net natural population growth rate** (birth rate minus death rate) among the 50 states. In 2016, Utah had the highest net natural growth rate at 1.15 percent, while West Virginia had the lowest net natural growth rate at -0.15 percent. Only one other state, Maine (-0.1 percent), had a negative net natural growth rate.

CHART 23

Net Natural Population Growth Rate (Birth Rate Minus Death Rate) July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2016



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *net natural population change* sub-index, Utah had the top score (9.75), followed by Alaska (8.77), North Dakota (8.51), Texas (8.16), and Nebraska (7.26). West Virginia had the lowest score (1.43), followed by Maine (1.58), New Hampshire (2.58), Pennsylvania (3.00), and Rhode Island (3.01).

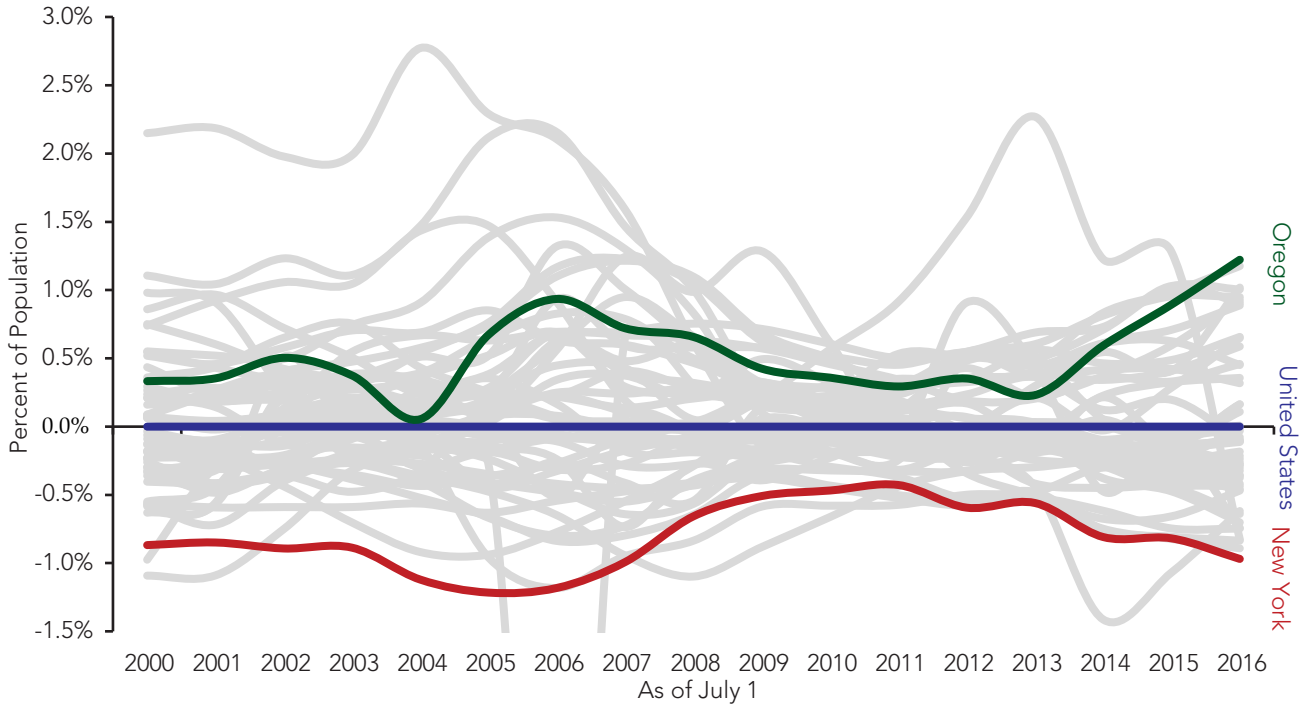
Note: The birth rate, death rate, and net natural population growth rate were weighted equally in the net natural population change sub-index.

Net Domestic Migration

As shown in **Chart 24**, there is a large **variance in domestic people migration** among the 50 states.[39] In 2016, Oregon had the highest net people in-migration at 1.22 percent, while New York had the highest level of net people out-migration at -0.97 percent.

CHART 24

Domestic Migration
July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2016



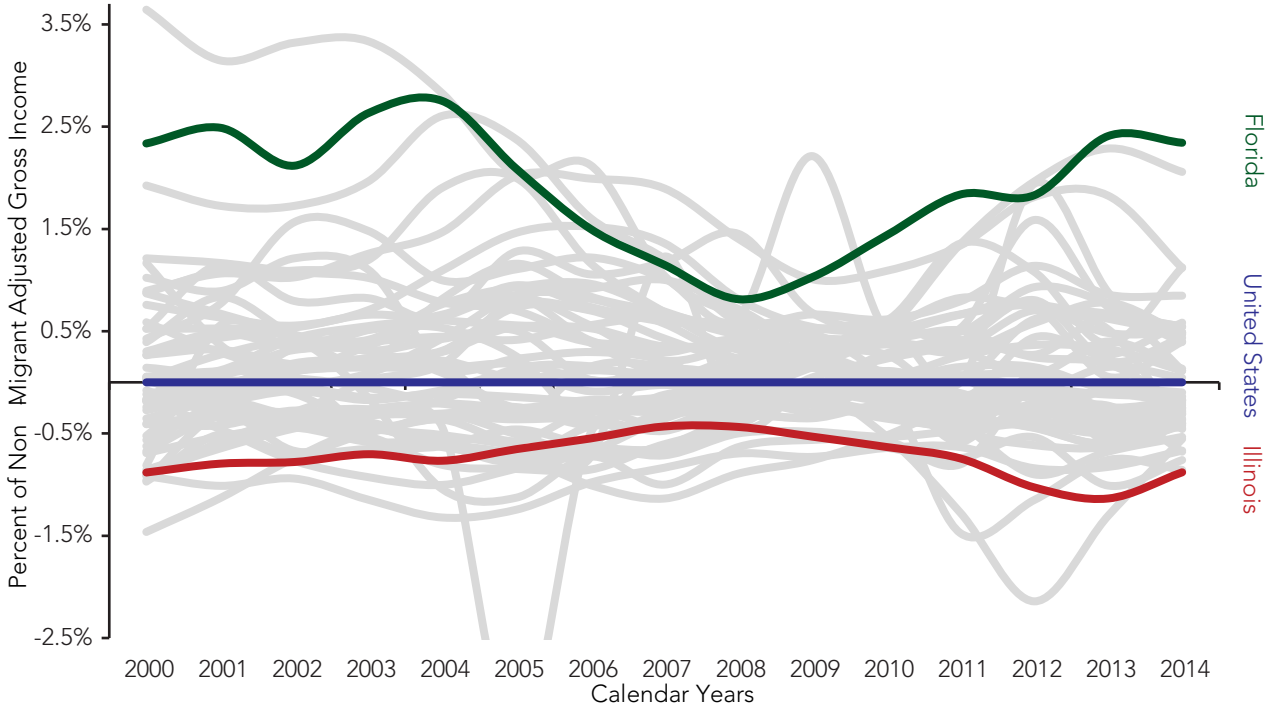
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

39 Population Estimates, U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau http://www.census.gov/data/tables/2016/demo/popest/state-total.html

As shown in **Chart 25**, there is a large **variance in domestic income migration** among the 50 states.[40] In 2014, Florida had the highest net income in-migration at 2.34 percent, while Illinois had the highest level of net income out-migration at -0.88 percent.

CHART 25

Net Income Migration
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *net domestic migration* sub-index, Nevada had the top score (9.92), followed by Oregon (9.55), Florida (9.31), South Carolina (9.10), and Arizona (8.85). Illinois had the lowest score (1.39), followed by New York (1.40), Connecticut (1.42), North Dakota (1.86), and New Jersey (2.03).

Note: The net people migration is worth 80 percent while the net income migration was worth 20 percent of the net domestic migration sub-index.

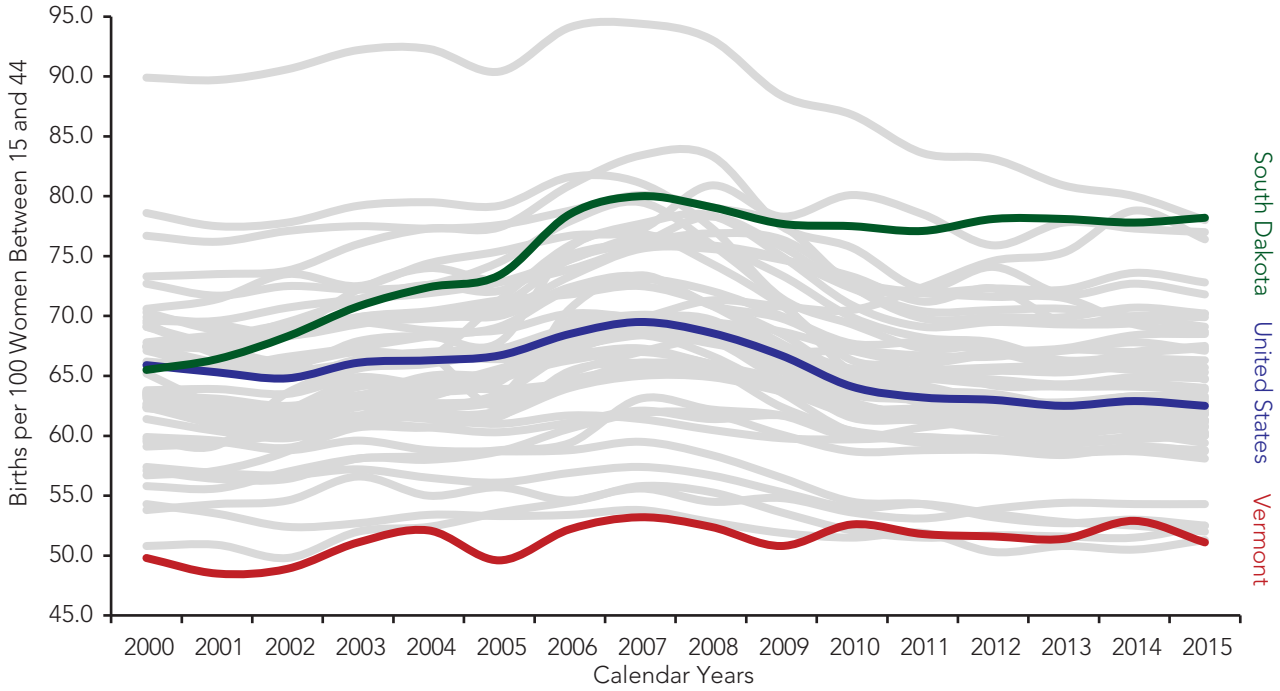
40 Internal Revenue Service https://www.irs.gov/uac/soi-tax-stats-migration-data

Fertility Rate

As shown in **Chart 26**, the **fertility rate** (per 100 women between the ages of 15 and 44) declined nationally by 5 percent to 62.5 in 2015 from 65.9 in 2000. In 2015, South Dakota had the highest fertility rate at 78.2, while Vermont had the lowest fertility rate at 51.1—a difference of 53 percent.[41]

CHART 26

Fertility
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

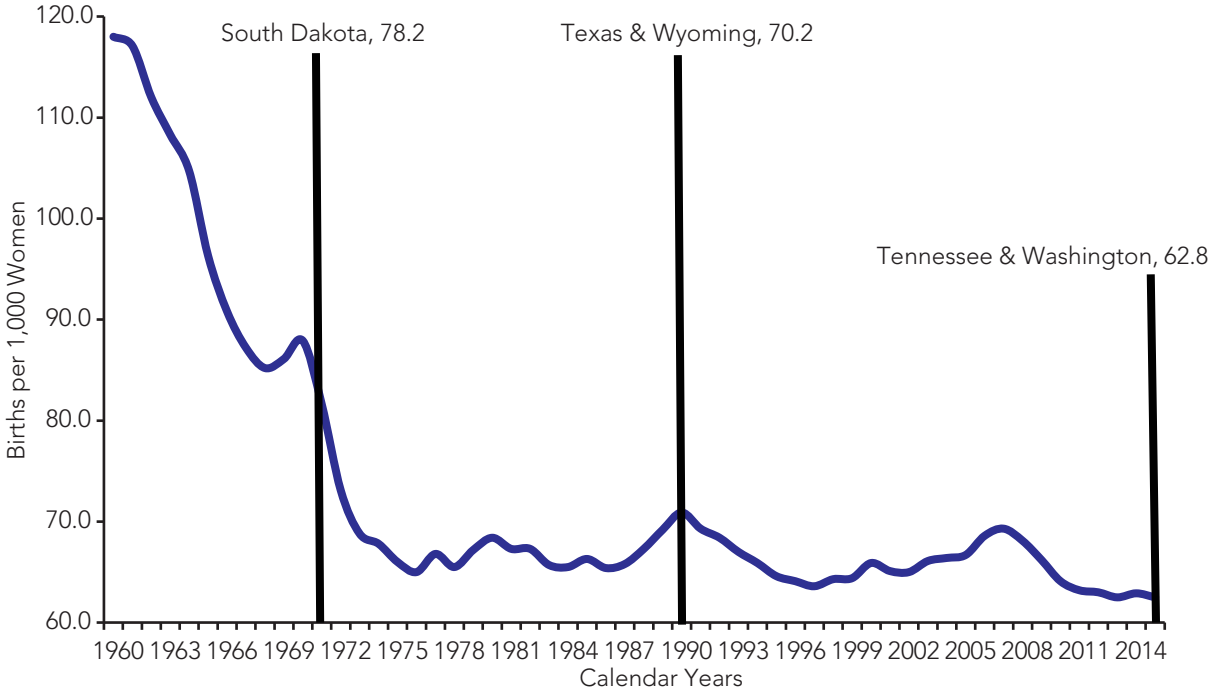
Overall, for the *fertility* sub-index, North Dakota had the top score (10.00), followed by South Dakota (9.98), Alaska (9.02), Utah (8.48), and Nebraska (8.22). Massachusetts had the lowest score (0.73), followed by Vermont (0.96), Connecticut (1.05), New Hampshire (1.06), and Rhode Island (1.97).

41 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf

Also, **Chart 27** illustrates how the U.S. fertility rate has plummeted 47 percent between 1960 (118) to 2015 (62.5). In particular, it also compares the fertility rate for the states in 2015 to the U.S. average as it moves through time.

CHART 27

U.S. Fertility Rate
Calendar Years 1960 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

For example, South Dakota had the highest fertility rate (78.2) in 2015. The last time the U.S. achieved this average rate was between 1971 and 1972, and even then, the rate was still 34 percent lower than the 1960 U.S. average. Note in **Chart 27** that Texas and Wyoming's fertility rate (70.2) is equivalent to the 1990 U.S. average, and Tennessee and Washington's rate (62.8) is equivalent to the 2015 U.S. average.

However, not shown in **Chart 27** are the 24 states with fertility rates below the 2015 U.S. average, which puts them more firmly in the midst of Demographic Winter. Vermont's fertility rate is 18 percent below the U.S. average (51.1) and is the lowest in the country.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

A family's freedom to control its own destiny is a key indicator of its economic prospects – and vice versa. The **Family Self-Sufficiency** major index measures the degree to which such factors as incarceration, dependence on government aid, and the capacity for charitable giving are reflected in a family's overall prosperity, as well as their effect on the larger community.

The **level of incarceration** in America has exploded in the past few decades with 2.3 million Americans serving time in federal and state prisons. The cost to state governments now exceeds $50 billion per year.[42] However, the direct cost of running the prison system is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the total costs to the economy and society.

42 Pettit, Becky and Western, Bruce, "Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effect on Economic Mobility," The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2010. http://www.pewtrusts.org/~/media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pcs_assets/2010/collateralcosts1pdf.pdf

First, incarceration permanently lowers an individual's long-term earning potential. A study from the The Pew Charitable Trusts found:

> *Past incarceration reduced subsequent wages by 11 percent, cut annual employment by nine weeks and reduced yearly earnings by 40 percent.*[43]

Second, incarceration may be behind the precipitous decline in male labor force participation. According to Nicholas Eberstadt, The Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy at the American Enterprise Institute:

> *Everyone knows that millions of criminal offenders today are behind bars–but few consider that many millions more are in the general population: ex-prisoners, probation cases and convicted felons who never served time. In all, America may now be home to over 20 million persons with a felony conviction in their past, and over 1 in 8 adult men. Men with a criminal history have much worse odds of being or staying in the labor force, regardless of their ethnicity or educational level. The explosive growth of our felon population, unfortunately, helps to explain some of the otherwise puzzling peculiarities of America's male work crisis.*[44]

Third, a recent study estimated that more than 5 million children have had at least one parent in prison at some point in their life.[45] These children have to deal with a number of additional challenges including:

- *a higher number of other major, potentially traumatic life events—stressors that are most damaging when they are cumulative;*
- *more emotional difficulties, low school engagement, and more problems in school, among children ages 6 to 11; and*
- *a greater likelihood of problems in school among older youth (12 to 17), as well as less parental monitoring.*

Overall, the negative economic and social consequences of incarceration are intergenerational. One important transmission mechanism is that incarceration of one member of the family, by definition, leaves the other member as a single parent—depriving them of the advantages of marriage (see section on marriage). This problem is especially acute among black women who face a skewed male-to-female ratio due to the high incarceration rate among black men.[46]

Another factor in determining family self-sufficiency is reliance on public assistance. Government at all levels (federal, state, and local) employs various **welfare** programs to mitigate the ill effects of poverty—Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

43 Ibid.
44 Eberstadt, Nicholas, "America's Unseen Social Crisis: Men Without Work," Time, September, 22, 2016. http://time.com/4504004/men-without-work/
45 Cooper, P. Mae and Murphey, David, "Parents Behind Bars: What Happens to Their Children?," Child Trends, October 2015. http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-42ParentsBehindBars.pdf
46 "Sex and the Single Black Woman: How the Mass Incarceration of Black Men Hurts Black Women," The Economist, April 8, 2010. http://www.economist.com/node/15867956

Program (SNAP) to name a few. As such, these programs are means-tested so they phase out as one's income grows. However, all of the various rules and regulations create implicit incentives and disincentives related to work effort and family structure decisions.

For example, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), since it is managed through the personal income tax, is one of the most transparent welfare programs for discerning these incentive effects.[47] The EITC has a defined phase-in (where benefits increase), plateau (where benefits remain constant), and phase-out (where benefits decrease) from which to calculate what economists call the implicit "effective marginal tax rate" (EMTR).

The current EITC can impose an EMTR of 21.1 percent in the phase-out range which presents a significant barrier to work.[48] Put simply: After reaching a certain level of annual pay, it is less advantageous for an individual to increase his income because every additional dollar earned will come with a higher price tag in the form of lower EITC benefits. Therefore, someone in the EITC phase-out loses $0.21 cents for every additional dollar earned.

In one of the most comprehensive EMTR studies to date, University of Chicago economist Casey Mulligan finds that EMTRs for non-elderly heads of household and spouses with median earnings potential have ranged from between 44 and 46 percent.[49] The enactment of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) pushes the EMTR to over 50 percent!

The higher Obamacare EMTR stems from the law's numerous new provisions such as the employer and employee health insurance mandates, health insurance subsidies for individuals on the state health exchanges, and Medicaid expansion.

Yet, there is a wide variation in welfare parameters by state that can amplify or mitigate these EMTRs. A study by economists Mickey Hepner and Robert Reed calculated the Oklahoma–specific EMTRs created by their welfare system and found them to be a major barrier to both work effort, especially for

47 Hall, Arthur P. and Moody, J. Scott, "Growth of the Earned Income Tax Credit," Tax Foundation, Special Report, No. 53, September 1995. http://taxfoundation.org/sites/taxfoundation.org/files/docs/7b76310a7234556cb06bdc66974385bb.pdf

48 Many states piggyback on the federal EITC which increases the MTR. For example, see: Moody, J. Scott, "The Earned Income Tax Credit Does Not Help Working Families," Illinois Policy Institute, March 4, 2014. https://www.illinoispolicy.org/policy-points/the-earned-income-tax-credit-does-not-help-working-families/

49 Mulligan, Casey B., "Average Marginal Labor Income Tax Rates Under Affordable Care Act," National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper No. 19365, August 2013. http://home.uchicago.edu/~cbm4/MulliganMTRACA.pdf

those seeking high-paying work, and marriage.[50] A more recent study in Georgia found the same issues in that state's welfare system.[51]

In particular, the impact of TANF on marriage has been of serious concern. In fact, the federal welfare reforms of 1996 were, in part, meant to remedy the rise in single-parenthood incentivized by welfare. A new study finds that these reforms were effective at boosting marriage rates among welfare recipients:

> *The strongest and most consistent effects we find are for the severity, or harshness, of TANF policies on family structure. Those policies appear to reduce the prevalence of single parenthood and to increase the prevalence of mothers partnering with males who are the biological parents of their children. Further, increases in biological partnership from harsh TANF policies occur primarily through marriage. We also find that the combined effects of family-oriented policies (i.e. two-parent rules, family caps, and stepparent rules) have significant negative effects on single parenthood and significant positive effects on biological partnering (primarily through marriage).*[52]

Tax policy can also significantly undermine a family's self-sufficiency, not only by reducing their personal after-tax income, but also by undermining the economy in which the family operates.

According to Dr. David Romer and Dr. Christina Romer (former Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors under President Obama), both highly reputable economics professors at the University of California, Berkeley, who studied federal tax law changes over the last 50 years:

> *This paper investigates the impact of tax changes on economic activity . . . [T]he behavior of output following these more exogenous changes indicates that tax increases are highly contractionary. The effects are strongly significant, highly robust, and much larger than those obtained using broader measures of tax changes.*[53]

50 Hepner, Mickey and Reed, W. Robert, "The Effect of Welfare on Work and Marriage: A View from the States," Cato Journal, Vol. 24, No. 3, Fall 2004. http://www.econ.canterbury.ac.nz/personal_pages/bob_reed/Papers/Work_Marriage_Incentives_Paper.pdf The authors also provide an Excel spreadsheet to calculate your own MTRs by changing various program parameters. It can be found at http://www.econ.canterbury.ac.nz/personal_pages/bob_reed/Papers/Instructions_Welfare_Spreadsheet.html

51 Randolph, Erik,, "Disincentives for Work and Marriage in Georgia's Welfare System," Georgia Center for Opportunity, September 2016. http://georgiaopportunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GCO1611_White_Paper_Online.pdf

52 Moffitt, Robert A., Phelan, Brian J., and Winkler, Anne E., "Welfare Rules, Incentives, and Family Structure," National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 21257, June 2015. http://www.nber.org/papers/w21257

53 Romer, Christina D. and Romer, David H., "The Macroeconomic Effects of Tax Changes: Estimates Based on a New Measure of Fiscal Shocks," American Economic Review 100, June 2010, pp. 763-801. http://eml.berkeley.edu/~dromer/papers/RomerandRomerAERJune2010.pdf

Economist Robert Reed's findings were similar:

> *I estimate the relationship between taxes and income growth using data from 1970–1999 and the forty-eight continental U.S. states. I find that taxes used to fund general expenditures are associated with significant, negative effects on income growth.*[54]

Finally, high **tax burdens** hurt state economies via the out-migration of private firms, as economists Xavier Giroud and Joshua Rauh found:

> *In this paper we have estimated economic responses to state-level business taxation by multistate firms on both the extensive and intensive margins. We find evidence consistent with substantial responses of these firms to state tax rates for the relevant tax rules. Corporate entities reduce the number of establishments per state and the number of employees and amount of capital per plant when state tax rates increase. Pass-through entities respond similarly to changes in state-level personal tax rates, although in somewhat smaller magnitude. Our specifications suggest that around half of these responses are due to reallocation of business activity to lower-tax states.*[55]

Additionally, **government spending** is the redistribution of income first extracted by taxes. Yet, the very process of redistribution also comes at a very high economic cost. As noted by prominent Harvard economist Martin Feldstein:

> *The appropriate size and role of government depends on the deadweight burden caused by incremental transfers of funds from the private sector. The magnitude of that burden depends on the increases in tax rates required to raise incremental revenue and on the deadweight loss that results from higher tax rates… [R]ecent econometric work implies that the deadweight burden caused by incremental taxation (the marginal excess burden) may exceed one dollar per one dollar of revenue raised, making the cost of incremental government spending more than two dollars for each dollar of government spending.*[56]

54 Reed, W. Robert, "The Robust Relationship between Taxes and U.S. State Income Growth," National Tax Journal, Vol. LXI, No. 1, March 2008. http://www.ntanet.org/NTJ/61/1/ntj-v61n01p57-80-robust-relationship-between-taxes.pdf

55 Giroud, Xavier and Rauh, Joshua, "State Taxation and the Reallocation of Business Activity: Evidence from Establishment-Level Data," NBER Working Paper 21534, September 2015. http://www.mit.edu/~xgiroud/Taxes.pdf

56 Feldstein, Martin, "How Big Should Government Be?" National Tax Journal, Vol. 50, No. 2 (June 1997), pp. 197-213. https://www.ntanet.org/NTJ/50/2/ntj-v50n02p197-213-how-big-should-government.pdf?v=%CE%B1&r=15017736809172388

According to the findings of economists Stephen Brown, Kathy Hayes, and Lori Taylor at the state level:

> *If anything, most public services do not appear to justify the taxes needed to finance them. Any tax savings financed by slower growth in environmental services, health and hospitals, or elementary and secondary education is positively associated with growth in private capital. Similarly, any tax savings financed by slower growth in public safety or education spending is positively associated with growth in private employment . . . [T]his finding would seem to imply that other state and local public capital has been increased to the point of negative returns, perhaps because a growing stock of other public capital is indicative of an increasingly intrusive government.*[57]

Finally, economists Taehyun Kim and Quoc H. Nguyen reach similar conclusions:

> *To summarize, we find strong evidence that supports the hypothesis that government spending crowds out firm investment. We further provide novel and direct evidence that limited mobility of workers is an important channel through which the crowding-out effect can occur.*[58]

Charitable giving, an outgrowth of family self-sufficiency, has a number of beneficial effects on individuals and society as a whole. This is due, in large part, to the correlation between charitable giving and religion. In fact, 61 percent of charitable giving is for "religious purposes" and it is an increasing and stable source of funds for charities.[59]

As discussed in the section on religion, people who are the most religious enjoy healthier lives, report less depression, and enjoy overall greater well-being. This also has important public policy implications as discussed in a recent study:

> *. . . [A] growing body of literature documents that giving to others reduces stress and strengthens the immune system, which results in better health and longer life expectancy. These findings imply that tax subsidies for charitable giving may have positive spillover effects on health.*[60]

57 Brown, Stephen, P.A., Hayes, Kathy J., and Taylor, Lori L. "State and Local Policy, Factor Markets, and Regional Growth," The Review of Regional Studies, Vol. 33, No. 1, 2003, pp. 40–60. http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.493.6001&rep=rep1&type=pdf

58 Kim, Taehyun and Nguyen, Quoc H., "The Effect of Public Spending on Private Investment: Evidence from Census Shocks," Working Paper, August 27, 2015. http://publish.illinois.edu/taehyunkim/files/2015/09/TK_fiscalPolicy.pdf

59 List, John A., "The Market for Charitable Giving," Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 25, No. 2, Spring 2011, pp. 157-180. http://home.uchicago.edu/~jlist/papers/The%20Market%20for%20Charitable%20Giving.pdf

60 Yoruk, Baris K., "Does Giving to Charity Lead to Better Health? Evidence from Tax Subsidies for Charitable Giving," Journal of Economic Psychology, Vol. 45, December 2014, pp. 71-83. http://www.albany.edu/economics/research/workingp/2013/yoruk1.pdf

Thus, charitable giving is a win-win for both the receiver and giver.[61]

The pattern of charitable giving also illustrates why increasing overall family prosperity is so important. Of the $194 billion given in 2013, 71 percent ($138 billion) came from those earning over $100,000. This is why the FPI examines the charitable giving of all taxpayers and those earning over $100,000.

Unfortunately, there has been a noticeable downswing in charitable contributions, especially after the "Great Recession." A recent study found that this phenomenon may not be simply a matter of lower incomes, but rather, suggests "broader shifts in attitudes towards giving or increased uncertainty at work."[62] Given the importance of religion to charitable giving, perhaps the "shift in attitudes" relates to the ongoing decline in religious attendance. Clearly, more research is needed on this vital measure of family self-sufficiency.

61 However, tax subsidies may not yield the best outcome for charities. To the extent that higher marginal tax rates lead to higher government spending and/or slower economic growth, this impact results in a "crowd-out" of charitable activity. For more information, see: Gruber, Jonathan and Hungerman, Daniel M., "Faith-based Charity and Crowd-Out During the Great Depression," Journal of Public Economics, No. 91, 2007, pp. 1043-1069. http://economics.mit.edu/files/6424

62 Meer, Jonathan, Miller, David, and Wulfsberg, Elisa, "The Great Recession and Charitable Giving," November, 2016. http://people.tamu.edu/~jmeer/Meer_Miller_Wulfsberg_Great_Recession_and_Charitable_Giving_161120.pdf

As shown in **Chart 28** and **Table 4**:

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY ARE:		
1	Utah	7.26
2	Washington	6.22
3	South Dakota	6.05
4	New Hampshire	6.03
5	Kansas	6.02
6	Wyoming	5.95
7	Massachusetts	5.85
8	New Jersey	5.74
9	Nebraska	5.69
10	Virginia	5.64

THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Rhode Island	4.27
42	Hawaii	4.19
43	Arkansas	4.12
44	Kentucky	3.73
45	Mississippi	3.69
46	Delaware	3.64
47	West Virginia	3.63
48	Louisiana	3.58
49	Alaska	3.51
50	New Mexico	3.33

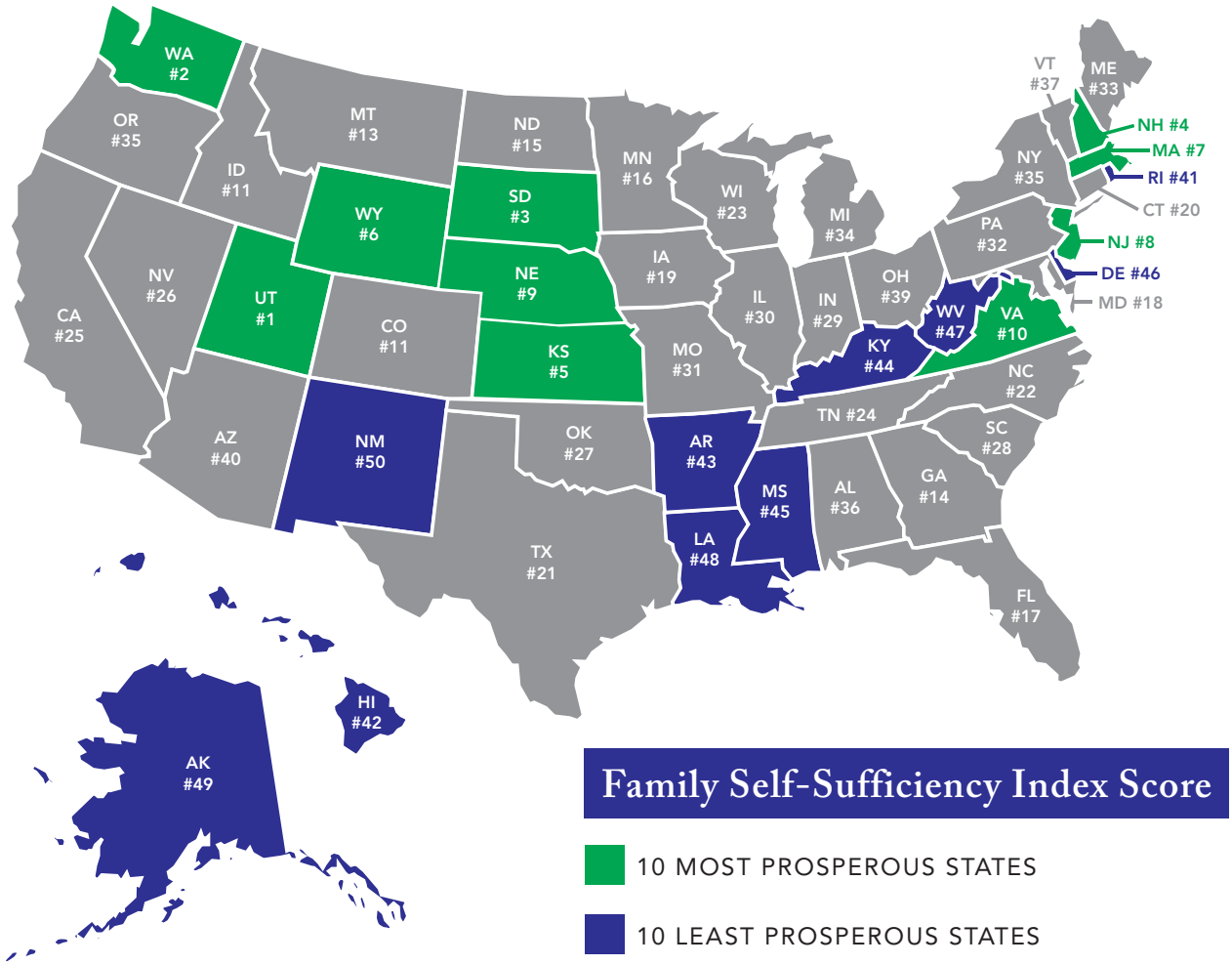
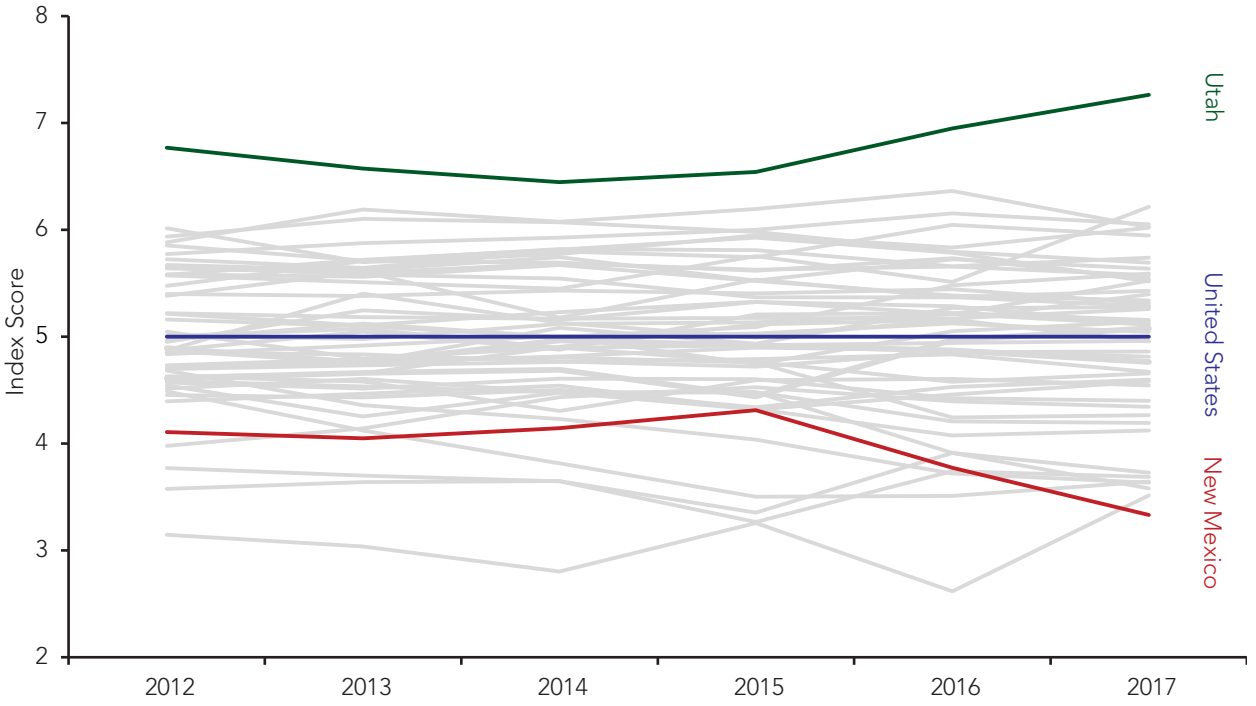


CHART 28

Family Self-Sufficiency Index Score 2012 to 2017



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 4 | 2017 FAMILY PROSPERITY FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY SUB-INDEXES

	PRISONERS	RANK	MEDICAID	RANK	WELFARE	RANK	GOVERNMENT BURDEN	RANK	CHARITY	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	2.68	44	6.71	9	3.10	47	4.92	29	5.58	16	4.60	36
Alaska	1.75	48	4.15	35	5.67	20	3.17	45	2.83	48	3.51	49
Arizona	2.38	45	5.19	25	4.18	38	5.57	18	4.40	34	4.34	40
Arkansas	2.34	46	4.09	37	3.84	43	4.53	38	5.81	12	4.12	43
California	6.69	9	2.63	45	4.89	28	4.87	31	6.52	6	5.12	25
Colorado	6.11	14	4.94	28	6.28	6	6.12	7	4.44	32	5.58	12
Connecticut	5.31	23	4.07	39	5.27	21	5.46	20	6.32	7	5.29	20
Delaware	1.87	47	3.93	41	4.40	34	4.22	40	3.80	40	3.64	46
Florida	4.25	38	6.91	5	3.41	45	6.50	4	5.91	11	5.40	17
Georgia	4.32	36	7.11	4	2.82	49	5.74	13	7.62	2	5.52	14
Hawaii	5.16	26	5.55	19	4.15	39	2.78	48	3.33	47	4.19	42
Idaho	4.01	39	6.71	10	5.88	12	6.17	6	5.18	22	5.59	11
Illinois	5.65	17	4.97	27	4.13	40	4.73	33	5.30	21	4.96	30
Indiana	5.20	25	4.72	32	4.99	25	6.00	8	3.90	39	4.96	29
Iowa	6.53	10	5.24	23	5.77	16	4.89	30	4.14	37	5.31	19
Kansas	5.40	22	6.87	8	5.88	11	5.98	9	5.95	9	6.02	5
Kentucky	3.99	40	2.52	46	4.34	35	4.15	41	3.64	43	3.73	44
Louisiana	1.35	49	3.99	40	2.94	48	5.19	25	4.43	33	3.58	48
Maine	7.17	5	4.85	31	5.84	14	3.64	42	2.33	49	4.76	33
Maryland	6.16	12	4.90	29	5.17	22	4.69	35	5.78	14	5.34	18
Massachusetts	8.78	1	2.70	44	6.17	9	5.53	19	6.07	8	5.85	7
Michigan	4.70	32	4.68	33	4.63	31	5.63	17	3.72	42	4.67	34
Minnesota	6.81	7	4.14	36	6.48	5	4.63	36	5.08	25	5.43	16
Mississippi	3.08	43	4.87	30	1.83	50	3.34	44	5.33	20	3.69	45
Missouri	3.29	42	5.23	24	4.90	26	5.73	15	5.16	24	4.86	31
Montana	5.62	18	6.30	12	6.27	7	5.27	23	4.24	35	5.54	13
Nebraska	5.55	19	6.88	7	5.83	15	5.41	21	4.78	30	5.69	9
Nevada	4.58	33	5.34	22	4.32	36	5.88	11	5.45	19	5.11	26
New Hampshire	6.46	11	5.54	20	7.60	1	7.11	1	3.41	46	6.03	4
New Jersey	7.74	2	5.09	26	5.70	19	5.17	26	5.00	27	5.74	8
New Mexico	5.45	20	1.85	49	3.11	46	2.75	50	3.50	45	3.33	50
New York	6.94	6	1.31	50	4.64	30	2.75	49	7.08	4	4.54	38
North Carolina	5.98	16	6.04	15	4.11	41	5.17	27	4.99	28	5.26	22
North Dakota	6.02	15	6.09	14	7.46	2	2.96	47	5.06	26	5.52	15
Ohio	4.30	37	4.21	34	4.89	27	4.85	32	3.75	41	4.40	39
Oklahoma	0.94	50	6.44	11	4.48	33	6.63	2	6.90	5	5.08	27
Oregon	5.15	27	2.93	43	5.02	24	4.53	37	5.65	15	4.66	35
Pennsylvania	5.29	24	4.07	38	5.12	23	5.38	22	4.21	36	4.81	32
Rhode Island	6.16	13	2.44	47	4.71	29	4.46	39	3.57	44	4.27	41
South Carolina	5.41	21	6.18	13	4.02	42	4.69	34	4.92	29	5.04	28
South Dakota	4.97	28	7.22	3	5.98	10	6.51	3	5.58	17	6.05	3
Tennessee	4.89	30	5.77	17	3.67	44	5.92	10	5.46	18	5.14	24
Texas	3.41	41	5.98	16	4.61	32	6.44	5	5.95	10	5.28	21
Utah	7.64	3	7.61	1	6.60	4	5.69	16	8.77	1	7.26	1
Vermont	7.17	4	2.00	48	6.25	8	3.56	43	3.92	38	4.58	37
Virginia	4.44	34	6.91	6	5.85	13	5.82	12	5.18	23	5.64	10
Washington	6.71	8	5.61	18	5.71	18	5.74	14	7.31	3	6.22	2
West Virginia	4.84	31	3.77	42	4.30	37	2.98	46	2.28	50	3.63	47
Wisconsin	4.96	29	5.51	21	5.72	17	4.93	28	4.65	31	5.16	23
Wyoming	4.41	35	7.24	2	7.07	3	5.20	24	5.81	13	5.95	6

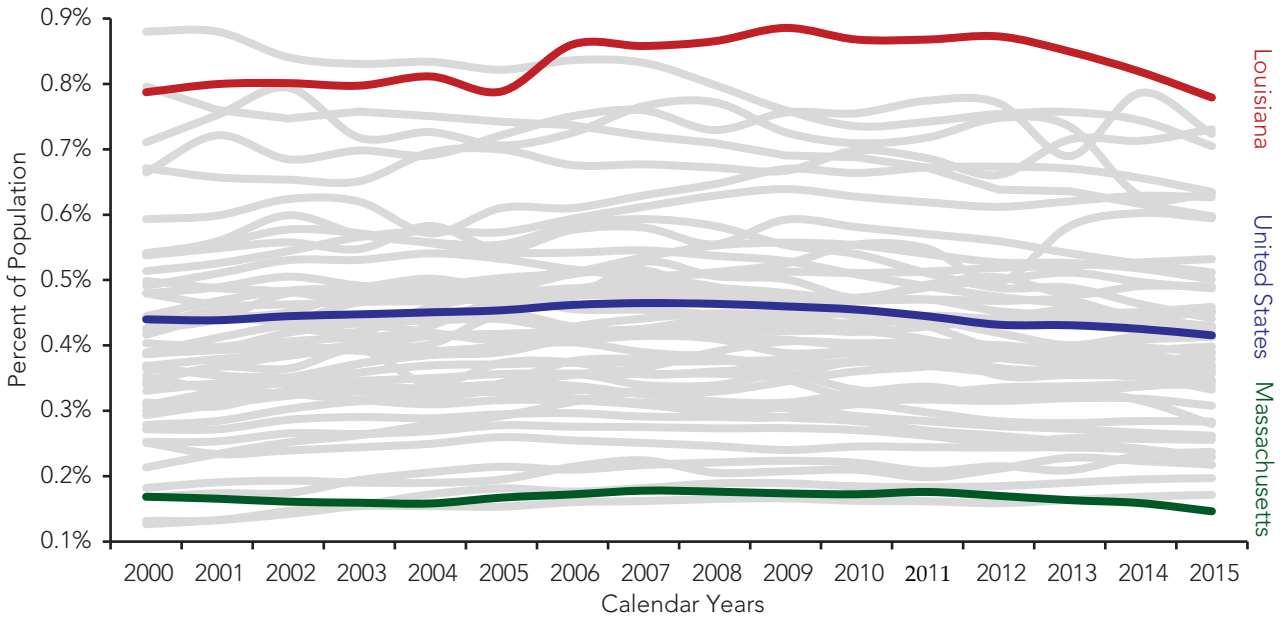
Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

State Prisoners

As shown in **Chart 29**, **state prisoners** (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 6 percent to 0.42 percent in 2015 from 0.44 percent in 2000. In 2015, Louisiana had the highest percentage of state prisoners at 0.78 percent, while Massachusetts had the lowest at 0.15 percent—a difference of 433 percent.[63]

CHART 29

Prisoners
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *state prisoners* sub-index, Massachusetts had the top score (8.78), followed by New Jersey (7.74), Utah (7.64), Vermont (7.17), and Maine (7.17). Oklahoma had the lowest score (0.94), followed by Louisiana (1.35), Alaska (1.75), Delaware (1.87), and Arkansas (2.34).

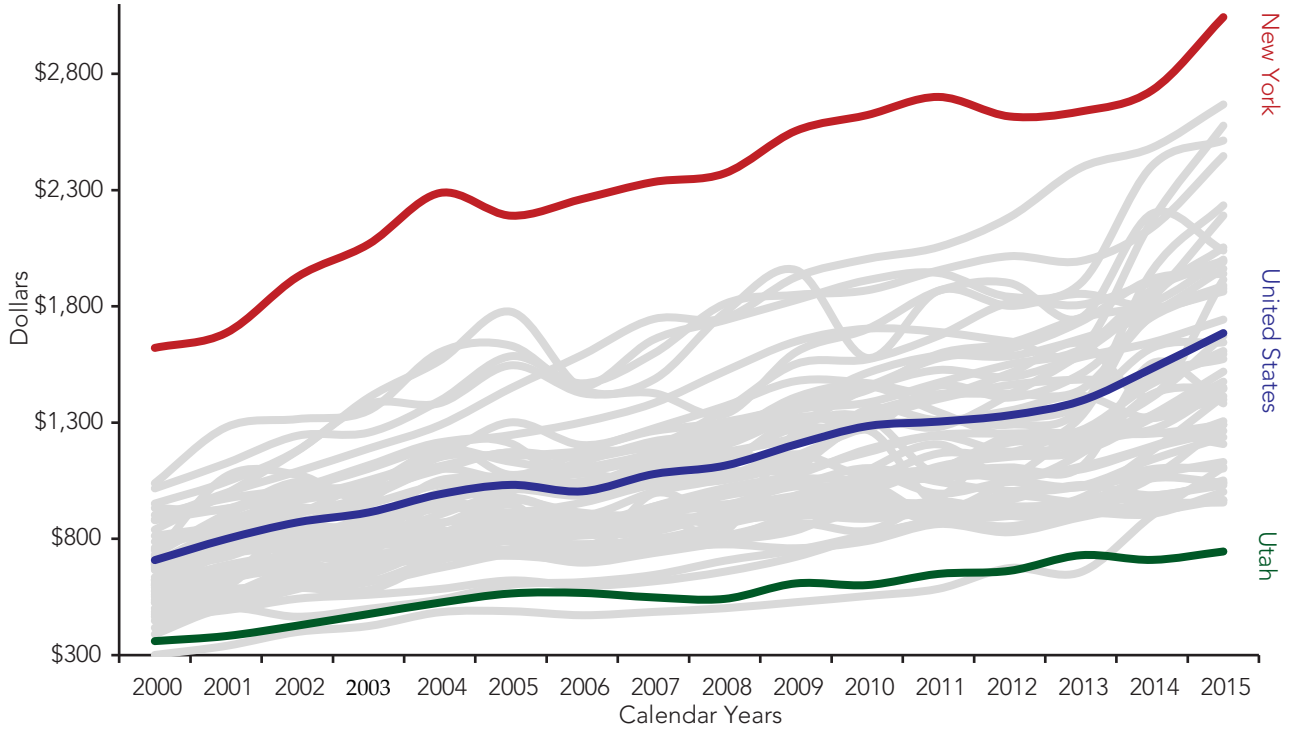
63 U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nps

Per Capita Medicaid Spending

As shown in **Chart 30**, **Medicaid spending** (per person) increased nationally by 138 percent to $1,685 in 2015 from $708 in 2000. In 2015, New York had the highest level of Medicaid spending at $3,044, while Utah had the lowest at $746—a difference of 308 percent.[64]

CHART 30

Medicaid Spending Per Person
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *Medicaid spending* sub-index, Utah had the top score (7.61), followed by Wyoming (7.24), South Dakota (7.22), Georgia (7.11), and Florida (6.91). New York had the lowest score (1.31), followed by New Mexico (1.85), Vermont (2.00), Rhode Island (2.44), and Kentucky (2.52).

64 Regional Data, U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis http://www.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1#reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1

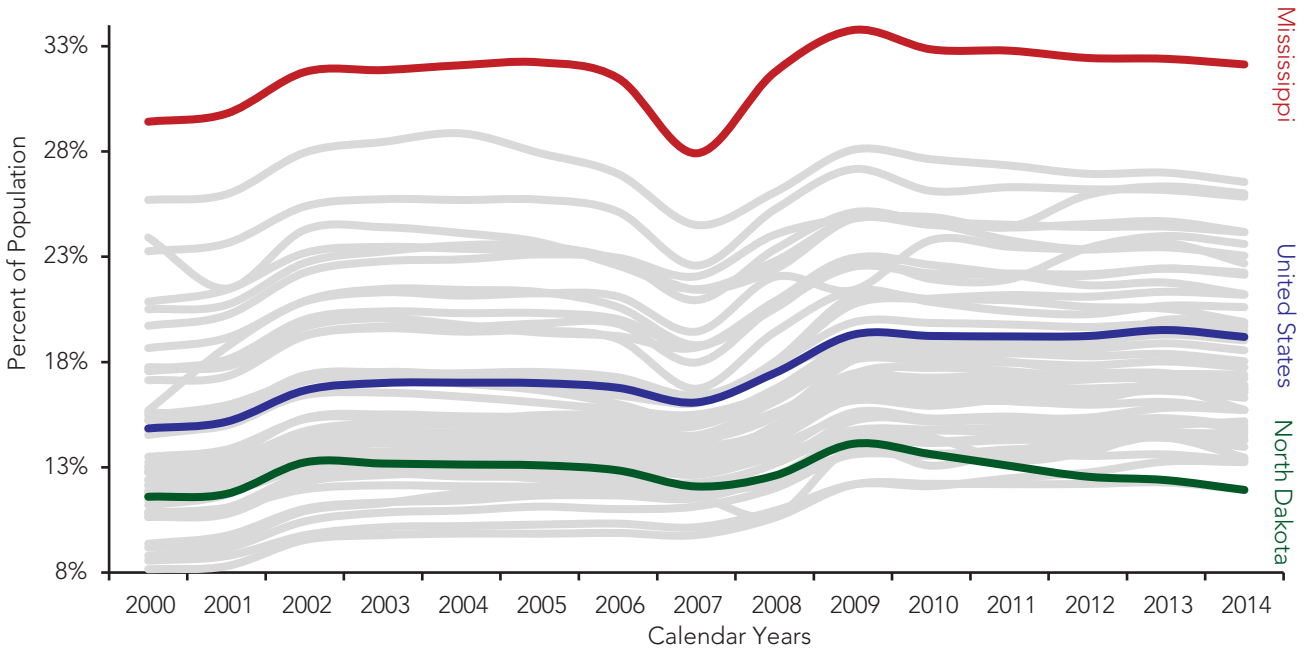
Welfare

Charts 31, 32, 33, and 34 show the **variance in welfare enrollment and spending**—examining both the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2014 for EITC and 2000 to 2015 for SNAP.

As shown in **Chart 31**, the **EITC rate** (as a percent of taxpayers) increased nationally by 29 percent to 19.2 percent in 2014 from 14.8 percent in 2000. In 2014, Mississippi had the highest EITC rate at 32.1 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest at 11.9 percent—a difference of 170 percent.[65]

CHART 31

EITC as a Percent of Population
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



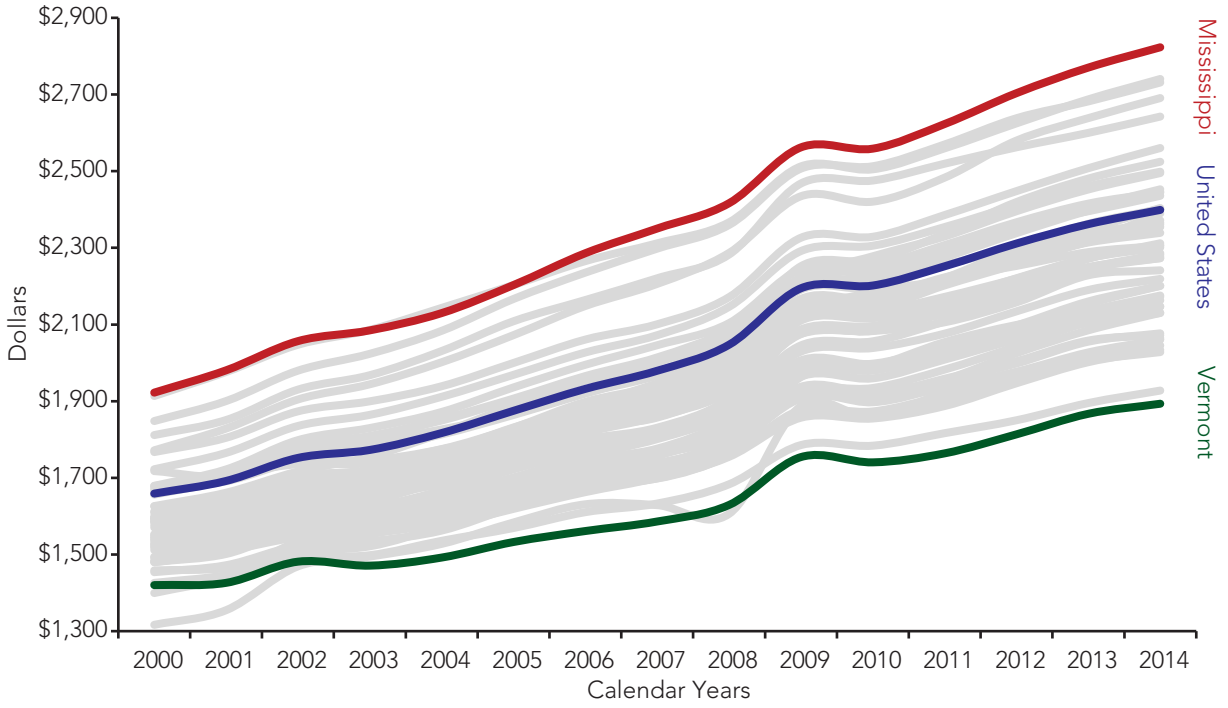
Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

65 Revenue Service, Statistics of Income, SOI Tax Stats – Historic Table 2. https://www.irs.gov/uac/SOI-Tax-Stats-Historic-Table-2

As shown in **Chart 32**, the **amount of EITC spending** (per EITC recipient) increased nationally by 45 percent to $2,399 in 2014 from $1,659 in 2000. In 2014, Mississippi had the highest spending on EITC at $2,823. while Vermont had the lowest at $1,893—a difference of 49 percent.

CHART 32

EITC Per Recipient
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014

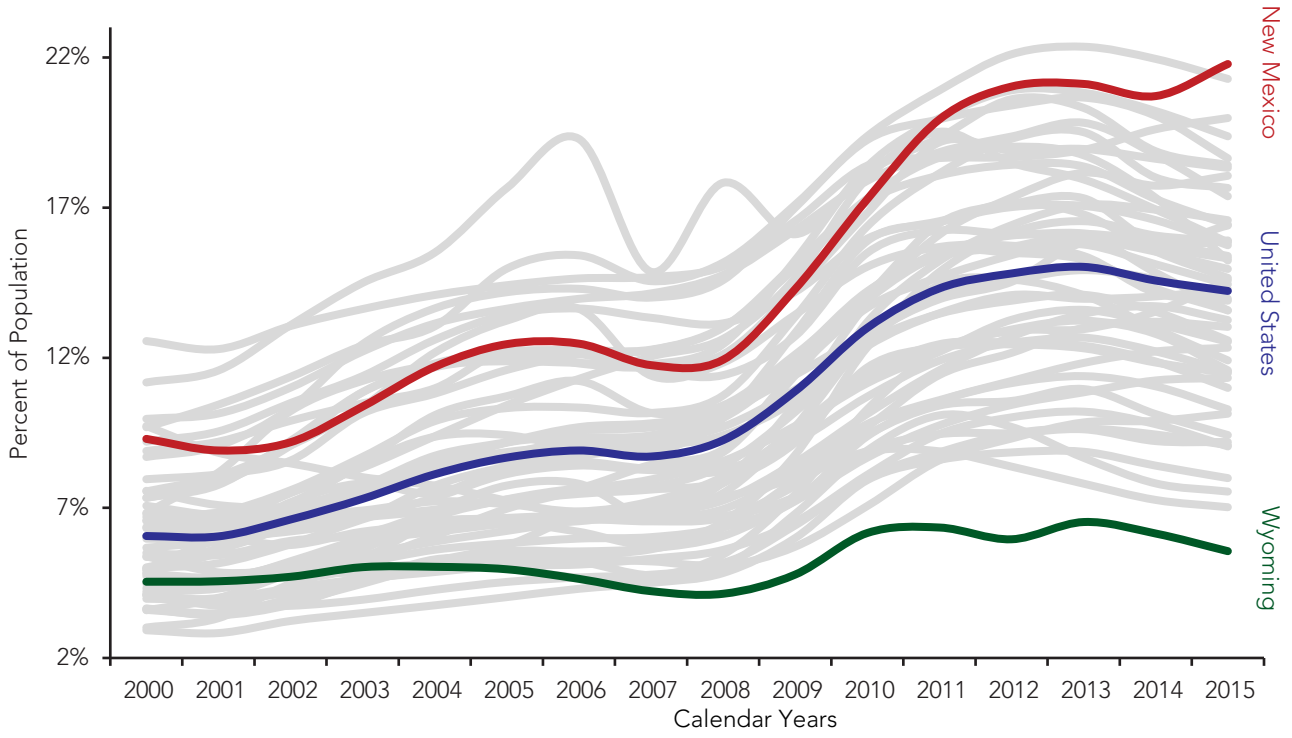


Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 33**, the **SNAP rate** (as a percent of population) increased nationally by 115 percent to 14.2 percent in 2015 from 6.1 percent in 2000. In 2015, New Mexico had the highest SNAP rate at 21.7 percent, while Wyoming had the lowest at 5.6 percent—a difference of 291 percent.[66]

CHART 33

SNAP as a Percent of Population
Fiscal Years 2000 to 2015



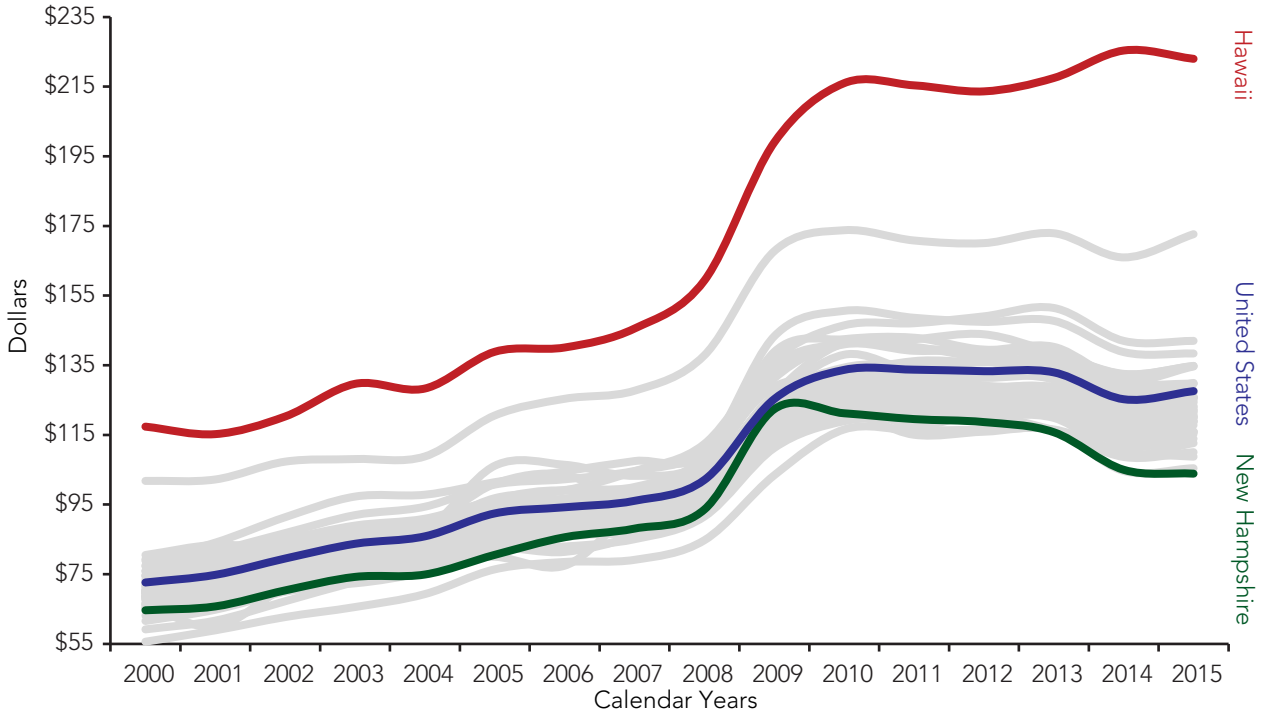
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

66 U.S. Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap

As shown in **Chart 34**, the amount of **SNAP spending** (per person) increased nationally by 61 percent to $127.57 in 2015 from $72.62 in 2000. In 2015, Hawaii had the highest SNAP spending at $222.99, while New Hampshire had the lowest at $103.87—a difference of 115 percent.

CHART 34

SNAP Per Capita
Fiscal Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *welfare* sub-index, New Hampshire had the best score (7.60) followed by North Dakota (7.46), Wyoming (7.07), Utah (6.60), and Minnesota (6.48). Mississippi had the lowest score (1.83), followed by Georgia (2.82), Louisiana (2.94), Alabama (3.10), and New Mexico (3.11).

Note: EITC rate, EITC spending, SNAP rate, and SNAP spending were weighted equally in the welfare sub-index.

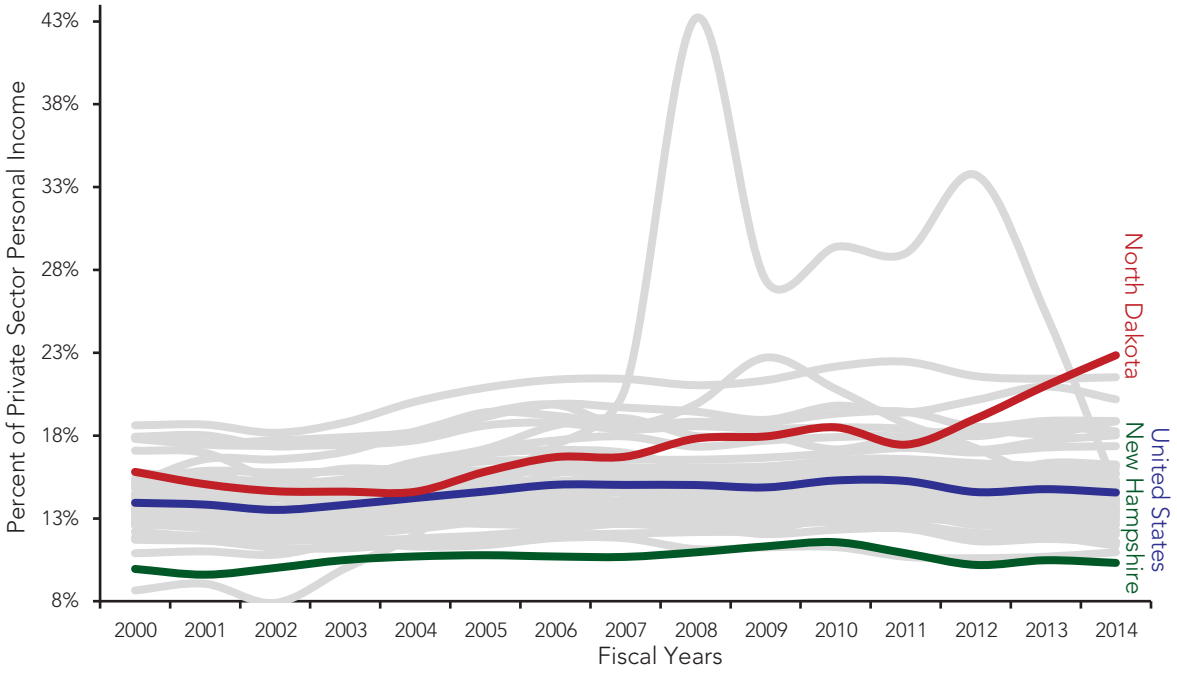
Government Burden

Charts 35 and 36 show the **variance in the burden of government**—examining both the state and local tax burden and spending—nationally and in the 50 states from Fiscal Years 2000 to 2014.[67]

As shown in **Chart 35**, the **state and local tax burden** (as a percent of private sector personal income) increased nationally by 4 percent to 14.6 percent in 2014 from 13.9 percent in 2000. In 2014, North Dakota had the highest tax burden at 22.9 percent, while New Hampshire had the lowest at 10.3 percent—a difference of 121 percent.

CHART 35

State and Local Tax Burden as a Percent of Private Sector Personal Income
Fiscal Years 2000 to 2014



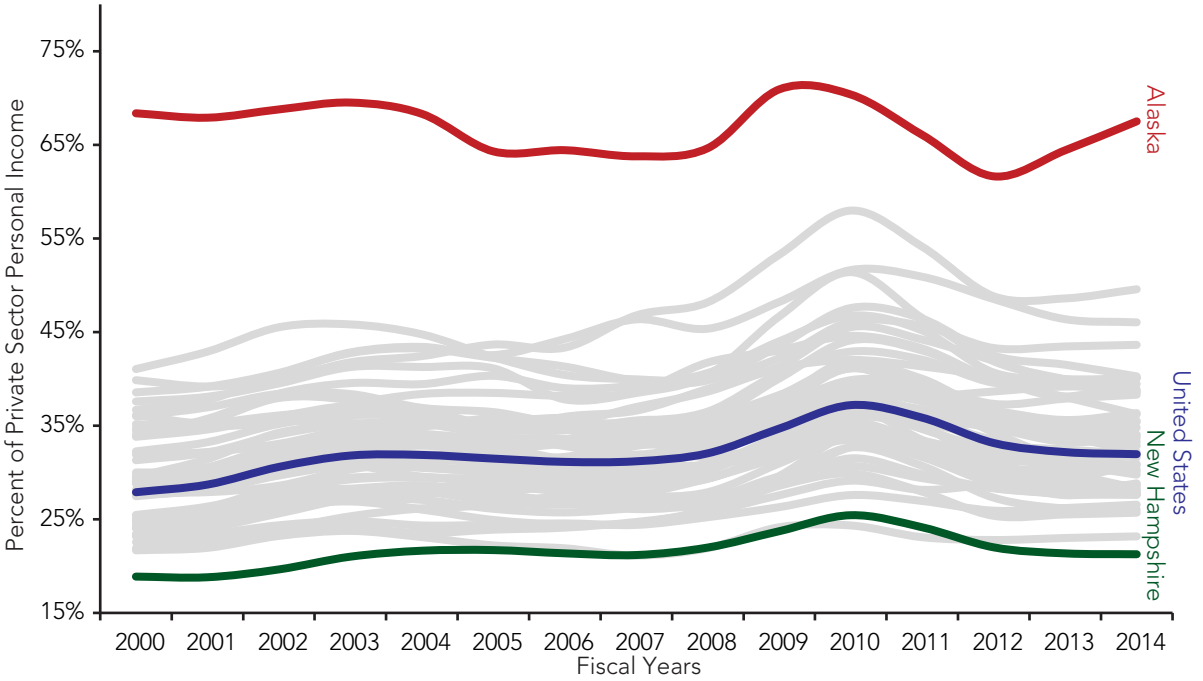
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

67 .S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau. http://www.census.gov/govs/index.html

As shown in **Chart 36**, **state and local tax expenditures** (as a percent of private sector personal income) increased nationally by 15 percent to 32 percent in 2014 from 27.9 percent in 2000. In 2014, Alaska had the highest expenditures at 67.5 percent, while New Hampshire had the lowest at 21.3 percent—a difference of 217 percent.

CHART 36

State and Local Tax Expenditures as a Percent of Private Sector Personal Income Fiscal Years 2000 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *government burden* sub-index, New Hampshire had the top score (7.11) followed by Oklahoma (6.63), South Dakota (6.51), Florida (6.50), and Texas (6.44). New Mexico had the lowest score (2.75), followed by New York (2.75), Hawaii (2.78), North Dakota (2.96), and West Virginia (2.98).

Notes: Tax burdens and expenditures were weighted equally in the government burden sub-index.

Alaska annually distributes dividends from the Permanent Fund created from oil and gas revenue. These funds are treated as a reduction in the tax burden.

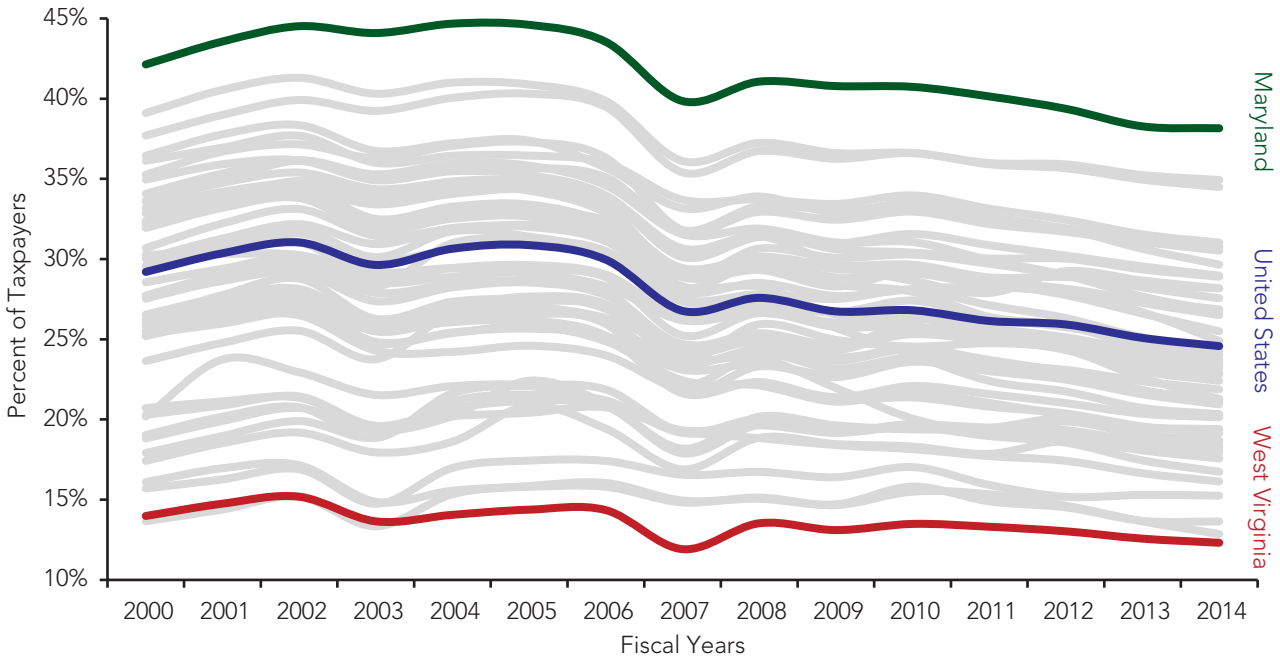
Charity

Charts 37, 38, 39, and 40 show the **variance in charitable giving**—including the rate and level of charitable giving for all taxpayers and taxpayers earning over $100,000—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2014.[68]

As shown in **Chart 37**, the **charity rate** (as a percent of all taxpayers) declined nationally by 16 percent to 24.6 percent in 2014 from 29.2 percent in 2000. In 2014, Maryland had the highest charity rate at 38.2 percent, while West Virginia had the lowest at 12.3 percent—a difference of 210 percent.

CHART 37

Charitable Taxpayers as a Percent of All Taxpayers
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



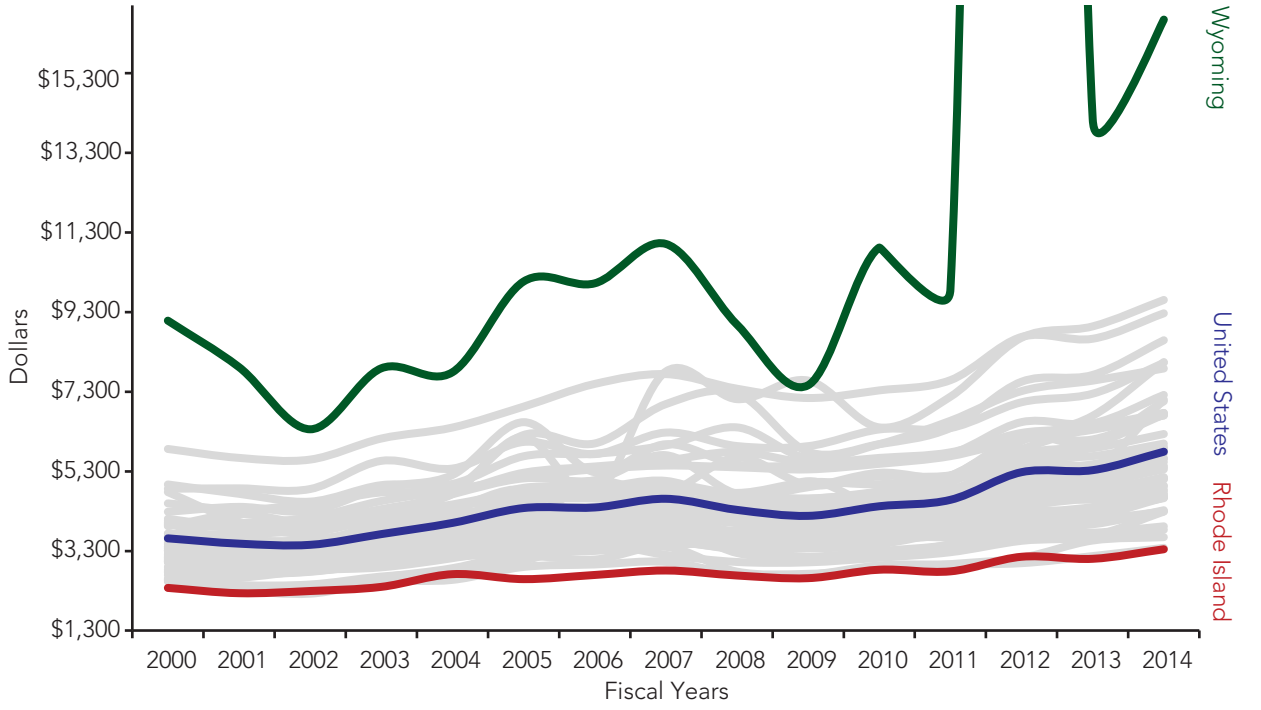
Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

68 Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income, SOI Tax Stats – Historic Table 2. https://www.irs.gov/uac/SOI-Tax-Stats-Historic-Table-2

As shown in **Chart 38**, **charitable contributions** (per taxpayer) increased nationally by 60 percent to $5,793 in 2014 from $3,618 in 2000. In 2014, Wyoming had the highest charity giving at $16,644, while Rhode Island had the lowest at $3,344—a difference of 398 percent.

CHART 38

Charitable Contributions Per Taxpayer
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014

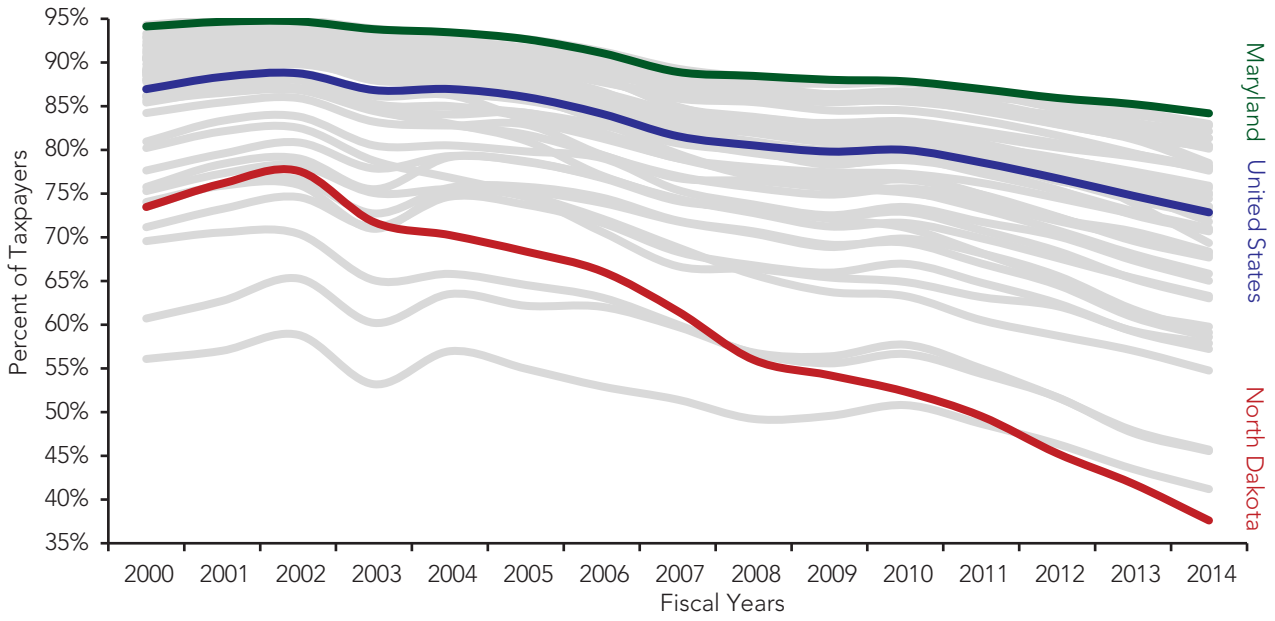


Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 39**, the **charity rate for taxpayers earning more than $100,000** (as a percent of all taxpayers earning more than $100,000) declined nationally by 16 percent to 72.9 percent in 2014 from 87 percent in 2000. In 2014, Maryland had the highest charity rate at 84.2 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest at 37.6 percent—a difference of 124 percent.

CHART 39

Charitable Taxpayers as a Percent of All Taxpayers Earning Over $100,000
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014

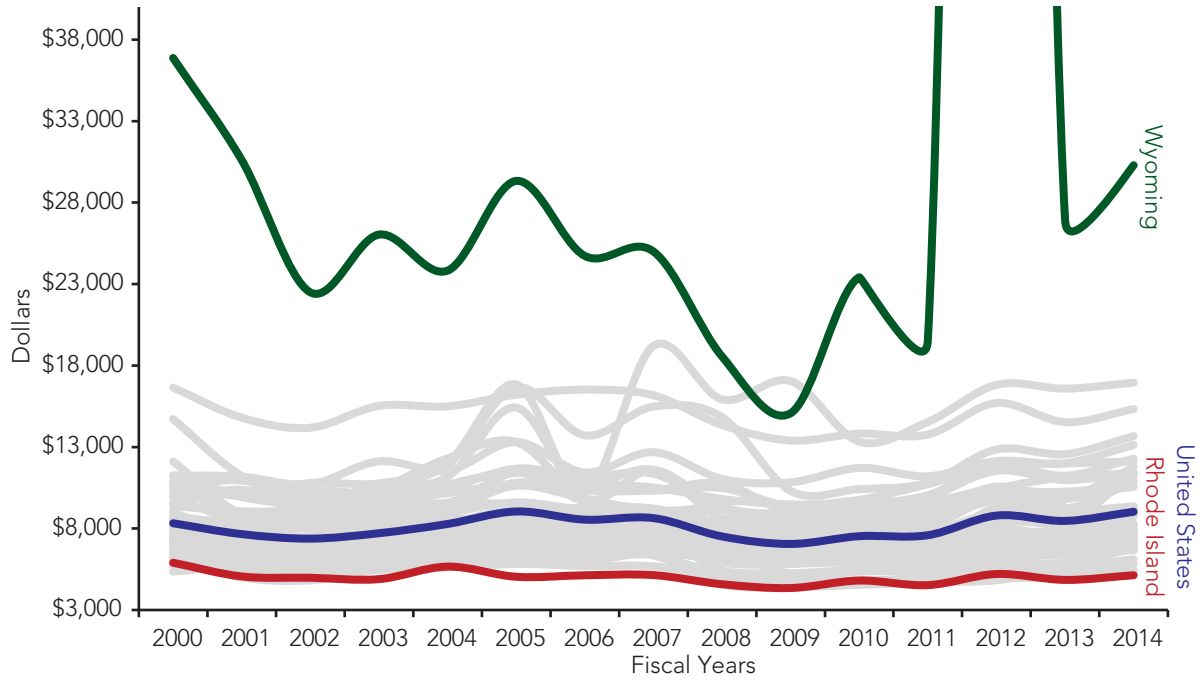


Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 40**, **charitable contributions for taxpayers earning more than $100,000** (per taxpayer earning more than $100,000) increased nationally by 9 percent to $9,028 in 2014 from $8,324 in 2000. In 2014, Wyoming had the highest charity giving at $30,291, while Rhode Island had the lowest at $5,135—a difference of 490 percent.

CHART 40

Charitable Contributions Per Taxpayer Earning Over $100,000 Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *charity* sub-index, Utah had the top score (8.77), followed by Georgia (7.62), Washington (7.31), New York (7.08), and Oklahoma (6.90). West Virginia had the lowest score (2.28), followed by Maine (2.33), Alaska (2.83), Hawaii (3.33), and New Hampshire (3.41).

Note: In the charity sub-index, the state charity rates for all taxpayers and for taxpayers earning over $100,000 were weighted 30 percent and 20 percent, respectively. Similarly, state charitable contributions per taxpayer and per taxpayer earning over $100,000 were weighted 30 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

Wyoming's charity contributions were very high relative to the other states. The IRS confirmed, via email correspondence, that there are no errors in the reporting of Wyoming's charity data.

FAMILY STRUCTURE

The composition of families – specifically, the number of children involved and, in particular, the marital state of the parents – has a direct and distinct influence on their own economic circumstances as well as on those of the communities in which they live. The **Family Structure** major index measures the impact of these factors – especially marriage – on prosperity.

The formation of families through **marriage** and the dissolution of families through **divorce** impact the individuals involved in a number of ways. For instance, if you compare two men with similar backgrounds, the married man will enjoy a marriage premium in his earnings. In fact, a comprehensive study by economist Robert Lerman and sociologist Brad Wilcox calculated this earning premium is worth a whopping $15,900 per year![69]

69 Lerman, Robert I. and Wilcox, W. Bradford, "For Richer, For Poorer: How Family Structures Economic Success in America," American Enterprise Institute and Institute for Family Studies, October 2014.https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/IFS-ForRicherForPoorer-Final_Web.pdf

Yet, it's not just men who benefit economically from marriage. Consider these other facts from their study:

> *Young men and women from intact families enjoy an annual 'intact family premium' that amounts to $6,500 and $4,700, respectively, over the incomes of their peers from single-parent families.*
>
> *Men and women who are currently married and were raised in an intact family enjoy an annual 'family premium' in their household income that exceeds that of their unmarried peers who were raised in non-intact families by at least $42,000.*
>
> *. . . [T]he growth in median income of families with children would be 44 percent higher if the United States enjoyed the 1980 levels of married parenthood today. Further, at least 32 percent of the growth in family-income inequality since 1979 among families with children and 37 percent of the decline in men's employment rates during that time can be linked to the decreasing number of Americans who form and maintain stable, married families.*

One area of growing concern is that the decline in marriage rates is resulting in family structures that are less attached to the workforce, especially for men. It is no coincidence that the decline in men's labor force participation parallels the decline in marriage rates. In fact, the drop in the work force has been so severe and prolonged that there is a growing worry it could plunge America into an economic depression.[70]

Less tangible than its financial impact, but no less important, is the link between marriage and increased happiness. According to a recent study by economist Shawn Grover and John Helliwell:

> *First, even when controlling for pre-marital life satisfaction levels, those who marry are more satisfied than those who remain single. Second, contrary to past papers claiming full adaptation, the benefits of marriage persist in the long-term, even if the well-being benefits are greatest immediately after marriage. Third, marriage seems to be the most important in middle age when people of every marital status experience a dip in well-being. This result seems to be applicable globally, even in regions of the world where the average effects of marriage are not positive. Fourth, those who are best friends with their partners have the largest well-being benefits from marriage and cohabitation, even when controlling for pre-marital well-being levels. The well-being benefits of marriage are on average about twice as large for those (about half of the sample) whose spouse is also their best friend.*[71]

70 Fagan, Patrick and Potrykus, Henry, "Non-Marriage Reduces U.S. Labor Participation: The Abandonment of Marriage Puts America at Risk of a Depression," Marriage & Religion Research Institute, August 27, 2012. http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12H57.pdf

71 Grover, Shawn and Helliwell, John F., "How's Life at Home? New Evidence on Marriage and the Set Point for Happiness," National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 20794, December 2014. http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/jhelliwell/papers/w20794.pdf

Fortunately, past trends are not indicative of future results. Americans still remain optimistic about their prospects for marriage, as indicated by a recent survey of 15,738 adults:

> *In the end, America still likes marriage—however defined—though perhaps not as universally as in the past and a little bit later in the life course.*[72]

On the other hand, divorce works to undo the economic benefits of marriage. In fact, a recent study by economist Ben Scafidi found that divorce is a major driver of poverty. In turn, this drives up government costs associated with the social safety net such as food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, WIC, etc. As a result, family fragmentation costs American taxpayers (at the federal and state levels) at least $112 billion every year.[73]

Additionally, divorce reverses the marriage premiums cited previously, especially for men. A recent study quantified this impact:

> *The divorce revolution has undermined growth in the U.S. economy. As this analysis proves, marriage is a stable, assured causal agent of economic growth. Since marriage has this 'remarkably large' accruing effect on worker's productivity, divorce eliminates this agent for growth.*
>
> *The divorce revolution more than tripled the rate of divorce for the most important agent for economic growth and labor market activity: the working head-of-household. Divorce reduced the head's productivity increases by one fourth to one third. Divorce, having become acculturated, perpetually inhibits growth of the U.S. economy.*
>
> *Besides for population effects originating in the 1960s and 1972, there are no other consequences of policy change that have had a greater effect in slowing economic growth than the divorce revolution.*[74]

Just as marriage boosts happiness, divorce reduces a person's well-being. An analysis by Gallup discovered that divorced women suffer under significantly elevated levels of stress and, consequently, drug use after a divorce.[75]

---

72 Gordon, David, Porter, Austin, Regnerus, Mark, Ryngaert, Jane, and Sarangaya, Larissa, "Relationships in America Survey," The Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture, December 2014. http://relationshipsinamerica.com/pdf/Relationships%20in%20America%202014.pdf

73 Scafidi, Benjamin, "The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing: First Ever Estimates for the Nation and All Fifty States," Institute for American Values, Georgia Family Council, Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, and Families Northwest, 2008. http://americanvalues.org/catalog/pdfs/COFF.pdf

74 Fagan, Patrick and Potrykus, Henry, "The Divorce Revolution Perpetually Reduces U.S. Economic Growth: Divorce Removes a Fourth of Head-of-Household Productivity Growth," Marriage & Religion Research Institute, March 8, 2012. http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12C20.pdf

75 Sharpe, Lindsey and Witters, Dan, "Women's Well-Being Suffers More When Marriage Ends," Gallup, October 15, 2014. http://www.gallup.com/poll/178553/women-suffers-marriage-ends.aspx

At the end of the day, the net impact of marriages and divorces is measured by **how many children live in married households.** This is critical to the well-being of children. In fact, according to a recent study by David Ribar:

> *My analysis [of why marriage matters for child well-being] includes many mechanisms that have been investigated in previous studies, including economic resources, specialization, father involvement, parent's physical and mental health, parenting quality and skills, social supports, health insurance, home ownership, parental relationships, bargaining power, and family stability. However, it also points to many others that have received less attention, including net wealth, borrowing constraints, informal insurance through social networks, and inefficiencies associated with parents living apart . . . [T]he likely advantages of marriage for children's wellbeing are hard to replicate through policy interventions other than those that bolster marriage themselves. While interventions that raise income, increase parental time availability, provide alternative services, or provide other in-kind resources would surely benefit children, these are likely to be, at best, only partial substitutes for marriage itself. The advantages of marriage for children appear to be the sum of many, many parts.*[76]

Measured more specifically, **families in poverty** can be directly attributed to the breakdown of the family.[77] This can be seen in the data itself. In 2014, the poverty rate for families with related children was 18 percent nationally. However, for married couples the poverty rate was only 8.2 percent, while for single parents the poverty rate jumped to 35.9 percent.

The differential pattern of household status also illustrates why increasing overall family prosperity is so important.

First, the percent of taxpayers filing as married increases significantly with income. In 2013, for all taxpayers, the married taxpayers represented 36.8 percent, but for taxpayers earning over $100,000, their share jumped to 82.6 percent.

Second, the size of households increases significantly with income. In 2013, for all taxpayers, the number of exemptions (people) per taxpayer (household) was 1.97, but for taxpayers earning over $100,000, the number jumped to 2.78.[78]

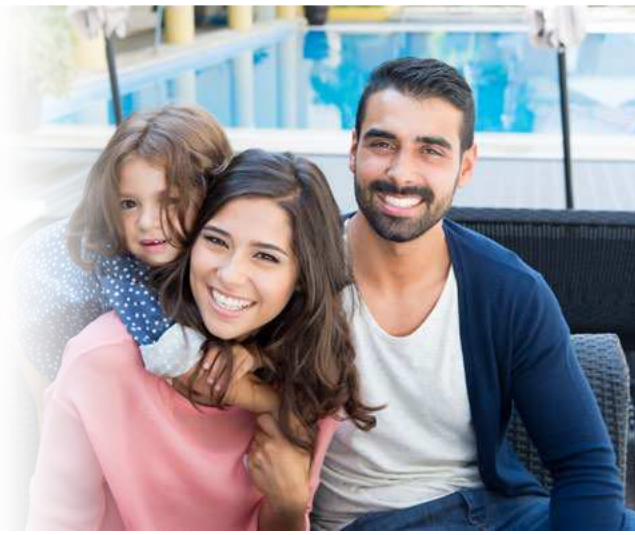
76 Ribar, David C., "Why Marriage Matters for Child Wellbeing," The Future of Children, Vol. 25, No. 2, Fall 2015. http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/WhyMarriageMatters.pdf

77 Wilcox, W. Bradford, "The Evolution of Divorce," National Affairs, Fall 2009. http://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-evolution-of-divorce

78 For more information, see: Hodge, Scott, "Putting a Face on America's Tax Returns: A Chart Book," Tax Foundation, 2013. http://taxfoundation.org/sites/taxfoundation.org/files/docs/PuttingAFace2013.pdf

Research suggests that the negative economic ramifications of family fragmentation can be reversed. As Lerman and Wilcox found:

[O]ur results suggest that men and women can overcome many of the disadvantages associated with being raised in a non-intact family by establishing a married family of their own.[79]



79 Lerman, Robert I. and Wilcox, W. Bradford, "For Richer, For Poorer: How Family Structures Economic Success in America," American Enterprise Institute and Institute for Family Studies, October 2014.https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/IFS-ForRicherForPoorer-Final_Web.pdf

As shown in **Chart 41** and **Table 5**:

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN FAMILY STRUCTURE ARE:		
1	Utah	7.46
2	Idaho	6.77
3	Vermont	6.55
4	Iowa	6.50
5	Wyoming	6.40
6	Montana	5.99
7	South Dakota	5.88
8	Hawaii	5.80
9	Washington	5.76
10	Colorado	5.70

THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Rhode Island	4.12
42	Delaware	4.08
43	West Virginia	4.08
44	Louisiana	4.06
45	Florida	4.02
46	Mississippi	3.96
47	New York	3.94
48	Ohio	3.81
49	Arizona	3.61
50	Nevada	3.33

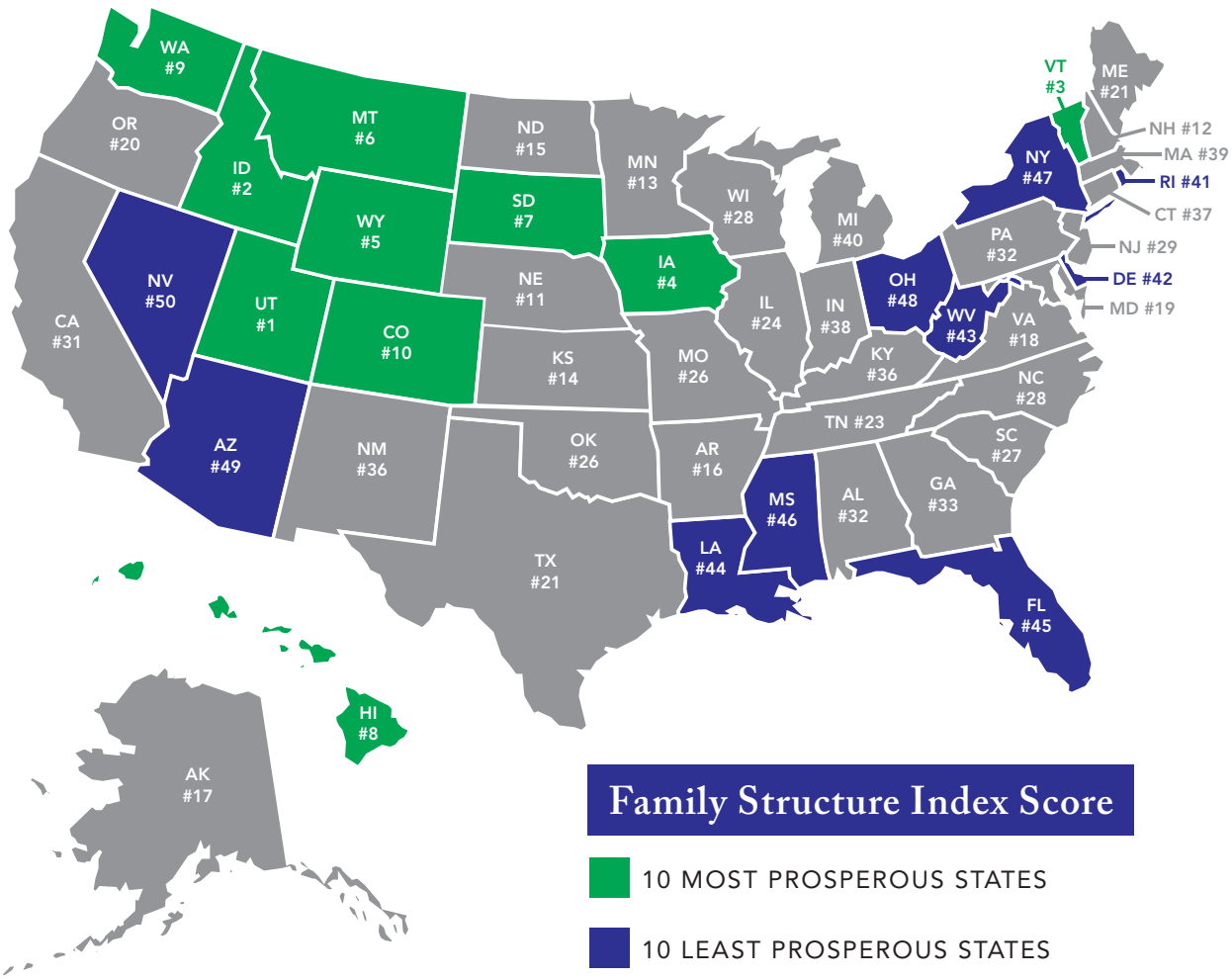
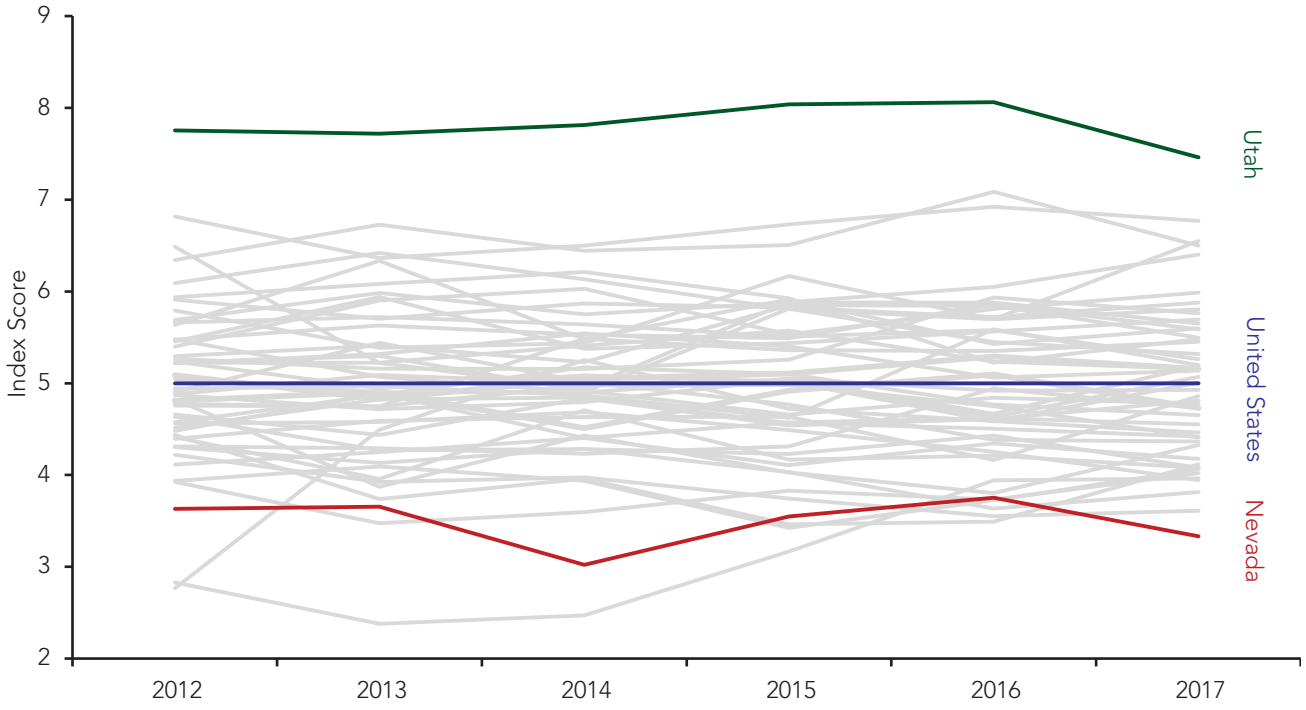


CHART 41

Family Structure Index Score 2012 to 2017



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 5 | 2017 FAMILY PROSPERITY FAMILY STRUCTURE SUB-INDEXES

	CHILDREN MARRIED-COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS	RANK	MARRIAGE RATE	RANK	DIVORCE RATE	RANK	STATE OF HOUSEHOLDS	RANK	FAMILIES WITH RELATED CHILDREN BELOW POVERTY	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	2.98	46	7.11	10	4.52	37	6.37	8	2.29	47	4.65	32
Alaska	5.32	21	6.26	12	4.33	40	4.46	33	6.23	14	5.32	17
Arizona	4.05	37	1.87	47	3.54	45	5.12	22	3.47	42	3.61	49
Arkansas	4.77	27	10.00	1	3.02	48	6.86	4	2.60	44	5.45	16
California	5.55	19	4.51	32	4.63	36	4.25	37	4.70	29	4.73	31
Colorado	7.07	6	5.57	17	4.23	41	4.55	30	7.06	9	5.70	10
Connecticut	5.24	22	0.68	50	6.09	8	3.39	45	6.43	11	4.36	37
Delaware	3.65	40	3.59	36	5.03	26	3.70	41	4.43	32	4.08	42
Florida	2.65	47	6.08	15	4.10	42	3.40	44	3.88	36	4.02	45
Georgia	3.60	41	3.30	39	6.16	5	6.15	12	3.56	40	4.55	33
Hawaii	6.62	8	4.47	33	5.67	15	4.20	38	8.05	2	5.80	8
Idaho	7.42	3	8.63	4	3.97	44	8.84	2	4.98	25	6.77	2
Illinois	5.09	24	3.58	37	6.83	2	4.36	35	5.17	23	5.01	25
Indiana	4.71	30	6.18	13	0.18	50	5.83	14	4.73	28	4.33	38
Iowa	6.01	14	4.89	25	8.76	1	6.69	6	6.15	15	6.50	4
Kansas	6.30	12	2.64	43	5.88	10	6.72	5	5.94	18	5.50	14
Kentucky	4.42	32	4.69	27	4.40	38	6.23	11	2.31	46	4.41	36
Louisiana	2.04	49	5.00	24	6.64	3	4.71	29	1.92	48	4.06	44
Maine	3.99	38	7.75	7	4.80	30	3.95	39	5.28	21	5.16	21
Maryland	5.12	23	4.61	30	6.15	6	2.85	48	7.26	8	5.20	19
Massachusetts	4.97	25	1.58	48	5.36	22	2.95	47	6.24	13	4.22	39
Michigan	4.36	34	2.23	45	5.69	13	4.75	28	3.85	37	4.17	40
Minnesota	6.40	11	2.96	41	5.57	19	5.53	17	7.48	4	5.59	13
Mississippi	0.90	50	7.31	8	5.35	23	5.69	15	0.55	50	3.96	46
Missouri	4.72	29	4.75	26	5.31	24	5.02	24	4.85	27	4.93	26
Montana	7.26	4	7.93	6	4.89	29	4.96	25	4.90	26	5.99	6
Nebraska	6.50	10	3.53	38	5.62	17	6.92	3	5.68	20	5.65	11
Nevada	2.26	48	4.47	34	2.09	49	3.41	43	4.42	33	3.33	50
New Hampshire	5.91	15	5.59	16	4.65	34	3.83	40	8.00	3	5.60	12
New Jersey	6.52	9	1.37	49	5.68	14	4.53	31	5.78	19	4.78	29
New Mexico	3.17	43	8.51	5	4.69	33	4.31	36	1.63	49	4.46	34
New York	4.11	36	4.64	29	5.45	21	1.50	50	4.03	35	3.94	47
North Carolina	4.74	28	5.30	19	4.89	28	5.38	20	3.74	39	4.81	28
North Dakota	6.74	7	3.22	40	5.67	16	4.45	34	7.33	7	5.48	15
Ohio	4.37	33	1.91	46	5.16	25	3.41	42	4.22	34	3.81	48
Oklahoma	4.63	31	5.36	18	3.39	46	6.45	7	3.82	38	4.73	30
Oregon	5.87	16	5.10	23	5.01	27	4.77	27	5.20	22	5.19	20
Pennsylvania	4.11	35	2.72	42	5.76	12	4.52	32	4.98	24	4.42	35
Rhode Island	3.00	45	5.30	20	5.77	11	1.91	49	4.61	30	4.12	41
South Carolina	3.26	42	7.13	9	5.47	20	4.93	26	3.50	41	4.86	27
South Dakota	5.85	17	5.28	21	6.10	7	6.11	13	6.05	17	5.88	7
Tennessee	3.75	39	8.77	3	4.33	39	5.39	19	3.45	43	5.14	23
Texas	4.88	26	4.66	28	6.21	4	5.53	16	4.49	31	5.15	22
Utah	9.62	1	5.19	22	5.58	18	9.49	1	7.43	5	7.46	1
Vermont	7.85	2	9.36	2	4.80	31	3.32	46	7.41	6	6.55	3
Virginia	5.60	18	4.55	31	4.69	32	5.05	23	6.42	12	5.26	18
Washington	6.27	13	6.14	14	4.64	35	5.18	21	6.58	10	5.76	9
West Virginia	3.10	44	4.38	35	4.01	43	6.34	9	2.55	45	4.08	43
Wisconsin	5.44	20	2.24	44	6.08	9	5.46	18	6.12	16	5.07	24
Wyoming	7.26	5	7.10	11	3.15	47	6.29	10	8.21	1	6.40	5

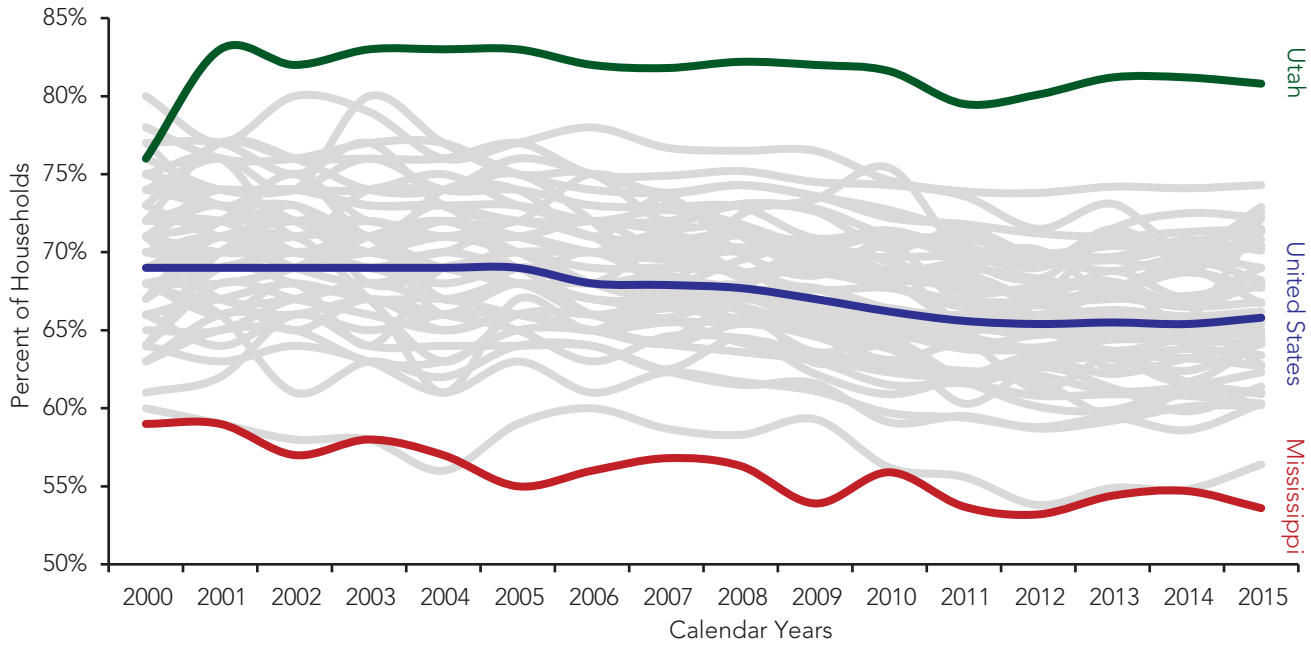
Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

Percent of Children in Married Couple Households

As shown in **Chart 42**, the **percent of children in married couple households** (as a percent of households) declined nationally by 5 percent to 65.8 percent in 2015 from 69 percent in 2000. In 2015, Utah had the highest level at 80.8 percent, while Mississippi had the lowest level at 53.6 percent—a difference of 51 percent.[80]

CHART 42

Children in Married-Couple Households
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *percent of children in married couple households* sub-index, Utah had the top score (9.62), followed by Vermont (7.85), Idaho (7.42), Montana (7.26), and Wyoming (7.26). Mississippi had the lowest score (0.90), followed by Louisiana (2.04), Nevada (2.26), Florida (2.65), and Alabama (2.98).

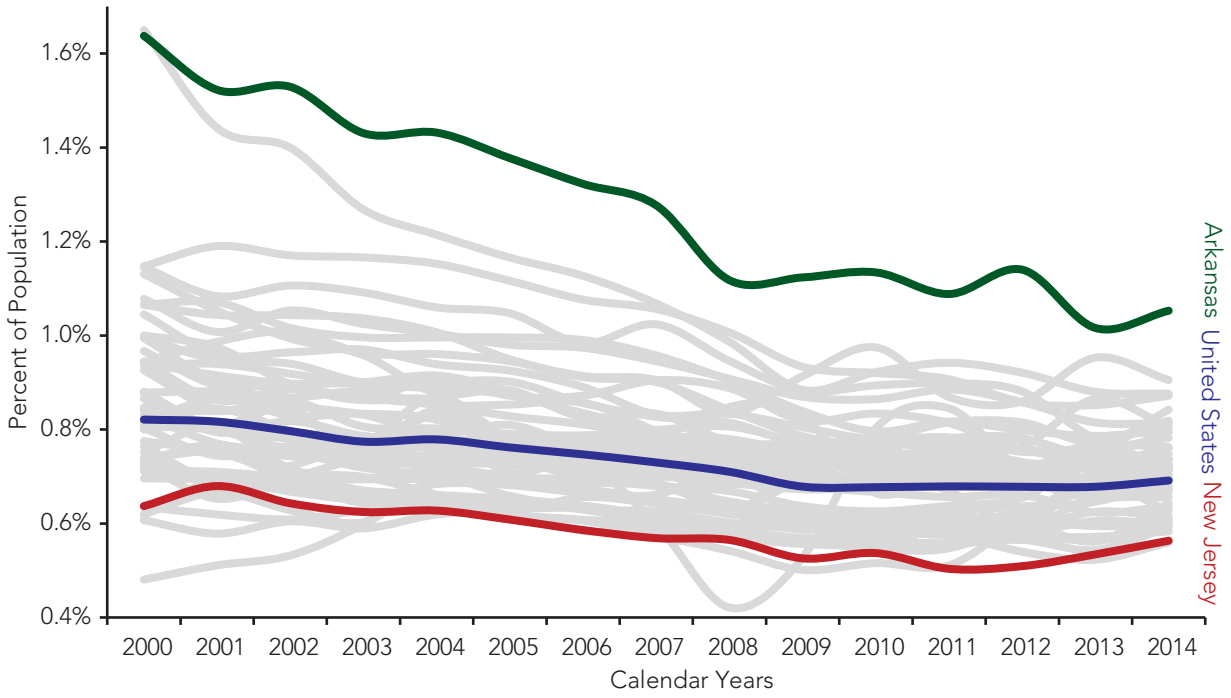
80 U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau. The data was extracted from the Kids Count Data Center published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/105-child-population-by-household-type?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36,868,867,133,38/4290,4291,4292/427,428

Marriage Rate

As shown in **Chart 43**, the **marriage rate** (as a percent of the population) declined nationally by 16 percent to 0.69 percent in 2014 from 0.82 percent in 2000. In 2014, Arkansas had the highest marriage rate at 1.14 percent, while New Jersey had the lowest marriage rate at 0.51 percent—a difference of 124 percent.[81]

CHART 43

Marriages
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *marriage rate* sub-index, Arkansas had the top score (10.00), followed by Vermont (9.36), Tennessee (8.77), Idaho (8.63), and New Mexico (8.51). Connecticut had the lowest score (0.68), followed by New Jersey (1.37), Massachusetts (1.58), Arizona (1.87), and Ohio (1.91).

Note: Hawaii and Nevada have very high marriage rates because so many out-of-state residents get married in those states. The FPI adjusts for this distortion by setting the marriage rate for Hawaii and Nevada equal to the national average. The remaining marriages are assumed to be out-of-state residents and are allocated to the other 48 states based on their proportion of total marriages for those 48 states.

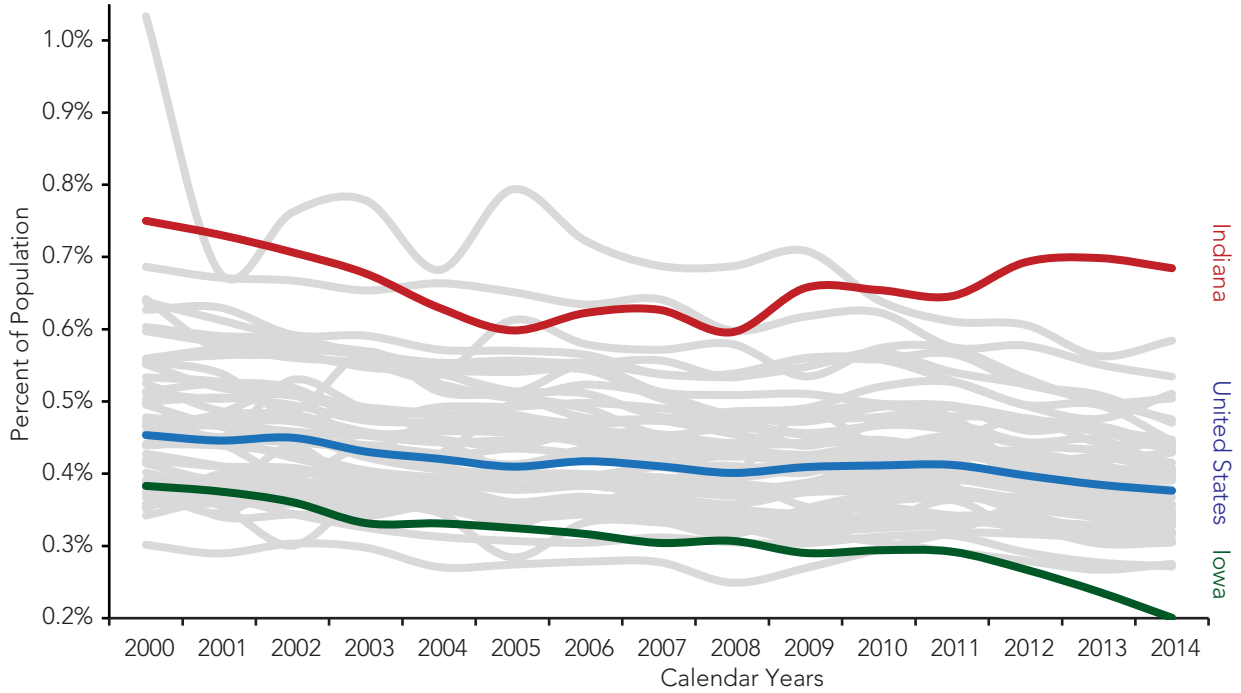
81 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System. Data obtained via email request. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/mardiv.htm

Divorce Rate

As shown in **Chart 44**, the **divorce rate** (as a percent of the population) declined nationally by 19 percent to 0.33 percent in 2014 from 0.40 percent in 2000. In 2014, Indiana had the highest divorce rate at 0.64 percent, while Iowa had the lowest divorce rate at 0.22 percent—a difference of 196 percent.[82]

CHART 44

Divorces
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *divorce rate* sub-index, Iowa had the top score (8.76), followed by Illinois (6.83), Louisiana (6.64), Texas (6.21), and Georgia (6.16). Indiana had the lowest score (0.18), followed by Nevada (2.09), Arkansas (3.02), Wyoming (3.15), and Oklahoma (3.39).

Note: Unfortunately, several states no longer submit their divorce data to the National Vital Statistics System including: California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, and Minnesota. Divorce data for California, Indiana, and Minnesota (partial) were gathered directly from reports published by the Judiciary. Georgia, Hawaii, and Minnesota all had partial time-series and missing data was extrapolated based on the total of the other states with reported values.

Additionally, two states have intermittently submitted their divorce data, Louisiana and Oklahoma, and missing values were interpolated. To aid in the interpolations, the FPI used data for the year 2000 that was published by National Center for Family and Marriage Research.[83]

82 Ibid.

83 Glass, Jennifer and LevChak, Philip, "Red States, Blue States, and Divorce: Understanding Regional Variations in Divorce Rates," National Center for Family and Marriage Research, Bowling Green State University. https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/original-data/county-level-marriage-divorce-data-2000.html

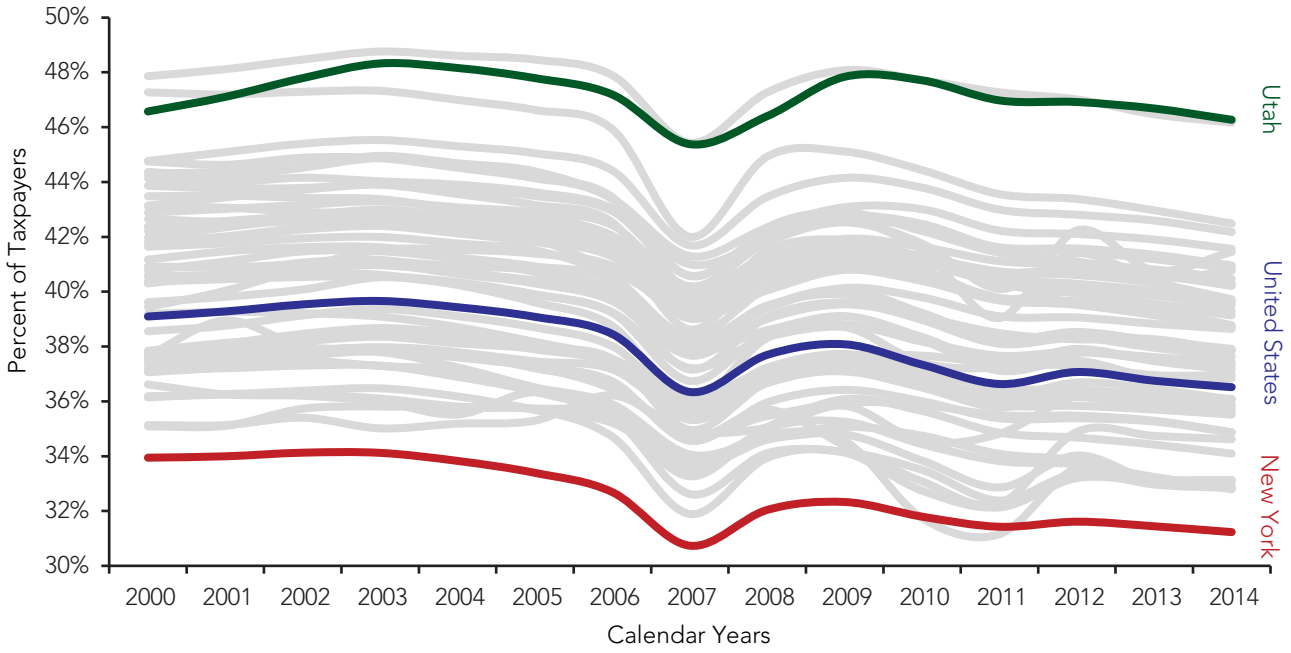
State of Households

Charts 45, 46, 47, and 48 show the **variance** in the multiple measures of the *state of household* sub-index— such as percent of married households and average household size—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2013.[84]

As shown in **Chart 45**, the **percent of married taxpayers** (as a percent of all taxpayers) declined nationally by 7 percent to 36.5 percent in 2014 from 39.1 percent in 2000. In 2014, Utah had the highest percentage of married taxpayers at 46.3 percent, while New York had the lowest percentage at 31.2 percent—a difference of 48 percent.

CHART 45

Married Taxpayers as a Percent of All Taxpayers
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



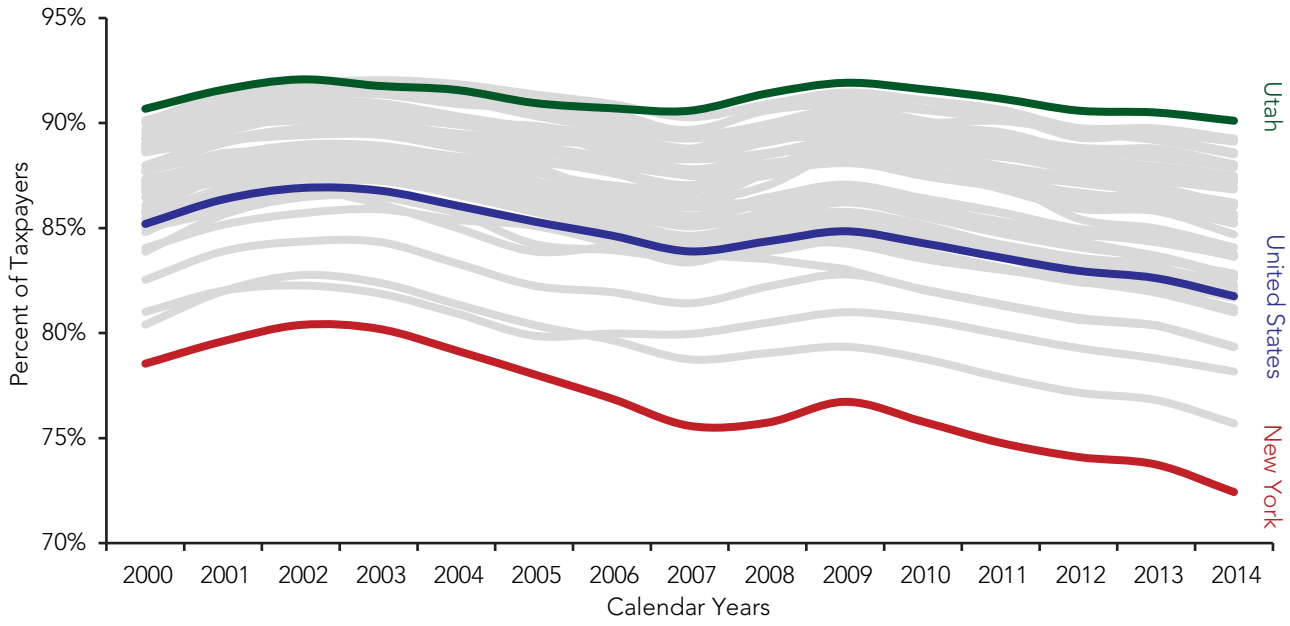
Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

84 Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income, SOI Tax Stats – Historic Table 2. https://www.irs.gov/uac/SOI-Tax-Stats-Historic-Table-2

As shown in **Chart 46**, the **percent of married taxpayers earning over $100,000** (as a percent of all taxpayers earning over $100,000) declined nationally by 4 percent to 81.8 percent in 2014 from 85.2 percent in 2000. In 2014, Utah had the highest percentage of married taxpayers earning over $100,000 at 90.1 percent, while New York had the lowest percentage at 72.4 percent—a difference of 24 percent.

CHART 46

Married Taxpayers Earning Over $100,00 as a Percent of All Taxpayers Earning Over $100,000
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014

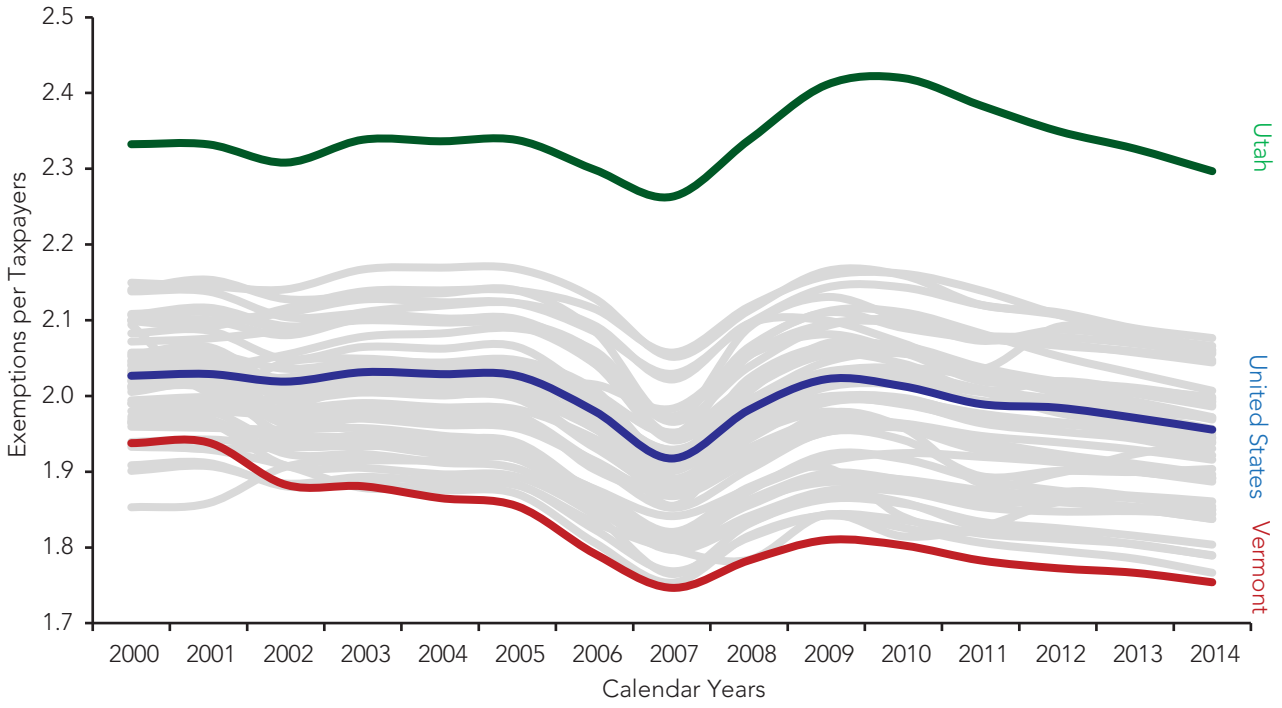


Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 47**, the **number of exemptions per taxpayer** declined nationally by 4 percent to 1.96 in 2014 from 2.03 percent in 2000. In 2014, Utah had the highest number of exemptions per taxpayer at 2.3, while Vermont had the lowest number at 1.75—a difference of 32 percent.

CHART 47

Exemptions Per Taxpayer
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014

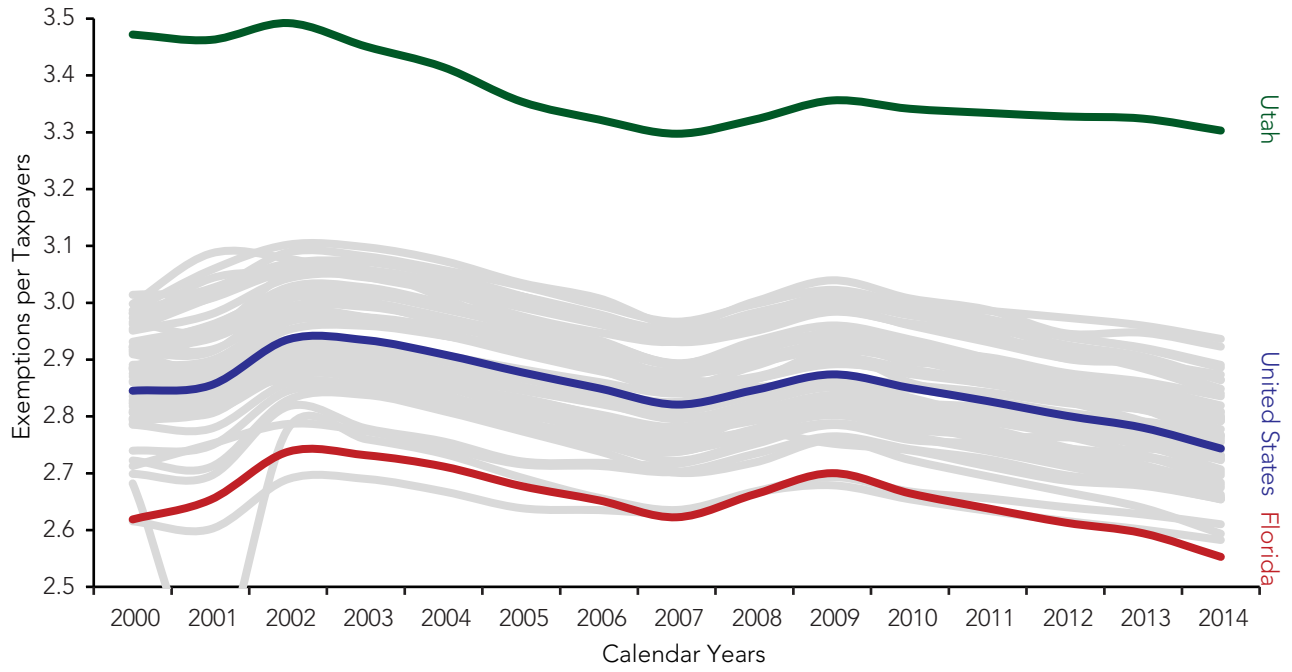


Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 48**, the **number of exemptions per taxpayer earning over $100,000** declined nationally by 4 percent to 2.74 in 2014 from 2.85 percent in 2000. In 2014, Utah had the highest number of exemptions per taxpayer earning over $100,000 at 3.3 while Florida had the lowest number at 2.55—a difference of 29 percent.

CHART 48

Exemptions Per Taxpayer Earning over $100,000
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *state of households* sub-index, Utah had the top score (9.49), followed by Idaho (8.84), Nebraska (6.92), Arkansas (6.86), and Kansas (6.72). New York had the lowest score (1.50), followed by Rhode Island (1.91), Maryland (2.85), Massachusetts (2.95), and Vermont (3.32).

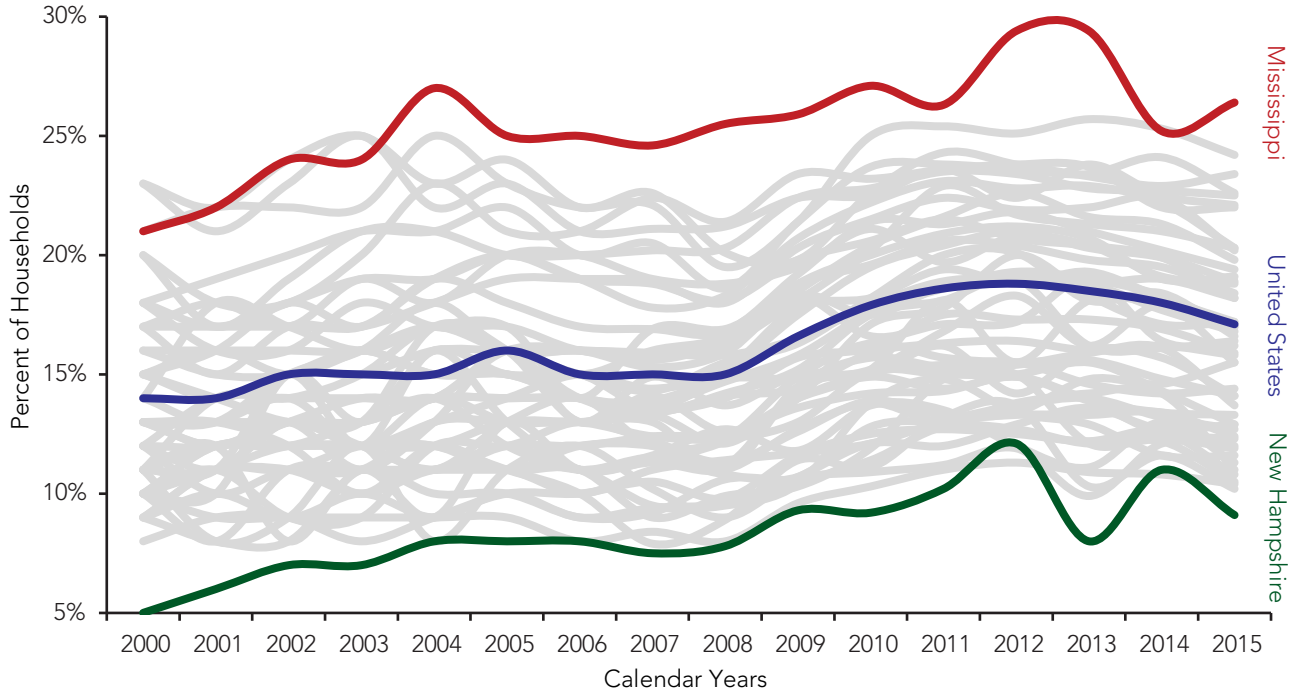
Note: Married taxpayers, married taxpayers earning over $100,000, exemptions per taxpayer, and exemptions per taxpayer earning over $100,000 were weighted equally in the state of households sub-index.

Percent of Families with Related Children Below Poverty

As shown in **Chart 49**, the **percent of families with related children below poverty** (as a percent of all families) increased nationally by 21 percent to 17.1 percent in 2015 from 14 percent in 2000. In 2015, Mississippi had the highest poverty rate at 26.4 percent, while New Hampshire had the lowest poverty rate at 9.1 percent—a difference of 190 percent.[85]

CHART 49

Families with Related Children Below Poverty
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *percent of families with related children below poverty* sub-index, Wyoming had the top score (8.21), followed by Hawaii (8.05), New Hampshire (8.00), Minnesota (7.48), and Utah (7.43). Mississippi had the lowest score (0.55), followed by New Mexico (1.63), Louisiana (1.92), Alabama (2.29), and Kentucky (2.31).

85 U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau. The data was extracted from the Kids Count Data Center published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/55-families-with-related-children-that-are-below-poverty-by-family-type

FAMILY CULTURE

It is well established that there is a symbiotic relationship between families and the environment in which they live. Unwed births, crime rates, religiosity, and educational opportunities shape the culture of a family and, thus, their prospects for long-term prosperity. The **Family Culture** major index measures the extent to which the culture of families in a particular state is conducive to raising children to be productive adults.

While many would guess that divorce is the biggest driver of single-parenthood, the reality is that **unwed births**, on the margin, are the primary contributor to single-parent households. The greatest indicator of whether or not a couple will be together in five years is whether or not they were married at the time their child was born. Two-thirds of unmarried couples will separate within 5 years while 82 percent of married couples will still be together.[86]

86 Carlson, Marcia J., "Trajectories of Couple Relationship Quality after Childbirth: Does Marriage Matter?" Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, Working Paper #2007-11-FF, April 2007. http://crcw.princeton.edu/workingpapers/WP07-11-FF.pdf

The increase in unwed births creates a tremendous impediment to restoring America's marriage rates, especially in the face of growing moral acceptance. As noted in a recent Gallup survey:

> *. . .[P]ublic perceptions of the moral acceptability of having children out of wedlock have increased dramatically over the past decade and a half. Gallup poll data show that the percentage who say this is morally acceptable currently stands at an all-time high (62% overall and 68% among millennials). As recently as 2002, just 45% said it was morally acceptable to have a child out of wedlock, while 50% said it was morally wrong.*[87]

Thankfully, given the flux in the American family, **violent and property crimes** have been on the downswing. Yet, they still impose a large economic cost on society. Measuring that burden has not been an easy task. A recent study, however, took an in-depth look at the academic literature and estimated that the direct costs (police, courts, prisons, etc.) of violent crime are $42 billion while the indirect costs (pain and suffering) add another $156 billion.[88]

Additionally, the study recognizes that violent crime is very location–specific and its impact is capitalized into the value of the surrounding property. More specifically, the authors looked at seven cities and found that a 10 percent reduction in homicides would yield $16.5 billion in higher residential property values, while a 25 percent reduction would yield $41.25 billion.[89]

Since homes are Americans' most valuable asset, this large wealth effect resulting from a decline in violent crime would be a tremendous economic and social boost to a community.

Yet, to realize reductions in crime of those magnitudes, the root causes of crime will have to be addressed. One of, if not the, most important factor is the increase in single-parent households. Children from single-parent homes are more prone to criminal activities in youth (more than twice as likely to be arrested) and young adulthood (three times more likely to be in jail by age 30) relative to children from intact married families.[90]

87 Fleming, John, "Gallup Analysis: Millennials, Marriage and Family," Gallup, May 19, 2016. http://www.gallup.com/poll/191462/gallup-analysis-millennials-marriage-family.aspx

88 Hassett, Kevin A. and Shapiro, Robert J., "The Economic Benefits of Reducing Violent Crime: A Case Study of 8 American Cities," Center for American Progress, June 2012. https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/issues/2012/06/pdf/violent_crime.pdf

89 Ibid.

90 Rector, Robert, "Marriage: America's Greatest Weapon Against Child Poverty," The Heritage Foundation, Domestic Policy Studies Department, Special Report, No. 117, September 5, 2012. http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2012/pdf/sr117.pdf

For male adults, marriage is directly and causally related to lower crime. Using one of the longest longitudinal studies available, scholars at Harvard University and the University of Maryland found:

> *. . .[B]eing married is associated with an average reduction of approximately 35 percent in the odds of crime compared to nonmarried states for the same man. These results are robust, supporting the inference that states of marriage causally inhibit crime over the life course.*[91]

Of course, the discussion of marriage, or lack thereof, accomplishes nothing unless put into the institutional context that gives it meaning—the institution of religion. It is no coincidence that the decline in marriage goes hand-in-hand with the decline in **religiosity**.

However, there are steep social and economic costs associated with the decline in religious practice ranging from the very micro (individual) to the macro (societal).

In terms of individual benefits, Gallup performed an in-depth statistical analysis of over 550,000 interviews to determine the influence of religion in Americans' lives. The analysis found that religious Americans have less depression and worry,[92] lead healthier lives,[93] and enjoy overall higher well-being.[94]

A series of studies from the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion looked at the impact of religion on society in general and found that religion can lead to lower crime rates,[95] reduced drug use,[96] and greater academic performance.[97] Additionally, religion and, relatedly, marriage are the only proven bulwarks against Demographic Winter.[98]

---

91 Laub, John H., Sampson, Robert J., Wimer, Christopher, "Does Marriage Reduce Crime? A Counterfactual Approach to Within-Individual Causal Effects," Criminology, Vol. 44, No. 3, 2006. http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/sampson/files/2006_criminology_laubwimer_1.pdf

92 Agrawal, Sangeeta, Newport, Frank, and Witters, Dan, "Very Religious Americans Report Less Depression, Worry," Gallup, December 1, 2010. http://www.gallup.com/poll/144980/Religious-Americans-Report-Less-Depression-Worry.aspx

93 Agrawal, Sangeeta, Newport, Frank, and Witters, Dan, "Very Religious Americans Lead Healthier Lives," Gallup, December 23, 2010. http://www.gallup.com/poll/145379/Religious-Americans-Lead-Healthier-Lives.aspx

94 Agrawal, Sangeeta, Newport, Frank, and Witters, Dan, "Religious Americans Enjoy Higher Wellbeing," Gallup, February 16, 2012. http://www.gallup.com/poll/152723/religious-americans-enjoy-higher-wellbeing.aspx

95 Johnson, Byron R., "The Role of African-American Churches in Reducing Crime Among Black Youth," Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion, 2008. http://www.baylorisr.org/wp-content/uploads/ISR_Role_African_American.pdf

96 Johnson, Byron R., "A Better Kind of High: Religious Commitment Reduces Drug Use Among Poor Urban Teens," Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion, 2008. http://www.baylorisr.org/wp-content/uploads/ISR_Better_High.pdf

97 Regnerus, Mark D., "Making the Grade: The Influence of Religion Upon the Academic Performance of Youth in Disadvantaged Communities," Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion, 2008. http://www.baylorisr.org/wp-content/uploads/ISR-Making-Grade_071.pdf

98 Fagan, Patrick and Potrykus, Henry, "Marriage, Contraception, and the Future of Western Peoples," Marriage and Religion Research Institute, November 30, 2011. http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF11K50.pdf

Given all of these benefits, one may ask why religiosity is on the decline. A recent study sheds light on this question by examining a key demographic that has seen the greatest drop in religious practice—working class whites:

Specifically, in the last forty years, white working class income, employment, marital stability, and cultural conservatism have all declined.

[Such factors]…have long been linked to religious institutions which are now less powerful in the lives of working class whites than they used to be.…[O]ur results suggest that the erosion of the labor market and cultural structures associated with…such factors…may have played an important role in accounting for recent declines in religious attendance among working class whites.[99]

Thus begins the vicious cycle where the decline in the economic fortunes of the working class, through globalization and/or automation, leads to the unraveling of religiosity, which is the best bulwark against such decline.

Finally, **educational attainment** is an important cultural value that yields significant economic returns. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that, in 2014, the median weekly earnings of a person with less than a high school diploma were only $488. Earnings jumped with higher levels of educational attainment: associate's degree ($792), bachelor's degree ($1,101), and doctoral degree ($1,591).[100]

For those individuals who moved up the educational ladder and received a bachelor's degree, 36 percent came from intact married families. In stark contrast, only 8 percent came from single–parent families. Additionally, 32 percent attended religious services weekly, while only 14 percent never attended any religious services.[101]

99 Cherling, Andrew J., Messel, Matthew, Uecker, Jeremy E., and Wilcox, W. Bradford, "No Money, No Honey, No Church: The Deinstitutionalization of Religious Life Among the White Working Class," Research in the Sociology of Work, Vol. 23, pp. 227-250, 2012. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4315336/pdf/nihms621991.pdf

100 "Earnings and Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment," U.S. Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 12, 2016. http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm

101 Fagan, Patrick F. and Talkington, Scott, "'Ever Received a Bachelor's Degree' by Current Religious Attendance and Structure of Family of Origin," Mapping America, No. 105. http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF11G27.pdf

As shown in **Chart 50** and **Table 6**:

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN FAMILY CULTURE ARE:		
1	Virginia	6.48
2	Utah	6.39
3	North Dakota	6.34
4	Minnesota	6.29
5	New Jersey	6.20
6	Connecticut	6.13
7	Nebraska	6.12
8	Idaho	6.04
9	Vermont	6.04
10	Colorado	5.97

THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Oklahoma	4.26
42	Tennessee	4.17
43	Delaware	4.15
44	Florida	4.07
45	Alaska	3.98
46	Arkansas	3.90
47	Louisiana	3.57
48	Arizona	3.45
49	Nevada	2.59
50	New Mexico	2.56

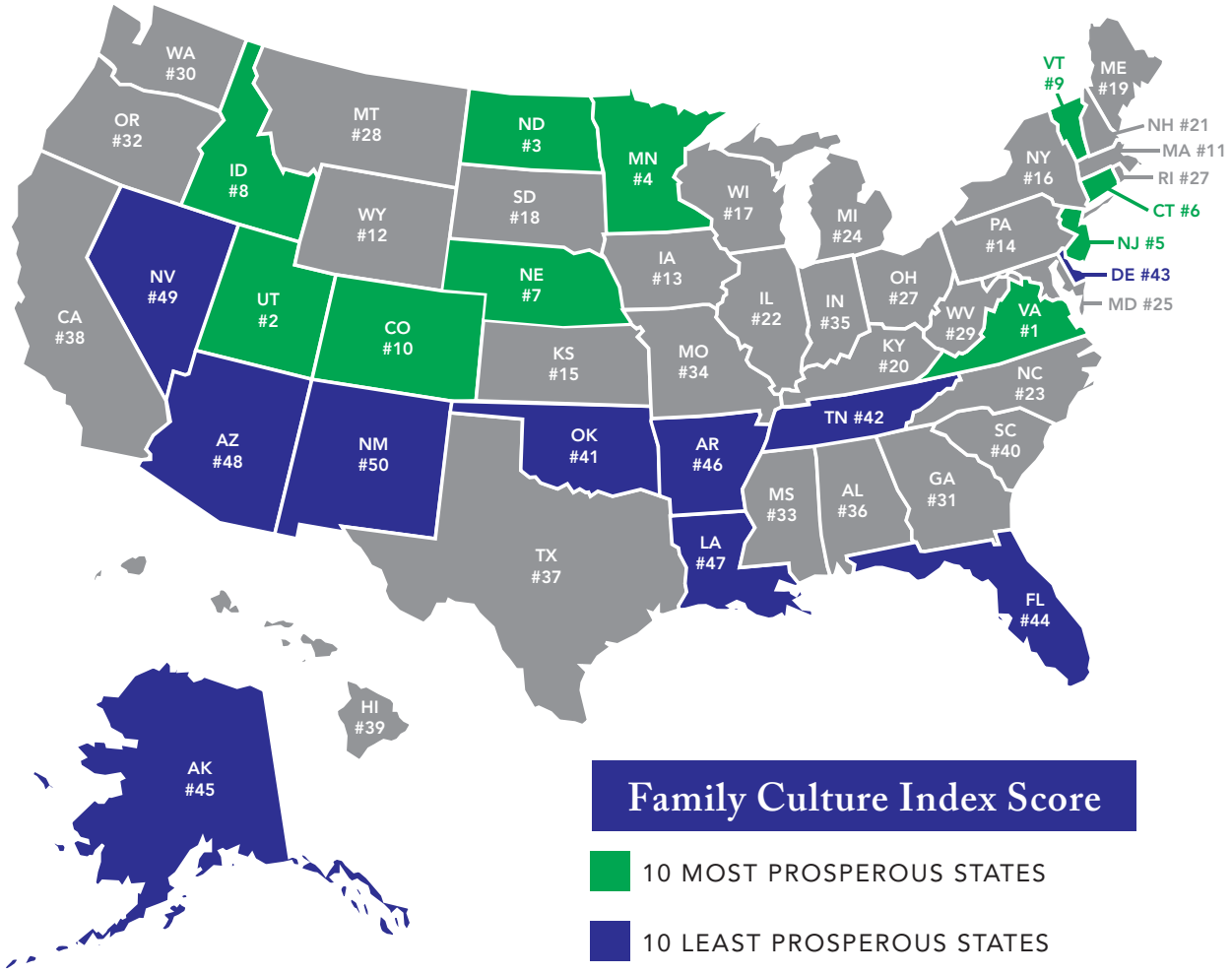


TABLE 6 | 2017 FAMILY PROSPERITY FAMILY CULTURE SUB-INDEXES

	BIRTHS TO UNWED MOTHERS	RANK	VIOLENT CRIME	RANK	PROPERTY CRIME	RANK	RELIGIOUS ATTENDANCE	RANK	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	3.46	39	3.56	43	3.55	39	8.48	2	3.49	42	4.51	36
Alaska	7.15	5	0.62	50	3.37	41	4.21	35	4.56	35	3.98	45
Arizona	2.39	45	4.55	33	3.29	43	3.43	40	3.59	40	3.45	48
Arkansas	4.08	35	3.14	46	2.60	45	6.96	9	2.70	47	3.90	46
California	5.30	23	4.25	37	4.09	30	3.96	37	4.29	36	4.38	38
Colorado	10.00	1 (Tie)	5.44	21	4.03	32	3.98	36	6.41	8	5.97	10
Connecticut	5.40	21	7.17	3	7.09	11	4.40	30	6.62	4	6.13	6
Delaware	3.39	40	3.89	41	4.56	26	3.05	41	5.84	16	4.15	43
Florida	2.25	47	4.24	38	4.14	29	4.37	31	5.37	23	4.07	44
Georgia	3.04	43	4.85	29	3.40	40	7.30	6	4.81	33	4.68	31
Hawaii	6.61	12	5.37	22	0.00	50	3.84	38	6.00	12	4.37	39
Idaho	6.76	9	6.47	10	7.31	7	5.91	19	3.76	39	6.04	8
Illinois	4.55	30	5.06	25	6.86	13	4.37	32	5.91	15	5.35	22
Indiana	3.74	38	4.38	36	4.74	25	5.76	20	3.93	38	4.51	35
Iowa	5.83	16	5.60	20	6.28	16	4.78	25	5.75	17	5.65	13
Kansas	6.63	10	4.51	34	4.18	28	7.04	8	5.72	19	5.62	15
Kentucky	4.24	33	6.83	6	6.11	18	6.20	15	3.94	37	5.47	20
Louisiana	1.79	49	3.21	45	2.15	47	7.82	5	2.85	46	3.57	47
Maine	4.68	29	7.42	2	7.45	6	2.77	44	5.04	30	5.47	19
Maryland	5.35	22	4.21	39	5.63	22	4.58	27	5.65	21	5.08	25
Massachusetts	7.18	4	4.96	28	7.75	4	2.31	48	6.44	7	5.73	11
Michigan	4.15	34	4.64	30	7.19	9	4.58	28	5.24	26	5.16	24
Minnesota	7.15	6	6.21	12	5.74	21	4.40	29	7.97	1	6.29	4
Mississippi	1.07	50	5.92	17	3.66	38	9.59	1	3.03	45	4.66	33
Missouri	4.96	25	3.32	44	3.82	35	5.93	18	4.57	34	4.52	34
Montana	5.42	20	4.57	32	3.89	34	5.00	24	5.10	28	4.80	28
Nebraska	6.63	11	5.79	19	5.87	20	6.00	17	6.31	9	6.12	7
Nevada	1.94	48	0.91	49	3.90	33	3.56	39	2.67	48	2.59	49
New Hampshire	5.79	17	7.03	4	7.76	3	0.00	50	6.63	3	5.44	21
New Jersey	6.14	14	6.66	7	7.92	2	4.36	34	5.92	13	6.20	5
New Mexico	2.32	46	1.52	48	0.70	49	5.19	21	3.06	44	2.56	50
New York	5.72	18	4.96	27	7.72	5	2.93	43	6.48	6	5.56	16
North Carolina	4.71	28	5.21	23	4.39	27	6.47	11	5.37	24	5.23	23
North Dakota	6.50	13	6.47	9	5.48	23	6.29	13	6.93	2	6.34	3
Ohio	3.99	37	5.92	16	4.89	24	5.14	22	5.01	31	4.99	26
Oklahoma	4.32	31	4.61	31	3.75	36	6.36	12	2.30	49	4.26	41
Oregon	5.48	19	6.05	13	3.33	42	2.76	45	5.68	20	4.66	32
Pennsylvania	4.94	27	5.91	18	7.17	10	4.37	33	5.74	18	5.63	14
Rhode Island	2.80	44	6.38	11	7.25	8	2.95	42	5.33	25	4.94	27
South Carolina	3.09	42	3.94	40	2.55	46	7.22	7	4.93	32	4.35	40
South Dakota	5.86	15	3.75	42	6.12	17	6.29	14	5.43	22	5.49	18
Tennessee	3.38	41	2.34	47	3.72	37	7.84	4	3.57	41	4.17	42
Texas	4.31	32	4.49	35	4.04	31	6.06	16	3.44	43	4.47	37
Utah	10.00	1 (Tie)	5.94	15	3.04	44	7.90	3	5.05	29	6.39	2
Vermont	5.15	24	8.24	1	9.25	1	1.53	49	6.02	11	6.04	9
Virginia	7.02	8	6.87	5	6.96	12	5.03	23	6.51	5	6.48	1
Washington	7.25	3	5.98	14	1.64	48	2.73	47	5.92	14	4.70	30
West Virginia	4.03	36	4.97	26	6.10	19	6.48	10	1.94	50	4.71	29
Wisconsin	4.95	26	5.14	24	6.71	15	4.76	26	6.03	10	5.52	17
Wyoming	7.07	7	6.54	8	6.84	14	2.74	46	5.13	27	5.66	12

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

STATE HIGHLIGHT: UTAH[102]

SUTHERLAND INSTITUTE
A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM

It is not an understatement to say that Utah dominates the FPI, not only ranking in the top spot but also holding commanding leads over the second-ranked state and the national average. This conforms to other recent analysis showing Utah ranking high in economic mobility and the size of its middle class. Clearly, Utah is on the right track for expanding family prosperity.

In fact, to that point, a landmark study published in the Quarterly Journal of Economics found Salt Lake City ranked first in the nation in intergenerational mobility:

> *Intergenerational mobility varies substantially across areas. For example, the probability that a child reaches the top quintile of the national income distribution starting from a family in the bottom quintile is 4.4% in Charlotte but 12.9% in San Jose. The spatial variation in intergenerational mobility is strongly correlated with five factors: (1) residential segregation, (2) income inequality, (3) school quality, (4) social capital, and (5) family structure.*[103]

Another study from the Brookings Institution reinforces this point, revealing that the three cities with the largest middle class (as a percent of households) are all in Utah: Ogden-Clearfield (60 percent), Provo-Orem (59 percent), and Salt Lake City (57 percent).[104]

Such evidence has led prominent libertarian economist Tyler Cowen to the following conclusion:

> *Finally, income inequality may begin to reverse itself through the evolution of social norms. Poor people who see no way out of their plight won't all be able to advance without outside help, but some of the impoverished will succeed despite the barriers they face.*
>
> *Religions and social movements with strong moral codes may be able to help improve life prospects. It is striking, for example, that Utah fits the economic profile of an older, more middle-class-oriented America. The reasons for this are complex, but they may stem in part from the large number of Mormons in the state.*

102 The full Utah study can be found at http://familyprosperity.org/application/files/6714/8434/1231/UTAH_Family_Prosperity_Index_2016-WEB.pdf

103 Chetty, Raj, Hendren, Nathaniel, Kline, Patrick, and Saez, Emmanuel, "Where is the Land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States," Quarterly Journal of Economics 129(4): 1553-1623, 2014. http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/assets/documents/mobility_geo.pdf

104 Reeves, Richard V. and Rodrigue, Edward, "The American Middle-Class is Still Thriving in Utah," Brookings, The Avenue, March 10, 2016. https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2016/03/10/the-american-middle-class-is-still-thriving-in-utah/

> *Mormons have done relatively well in economic terms, perhaps, at least in part, because their religious culture encourages behavior consistent with prosperity, such as savings, mutual assistance, family values and no drug and alcohol abuse.*
>
> *I am not a Mormon and am not advocating that religion or any other. But it seems reasonable to observe that changing social norms, sometimes associated with religion, can help improve living standards.*[105]

The one area of concern is Utah's drop in the **Family Health** index caused specifically by its low score on the *self-mortality* sub-index, which consists of suicides and drug overdoses as a percent of population (see New Hampshire state highlight for more detailed analysis). To be sure, both of these issues are of growing concern on the national level, but Utah's higher-than-average rates must be addressed with some urgency.

Additionally, a county-level FPI analysis raises some red flags. Of particular concern is Salt Lake County since it is, by far, the most populous county in Utah. As such, changes in the status of Salt Lake County families can swiftly sway the state average.

Unfortunately, there are several disturbing trends in Salt Lake County that deserve further scrutiny. First, the percent of families with related children in poverty has accelerated in recent years. In 2009 (the earliest data available), 9.5 percent of Salt Lake County families with related children were in poverty and the county fell below the state average of 10.4 percent.

However, by 2014, families with related children below poverty in Salt Lake County increased by 54 percent to 14.5 percent from 9.5 percent in 2009. This dramatic growth moved the county from below the state average to significantly above the state average (11.6 percent in 2014) for this sub-index.

Second, Salt Lake County has an elevated level of crime. Its violent crime rate in 2014 was 0.33 percent (of population) which is higher than the state average of 0.22 percent. Salt Lake County's property crime rate in 2014 was a whopping 4.21 percent, which is higher than both the state average (2.9 percent) and the national average (2.6 percent).

105 Cowen, Tyler, "Why There's Hope for the Middle Class (With Help From China)," The New York Times, April 15, 2016. http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/04/17/upshot/why-theres-hope-for-the-middle-class-with-help-from-china.html

Third, Salt Lake County has the lowest level of married taxpayers in the state at 40.4 percent (46.7 percent for the state) in 2013 (the latest data available), falling from 41.4 percent in 2010.

Finally, the county is where most unwed births occur in the state. In 2014, 46 percent (4,413) of Utah's unwed births (9,687) occurred in Salt Lake County.

Not surprisingly, many of these factors are inter-related. For example, children from single-parent homes, emanating from a high unwed birth rate, are more prone to criminal activities in youth (more than twice as likely to be arrested) and young adulthood (three times more likely to be in jail by age 30) relative to children from intact married families.[106]

Based on the data, poverty can be directly attributed to the breakdown of the family.[107] In 2014, the poverty rate for families with related children was 18 percent nationally. However, for married couples the poverty rate is only 8.2 percent while for single parents the poverty rate jumps to 35.9 percent.

The negative trends identified in the Salt Lake County FPI analysis reflect a declining rate of well-being and quality of life among families living in the state's most populous county. By virtue of its population size, these trends, if left unchecked, will begin to move the state average and, consequently, reduce Utah's rank on the FPI.

106 Rector, Robert, "Marriage: America's Greatest Weapon Against Child Poverty," The Heritage Foundation, Domestic Policy Studies Department, Special Report, No. 117, September 5, 2012. http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2012/pdf/sr117.pdf

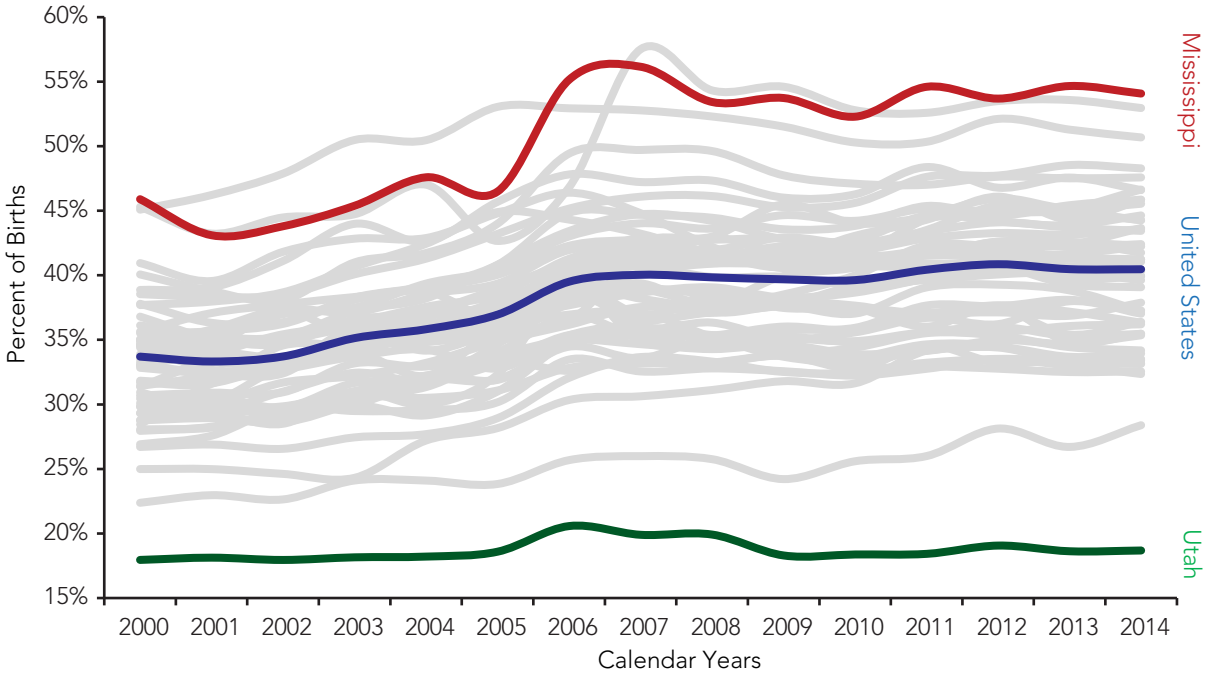
107 Wilcox, W. Bradford, "The Evolution of Divorce," National Affairs, Fall 2009. http://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-evolution-of-divorce

Unwed Birth Rate

As shown in **Chart 51**, the **unwed birth rate** (as a percent of births) increased nationally by 20 percent to 40.5 percent in 2014 from 33.7 percent in 2000. In 2014, Mississippi had the highest unwed birth rate at 54.1 percent, while Utah had the lowest rate at 18.7 percent—a difference of 189 percent.[108]

CHART 51

Unwed Births
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

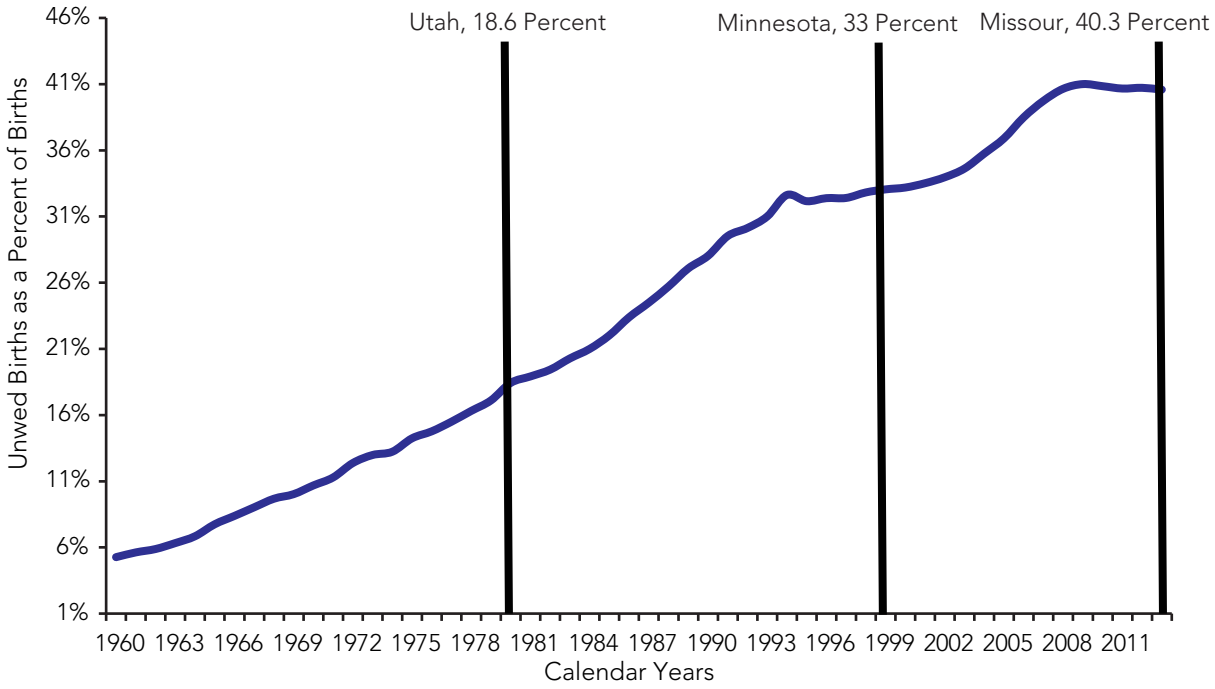
Overall, for the *unwed birth rate* sub-index, Utah and Colorado had the top score (10.00), followed by Washington (7.25), Massachusetts (7.18), Alaska (7.15), and Minnesota (7.15). Mississippi had the lowest score, (1.07) followed by Louisiana (1.79), Nevada (1.94), Florida (2.25), and New Mexico (2.32).

108 U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau. The data was extracted from the Kids Count Data Center published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7-births-to-unmarried-women?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36,868,867,133,38/any/257,258

Also, **Chart 52** illustrates how the **U.S. unwed birth rate** (as a percent of births) **has soared 670 percent** between 1960 (5.3 percent) and 2013 (40.6 percent). In particular, it also compares how the unwed birth rates for the states in 2015 compare to the U.S. average as it moves through time.

CHART 52

U.S. Unwed Births
Calendar Years 1963 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

For example, Utah had the lowest unwed birth rate in 2014 of 18.7 percent. The last time the U.S. average was this low was in 1981, and that was still 255 percent higher than the 1960 U.S. average. Note on **Chart 52** that Minnesota's unwed birth rate (33 percent) is equivalent to the 1999 U.S. average, and Missouri's (40.3 percent) is equivalent to the 2013 U.S. average.

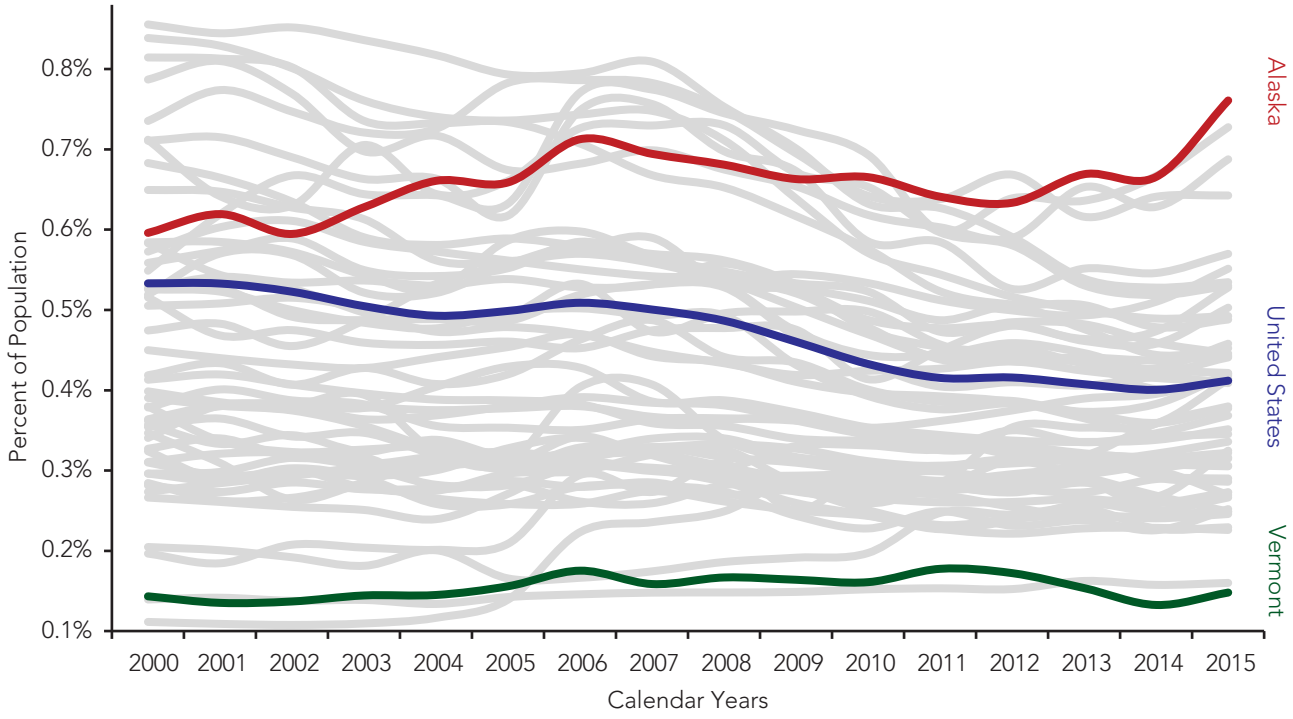
However, not shown on **Chart 52** are the 24 states with unwed births rates above the 2013 U.S. average. Louisiana's unwed birth rate—the highest in the country—is 30 percent above the U.S. average (53 percent).

Violent Crime Rate

As shown in **Chart 53**, the **violent crime rate** (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 24 percent to 0.38 percent in 2015 from 0.5 percent in 2000. In 2015, Alaska had the highest violent crime rate at 0.73 percent, while Vermont had the lowest rate at 0.12 percent—a difference of 519 percent.[109]

CHART 53

Violent Crime
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *violent crime* sub-index, Vermont had the best score (8.24), followed by Maine (7.42), Connecticut (7.17), New Hampshire (7.03), and Virginia (6.87). Alaska had the lowest score (0.62), followed by Nevada (0.91), New Mexico (1.52), Tennessee (2.34), and Arkansas (3.14).

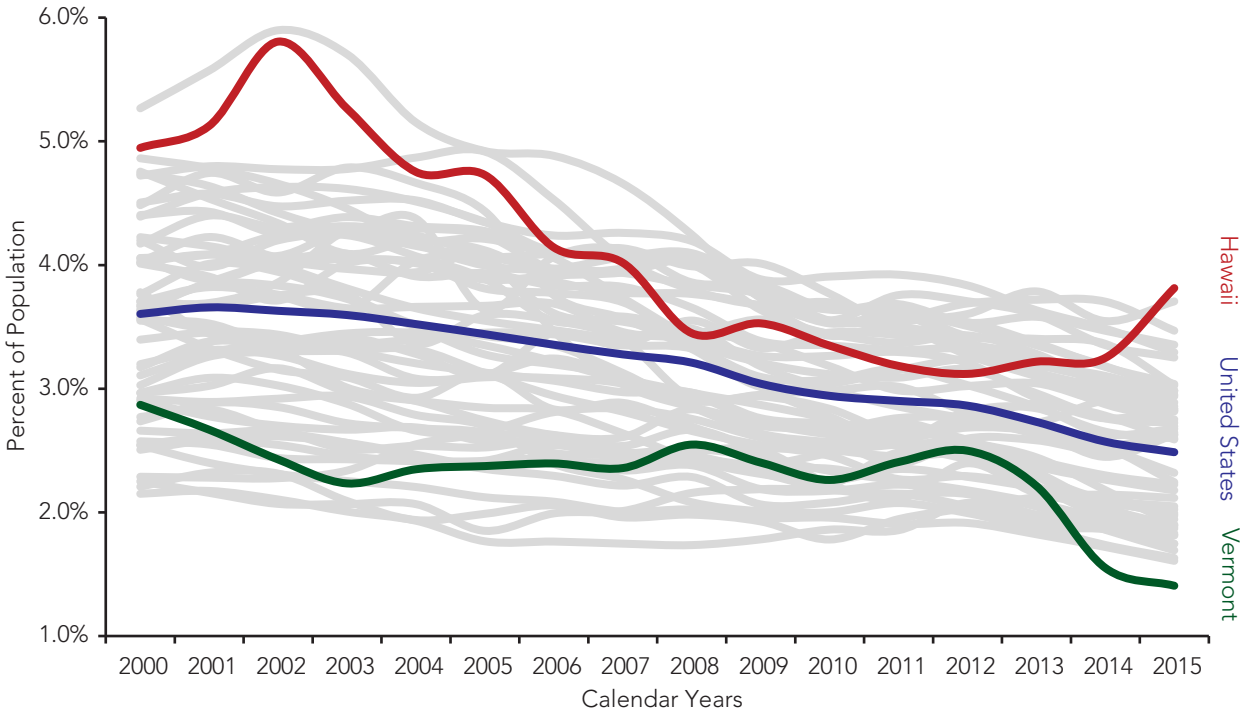
109 Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the U.S. https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/crimestats

Property Crime Rate

As shown in **Chart 54**, the **property crime rate** (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 31 percent to 2.49 percent in 2015 from 3.6 percent in 2000. In 2015, Hawaii had the highest property crime rate at 3.81 percent, while Vermont had the lowest rate at 1.41 percent—a difference of 171 percent.[110]

CHART 54

Property Crime
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *property crime* sub-index, Vermont had the best score (9.25), followed by New Jersey (7.92), New Hampshire (7.76), Massachusetts (7.75), and New York (7.72). Hawaii had the lowest score (0.00), followed by New Mexico (0.70), Washington (1.64), Louisiana (2.15), and South Carolina (2.55).

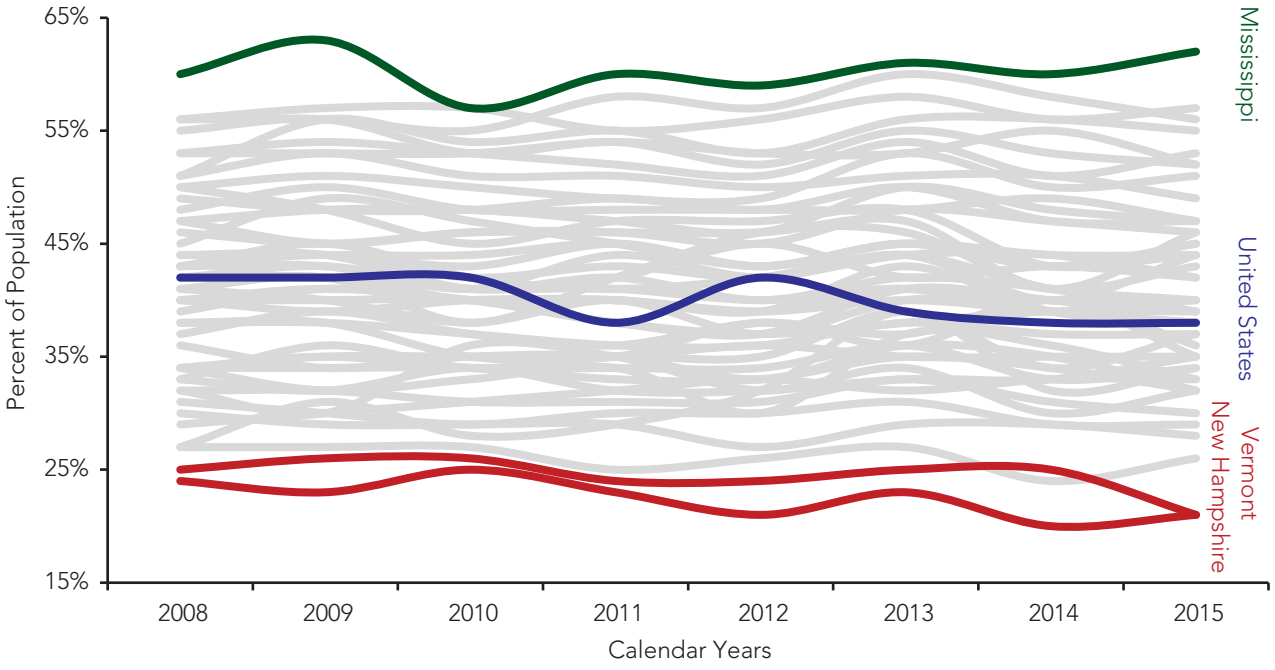
110 Ibid.

Religious Attendance

As shown in **Chart 55**, the **religious attendance rate** (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 10 percent to 38 percent in 2015 from 42 percent in 2008 (the earliest data available). In 2015, Mississippi had the highest religious attendance rate at 62 percent, while Vermont and New Hampshire had the lowest rate at 21 percent—a difference of 195 percent.[111]

CHART 55

Church Attendance
Calendar Years 2008 to 2015



Source: Gallup Analytics and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *religious attendance* sub-index, Mississippi had the top score (9.59), followed by Alabama (8.48), Utah (7.90), Tennessee (7.84), and Louisiana (7.82). New Hampshire had the lowest score (0.00), followed by Vermont (1.53), Massachusetts (2.31), Washington (2.73), and Wyoming (2.74).

Note: Due to data limitations, the measure for the year-to-year change could only be measured in one-year increments.

111 Gallup Analytics, based on response of religious attendance "at least once a week" and "almost every week."

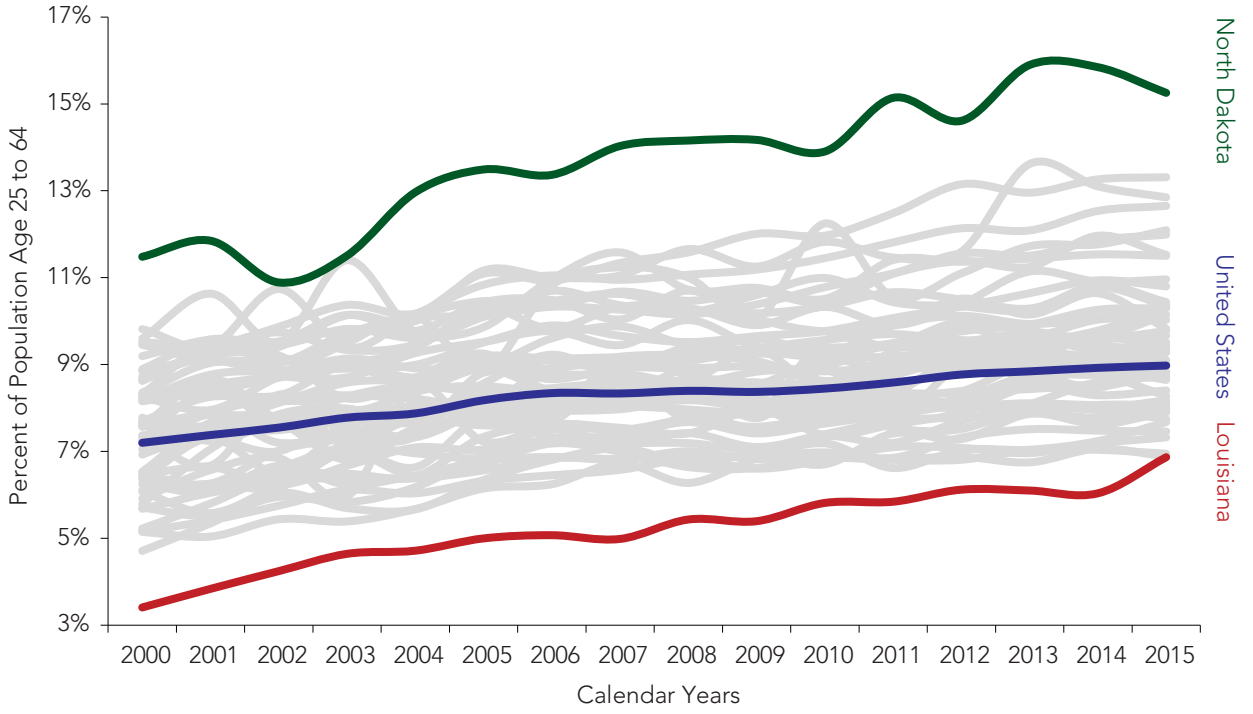
Educational Attainment

Charts 56, 57, and 58 show the **variance in educational attainment**—including for associate's degree, bachelor's degree, and graduate degree—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2014.[112]

As shown in **Chart 56**, the **associate's degree rate** (as a percent of population between ages 25 to 64) increased nationally by 25 percent to 9 percent in 2015 from 7.2 percent in 2000. In 2015, North Dakota had the highest associate's degree rate at 15.3 percent, while Louisiana had the lowest rate at 6.9 percent—a difference of 122 percent.

CHART 56

Associate's Degree
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



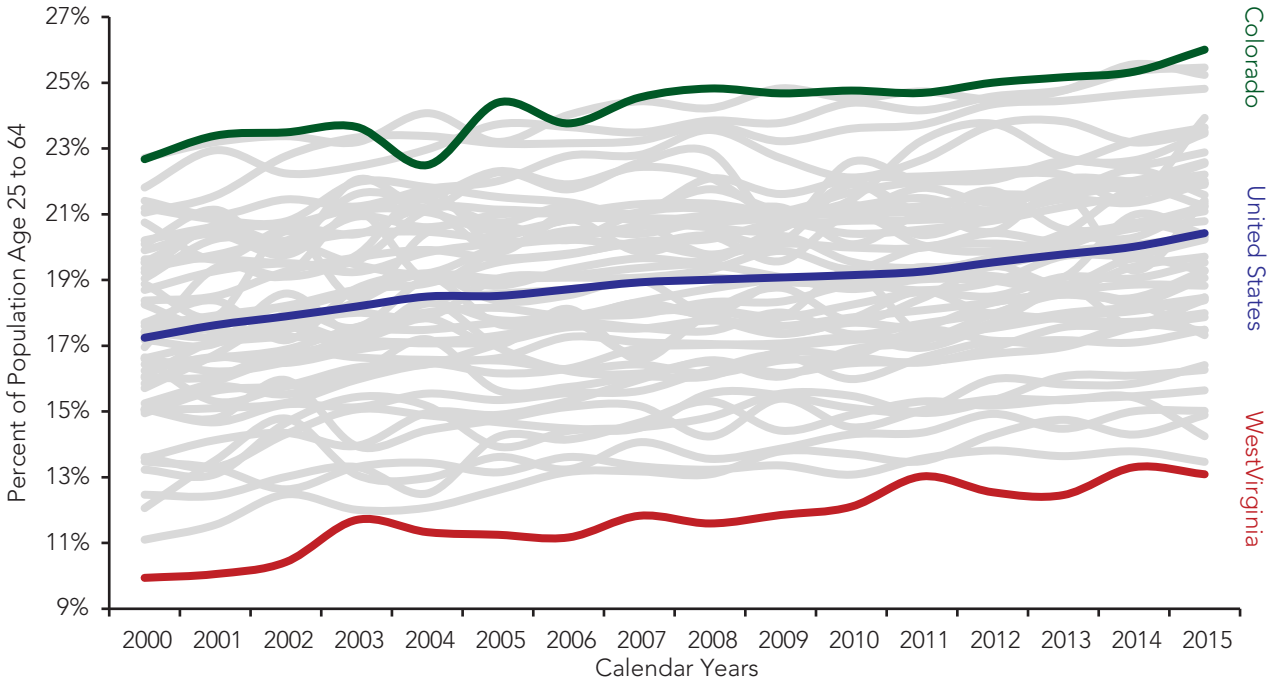
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

112 U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau. The data was extracted from the Kids Count Data Center published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6295-educational-attainment-of-working-age-population-25-to-64?loc=1&loct=1#detailed/1/any/false/36,868,867,133,38/1311,1304,1264,1265,1309/13092,13093

As shown in **Chart 57**, the **bachelor's degree rate** (as a percent of population between ages 25 to 64) increased nationally by 19 percent to 20.4 percent in 2015 from 17.2 percent in 2000. In 2015, Colorado had the highest bachelor's degree rate at 26 percent, while West Virginia had the lowest rate at 13.1 percent—a difference of 99 percent.

CHART 57

Bachelor's Degree
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015

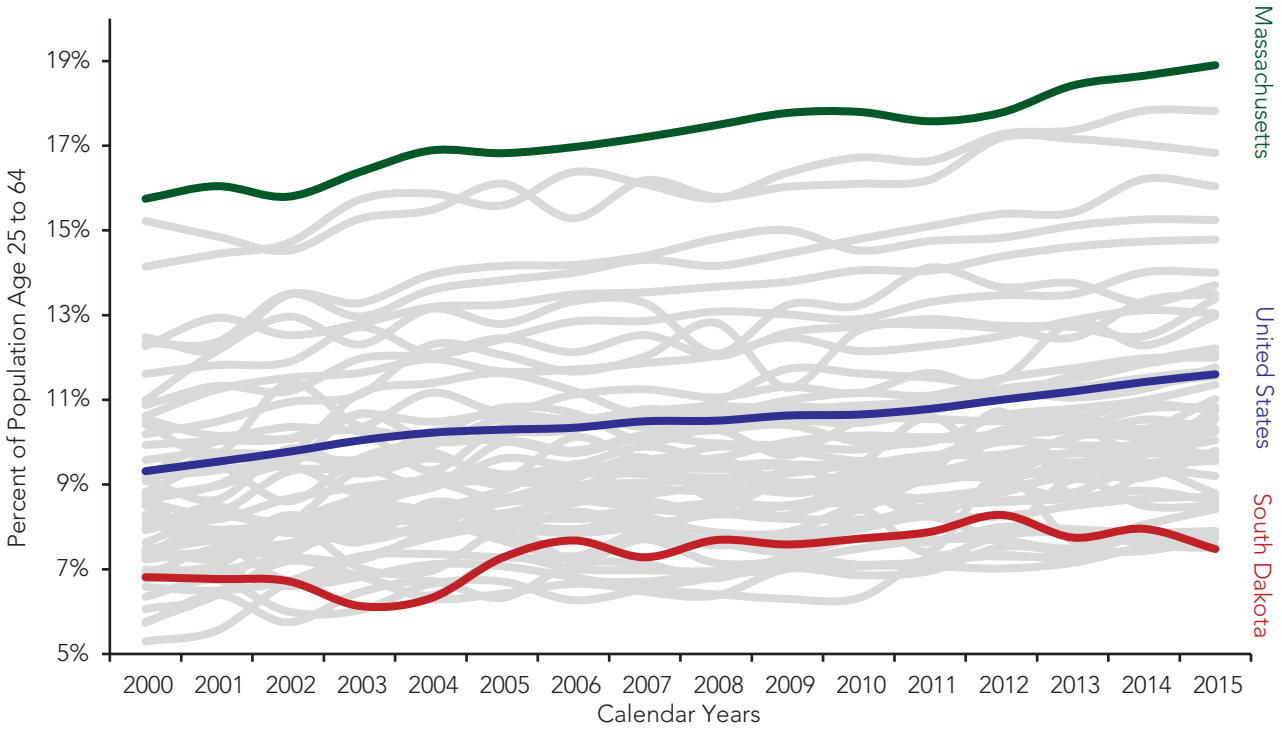


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 58**, the **graduate degree rate** (as a percent of population between ages 25 to 64) increased nationally by 25 percent to 11.6 percent in 2015 from 9.3 percent in 2000. In 2015, Massachusetts had the highest graduate degree rate at 18.9 percent, while South Dakota had the lowest rate at 7.5 percent—a difference of 153 percent.

CHART 58

Graduate Degree
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *educational attainment* sub-index, Minnesota had the top score (7.97) followed by North Dakota (6.93), New Hampshire (6.63), Connecticut (6.62), and Virginia (6.51). West Virginia had the lowest score (1.94), followed by Oklahoma (2.30), Nevada (2.67), Arkansas (2.70), and Louisiana (2.85).

Note: The associate's degree, bachelor's degree, and graduate degree rates were all weighted equally in the educational attainment sub-index.

FAMILY HEALTH

The health of individual members has a direct effect on a family's economic circumstances through higher medical costs and loss of income due to reduced productivity or death. The **Family Health** major index measures the combined impact of physical and mental health factors on economic prosperity in each state.

The worst outcome for family health is death. As such, it is important to measure how each state is doing in terms of preventing all forms premature death. The common measure for doing so is called **Years of Productive Life Lost (YPLL)**. YPLL measures mortality after birth but before the age of 75 (the standard cut-off age). Put simply, a person who dies at 25 would have 50 years of productive life lost (75 – 25 = 50).

While not all forms of premature death can be prevented, such as cancer or other disease, many forms of premature death do come about because of **risk behavior**, such as drinking, smoking, and using illicit drugs, which are within the realm of personal and societal choice and government policy. (These are discussed more specifically below.)

The Surgeon General estimates that the total economic costs of **smoking** in 2009 were $289 billion—including $132.5 billion for direct medical care, $151 billion for lost productivity, and $5.6 billion for lost productivity due to secondhand smoke.[113] The study also estimated that direct medical care costs would grow to $175.9 billion in 2012.

The total economic costs of **excessive alcohol consumption** in 2006 were $223.5 billion—including $161.3 billion for lost productivity and $24.6 billion for direct medical care.[114] Most of the economic costs are due to binge drinking ($170.7 billion). Additionally, excessive drinking is punishable by criminal penalties, which lead to $73.3 billion of these economic costs being a result of victim costs, the criminal justice system, incarceration expenses, etc.

The **obesity** epidemic is relatively new, so the economic costs are still being compiled. One study that performed a thorough review of existing literature estimates that the economic costs of obesity exceed $215 billion per year.[115] However, a more recent study suggests that direct medical costs alone are $190 billion per year.[116] In any case, the costs of obesity have a significant impact on the economy and are climbing rapidly.

Illicit drug use is increasing in America and so are concerns about it. A 2016 Gallup poll found that 44 percent of Americans worry a great deal about drug use—an increase of 10 percentage points in only two years.[117]

The economic burden on society caused by illicit drug use is substantial. A recent study by the National Drug Intelligence Center found that the total cost of illicit drug use in 2007 was $193 billion—crime ($113 billion), health ($11 billion), and productivity ($68 billion).[118]

Unlike other health problems, besides excessive alcohol consumption, the most expensive aspect of illicit drug use is the cost of crime, prosecution, and incarceration.

113 "The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General" U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf

114 Bouchery, Ellen E., Brewer, Robert D., Harwood, Henrick J., Sacks, Jeffrey J., and Simon, Carol J., "Economic Costs of Excessive Alcohol Consumption in the U.S., 2006," American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Vol. 41, No. 5, 2011. http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(11)00538-1/pdf

115 Hammond, Ross A. and Levine, Ruth, "The Economic Impact of Obesity in the United States," Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity: Targets and Therapy, 2010:3, pp. 285-295. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3047996/pdf/dmso-3-285.pdf

116 Cawley, John and Meyerhoefer, Chad, "The Medical Care Costs of Obesity: An Instrumental Variables Approach," Journal of Health Economics, Vol. 31, No. 1, January 2012, pp. 219-230.

117 Davis, Alyssa, "In U.S., Opioids Viewed as Most Serious Local Drug Problem," Gallup, July 29, 2016. http://www.gallup.com/poll/194042/opioids-viewed-serious-local-drug-problem.aspx

118 "The Economic Impact of Illicit Drug Use on American Society," U.S. Department of Justice: National Drug Intelligence Center, April 2011. http://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs44/44731/44731p.pdf

As discussed previously, the health and behavioral ramifications of consuming these substances also negatively impact family structure, thus creating a vicious cycle that must be broken.

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are a silent epidemic whose reach is growing with every passing year. Consider these facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

There are an estimated 20 million new infections every year—disproportionately affecting young people (between the ages of 15 and 24) who account for half of all new infections.[119]

There have been an estimated 110 million infections—impacting approximately one out of every 3 Americans.[120]

The direct healthcare costs of treating the eight most common STDs conservatively total $16 billion every year. This does not include other indirect costs such as lost productivity or infertility, which would dramatically increase the cost.[121]

STDs account for 50 percent of all preventable infertility. In particular, chlamydia and gonorrhea cause pelvic inflammatory disease, which can lead to infertility.[122]

More troubling is the rise in drug-resistant gonorrhea whose threat level, according to the CDC, has reached "urgent"—the highest threat level possible:

> *If cephalosporin-resistant N. gonorrhoeae becomes widespread, the public health impact during a 10-year period is estimated to be 75,000 additional cases of pelvic inflammatory disease (a major cause of infertility), 15,000 cases of epididymitis, and 222 additional HIV infections because HIV is transmitted more readily when someone is co-infected with gonorrhea. In addition, the estimated direct medical costs would total $235 million. Additional costs are anticipated to be incurred as a result of increased susceptibility monitoring, provider education, case management, and the need for additional course of antibiotics and follow-up.*[123]

119 "Incidence, Prevalence, and Cost of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Fact Sheet, February 2013. http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/sti-estimates-fact-sheet-feb-2013.pdf

120 Ibid. Due to the possibility of a person having multiple infections, 110 million infections does not translate directly into 110 million people infected.

121 Ibid.

122 Gerberding, Julie Louise, "Report to Congress: Infertility and Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases 2000 – 2003," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, November 2004. http://www.cdc.gov/std/infertility/ReportCongressInfertility.pdf

123 "Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pp. 55-56, September 16, 2013. http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013/index.html

The first year used for estimating the costs associated with **abortion** is 1973 as that was the year of the Roe v. Wade decision, which made abortion legal in all 50 states. Between 1973 and 2012, estimates suggest that approximately 54 million abortions have been performed.[124]

Abortion impacts both America's social and economic fabric. For instance, in pure economic terms, abortion eliminates a child's future contributions to society in the form of work. A thorough analysis by the Marriage & Religion Research Institute found that abortion costs the economy between $70 billion and $135 billion every year, leading to a loss of $10 billion and $33 billion in tax revenue.[125]

Yet, abortion does not just destroy a single person, but also that person's entire future lineage. Many refer to "ghost abortions" when accounting for the lives lost indirectly from abortion. There are two forms of ghost abortions.

First, an aborted female never gets a chance to have a baby of her own. The average age at which a woman bears her first child is 26, which means all females born between 1973 and 1990 are assumed to have had at least one child.[126] There were 25.4 million abortions over that time period. Assuming half of those abortions were female, 12.7 million people would constitute the population of ghost abortions. Of course, this is a very conservative estimate since some of the women in question could have had two or more children by now.

Second, abortion has been linked to a substantial rise in STDs. One study found that the availability of abortion, because it reduces the personal risk associated with sex, thus contributing to an increase in sexual activity, has caused gonorrhea and syphilis rates to increase by up to 25 percent.[127] As noted in the STD section, gonorrhea is a prime cause of preventable infertility. As such, every baby not born because their would-be-mother was made infertile by the rising incidence of STDs is a member of the ghost abortion population.

An increase in the marriage rate would likely lead to a reduction in the number of abortions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2013, only 14.8 percent of all abortions were to married women with the remainder to unmarried women. The abortion ratio is also significantly lower among married women (46 abortions per 1,000 live births) than for unmarried women (387 abortions per 1,000 live births).[128]

124 Data from the Guttmacher Institute: http://www.guttmacher.org/datacenter/table.jsp Missing years were linearly interpolated. 2012 abortion estimate was based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (see section on Infant Survival for details).

125 Higgins, Anna and Potrykus, Henry, "Abortion: Decrease of the U.S. Population & Effects on Society," Marriage & Religion Research Institute, January 22, 2014. http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF14A55.pdf

126 Hamilton, Brady E. and Matthews, T.J., "Mean Age of Mothers is on the Rise: United States, 2000-2014," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NCHS Data Brief, No. 232, January 2016. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db232.pdf

127 Klick, Jonathan and Stratmann, Thomas, "The Effect of Abortion Legalization on Sexual Behavior: Evidence from Sexually Transmitted Diseases," Journal of Legal Studies, Vol. 32, June 2003, pp. 407-433. https://www.law.upenn.edu/fac/jklick/32JLS407.pdf

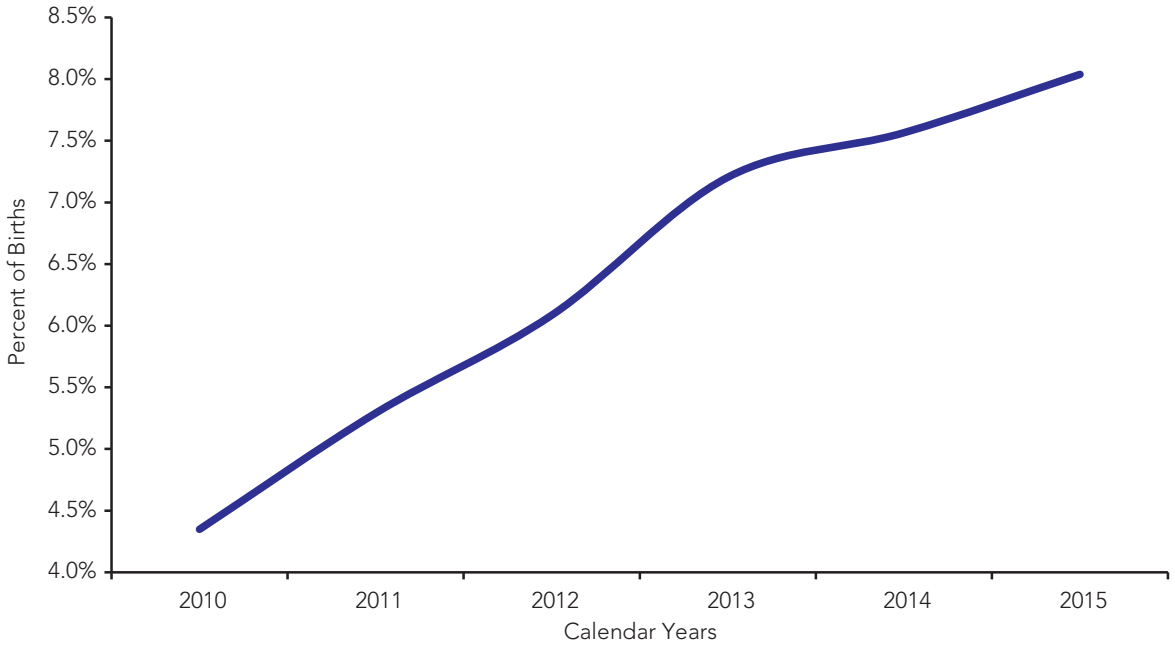
128 Ewing, Alexander, Jamieson, Denise J., Jatlaoui, Tara C., Mandel, Michele G., Pazol, Karen, Simmons, Katharine B., and Suchdev, Danielle B., "Abortion Surveillance – United States, 2013," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Surveillance Summaries, Vol. 65, No. 12, November 25, 2106. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6512a1.htm

Infant mortality, incidences of which amount to a fraction of the number of abortions performed, generally doesn't carry the moral stigma of abortion—with the possible exceptions of infant mortality due to illicit drug use, smoking, alcohol, and other detrimental activities that are harmful to the baby in utero and post neonatal.[129]

Alarmingly, there are signs that previous reductions in infant mortality may be reversing. For example, between 2000 and 2014, Maine's infant mortality rate increased by 36 percent—the highest increase of any state. One contributing factor is illustrated on **Chart 59**, which shows **substance-exposed newborns in Maine,** as a percent of births, between 2010 and 2015. Over that time period, the percentage of substance-exposed newborns jumped a startling 85 percent to 8 percent of all births in 2015 from 4.3 percent in 2010.[130] At best, these babies will have life-long developmental issues or, at worst, they will face early mortality.

CHART 59

Substance Exposed Newborns in Maine
Calendar Years 2010 to 2015



Source: Maine Office of Child and Family Services and American Conservative Union Foundation

The economic costs of **suicide** in 2010 totaled $44.7 billion, with the vast majority due to lost productivity ($44.5 billion). For **drug-induced deaths** in 2007, the cost was $16 billion.[131-132]

129 Davis, Thomas, Delucchi, Kevin L., Guydish, Joseph, Wolfe, Ellen L., "Mortality Risk Associated with Perinatal Drug and Alcohol Use in California," J Perinatol, Vol 25, No. 2, 2005, pp. 93-100. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3349286/pdf/nihms374014.pdf

130 Data provided via email request to the Maine Office of Child and Family Services. Note: *These numbers reflect the number of infants born in Maine where a healthcare provider reported to the Office of Child and Family Services that there was reasonable cause to suspect the baby may be affected by illegal substance abuse or demonstrating withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal exposure (illicit or prescribed appropriate under a physician's care for the mothers substance abuse treatment) or who have fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

131 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Cost of Injury Reports, 2010. https://wisqars.cdc.gov:8443/costT/

132 "The Economic Impact of Illicit Drug Use on American Society," U.S. Department of Justice: National Drug Intelligence Center, April 2011. http://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs44/44731/44731p.

As shown in **Chart 60** and **Table 7**:

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN FAMILY HEALTH ARE:		
1	Utah	6.30
2	Hawaii	6.22
3	Nebraska	6.20
4	Minnesota	6.12
5	Iowa	6.12
6	Idaho	6.07
7	New Jersey	5.79
8	Texas	5.70
9	Virginia	5.67
10	South Dakota	5.63

THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Alabama	4.26
42	Oklahoma	4.26
43	Maryland	4.22
44	Alaska	4.20
45	Mississippi	4.15
46	Arkansas	4.14
47	West Virginia	4.12
48	New Mexico	4.11
49	Delaware	3.88
50	Louisiana	3.37

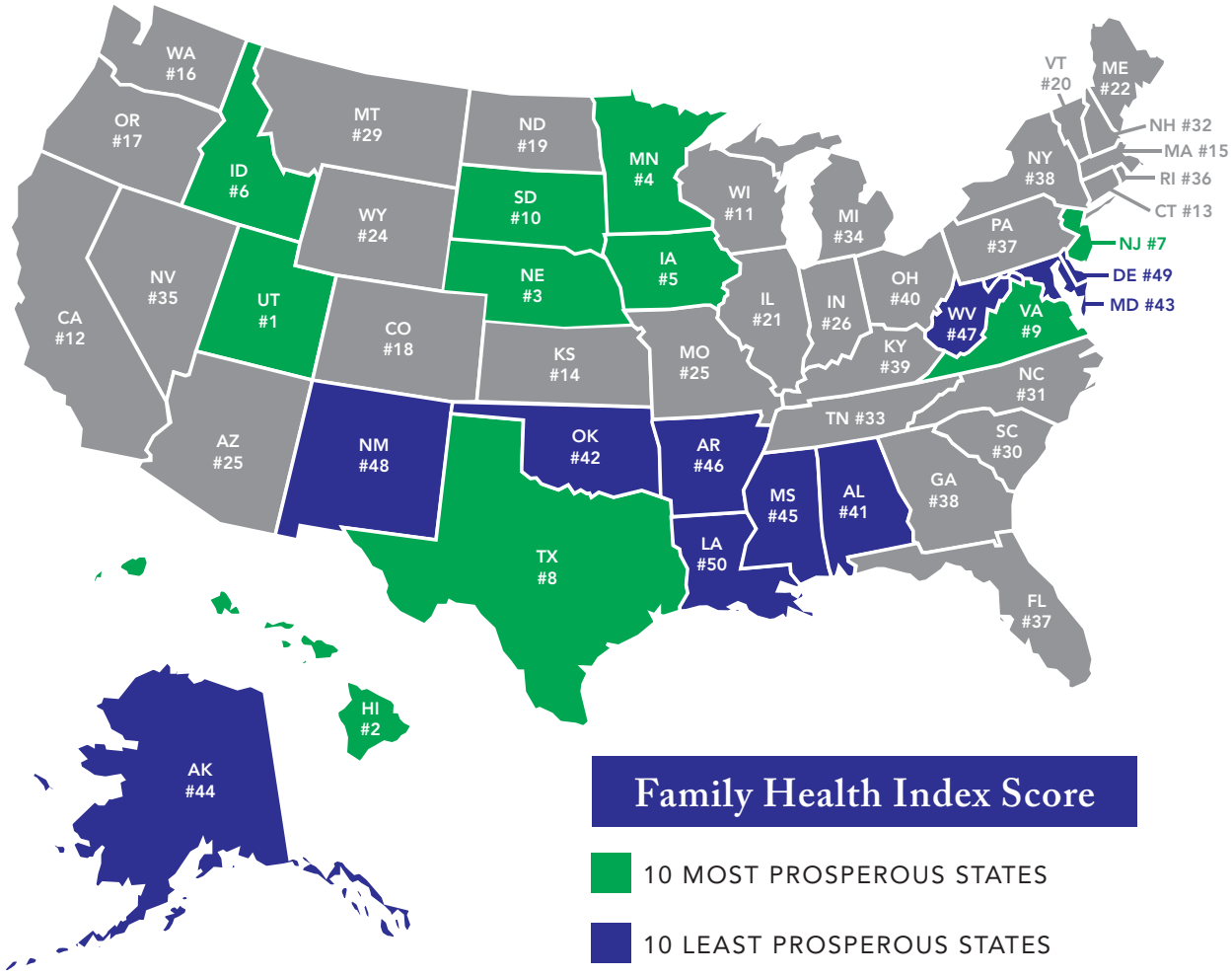
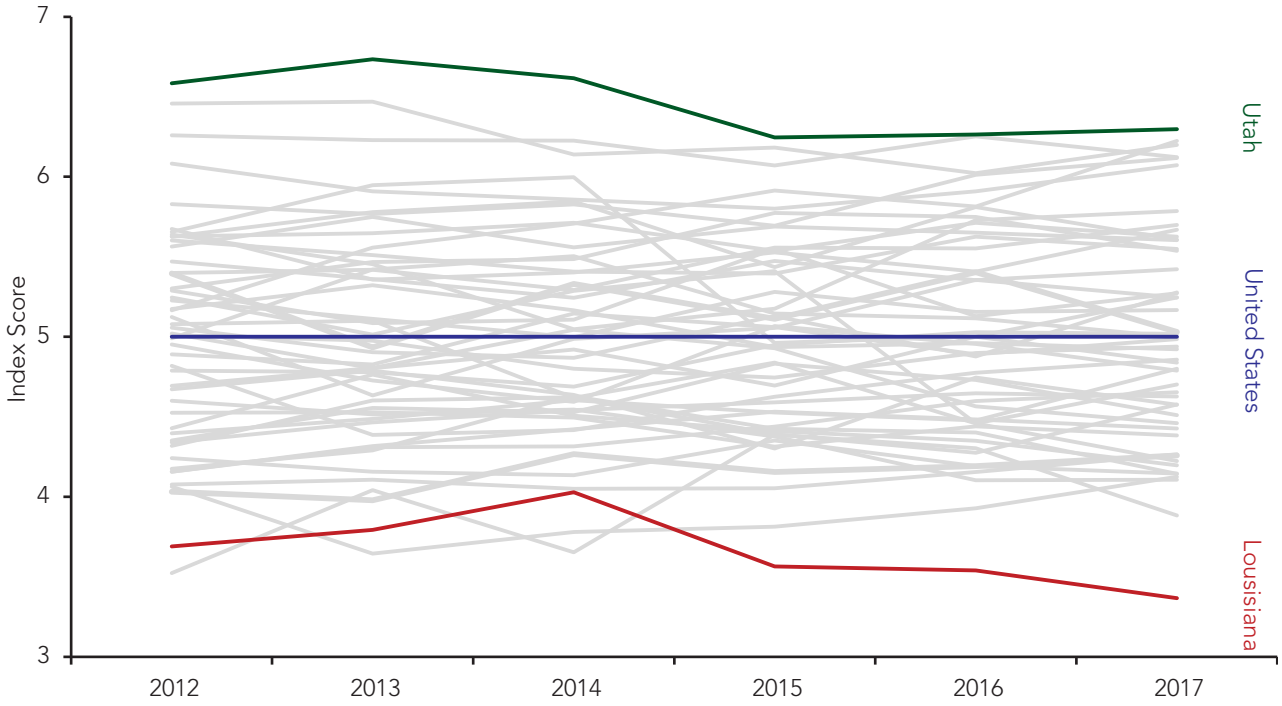


CHART 60

Family Health Index Score
2012 to 2017



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 7 | 2017 FAMILY PROSPERITY FAMILY HEALTH SUB-INDEXES

	YEARS OF PRODUCTIVE LIFE LOST	RANK	RISK BEHAVIOR	RANK	SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE	RANK	INFANT SURVIVAL	RANK	SELF MORTALITY	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	1.79	47	4.32	37	4.76	31	5.28	23	5.17	26	4.26	41
Alaska	3.88	36	4.41	35	4.56	35	5.49	21	2.65	49	4.20	44
Arizona	5.79	20	4.71	28	4.57	34	5.00	28	4.54	34	4.92	27
Arkansas	2.32	44	3.49	50	4.48	37	5.82	15	4.61	32	4.14	46
California	8.07	1	5.55	12	3.81	41	3.86	41	6.73	3	5.60	12
Colorado	7.48	6	4.02	44	5.59	17	4.72	34	4.55	33	5.27	18
Connecticut	7.25	8	5.24	19	6.24	8	3.63	44	5.38	19	5.55	13
Delaware	2.24	45	3.85	49	4.72	33	3.35	47	5.26	24	3.88	49
Florida	5.32	22	5.62	11	3.39	46	2.83	48	5.39	18	4.51	37
Georgia	4.53	31	5.08	23	2.67	49	3.95	40	6.07	11	4.46	38
Hawaii	7.65	4	6.98	2	4.95	28	5.38	22	6.15	9	6.22	2
Idaho	6.72	11	6.76	3	6.28	7	6.33	5	4.27	41	6.07	6
Illinois	6.31	16	5.29	18	4.15	38	3.77	43	6.31	6	5.17	21
Indiana	3.98	34	4.46	32	5.02	27	6.04	11	5.19	25	4.94	26
Iowa	7.02	9	5.42	17	5.89	10	5.99	12	6.27	7	6.12	5
Kansas	5.81	19	5.16	21	5.74	13	5.55	19	5.43	16	5.54	14
Kentucky	1.66	48	4.83	26	5.57	19	6.42	4	3.67	43	4.43	39
Louisiana	2.11	46	4.15	43	1.45	50	4.39	36	4.73	31	3.37	50
Maine	5.08	25	4.28	42	6.74	3	4.62	35	4.44	37	5.03	22
Maryland	5.61	21	4.30	41	3.75	43	1.51	50	5.96	12	4.22	43
Massachusetts	6.59	13	5.86	8	5.72	14	3.79	42	5.26	23	5.44	15
Michigan	4.75	29	4.55	31	5.44	20	3.62	45	4.78	30	4.63	34
Minnesota	7.63	5	5.21	20	5.71	15	5.82	16	6.24	8	6.12	4
Mississippi	1.35	49	3.91	47	3.39	47	6.20	8	5.88	13	4.15	45
Missouri	3.83	37	4.90	25	4.83	30	6.51	3	4.86	29	4.99	25
Montana	3.94	35	5.49	15	5.66	16	5.59	18	3.51	45	4.84	29
Nebraska	6.26	18	5.67	10	5.84	11	6.30	7	6.92	1	6.20	3
Nevada	5.30	23	5.09	22	3.78	42	4.30	37	4.42	38	4.58	35
New Hampshire	4.91	27	3.95	45	7.28	1	4.22	39	3.16	46	4.70	32
New Jersey	7.74	3	6.12	6	5.29	24	3.44	46	6.34	5	5.79	7
New Mexico	3.38	40	4.73	27	4.55	36	4.90	31	2.98	48	4.11	48
New York	7.98	2	4.93	24	3.61	45	1.72	49	6.85	2	5.02	23
North Carolina	4.83	28	5.69	9	3.03	48	4.83	32	5.57	14	4.79	31
North Dakota	4.66	30	4.31	39	5.58	18	6.33	6	5.35	21	5.25	19
Ohio	3.64	38	4.30	40	4.85	29	4.96	30	4.18	42	4.38	40
Oklahoma	2.64	43	4.33	36	4.11	39	5.93	14	4.28	40	4.26	42
Oregon	6.56	14	4.42	34	5.40	21	5.12	25	4.88	27	5.28	17
Pennsylvania	5.11	24	4.58	30	5.33	22	4.78	33	4.48	36	4.86	28
Rhode Island	4.26	33	4.32	38	5.75	12	4.26	38	4.29	39	4.57	36
South Carolina	3.10	41	5.50	13	4.02	40	5.94	13	5.44	15	4.80	30
South Dakota	4.47	32	6.49	4	5.32	23	7.00	1	4.86	28	5.63	10
Tennessee	2.83	42	6.05	7	4.73	32	5.14	24	4.52	35	4.65	33
Texas	6.28	17	6.42	5	3.69	44	5.51	20	6.60	4	5.70	8
Utah	7.42	7	7.37	1	6.28	6	6.79	2	3.62	44	6.30	1
Vermont	5.05	26	3.86	48	6.82	2	5.08	27	5.42	17	5.25	20
Virginia	6.54	15	5.46	16	5.26	26	4.97	29	6.11	10	5.67	9
Washington	6.91	10	4.46	33	5.28	25	5.11	26	5.35	20	5.42	16
West Virginia	1.20	50	4.66	29	6.48	5	5.68	17	2.60	50	4.12	47
Wisconsin	6.65	12	3.94	46	5.99	9	6.15	9	5.31	22	5.61	11
Wyoming	3.63	39	5.50	14	6.63	4	6.08	10	3.15	47	5.00	24

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

STATE HIGHLIGHT: NEW HAMPSHIRE[133]

Cornerstone RESEARCH – ACTION – COMPASSION

GRANITE INSTITUTE

New Hampshire's elevated rate of illicit drug use imposes a significant economic and social burden on society. In particular, with the arrival of Demographic Winter (too few young people to maintain current population levels), New Hampshire must maximize the productivity of its existing labor force.

New Hampshire's illicit drug use (as a percent of population) has always significantly exceeded the national average. In fact, New Hampshire has the 8th highest rate of drug use (10.8 percent), trailing regional neighbors Vermont (2nd, 12.6 percent), Rhode Island (3rd, 12.4 percent), Maine (5th, 11.7 percent), and Massachusetts (7th, 11.2 percent).

Overall, the data shows that the burden of illicit drug use in New Hampshire is not only one of the most substantial in the country, but it is also growing faster than in the rest of the nation. Lowering New Hampshire's illicit drug use rate to the national average must be a priority. In human terms, that would mean 37,000 fewer Granite Staters using illegal drugs—falling from 144,000 people to 107,000 people.

Before such a reduction can be realized, New Hampshire's political, business, civic, and religious leaders, as well as the citizens of the state, must have an understanding of the factors that lead people down the path of drug abuse.

Decline In Religiosity

A large and growing body of evidence shows that not only can religion help prevent people from using illicit drugs, but it also plays a strong role in effective treatment programs. Consider the findings of these two comprehensive studies.

First, a study from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse:

> *God, religion and spirituality are key factors for many in prevention and treatment of substance abuse and in continuing recovery . . . [A]dults who never attend religious services are almost twice as likely to drink, three time likelier to smoke, more than five times likelier to have used an illicit drug other than marijuana, almost seven times likelier to binge drink and almost eight time likelier to use marijuana than those who attend religious services at least weekly . . .*
>
> *[T]eens who never attend religious services are twice as likely to drink, more than twice as likely to smoke, more than three times likelier to use marijuana and binge drink and almost four times likelier to use illicit drugs than teens who attend religious services at least weekly.*[134]

133 The full New Hampshire study can be found here: http://familyprosperity.org/application/files/6814/7346/9685/NH-Illicit-Drug-Use-Study-WEBrev2.pdf

134 "So Help Me God: Substance Abuse, Religion and Spirituality," The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, November, 2001. http://www.centeronaddiction.org/download/file/fid/1198

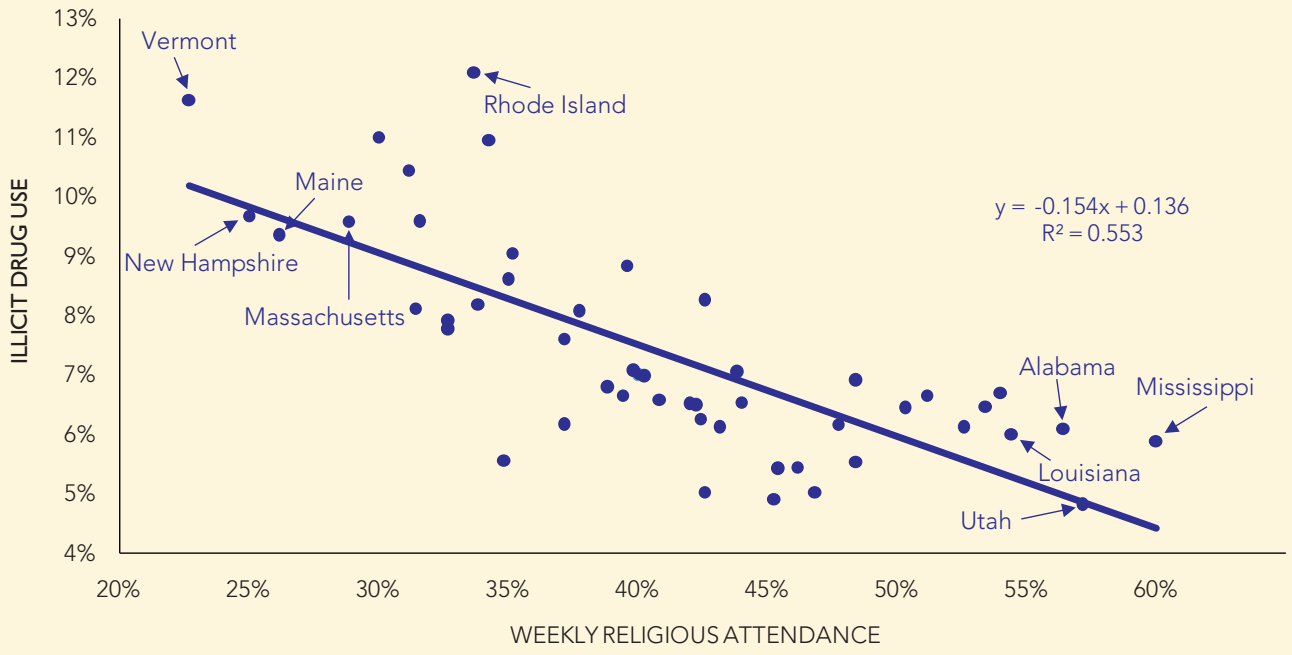
Second, a study from the Annie E. Casey Foundation:

> *Religion is an important protective factor against substance abuse and an important support for persons in recovery. Religious people are less likely than others to use drugs and less likely to experience negative drug-related consequences.*[135]

The importance of this is shown in **Chart C**, which plots the **religious weekly attendance rate and the illicit drug use rate** for the 50 states (as averaged between 2008 and 2014). The northeastern states dominate the upper left quadrant of the chart where low religiosity is correlated with high drug use, while deep southern states and Utah dominate the lower right quadrant where high religiosity is correlated with low drug use.

CHART C

Weekly Religious Attendance Lowers Illicit Drug Use
Data Averaged 2008 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Gallup, American Conservative Union Foundation, and Granite Institute

135 Myers, Valerie L., Osai, Esohe, and Wallace John M., "Faith Matters: Race/Ethnicity, Religion and Substance Abuse," The Annie E. Casey Foundation, January, 2005. http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-faithmattersRaceReligionUse-2004.pdf

Additionally, religiosity significantly lowers the odds of a person using illicit drugs wherever they may live. In fact, Gallup performed an extensive analysis of its polling data on the rate of marijuana use among various subgroups and found:

> *Only 2% of weekly churchgoers and 7% of less frequent attenders say they use marijuana, but this rises to 14% of those who seldom or never attend a religious service.*[136]

This factor is especially problematic since New Hampshire ranks as the least religious state, based on weekly religious attendance (tied with Vermont), in the country.

Breakdown of the Family

The family plays a very important protective role in combatting illicit drug use because the groundwork for abuse is laid in childhood. In fact, according to The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse:

> *[A] child who gets through age 21 without smoking, using illegal drugs or abusing alcohol is virtually certain never to do so . . . [T]he good news is that parents have enormous power to be a healthy influence on their children, to help steer them from involvement with tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Parents who abstain from cigarettes and illegal drugs, drink responsibly, have high expectations for their children, monitor their whereabouts, know their friends and provide loving support and open communication are less likely to have children who smoke, drink and use drugs. Parents who consistently disapprove of tobacco, alcohol or drug use are much likelier to have teens who grow up drug free. Teens whose parents are 'hands on'—engaged in their teens' lives, supervising them, establishing rules and standards of behavior—are at one-fourth the risk of abusing substances. Teens from families where religion is important are less likely to smoke, drink and use drugs. Teens with an excellent relationship with either parent are at 25 percent lower risk for substance abuse; those with excellent relationships with both parents are at a 40 percent lower risk.*[137]

And, more specifically, the Center finds that instituting simple family routines, such as having family dinners, can confer this protective shield on their children.[138]

136 McCarthy, Justin, "One in Eight U.S. Adults Say They Smoke Marijuana," Gallup, August 8, 2016. http://www.gallup.com/poll/194195/adults-say-smoke-marijuana.aspx

137 "Family Matters: Substance Abuse and The American Family," The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, March, 2005, pgs. i, ii. http://www.centeronaddiction.org/download/file/fid/1191

138 "The Importance of Family Dinners VIII," The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, September, 2012. http://www.centeronaddiction.org/download/file/fid/378

Prison Time For Drug Users

America's prison system is a revolving door of the incarceration and re-incarceration of people addicted to illicit drugs or subjected to their ill effects. Consider these facts from a comprehensive study published by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse:[139]

First, drug use plays a substantial role in determining whether an individual will end up in prison:

> *Illicit drugs are implicated in the incarceration of three-quarters (75.9 percent) of all inmates in America. In addition to the inmates who were convicted of a drug law violation, 54.3 percent of alcohol law violators, 77.2 percent of those who committed a property crime, 65.4 percent of inmates who committed a violent crime, and 67.6 percent of those who committed other crimes either committed their crime to get money to buy drugs, were under the influence of drugs at the time of the crime, had a history of regular drug use or had a drug use disorder.*[140]

Second, there is a strong correlation between illicit drug use and recidivism:

> *Substance-involved offenders are likelier to recidivate than those who are not substance-involved. Over half (52.2 percent) of substance-involved inmates have one or more previous incarcerations compared with 31.2 percent of inmates not substance-involved. High rates of recidivism translate into burdensome incarceration costs for society, averaging $25,144 per inmate, per year and ranging from a low of $10,700 in Alabama to a high of $65,599 in Maine. Breaking the cycle of re-arrests and re-incarceration requires breaking the cycle of addiction.*[141]

Finally, illicit drug use is at the root of an inter-generational incarceration problem:

> *In 2016, American prisons and jails held an estimated 1.0 million substance-involved parents with more than 2.2 million minor children; 73.7 percent (1.7 million) of these children are 12 years of age or younger. The minor children of inmates are at a much higher risk of juvenile delinquency, adult criminality and substance misuse than are minor children of parents who have not been incarcerated. Almost four-fifths of incarcerated mothers (77 percent in state prison and 83 percent in federal prison) reported being the primary daily caregiver for their children prior to their imprisonment compared with 26 percent of fathers incarcerated in state prisons and 31 percent incarcerated in federal prisons.*[142]

139 "Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population," The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, February, 2010. http://www.centeronaddiction.org/download/file/fid/487
140 Ibid, pg. 13.
141 Ibid, pg. 5.
142 Ibid, pg. 4.

Self-Mortality – Drug Overdose or Suicide?

Complicating matters, there is a distinct relationship between suicide and drug overdoses. While suicide and drug overdoses appear to be unrelated issues, the fact is that many suicides are mistaken for drug overdoses. For instance, according to a recent study:

> *Official vital statistics indicate that suicide surpassed motor vehicle traffic crashes as the leading cause of injury mortality in the United States in 2009. However, this shift may actually have occurred several years earlier, even while it remained undetected. The rate of pharmaceutical and other drug–intoxication deaths rose by 125% between 2000 and 2013, with most being classified as accident (unintentional injury) or undetermined intent. Many of these deaths were likely misclassified suicides. Suicide is plausibly the most underestimated manner of death in both clinical medicine and public health, since it likely is often obfuscated by death investigations that are inadequate for validly differentiating manner.*[143]

More troubling, a new study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that in New Hampshire, 10.29 percent of young adults between the ages of 18 to 25 had serious thoughts of suicide (the highest level in the country) in 2013-2014. New Hampshire's rate was 38 percent higher than the national average (7.44 percent).[144] This suggests that New Hampshire's suicide and/or drug overdose numbers will remain elevated in the near term.

New Hampshire's suicide rate, as a percent of population, has not only been higher than the national average, but it is also growing at a faster rate. Between 2000 and 2015, New Hampshire's **suicide rate increased by 62 percent** to 0.017 percent (18th highest) from 0.011 percent. Over the same time period, the national average grew by 32 percent to 0.014 percent from 0.01 percent.

New Hampshire's drug overdose rate, as a percent of population, has also been higher than the national average, and it is also growing at a dramatically faster rate. Between 2000 and 2015, New Hampshire's drug overdose rate increased by 724 percent to 0.033 percent (2nd highest) from 0.004 percent. Over the

143 Rockett, Ian R. H.; Hobbs, Gerald R.; Wu, Dan; Jia, Haomiao; Nolte, Kurt B.; Smith, Gordon S.; Putnam, Sandra L.; and Caine, Eric D., "Variable Classification of Drug-Intoxication Suicides across US States: A Partial Artifact of Forensics?" PLoS One, August 21, 2015. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4546666/

144 Hughes, Arthur; Lipari, Rachel N.; and Williams, Matthew, "State Estimates of Past Year Serious Thoughts of Suicide Among Young Adults: 2013 and 2014," Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, June 16, 2016. http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/report_2387/ShortReport-2387.pdf

same time period, the national average grew by 148 percent to 0.017 percent from 0.007 percent.

Additionally, of particular interest is the fact that both suicides and drug overdoses spiked in New Hampshire between 2013 and 2015, which reinforces the conclusions of the above study showing that many suicides are mistaken for accidental overdoses.

In order for New Hampshire to improve its self-mortality score, it is imperative that policymakers gain a better understanding of the connection between its elevated accidental overdose and suicide rates. This will greatly inform the approach to bringing down both measures since suicide involves a long-term public health focus, whereas drug overdose would feature more of a drug treatment/law enforcement approach.

Conclusion

The Granite State has some deep-seated hopelessness, especially among the younger generations where 1 in 10 now seriously consider suicide. This is fertile ground for illicit drug abuse, which too often leads to overdoses – accidental, as well as intentional. But, it appears, drug overdoses may be the newest face of suicide.

The data suggests that much of this hopelessness may lie in the tremendous institutional flux that has occurred over the decades. Perhaps the most profound is the precipitous decline in religiosity as New Hampshire now ranks among the least religious states in the country. Yet, historically, churches have played a significant role in in the state's communities as evidenced by the vast number of religious edifices, now standing mostly empty, that dot the landscape.

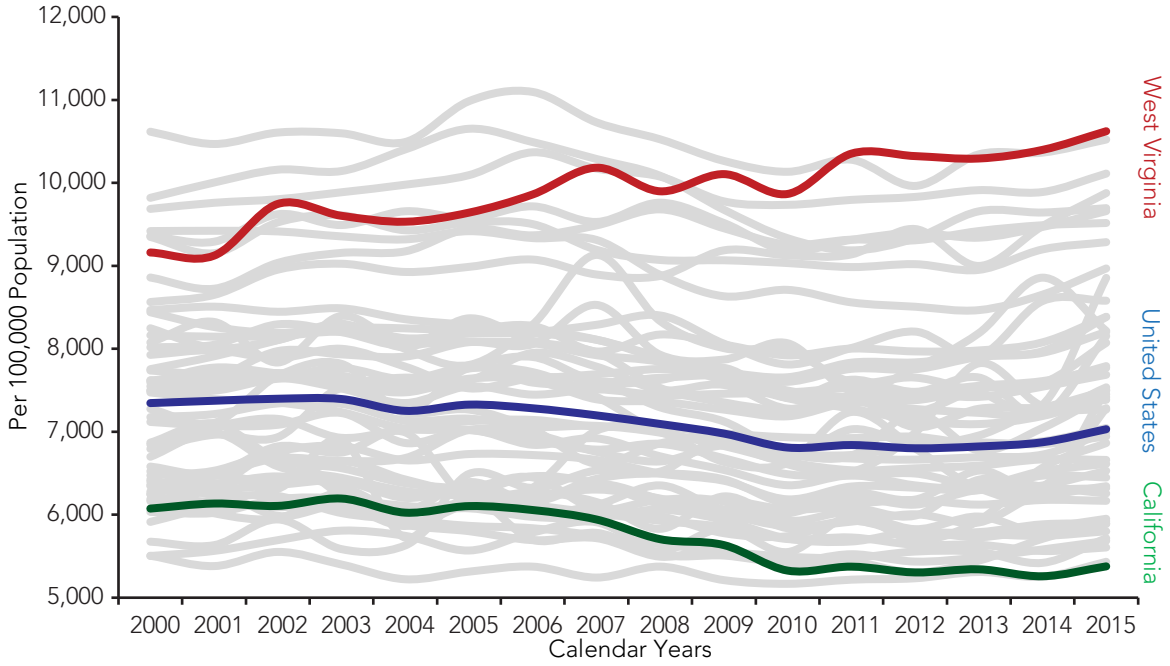
Drug treatment and law enforcement alone are not enough to curb New Hampshire's drug epidemic. Granite Staters must figure out why so many of today's youth find solace in illicit drug use and not in their families, churches, schools, and communities. Otherwise, treatment and enforcement will simply become a revolving door instead of a solution.

Years of Productive Life Lost (YPLL)

As shown in **Chart 61**, the **Years of Productive Life Lost** (per 100,000 population) decreased nationally by 4 percent to 7,030 in 2015 from 7,345 in 2000. In 2015, West Virginia had the highest YPLL at 10,622, while California had the lowest at 5,377—a difference of 98 percent.[145]

CHART 61

Years of Productive Life Lost
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *YPLL* sub-index, California had the top score (8.07), followed by New York (7.98), New Jersey (7.74), Hawaii (7.65), and Minnesota (7.63). West Virginia had the lowest score (1.20), followed by Mississippi (1.35), Kentucky (1.66), Alabama (1.79), and Louisiana (2.11).

145 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health (http://www.samhsa.gov/data/population-data-nsduh/reports?tab=33).

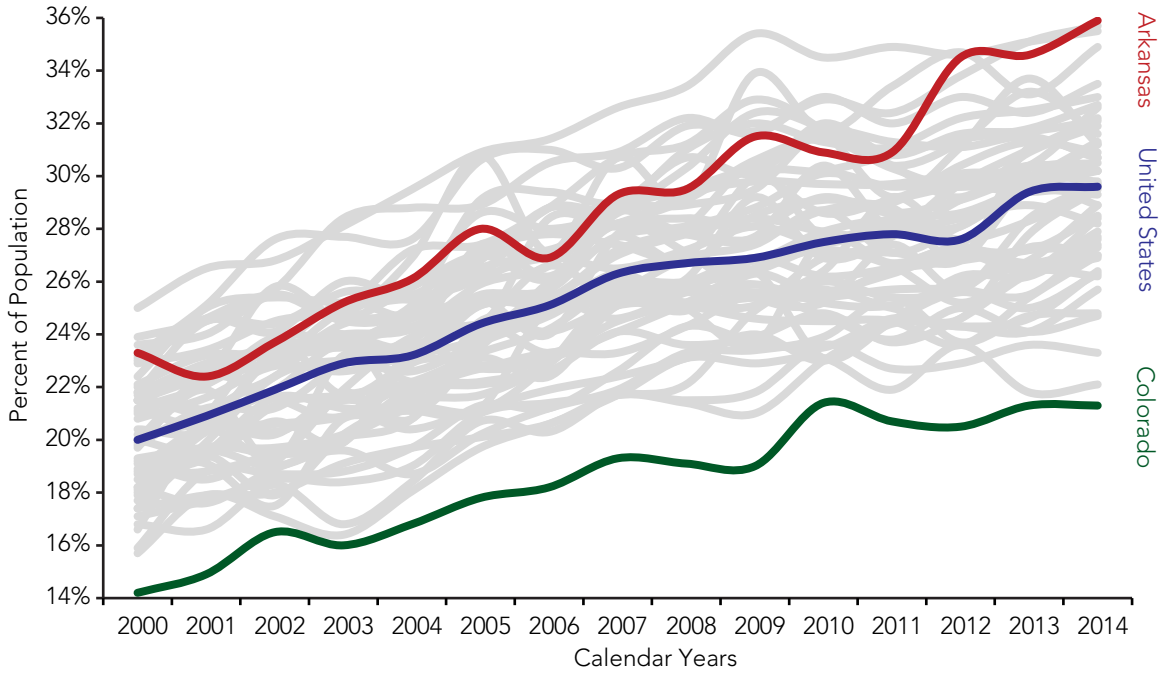
Risk Behavior

Charts 62, 63, 64, 65, and 66 show the **variance in common health measures**—including obesity rate, tobacco use, alcohol use, marijuana use, and illicit drug use other than marijuana—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2014 for obesity rate and 2002 to 2014 for the other variables.[146]

As shown on **Chart 62**, the **obesity rate** (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 48 percent to 29.6 percent in 2014 from 20 percent in 2000. In 2014, Arkansas had the highest obesity rate at 35.9 percent, while Colorado had the lowest rate at 21.3 percent—a difference of 69 percent.

CHART 62

Obesity
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



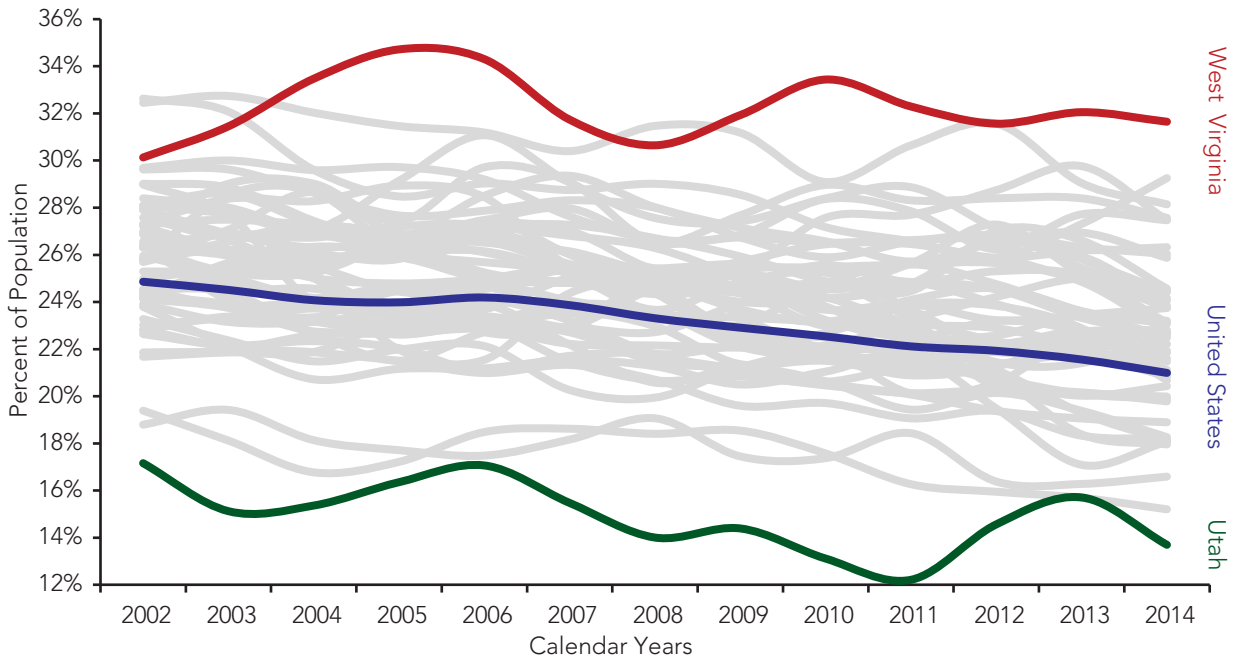
Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

146 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health (http://www.samhsa.gov/data/population-data-nsduh/reports?tab=33).

As shown on **Chart 63**, the **tobacco use rate** (as a percent of population) decreased nationally by 16 percent to 21 percent in 2014 from 24.9 percent in 2002. In 2014, West Virginia had the highest tobacco use rate at 31.6 percent, while Utah had the lowest rate at 13.7 percent—a difference of 131 percent.

CHART 63

Tobacco Use
Calendar Years 2002 to 2014

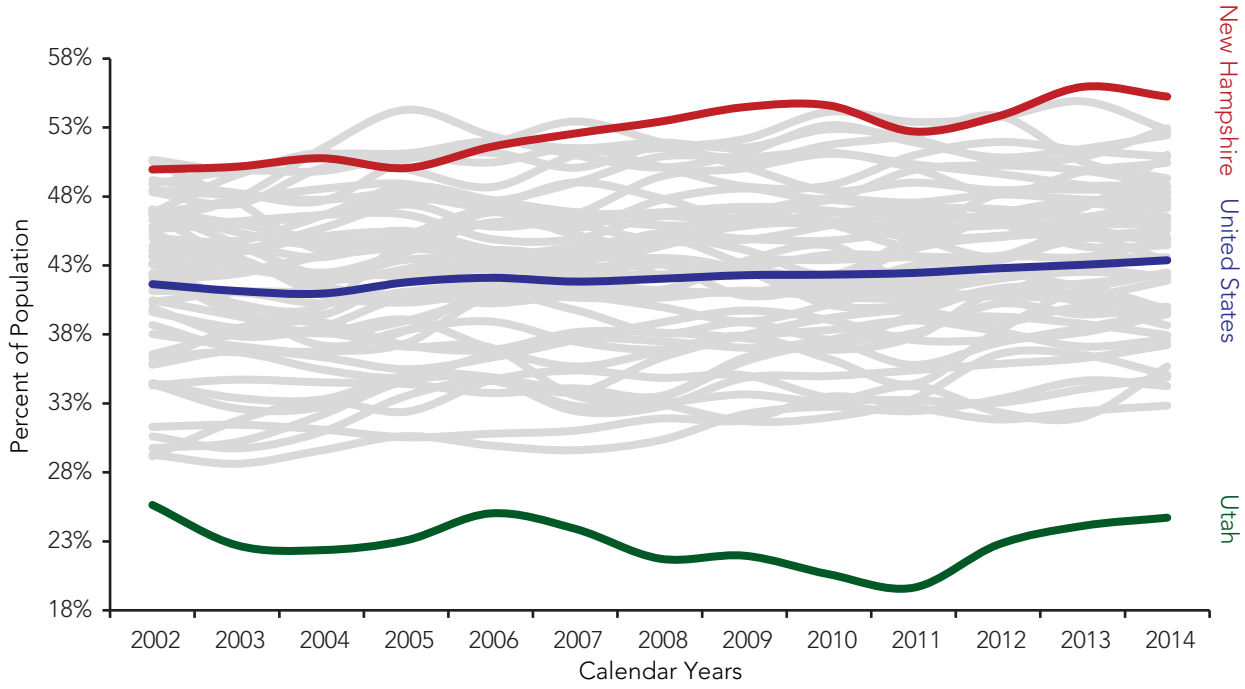


Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 64**, the **alcohol use rate** (as a percent of population) increased nationally by 4 percent to 43.4 percent in 2014 from 41.6 percent in 2002. In 2014, New Hampshire had the highest alcohol use rate at 55.3 percent, while Utah had the lowest rate at 24.7 percent—a difference of 124 percent.

CHART 64

Alcohol Use
Calendar Years 2002 to 2014

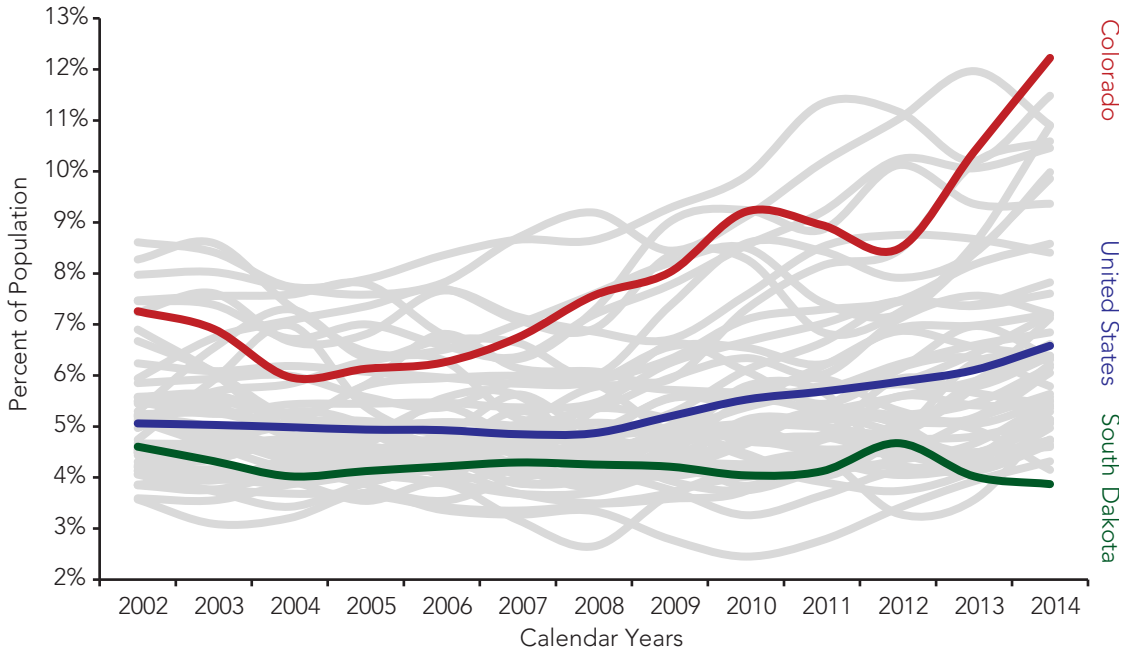


Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 65**, the **marijuana use rate** (as a percent of population) increased nationally by 30 percent to 6.6 percent in 2014 from 5.1 percent in 2002. In 2014, Colorado had the highest marijuana use rate at 12.2 percent, while South Dakota had the lowest rate at 3.9 percent—a difference of 216 percent.

CHART 65

Marijuana Use
Calendar Years 2002 to 2014

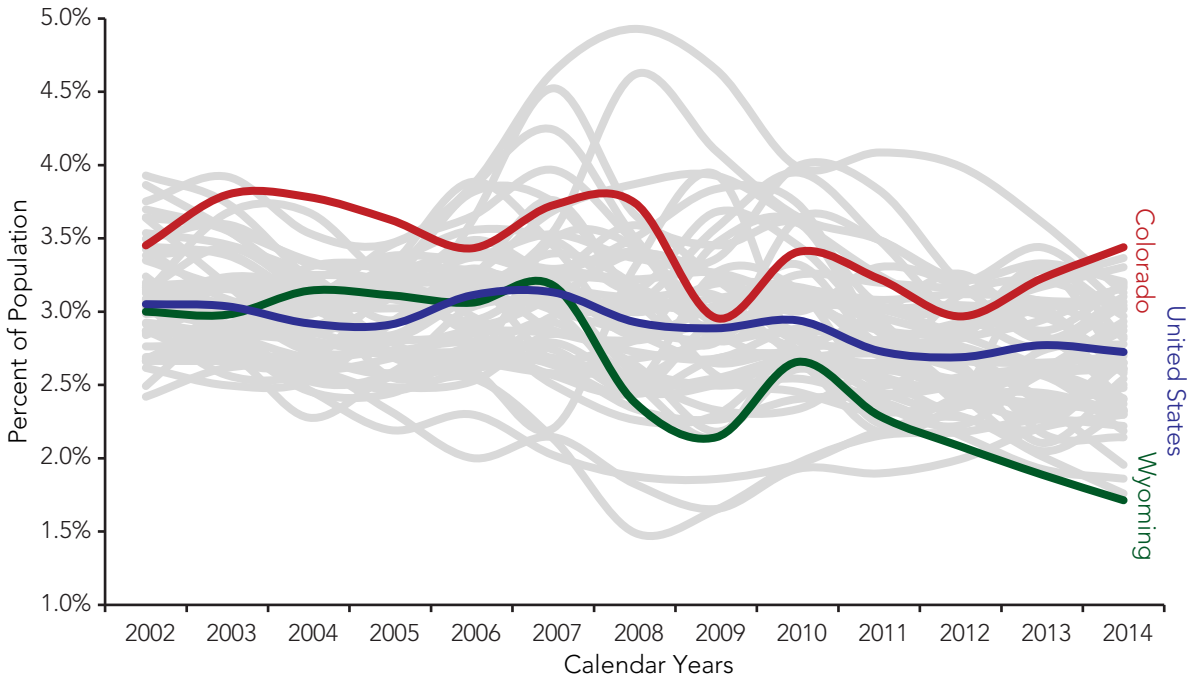


Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 66**, the **illicit drug use other than marijuana rate** (as a percent of population) decreased nationally by 11 percent to 2.7 percent in 2014 from 3.1 percent in 2002. In 2014, Colorado had the highest illicit drug use other than marijuana rate at 3.4 percent, while Wyoming had the lowest rate at 1.7 percent—a difference of 101 percent.

CHART 66

Illicit Drug Use Other Than Marijuana
Calendar Years 2002 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *risk behavior* sub-index, Utah had the top score (7.37), followed by Hawaii (6.98), Idaho (6.76), South Dakota (6.49), and Texas (6.42). Arkansas had the lowest score (3.49), followed by Delaware (3.85), Vermont (3.86), Mississippi (3.91), and Wisconsin (3.94).

Note: The obesity rate, tobacco use rate, alcohol use rate, marijuana use rate, and illicit drug use other than marijuana rate were all weighted equally in the risk behavior sub-index.

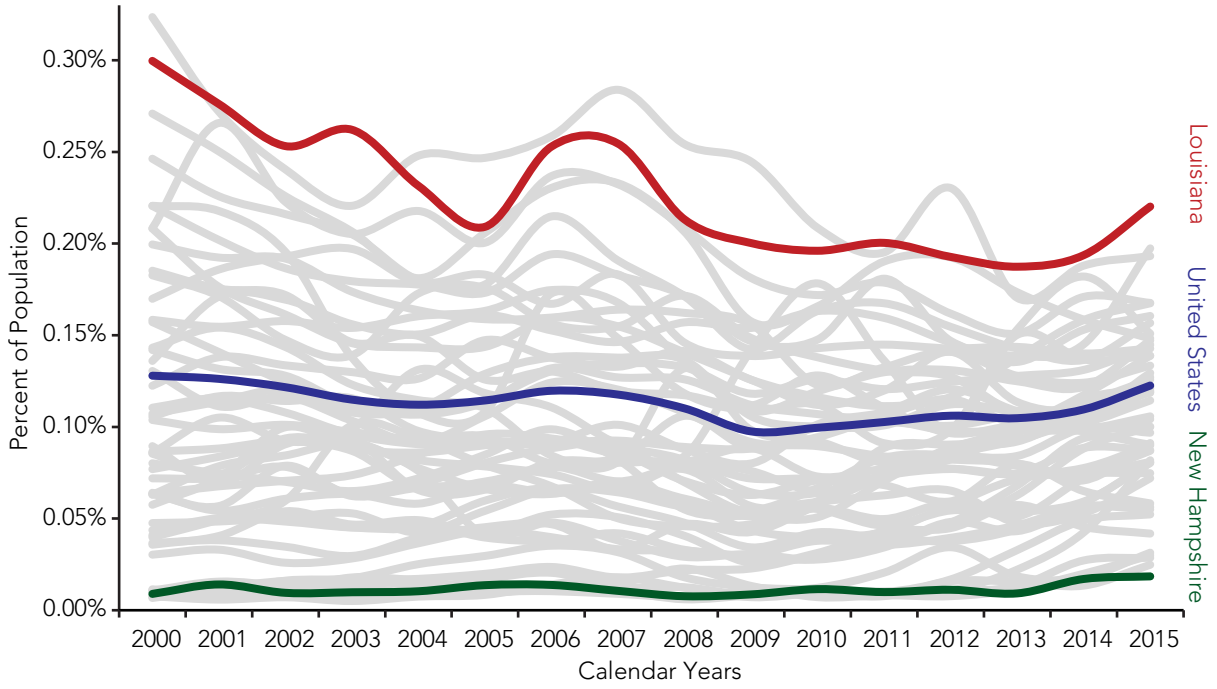
Sexually Transmitted Disease

Charts 67, 68, 69 and 70 show the **variance in sexually transmitted diseases**—including gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and HIV diagnoses—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2015 for gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis, and from 2008 to 2014 for HIV diagnoses.[147]

As shown in **Chart 67**, the **gonorrhea rate** (as a percent of the population) decreased nationally by 4 percent to 0.12 percent in 2015 from 0.13 percent in 2000. In 2015, Louisiana had the highest gonorrhea rate at 0.22 percent, while New Hampshire had the lowest rate at 0.02 percent—a difference of 1,096 percent.

CHART 67

Gonarrhea
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



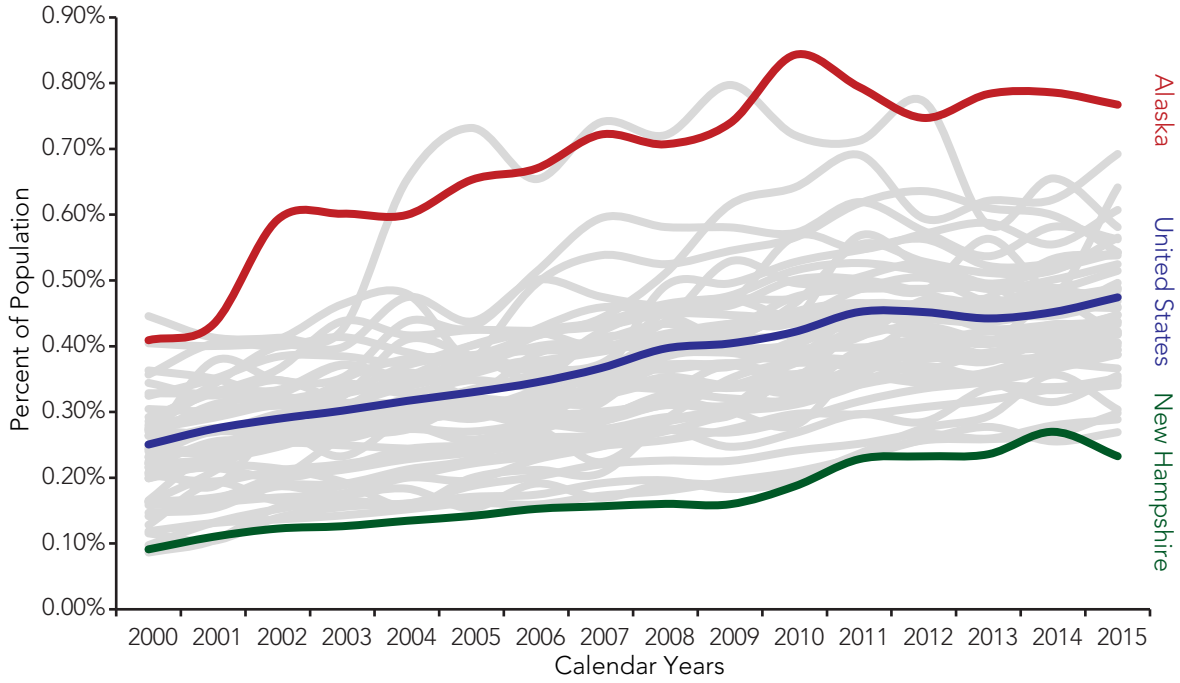
Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

147 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) Atlas. http://www.cdc.gov/NCHHSTP/Atlas/

As shown in **Chart 68**, the **chlamydia rate** (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 89 percent to 0.47 percent in 2015 from 0.25 percent in 2000. In 2015, Alaska had the highest chlamydia rate at 0.77 percent, while New Hampshire had the lowest rate at 0.23 percent—a difference of 230 percent.

CHART 68

Chlamydia
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015

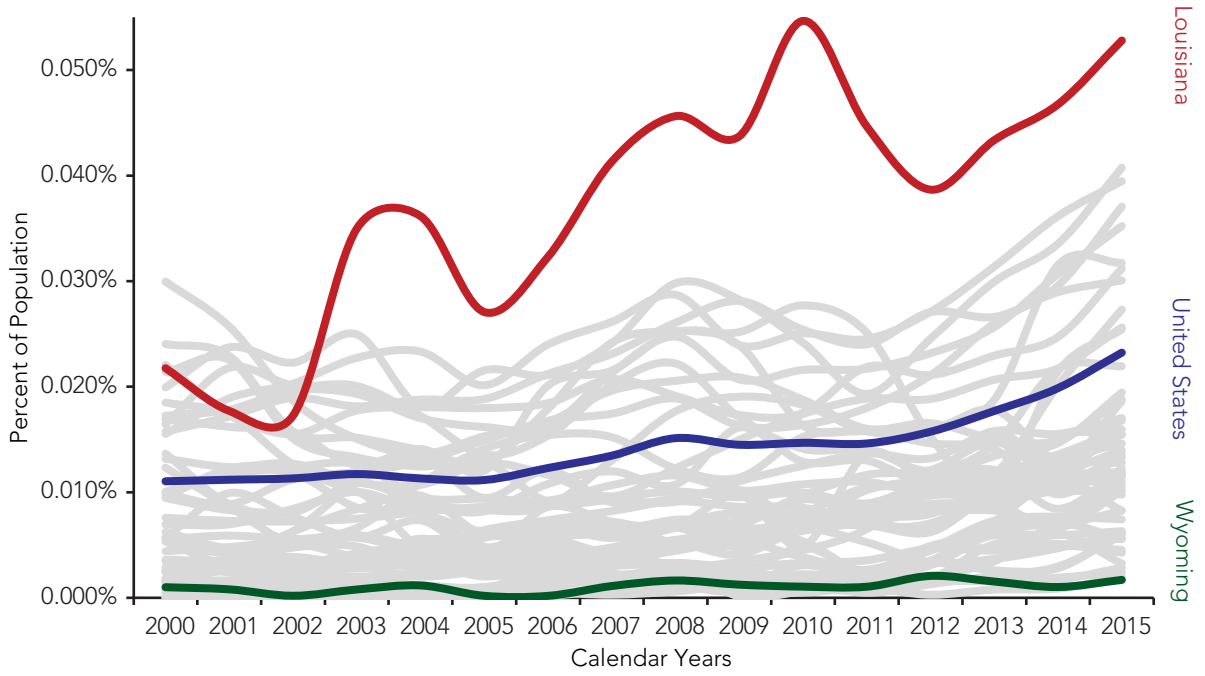


Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 69**, the **syphilis rate** (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 110 percent to 0.0232 percent in 2015 from 0.011 percent in 2000. In 2015, Louisiana had the highest syphilis rate at 0.0528 percent, while Wyoming had the lowest rate at 0.0017 percent—a difference of 2,993 percent.

CHART 69

Syphillis
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015

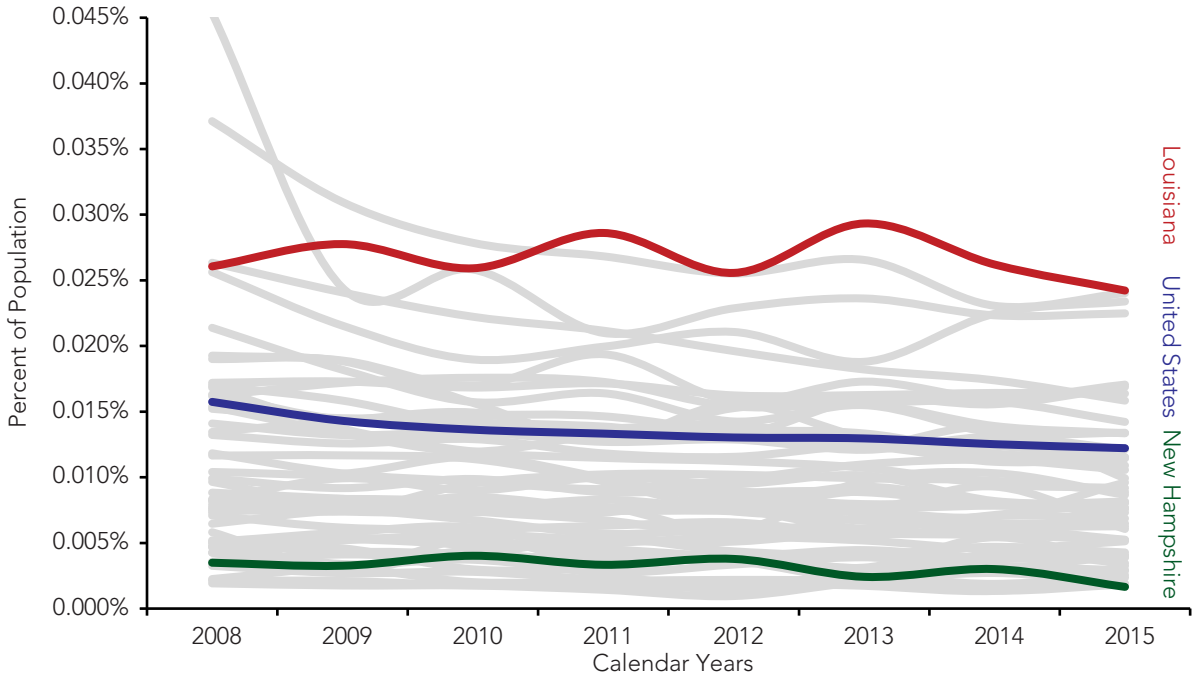


Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 70**, the **HIV diagnoses rate** (as a percent of the population) decreased nationally by 22 percent to 0.0122 percent in 2015 from 0.0157 percent in 2008. In 2015, Louisiana had the highest HIV diagnoses rate at 0.0242 percent, while New Hampshire had the lowest rate at 0.0017 percent—a difference of 1,365 percent.

CHART 70

HIV Diagnoses
Calendar Years 2008 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *sexually transmitted diseases* sub-index, New Hampshire had the best score (7.28) followed by Vermont (6.82), Maine (6.74), Wyoming (6.63), and West Virginia (6.48). Louisiana had the lowest score (1.45), followed by Georgia (2.67), North Carolina (3.03), Mississippi (3.39), and Florida (3.39).

Note: The gonorrhea rate, chlamydia rate, syphilis rate, and HIV diagnoses rate were all weighted equally in the sexually transmitted diseases sub-index.

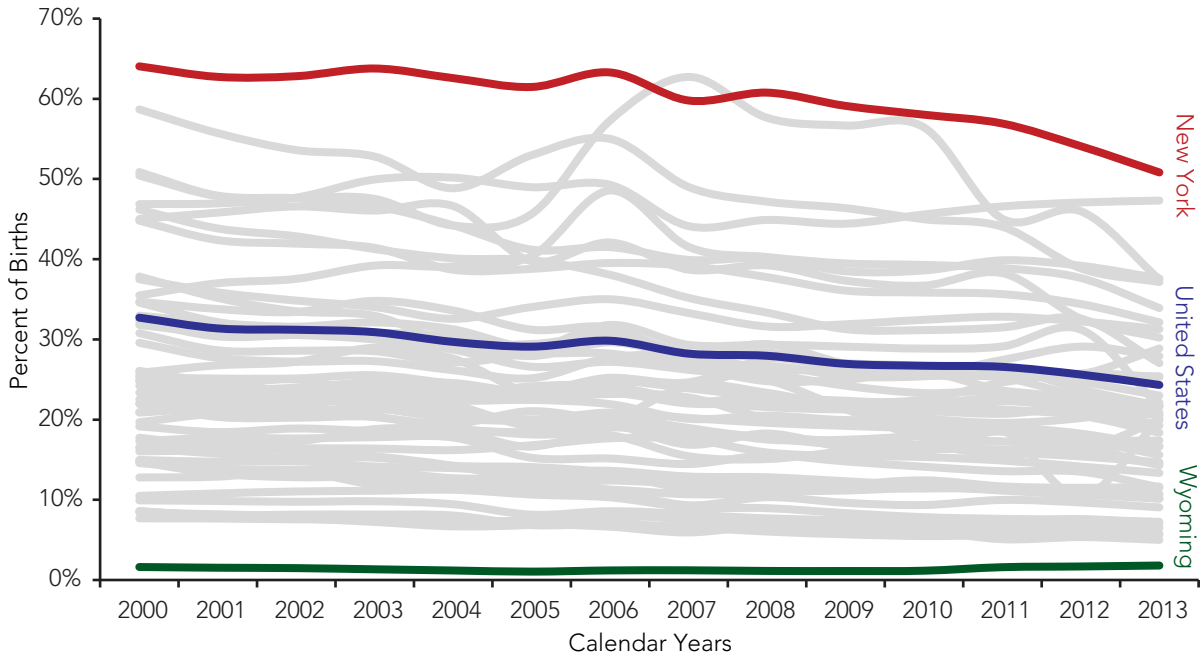
Infant Survival

Charts 71 and 72 show the variance in **infant survival**—including abortion and infant mortality—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2013 for abortions, and 2000 to 2014 for infant mortality.[148-149]

As shown in **Chart 71**, the **abortion rate** (as a percent of births) decreased nationally by 26 percent to 24.3 percent in 2013 from 32.7 percent in 2000. In 2013, New York had the highest abortion rate at 50.8 percent, while Wyoming had the lowest rate at 1.8 percent—a difference of 2,701 percent.

CHART 71

Abortions
Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

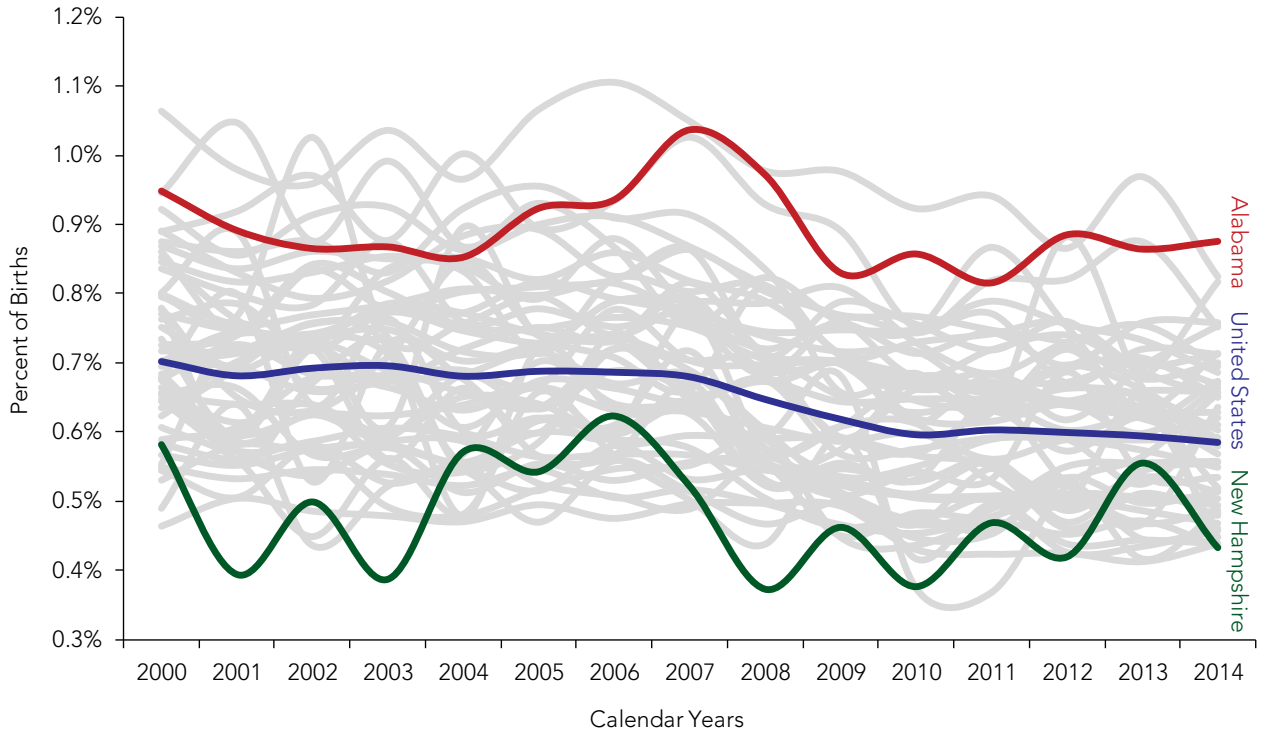
148 Abortion data from Guttmacher Institute (http://www.guttmacher.org/datacenter/trend.jsp) and U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Abortion Surveillance (http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6410a1.htm?s_cid=ss6410a1_e).

149 Infant mortality data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. The data was extracted from the Kids Count Data Center published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6051-infant-mortality?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36,868,867,133,38/any/12718,12719

As shown in **Chart 72**, the **infant mortality rate** (as a percent of births) decreased nationally by 17 percent to 0.59 percent in 2014 from 0.7 percent in 2000. In 2014, Alabama had the highest infant mortality rate at 0.88 percent, while New Hampshire had the lowest rate at 0.43 percent—a difference of 106 percent.

CHART 72

Infant Mortality
Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *infant survival* sub-index, South Dakota had the top score (7.00) followed by Utah (6.79), Missouri (6.51), Kentucky (6.42), and Idaho (6.33). Maryland had the lowest score (1.51), followed by New York (1.72), Florida (2.83), Delaware (3.35), and New Jersey (3.44).

Note: The abortion rate was weighted 90 percent and the infant mortality rate was weighted 10 percent in the infant survival sub-index.

The time-series abortion data from the Guttmacher Institute was provided sporadically from 2000 to 2011. Missing years (2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2009) were linearly interpolated.

The time-series was extended to 2012 by using new CDC data. Growth rates between the 2011 and 2013 CDC data were applied to the Guttmacher Institute data. However, four states do not report abortion data to the CDC—California, Maryland, New Hampshire, and Wyoming—so their 2012 and 2013 data is based on a 5-year linear extrapolation.

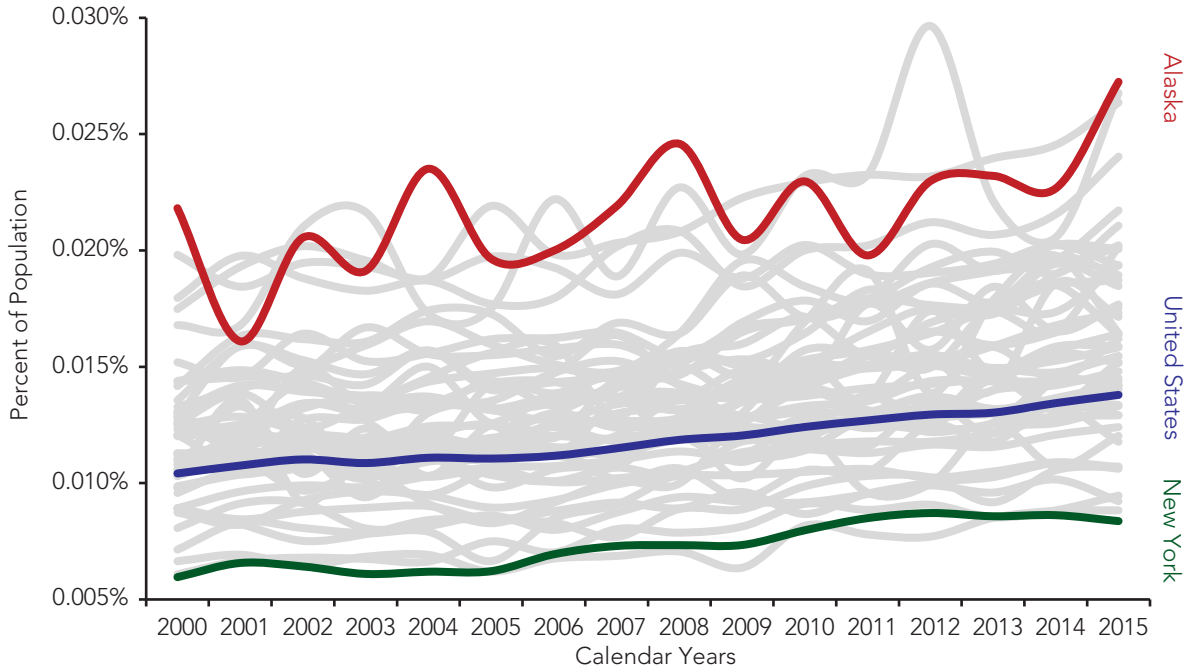
Self-Mortality

Charts 73 and 74 show the **variance in self-mortality**—including suicide and drug-induced deaths—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2015.[150]

As shown in **Chart 73**, the **suicide rate** (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 32 percent to 0.0138 percent in 2015 from 0.0104 percent in 2000. In 2015, Alaska had the highest suicide rate at 0.0272 percent, while New York had the lowest rate at 0.0083 percent—a difference of 226 percent.

CHART 73

Suicides
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



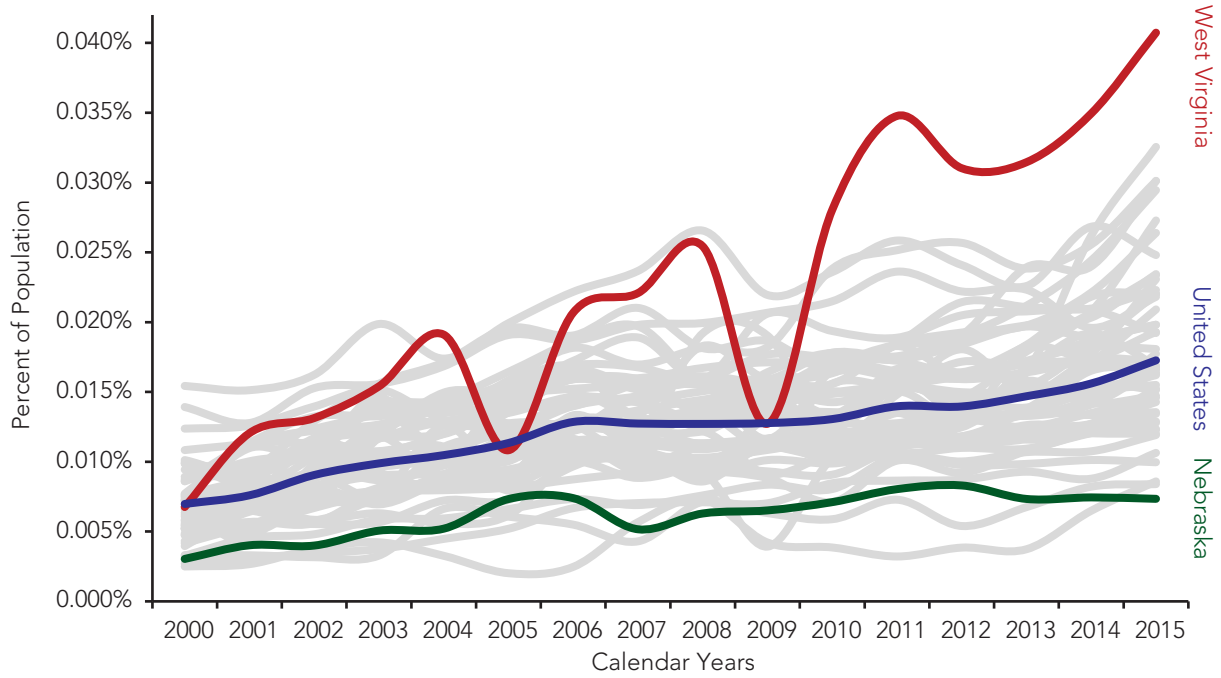
Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

150 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2014 on CDC Wonder Online Database. http://wonder.cdc.gov/

As shown in **Chart 74**, the **drug-induced death rate** (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 148 percent to 0.0173 percent in 2015 from 0.007 percent in 2000. In 2015, West Virginia had the highest drug-induced death rate at 0.0407 percent, while Nebraska had the lowest rate at 0.0073 percent—a difference of 455 percent.

CHART 74

Drug Overdose
Calendar Years 2000 to 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the *self-mortality* sub-index, Nebraska had the best score (6.92), followed by New York (6.85), California (6.73), Texas (6.60), and New Jersey (6.34). West Virginia had the lowest score (2.60), followed by Alaska (2.65), New Mexico (2.98), Wyoming (3.15), and New Hampshire (3.16).

Note: The suicide rate and drug overdose rate were weighted equally in the self-mortality sub-index.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Wendy P. Warcholik, Ph.D.

Director, Family Prosperity Initiative

Senior Research Fellow, American Conservative Union Foundation

As a public choice economist trained in applied microeconomics and econometrics, Wendy Warcholik has spent her career applying economic tools to the problems of state government. Wendy is currently a Senior Fellow at the American Conservative Union Foundation, Illinois Policy Institute, and the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs. Her professional experience includes positions as Economist at the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis, Chief Forecasting Economist for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Medical Assistance Services, and Adjunct Scholar with the Tax Foundation. She has worked as a consultant to free-market think tanks across the country for the past ten years.

Warcholik is the co-creator of the Tax Foundation's popular State Business Tax Climate Index, now in its fifteenth year of publication.

She received her Ph.D. in Economics from George Mason University. While pursuing her Ph.D., she was a Bradley Research Fellow with Nobel Laureate James Buchanan's Center for the Study of Public Choice. Additionally, Warcholik has taught numerous economics courses to MBA students.

J. Scott Moody, M.A.

Director, Family Prosperity Initiative

Senior Research Fellow, American Conservative Union Foundation

J. Scott Moody has worked as a public policy economist for over 18 years. He is the author, co-author and editor of 180 studies and book and has testified before the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives as well as various state legislatures. His work has appeared in various publications, including Forbes, CNN Money, and State Tax Notes.

Scott is the former CEO and Chief Economist of State Policy Network-affiliated think tank The Maine Heritage Policy Center. He currently serves as a Senior Fellow at the American Conservative Union Foundation, Illinois Policy Institute, and the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs. His professional experience includes positions as Senior Economist at the Tax Foundation and Senior Economist at The Heritage Foundation. Additionally, he was appointed to Maine's Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission by Governor Paul LePage (R) in January 2011 and served for 4 years.

Moody is the co-creator of the Tax Foundation's popular State Business Tax Climate Index, now in its fifteenth year of publication.

He received his Master of Arts in Economics from George Mason University.

TABLE 8 | 2016 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY CULTURE	RANK	FAMILY HEALTH	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	3.23	47	4.42	34	4.53	37	4.77	27	4.37	36	4.15	47	4.25	45
Alaska	4.29	37	6.90	5	2.62	50	5.45	16	3.59	47	4.35	42	4.53	36
Arizona	4.26	39	5.73	15	4.39	40	3.55	49	3.93	44	4.96	25	4.47	40
Arkansas	4.28	38	5.18	21	4.07	43	5.35	18	3.99	43	4.40	41	4.55	35
California	5.66	15	5.42	18	5.29	19	4.94	24	4.75	28	5.65	11	5.28	15
Colorado	6.64	5	6.06	9	5.66	12	5.56	15	6.10	5	5.13	20	5.86	9
Connecticut	5.40	19	2.84	46	5.37	17	4.38	38	5.93	10	5.63	12	4.93	24
Delaware	4.98	24	4.14	38	3.51	49	4.43	37	4.33	38	4.30	43	4.28	44
Florida	5.48	17	3.96	41	5.16	26	3.73	46	3.83	45	4.73	32	4.48	39
Georgia	4.42	34	6.01	12	5.21	23	4.62	32	4.20	41	4.57	35	4.84	26
Hawaii	4.14	41	4.56	32	4.21	42	5.70	12	4.68	30	5.81	6	4.85	25
Idaho	5.86	9	7.12	4	5.48	14	6.92	3	5.92	11	5.91	5	6.20	3
Illinois	5.13	22	4.31	37	5.16	25	4.58	35	5.53	19	5.16	19	4.98	22
Indiana	4.67	29	5.26	20	4.94	30	3.80	44	4.59	32	4.90	27	4.70	29
Iowa	4.97	25	5.35	19	5.45	15	7.09	2	6.01	7	6.01	4	5.81	10
Kansas	5.76	12	5.80	14	5.84	5	5.85	8	5.28	23	5.75	8	5.71	11
Kentucky	3.80	44	4.92	26	3.91	44	4.75	28	5.61	16	4.48	36	4.58	33
Louisiana	4.57	30	5.81	13	3.91	45	3.73	47	3.30	48	3.54	50	4.14	46
Maine	3.66	46	2.17	50	4.87	32	5.29	19	5.25	24	5.40	16	4.44	42
Maryland	5.09	23	4.64	31	5.39	16	5.59	13	5.29	22	4.46	39	5.08	19
Massachusetts	5.69	14	3.21	44	5.82	6	4.72	29	5.98	9	5.53	14	5.16	18
Michigan	4.12	42	4.07	39	4.83	34	4.35	39	5.04	26	4.65	33	4.51	38
Minnesota	5.81	11	5.50	17	5.37	18	5.86	7	6.43	3	6.25	2	5.87	8
Mississippi	2.32	50	4.88	27	3.74	47	3.94	43	4.44	35	4.19	46	3.92	48
Missouri	4.56	31	4.72	29	4.86	33	4.92	25	4.49	34	4.89	28	4.74	28
Montana	5.72	13	5.09	24	5.73	9	5.81	9	4.28	40	5.00	24	5.27	16
Nebraska	6.34	6	6.66	7	5.80	7	5.88	6	6.03	6	6.02	3	6.12	4
Nevada	4.93	26	6.02	11	5.21	22	3.75	45	2.95	49	4.27	44	4.52	37
New Hampshire	5.84	10	2.49	48	6.36	2	5.43	17	5.68	14	4.46	38	5.04	21
New Jersey	5.44	18	3.99	40	5.66	11	4.84	26	6.41	4	5.73	9	5.35	14
New Mexico	2.85	48	4.32	36	3.77	46	4.59	34	2.84	50	4.10	48	3.75	49
New York	5.21	21	3.83	42	4.61	35	4.25	40	5.75	12	5.03	22	4.78	27
North Carolina	4.41	35	5.04	25	5.17	24	4.61	33	5.39	20	4.96	26	4.93	23
North Dakota	8.79	1	8.25	2	5.79	8	5.22	21	5.54	18	5.00	23	6.43	2
Ohio	4.73	28	4.46	33	4.42	39	3.64	48	4.78	27	4.44	40	4.41	43
Oklahoma	6.31	7	6.17	8	4.97	29	5.10	22	4.29	39	4.19	45	5.17	17
Oregon	4.22	40	4.69	30	4.58	36	4.67	30	4.36	37	4.88	29	4.57	34
Pennsylvania	4.76	27	3.36	43	4.87	31	4.50	36	5.55	17	4.77	30	4.64	32
Rhode Island	3.76	45	2.78	47	4.24	41	3.49	50	5.18	25	4.75	31	4.03	47
South Carolina	3.84	43	5.10	23	5.12	27	4.16	42	4.03	42	4.48	37	4.46	41
South Dakota	6.23	8	6.73	6	6.15	3	5.72	10	5.37	21	5.71	10	5.99	6
Tennessee	4.33	36	5.16	22	5.05	28	5.06	23	3.79	46	4.60	34	4.66	30
Texas	6.83	4	7.95	3	5.27	20	5.24	20	4.65	31	5.55	13	5.92	7
Utah	7.17	2	8.97	1	6.95	1	8.06	1	6.83	1	6.26	1	7.37	1
Vermont	4.51	33	2.20	49	4.46	38	5.70	11	5.72	13	5.36	17	4.66	31
Virginia	5.37	20	4.74	28	5.72	10	5.58	14	6.78	2	5.41	15	5.60	12
Washington	5.61	16	5.70	16	5.51	13	5.94	5	4.72	29	5.35	18	5.47	13
West Virginia	2.47	49	2.92	45	3.72	48	4.21	41	4.52	33	3.93	49	3.63	50
Wisconsin	4.56	32	4.38	35	5.22	21	4.63	31	5.68	15	5.81	7	5.05	20
Wyoming	6.97	3	6.04	10	6.05	4	6.05	4	5.98	8	5.12	21	6.03	5

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 9 | 2015 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY CULTURE	RANK	FAMILY HEALTH	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	3.78	44	4.33	36	4.34	42	5.10	22	4.51	33	4.05	48	4.35	44
Alaska	5.30	19	7.06	4	3.26	50	5.81	11	3.98	44	4.41	40	4.97	22
Arizona	4.55	32	5.57	15	4.53	38	3.74	46	3.44	48	4.94	28	4.46	39
Arkansas	3.48	47	5.04	24	4.32	43	5.36	19	3.72	45	4.43	39	4.39	42
California	5.46	15	5.48	17	5.33	19	4.31	38	4.19	41	5.69	8	5.08	18
Colorado	6.01	8	5.74	12	5.63	11	5.44	17	6.21	6	5.55	11	5.76	9
Connecticut	5.22	21	2.94	46	5.53	13	4.77	29	5.88	11	5.40	17	4.96	23
Delaware	4.76	28	4.12	40	3.50	47	4.23	40	3.63	46	4.39	42	4.10	46
Florida	5.56	13	3.60	42	5.12	23	3.83	45	4.41	37	4.83	31	4.56	36
Georgia	4.74	30	5.76	11	5.13	22	4.57	34	4.45	36	4.93	29	4.93	25
Hawaii	4.00	41	5.22	21	4.48	40	6.17	4	4.91	28	5.91	4	5.11	17
Idaho	5.36	16	6.95	5	5.09	24	6.73	2	6.64	3	5.80	5	6.10	5
Illinois	4.70	31	4.53	34	4.99	26	5.02	25	5.35	21	5.28	18	4.98	21
Indiana	4.83	27	5.33	20	4.92	29	4.03	44	4.50	34	4.74	32	4.72	30
Iowa	5.34	17	5.35	19	5.40	16	6.51	3	6.13	8	5.69	7	5.74	11
Kansas	6.09	7	5.87	9	5.95	5	5.85	9	5.40	19	5.77	6	5.82	7
Kentucky	3.54	46	5.06	23	4.48	39	4.98	27	5.54	17	4.53	36	4.69	32
Louisiana	4.47	35	5.76	10	3.35	48	3.42	49	3.44	47	3.57	50	4.00	47
Maine	3.81	43	2.42	50	4.92	28	5.11	21	5.00	26	5.11	22	4.40	41
Maryland	5.04	24	4.73	30	5.52	15	4.62	33	4.74	31	4.84	30	4.92	26
Massachusetts	5.58	12	3.46	44	5.80	8	4.26	39	5.54	16	5.57	9	5.04	20
Michigan	4.34	38	4.26	39	4.79	31	4.11	42	5.12	24	4.59	35	4.53	37
Minnesota	5.60	11	5.59	14	5.37	17	5.49	16	6.39	4	6.07	3	5.75	10
Mississippi	2.66	50	4.92	25	3.27	49	3.17	50	4.86	29	4.35	44	3.87	50
Missouri	4.92	25	4.86	28	4.72	35	5.05	23	4.57	32	5.06	24	4.86	27
Montana	5.50	14	5.07	22	5.62	12	5.53	14	5.04	25	4.70	33	5.24	15
Nebraska	6.23	6	6.45	7	5.98	4	5.88	8	5.96	10	6.18	2	6.11	3
Nevada	4.76	29	5.54	16	5.33	18	3.55	47	2.78	49	4.39	41	4.39	43
New Hampshire	5.82	10	2.85	48	6.19	2	5.91	6	5.36	20	5.41	16	5.26	14
New Jersey	5.20	22	4.29	37	5.81	7	4.66	31	6.20	7	5.18	19	5.22	16
New Mexico	3.20	48	4.65	32	4.31	45	4.72	30	2.35	50	4.38	43	3.94	48
New York	5.05	23	4.09	41	4.59	37	4.49	37	5.50	18	4.95	27	4.78	29
North Carolina	3.95	42	4.82	29	5.18	21	4.54	36	5.14	22	5.07	23	4.78	28
North Dakota	9.01	1	7.77	2	5.93	6	5.92	5	6.13	9	4.96	26	6.62	2
Ohio	4.47	34	4.60	33	4.60	36	4.03	43	4.78	30	4.31	45	4.47	38
Oklahoma	5.96	9	6.08	8	4.44	41	4.92	28	4.08	43	4.15	47	4.94	24
Oregon	4.47	33	4.28	38	4.76	32	5.04	24	4.27	40	5.13	21	4.66	34
Pennsylvania	4.37	37	3.53	43	4.90	30	4.57	35	5.59	14	4.63	34	4.60	35
Rhode Island	4.27	39	2.92	47	4.76	33	3.46	48	5.13	23	4.30	46	4.14	45
South Carolina	3.76	45	4.70	31	5.03	25	4.64	32	4.12	42	4.53	37	4.46	40
South Dakota	6.74	4	6.94	6	6.00	3	5.83	10	5.56	15	5.54	12	6.10	4
Tennessee	4.20	40	4.87	26	4.74	34	5.40	18	4.34	38	4.44	38	4.67	33
Texas	6.64	5	7.58	3	4.93	27	5.57	13	4.29	39	5.56	10	5.76	8
Utah	7.02	3	8.78	1	6.54	1	8.04	1	6.92	1	6.25	1	7.26	1
Vermont	4.90	26	2.48	49	4.32	44	5.81	12	5.69	13	5.06	25	4.71	31
Virginia	5.28	20	4.86	27	5.52	14	5.51	15	6.69	2	5.53	13	5.56	12
Washington	5.33	18	5.39	18	5.75	9	5.26	20	4.47	35	5.47	14	5.28	13
West Virginia	3.09	49	3.34	45	4.04	46	4.17	41	4.99	27	3.81	49	3.91	49
Wisconsin	4.43	36	4.52	35	5.21	20	5.02	26	5.78	12	5.44	15	5.07	19
Wyoming	7.21	2	5.67	13	5.74	10	5.88	7	6.27	5	5.15	20	5.99	6

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 10 | 2014 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY CULTURE	RANK	FAMILY HEALTH	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	3.75	45	4.28	37	4.50	39	5.17	19	4.43	35	4.05	47	4.36	43
Alaska	5.27	22	7.01	5	2.80	50	4.90	28	4.41	37	4.51	40	4.82	27
Arizona	4.85	28	5.60	13	4.44	43	3.98	45	4.02	42	5.17	20	4.67	32
Arkansas	4.62	31	4.98	26	4.54	38	5.48	12	3.73	47	4.63	32	4.66	34
California	5.32	21	5.52	15	5.16	20	4.23	44	4.68	29	5.56	10	5.08	17
Colorado	5.86	10	6.24	9	5.69	11	5.37	16	6.40	5	5.11	22	5.78	8
Connecticut	5.58	14	2.80	46	5.18	18	5.01	23	5.62	11	5.41	13	4.93	23
Delaware	4.49	34	4.45	34	3.82	47	4.28	43	3.64	49	3.65	50	4.06	48
Florida	5.38	17	3.81	42	4.91	28	3.60	48	3.97	43	4.53	39	4.36	42
Georgia	4.85	27	5.52	16	5.12	22	4.40	41	4.55	32	5.04	24	4.91	25
Hawaii	3.94	43	5.35	19	4.48	42	5.44	14	4.98	24	5.71	9	4.98	22
Idaho	4.59	32	6.94	6	5.00	25	6.50	2	6.95	2	5.86	5	5.97	5
Illinois	5.34	20	4.38	35	5.13	21	5.08	21	5.20	20	5.00	25	5.02	20
Indiana	4.43	35	5.35	20	4.90	30	4.43	39	4.40	38	4.80	29	4.72	30
Iowa	5.44	15	5.24	21	5.43	16	6.44	3	6.33	7	5.83	7	5.79	7
Kansas	5.78	11	5.88	11	5.77	8	5.23	18	5.28	19	5.49	12	5.57	12
Kentucky	3.72	46	5.03	25	4.48	40	4.98	25	5.42	16	4.42	42	4.67	33
Louisiana	5.08	23	5.60	14	3.65	48	3.94	47	3.73	46	4.03	48	4.34	45
Maine	3.81	44	2.44	50	4.97	27	5.05	22	4.91	26	5.33	16	4.42	40
Maryland	5.44	16	4.71	30	5.67	12	4.87	31	4.85	27	4.62	34	5.03	19
Massachusetts	6.04	8	3.58	43	5.48	14	4.87	30	5.32	18	5.40	15	5.11	16
Michigan	4.21	40	4.05	39	4.76	35	4.40	40	4.44	34	4.54	38	4.40	41
Minnesota	6.05	7	5.49	17	5.54	13	5.53	11	6.39	6	6.23	2	5.87	6
Mississippi	3.34	48	4.91	28	3.65	49	2.47	50	4.93	25	4.14	46	3.91	49
Missouri	4.93	26	4.65	31	4.77	34	4.90	29	4.31	40	5.15	21	4.78	28
Montana	4.80	29	5.17	22	5.69	10	6.03	6	5.35	17	4.92	27	5.33	13
Nebraska	6.39	4	6.32	8	6.07	3	5.75	8	6.15	8	6.14	3	6.14	3
Nevada	4.21	39	5.66	12	5.23	17	3.02	49	3.42	50	4.62	33	4.36	44
New Hampshire	5.69	12	2.66	47	6.08	2	5.48	13	5.00	23	5.29	18	5.03	18
New Jersey	5.38	18	4.05	40	5.82	5	4.92	27	6.12	9	5.05	23	5.22	14
New Mexico	3.25	49	4.65	32	4.14	46	5.25	17	3.69	48	4.55	37	4.26	46
New York	5.35	19	4.02	41	4.31	44	4.68	36	5.54	13	4.69	30	4.77	29
North Carolina	4.12	41	5.07	23	5.17	19	4.84	33	5.13	21	4.59	36	4.82	26
North Dakota	8.47	1	7.39	3	5.81	6	6.21	4	6.42	4	6.00	4	6.72	2
Ohio	4.72	30	4.38	36	4.61	37	4.29	42	4.43	36	4.49	41	4.48	38
Oklahoma	5.66	13	6.34	7	4.69	36	4.51	38	4.03	41	4.27	45	4.92	24
Oregon	4.02	42	4.19	38	4.90	29	4.80	34	4.66	30	4.87	28	4.57	37
Pennsylvania	4.95	25	3.35	44	4.81	32	4.84	32	5.44	15	4.42	43	4.64	35
Rhode Island	4.29	38	2.53	48	4.81	33	3.96	46	4.84	28	4.64	31	4.18	47
South Carolina	3.54	47	4.93	27	5.01	24	4.63	37	3.86	44	4.60	35	4.43	39
South Dakota	6.41	3	7.30	4	5.93	4	5.87	7	5.60	12	5.71	8	6.14	4
Tennessee	4.59	33	4.90	29	5.00	26	5.54	10	3.77	45	4.31	44	4.69	31
Texas	6.71	2	7.62	2	5.08	23	5.41	15	4.46	33	5.29	17	5.76	10
Utah	6.19	6	8.94	1	6.45	1	7.81	1	7.01	1	6.62	1	7.17	1
Vermont	4.43	36	2.45	49	4.48	41	6.13	5	5.03	22	4.99	26	4.58	36
Virginia	5.88	9	5.04	24	5.74	9	5.64	9	6.71	3	5.40	14	5.74	11
Washington	5.05	24	5.39	18	5.45	15	5.15	20	4.64	31	5.24	19	5.15	15
West Virginia	3.07	50	3.21	45	4.23	45	4.71	35	4.39	39	3.78	49	3.90	50
Wisconsin	4.40	37	4.48	33	4.88	31	5.00	24	5.53	14	5.85	6	5.02	21
Wyoming	6.31	5	6.18	10	5.80	7	4.95	26	5.90	10	5.50	11	5.77	9

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 11 | 2013 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY CULTURE	RANK	FAMILY HEALTH	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	3.45	48	4.43	35	4.43	42	4.87	29	4.21	40	4.11	46	4.25	43
Alaska	5.51	16	7.65	3	3.04	50	5.07	23	3.75	43	4.76	32	4.96	23
Arizona	4.69	31	5.58	14	4.14	45	3.93	45	3.96	41	5.32	19	4.60	35
Arkansas	4.36	38	5.07	24	4.47	41	4.75	32	3.67	45	4.29	44	4.43	38
California	4.84	28	5.52	16	5.25	19	4.29	39	4.77	31	5.75	8	5.07	21
Colorado	6.07	5	6.13	10	5.60	12	5.94	8	6.50	5	5.09	22	5.89	6
Connecticut	5.78	10	3.03	46	5.61	11	5.44	13	5.87	11	5.51	11	5.21	18
Delaware	5.07	23	4.70	32	4.12	46	4.27	40	3.25	48	4.04	47	4.24	45
Florida	5.33	19	3.84	42	4.66	36	3.48	49	3.59	46	4.56	36	4.24	44
Georgia	4.85	27	5.94	12	4.98	26	4.89	28	4.22	38	4.81	28	4.95	24
Hawaii	3.79	46	5.12	21	4.25	44	5.39	15	4.97	26	5.56	10	4.85	26
Idaho	4.48	36	6.44	7	5.10	23	6.36	4	6.86	2	5.91	5	5.86	7
Illinois	5.21	21	4.34	37	5.40	17	4.95	25	5.12	19	5.11	20	5.02	22
Indiana	4.24	42	5.10	22	5.07	24	3.87	46	4.65	34	4.98	24	4.65	32
Iowa	5.31	20	4.86	31	5.38	18	6.73	2	6.22	8	5.77	7	5.71	10
Kansas	5.42	18	6.00	11	5.70	8	5.41	14	5.24	18	5.47	12	5.54	12
Kentucky	3.88	45	4.87	30	4.61	37	4.75	33	4.94	27	4.32	42	4.56	36
Louisiana	4.91	26	5.60	13	3.64	49	4.09	43	3.08	50	3.79	49	4.19	47
Maine	4.25	41	2.41	49	4.76	32	4.83	30	4.74	32	4.93	25	4.32	42
Maryland	5.47	17	4.92	28	5.56	15	4.97	24	4.93	29	5.10	21	5.16	19
Massachusetts	6.07	6	3.59	43	5.56	14	5.38	16	5.37	15	5.46	13	5.24	17
Michigan	4.08	43	3.93	40	4.73	34	4.25	41	4.60	35	4.47	40	4.34	41
Minnesota	6.01	8	5.23	18	5.58	13	5.63	12	6.69	4	6.23	3	5.90	5
Mississippi	3.18	50	4.97	27	3.70	48	2.38	50	5.03	21	4.16	45	3.90	50
Missouri	4.93	25	4.54	33	4.84	28	4.90	27	4.67	33	4.83	27	4.78	29
Montana	4.55	33	4.90	29	5.71	7	5.90	9	5.81	13	4.80	29	5.28	14
Nebraska	6.15	4	6.24	8	6.10	3	5.98	7	6.14	9	6.47	2	6.18	4
Nevada	4.47	37	5.52	15	5.10	22	3.66	48	3.85	42	4.60	35	4.53	37
New Hampshire	6.04	7	2.94	47	6.19	2	6.33	5	5.02	23	5.01	23	5.26	15
New Jersey	5.60	14	4.08	39	5.71	6	5.30	18	5.84	12	5.45	14	5.33	13
New Mexico	3.38	49	5.08	23	4.05	47	4.49	37	3.15	49	4.52	38	4.11	48
New York	5.71	13	3.88	41	4.58	38	4.58	36	5.26	17	4.78	31	4.80	27
North Carolina	4.26	40	5.04	25	5.18	20	4.44	38	5.06	20	4.73	33	4.79	28
North Dakota	7.15	1	6.84	5	5.72	5	6.08	6	6.49	6	5.95	4	6.37	2
Ohio	4.50	35	4.09	38	4.52	40	4.13	42	4.34	37	4.53	37	4.35	40
Oklahoma	5.57	15	6.14	9	4.66	35	4.91	26	4.22	39	3.98	48	4.91	25
Oregon	4.28	39	4.37	36	4.80	29	4.72	34	4.98	25	4.90	26	4.67	31
Pennsylvania	5.02	24	3.52	44	4.76	33	4.82	31	5.26	16	4.39	41	4.63	34
Rhode Island	4.53	34	2.49	48	4.79	30	3.74	47	5.01	24	4.79	30	4.22	46
South Carolina	4.03	44	4.98	26	4.92	27	4.59	35	3.55	47	4.49	39	4.43	39
South Dakota	6.68	2	7.03	4	5.88	4	5.70	11	6.43	7	5.65	9	6.23	3
Tennessee	4.56	32	5.15	20	5.12	21	5.32	17	3.74	44	4.31	43	4.70	30
Texas	6.65	3	7.76	2	4.76	31	5.22	19	4.35	36	5.42	16	5.69	11
Utah	6.00	9	8.50	1	6.57	1	7.72	1	7.37	1	6.73	1	7.15	1
Vermont	4.81	29	2.35	50	4.53	39	6.42	3	5.03	22	4.63	34	4.63	33
Virginia	5.73	12	5.16	19	5.62	10	5.72	10	6.73	3	5.36	18	5.72	9
Washington	5.11	22	5.46	17	5.51	16	5.16	21	4.89	30	5.36	17	5.25	16
West Virginia	3.52	47	3.44	45	4.36	43	3.96	44	4.94	28	3.64	50	3.98	49
Wisconsin	4.78	30	4.50	34	5.05	25	5.09	22	5.64	14	5.78	6	5.14	20
Wyoming	5.75	11	6.72	6	5.64	9	5.22	20	5.97	10	5.42	15	5.79	8

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 12 | 2012 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY CULTURE	RANK	FAMILY HEALTH	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	3.89	45	4.50	36	4.45	44	4.58	35	4.81	29	4.08	46	4.38	40
Alaska	6.35	4	7.86	2	3.15	50	5.48	12	3.61	46	4.43	37	5.15	15
Arizona	4.51	34	5.37	17	3.98	47	4.22	44	4.23	39	5.17	21	4.58	35
Arkansas	4.58	32	5.27	19	4.39	45	4.77	31	3.97	42	4.18	43	4.53	37
California	5.00	25	5.63	15	4.95	25	4.31	42	4.83	28	5.56	12	5.05	22
Colorado	6.05	6	6.23	6	5.64	10	5.46	14	6.40	4	5.29	18	5.84	7
Connecticut	5.67	12	3.23	46	5.38	17	4.91	26	5.91	12	5.60	11	5.12	16
Delaware	5.50	17	4.62	32	4.49	43	4.64	34	3.05	50	3.52	50	4.30	44
Florida	5.14	22	3.68	41	4.62	37	3.92	47	3.72	45	4.35	39	4.24	45
Georgia	5.14	23	5.93	11	5.01	22	4.48	38	4.41	36	4.69	33	4.94	25
Hawaii	4.13	42	5.31	18	4.55	41	5.79	8	5.10	22	5.17	22	5.01	23
Idaho	4.46	35	6.75	4	5.16	20	6.82	2	6.39	5	6.08	4	5.94	5
Illinois	5.06	24	4.54	35	4.87	28	5.24	18	5.08	23	5.23	20	5.00	24
Indiana	4.24	39	5.19	23	5.01	23	4.82	29	4.53	34	5.01	27	4.80	29
Iowa	5.39	19	5.04	26	5.40	16	6.34	4	6.26	7	5.83	5	5.71	10
Kansas	5.37	20	6.07	9	6.01	2	5.29	16	5.39	19	5.30	17	5.57	12
Kentucky	3.75	46	5.09	24	4.52	42	4.76	32	5.17	21	4.16	45	4.57	36
Louisiana	5.49	18	5.91	12	3.58	49	3.94	46	3.21	48	3.69	49	4.30	43
Maine	4.00	44	2.38	50	4.89	26	5.09	22	4.98	24	5.40	16	4.46	38
Maryland	5.52	15	5.03	27	5.58	11	4.94	25	4.28	38	5.08	24	5.07	20
Massachusetts	5.85	9	3.59	42	5.47	15	5.02	24	4.97	25	5.55	13	5.08	19
Michigan	3.70	47	3.58	43	4.70	34	4.11	45	4.71	31	4.34	40	4.19	47
Minnesota	5.61	13	5.22	21	5.66	9	5.48	13	6.43	3	6.26	3	5.78	8
Mississippi	4.16	40	5.07	25	3.77	48	2.83	49	4.80	30	4.24	42	4.14	48
Missouri	4.74	30	4.55	33	4.85	30	5.04	23	4.57	32	4.89	30	4.78	31
Montana	4.24	38	4.91	28	5.48	14	5.40	15	5.48	16	5.02	26	5.09	18
Nebraska	6.21	5	6.13	8	5.94	3	5.69	9	6.22	9	6.46	2	6.11	4
Nevada	4.62	31	4.79	30	5.22	19	3.63	48	3.59	47	4.32	41	4.36	42
New Hampshire	5.54	14	2.81	47	5.88	4	5.63	11	5.55	14	5.24	19	5.11	17
New Jersey	5.76	11	4.16	38	5.85	5	5.22	20	5.97	11	5.64	8	5.43	13
New Mexico	3.65	49	5.72	14	4.11	46	2.77	50	3.08	49	4.60	35	3.99	50
New York	5.50	16	4.06	39	4.63	36	4.56	36	5.45	18	4.79	32	4.83	27
North Carolina	4.30	37	5.24	20	5.22	18	4.66	33	5.22	20	4.95	29	4.93	26
North Dakota	6.90	1	6.20	7	5.58	12	5.94	6	7.25	1	5.66	7	6.25	2
Ohio	4.46	36	4.06	40	4.57	40	4.30	43	4.56	33	4.52	36	4.41	39
Oklahoma	5.21	21	6.07	10	4.61	38	4.81	30	4.04	41	4.03	48	4.79	30
Oregon	3.67	48	4.39	37	5.05	21	4.87	28	4.85	27	5.06	25	4.65	34
Pennsylvania	4.82	27	3.57	44	4.87	29	4.51	37	5.48	17	4.82	31	4.68	32
Rhode Island	4.13	41	2.40	49	4.73	32	4.44	39	4.88	26	4.67	34	4.21	46
South Carolina	4.01	43	4.78	31	4.84	31	4.39	41	3.78	44	4.40	38	4.37	41
South Dakota	6.88	2	6.63	5	5.77	6	5.91	7	6.26	8	5.63	9	6.18	3
Tennessee	4.80	28	4.81	29	4.97	24	5.22	21	4.05	40	4.16	44	4.67	33
Texas	6.62	3	7.84	3	4.72	33	5.22	19	3.97	43	5.40	15	5.63	11
Utah	5.78	10	8.56	1	6.77	1	7.76	1	6.88	2	6.58	1	7.06	1
Vermont	4.96	26	2.66	48	4.59	39	6.09	5	5.50	15	5.12	23	4.82	28
Virginia	5.86	8	5.21	22	5.67	8	5.66	10	6.33	6	5.67	6	5.74	9
Washington	4.79	29	5.62	16	5.57	13	5.27	17	4.42	35	5.47	14	5.19	14
West Virginia	3.53	50	3.35	45	4.68	35	4.41	40	4.35	37	4.06	47	4.07	49
Wisconsin	4.56	33	4.54	34	4.87	27	4.88	27	5.81	13	5.63	10	5.05	21
Wyoming	5.91	7	5.87	13	5.73	7	6.49	3	6.20	10	4.99	28	5.86	6

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 13 | FAMILY PROSPERITY TREE

MAJOR INDEX	VALUE	SUB-INDEX	VALUE	MEASURE	VALUE	CALCULATION I	VALUE	CALCULATION II	VALUE
Economics	17%	Private Sector	20%	Private Sector Share of Personal Income	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Household Income	20%	Real Per Household Personal Income	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Cost-of-Living	20%	Cost-of-Living	100%	Level	90%	1-Year Percent Change	10%
		Entrepreneur-ship	20%	Birth of New Establishments as Percent of Establishments	50%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Birth of New Jobs as a Percent of Jobs	50%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Unemploy-ment	20%	U1	10%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				U2	10%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				U3	50%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				U4	10%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				U5	10%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				U6	10%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
Demographics	17%	Under 18	20%	Under 18 as a Percent of Population	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Over 65	20%	Over 65 as a Percent of Population	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Net Natural Population Change	20%	Birth Rate as a Percent of Population	40%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Death Rate as a Percent of Population	40%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Net Birth Rate Minus Death Rate	20%	Level	100%		
		Migration	20%	People Net Migration as a Percent of Population	80%	Level	80%	5-Year Level Change	20%
				Income Net Migration as a Percent of Population	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Level Change	20%
		Fertility	20%	Fertility Rate of Women Between 15 and 44 Years Old	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
Family Self-Suffiency	17%	Prisoners	20%	State Prison Population as a Percent of Population	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Medicaid	20%	Per Capita Medicaid Spending	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Welfare	20%	EITC as a Percent of all Taxpayers	25%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				EITC Amount per EITC Recipient	25%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				SNAP Participants as a Percent of Population	25%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Per Capita SNAP Spending	25%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Government Burden	20%	State and Local Tax Burden as a Percent of Private Sector Personal Income	50%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				State and Local Expenditures as a Percent of Private Sector Personal Income	50%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Charity		Charitable Taxpayers as a Percent of Total Taxpayers	30%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Charitable Taxpayers as a Percent of Total Taxpayers Over $100,000	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Charitable Amount per Taxpayer with Charitable Giving	30%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Charitable Contributions Over $100,000 Amount	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%

continued

TABLE 13 | FAMILY PROSPERITY TREE (CONTINUED)

MAJOR INDEX	VALUE	SUB-INDEX	VALUE	MEASURE	VALUE	CALCULATION I	VALUE	CALCULATION II	VALUE
Family Structure	17%	Children in Married-Couple Households	20%	Percent of Households Married with Children	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Marriages	20%	Marriages as a Percent of Population	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Divorces	20%	Divorces as a Percent of Population	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		State of Households	20%	Married Filing Jointly as a Percent of Taxpayers	30%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Married Filing Jointly as a Percent of Taxpayers Over $100,000	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Exemptions Per Taxpayers	30%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Exemptions Per Taxpayer Earning Over $100,000	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Family Poverty	20%	Families with Related Children Below Poverty	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
Family Culture	17%	Births to Unwed Mothers	20%	Percent of Births to Unwed Mothers	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Violent Crime	20%	Violent Crime as a Percent of Population	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Property Crime	20%	Property Crime as a Percent of Population	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Religion	20%	Weekly or Nearly Weekly Church Attendance	100%	Level	80%	1-Year Percent Change	20%
		Education	20%	Associate's Degree as a Percent of Population Between 25 and 64	33%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Bachelor's Degree as a Percent of Population Between 25 and 64	33%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Graduate Degree as a Percent of Population Between 25 and 64	33%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
Family Health	17%	Years of Productive Life Lost	20%	Number of Years of Productive Life Lost	100%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Risk Behavior	20%	Alcohol Use as a Percent of Population	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Tobacco Use as a Percent of Population	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Obesity as a Percent of Population	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Marijuana Use as a Percent of Population	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Other Than Marijuana Use as a Percent of Population	20%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Sexually Transmitted Diseases	20%	Gonarrhea as a Percent of Population	25%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Chlamydia as a Percent of Population	25%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Syphillis as a Percent of Population	25%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				HIV Diagnoses as a Percent of Population	25%	Level	80%	1 Year Percent Change	20%
		Infant Survival	20%	Abortions as a Percent of Births	90%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Infant Mortality	10%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
		Self Mortality	20%	Suicides as a Percent of Population	50%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%
				Drug Induced Death as a Percent of Population	50%	Level	80%	5-Year Average Annual Percent	20%

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

2017

Family
PROSPERITY
INITIATIVE

Encouraging prosperity for American families through selflessness, perseverance and a positive attitude.

Tel 202.347.9388 | Fax 202.347.9389
familyprosperity.org FamProsperity

AMERICAN
CONSERVATIVE
UNION
FOUNDATION

1331 H St., NW, Washington, DC, 20005
conservative.org ACUConservative