

FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX



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FAMILY PROSPERITY

INDEX

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Family Prosperity Index (FPI) provides federal, state, and local policymakers—as well as civic leaders and community-minded citizens—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) 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 (weighted equally at 16.67%) with each having five sub-indexes (weighted equally at 20%)—economics, demographics, family self-sufficiency, family structure, family culture, and family health. Each sub-index consists of one or more variables out of the 57 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 measures of the 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. So small, in fact, that maintaining current population levels in some states, such as Maine and West Virginia, is already impossible without strong in-migration. This demographic bust is being called “Demographic Winter.” The measures of the 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 are the engine that powers the American economy; however, as with an engine, when families break down, there are very real economic costs involved. In particular, marriage is the institutional structure from which families are born. As such, this index measures the extent to which marriage influences prosperity. The measures of the family structure sub-indexes are:

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

The **Family Self-Sufficiency** major index measures the degrees of freedom a family possesses in their pursuit of 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 measures of the 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 educational attainment can lead one down the path to a successful and productive adulthood. The measures of the family culture sub-indexes are:

- Violent Crime Rate
- Property Crime Rate
- Religious Attendance
- Births to Unwed Mothers
- 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 will weigh the family down with lower incomes (due to lower productivity), higher medical bills (treating the affliction), and even the unthinkable—the loss of a loved one. The measures of the family health sub-indexes are:

- Personal Health
- Illicit Drug Use
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Infant Survival
- Self-Mortality

As such, 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 creating family prosperity, whereas a state that scores low is moving in the opposite direction.

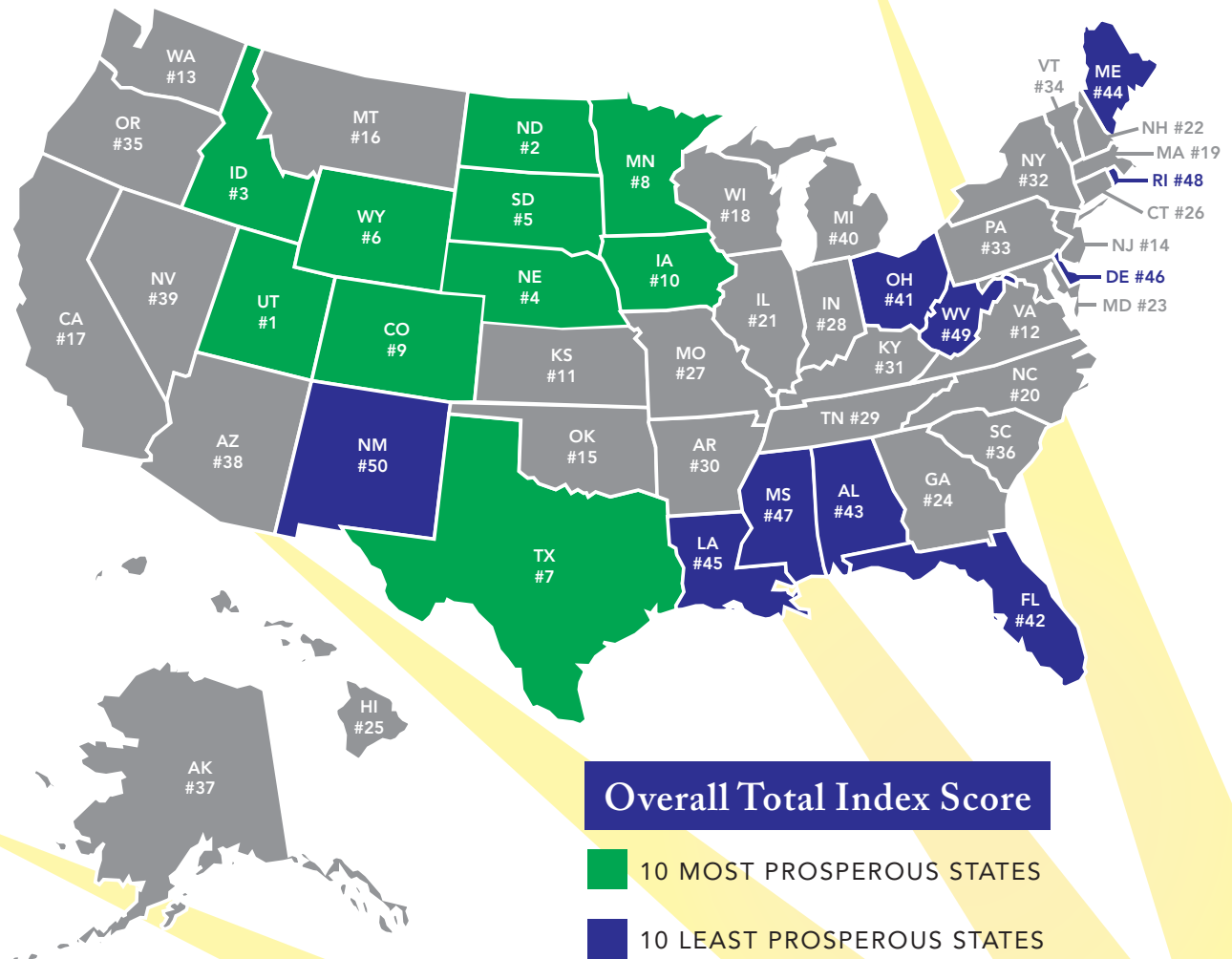
Based on the 2016 Family Prosperity Index:

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES ARE:

1	Utah	7.38
2	North Dakota	6.46
3	Idaho	6.22
4	Nebraska	6.14
5	South Dakota	6.03
6	Wyoming	6.03
7	Texas	5.91
8	Minnesota	5.80
9	Colorado	5.77
10	Iowa	5.77

THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:

41	Ohio	4.41
42	Florida	4.38
43	Alabama	4.38
44	Maine	4.35
45	Louisiana	4.31
46	Delaware	4.23
47	Mississippi	4.10
48	Rhode Island	4.00
49	West Virginia	3.87
50	New Mexico	3.85





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.” As noted by Robert Kennedy, common metrics, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), show prosperity as an amorphous aggregate measured strictly in economic terms.² Yet, who is the actor in the prosperity story and what truly impacts their well-being?

Data transformations such as “per capita GDP” still leave much to be desired even as they help control for demographic differences among areas. A child does not interact with GDP the same way an adult does. Not only are adults and children at different life stages, but also their economic activity is co-mingled.

This leads us to the family as the core socio-economic unit from which to judge “prosperity.” Families seeking prosperity look far beyond many of the common crude economic measures like GDP. They consider such factors as safety, opportunity, education, and health, to name a few. In turn, the states that perform the best in these areas are the ones that are truly prospering.

In fact, to that point, according to a landmark study by the National Bureau of Economic Research:

“Intergenerational mobility varies substantially across areas. For example, a child born in the bottom fifth of income distribution has a 7.8% chance of reaching the top fifth in the U.S. as a whole. But in some places, such as Salt Lake City and San Jose, the chance of moving from the bottom fifth to the top fifth is as high as 12.9%. In others, such as Charlotte and Indianapolis, it is as low as 4.4%. 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

As such, 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?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+CrisisMagazine+%28Crisis+Magazine%29

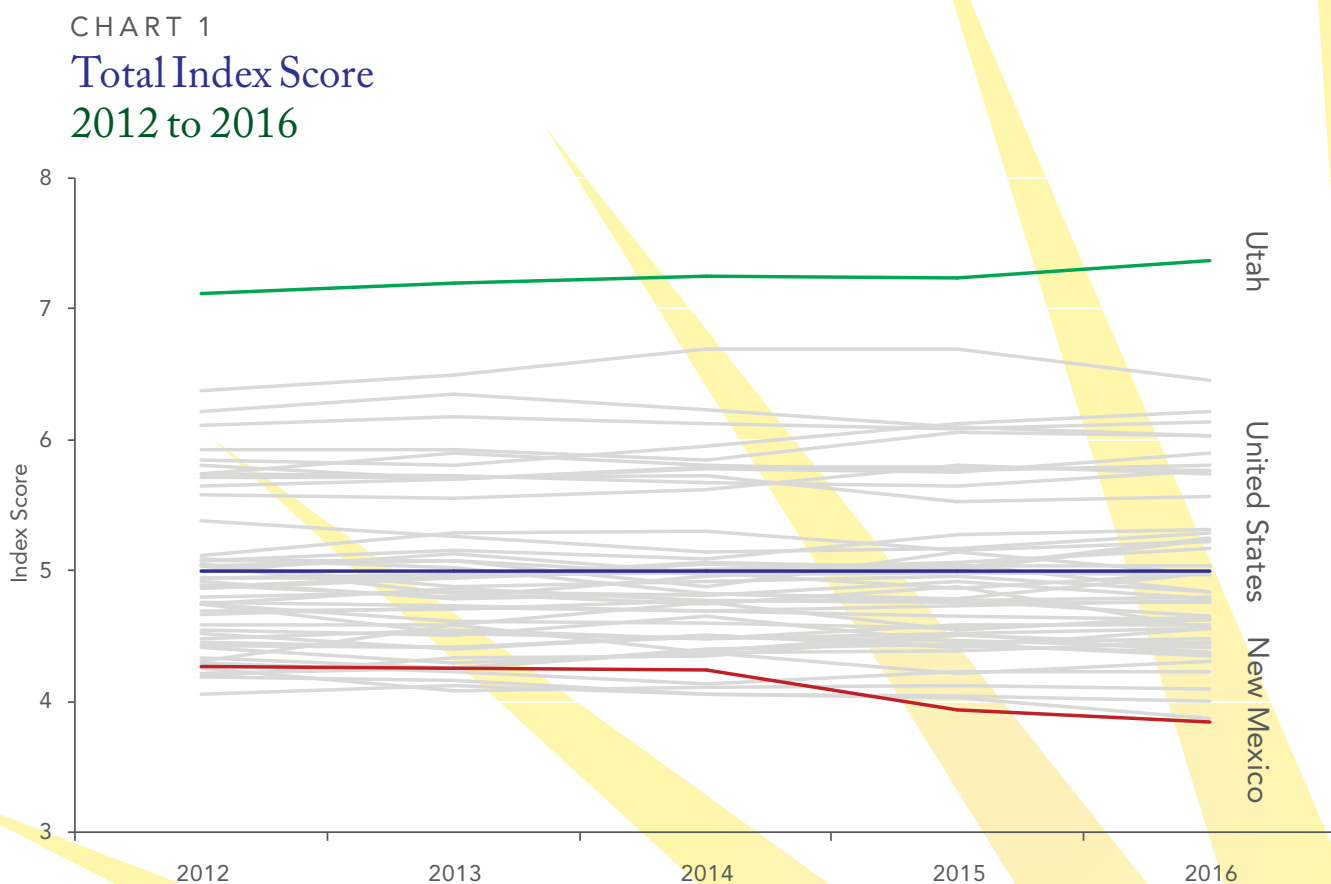
3 Chetty, Raj, Hendren, Nathaniel, Kline, Patrick, and Saez, Emmanuel, “Where is the Land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States,” National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 19843, January 2014. http://equality-of-opportunity.org/images/mobility_geo.pdf

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 2016 Family Prosperity Index:

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES ARE:		
1	Utah	7.38
2	North Dakota	6.46
3	Idaho	6.22
4	Nebraska	6.14
5	South Dakota	6.03
6	Wyoming	6.03
7	Texas	5.91
8	Minnesota	5.8
9	Colorado	5.77
10	Iowa	5.77

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Ohio	4.41
42	Florida	4.38
43	Alabama	4.38
44	Maine	4.35
45	Louisiana	4.31
46	Delaware	4.23
47	Mississippi	4.1
48	Rhode Island	4
49	West Virginia	3.87
50	New Mexico	3.85



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 1: 2016 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	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	3.39	47	4.38	36	4.61	33	4.56	37	4.36	37	4.96	24	4.38	42
Alaska	4.16	40	6.88	5	5.70	11	2.87	50	3.57	46	4.21	47	4.56	37
Arizona	4.32	36	5.74	14	3.53	49	4.46	38	3.87	44	4.96	25	4.48	38
Arkansas	4.31	37	5.15	21	5.33	17	4.10	43	3.99	43	5.07	22	4.66	30
California	5.64	13	5.35	18	4.71	30	5.38	17	4.75	28	5.22	15	5.18	17
Colorado	6.45	7	6.17	9	5.91	6	5.63	11	6.09	5	4.37	43	5.77	9
Connecticut	5.30	20	2.77	47	4.50	37	5.20	23	5.94	10	5.09	21	4.80	26
Delaware	5.21	22	4.23	38	4.00	44	3.56	49	4.32	40	4.08	49	4.23	46
Florida	5.50	17	3.90	41	3.91	45	5.15	25	3.03	48	4.76	33	4.38	43
Georgia	4.37	34	6.03	10	4.34	38	5.20	22	4.30	41	4.81	31	4.84	24
Hawaii	4.19	39	4.51	32	5.67	12	4.29	41	4.73	30	5.61	10	4.83	25
Idaho	5.71	11	7.11	4	7.08	2	5.48	13	5.91	11	6.03	2	6.22	3
Illinois	5.02	24	4.27	37	5.01	24	5.14	27	5.54	19	4.91	27	4.98	21
Indiana	4.49	33	5.30	20	4.23	40	4.87	31	4.59	34	5.18	18	4.78	28
Iowa	5.23	21	5.35	19	6.88	3	5.47	14	6.00	7	5.69	9	5.77	10
Kansas	5.93	10	5.79	13	5.75	9	5.77	6	5.31	22	5.92	4	5.74	11
Kentucky	3.75	45	4.95	26	4.53	35	3.96	44	5.65	16	5.10	20	4.65	31
Louisiana	4.63	31	5.82	12	3.88	47	3.95	45	3.29	47	4.30	44	4.31	45
Maine	3.50	46	2.14	50	5.06	22	4.94	29	5.24	24	5.20	16	4.35	44
Maryland	5.06	23	4.57	31	5.25	18	5.37	18	5.30	23	4.27	46	4.97	23
Massachusetts	5.64	14	3.18	44	4.68	31	5.73	8	5.99	8	5.03	23	5.04	19
Michigan	4.07	41	4.05	39	4.28	39	4.80	34	5.04	26	4.41	42	4.44	40
Minnesota	5.93	9	5.57	17	5.66	13	5.41	16	6.42	3	5.82	6	5.80	8
Mississippi	2.48	50	4.88	27	4.10	42	3.83	47	4.41	36	4.91	28	4.10	47
Missouri	4.68	30	4.77	28	5.04	23	4.83	33	4.48	35	4.94	26	4.79	27
Montana	5.56	15	5.14	22	5.94	5	5.69	9	4.32	39	4.70	35	5.23	16
Nebraska	6.46	6	6.67	7	5.95	4	5.80	5	6.01	6	5.93	3	6.14	4
Nevada	4.90	26	6.00	11	3.49	50	5.24	19	2.94	49	4.17	48	4.45	39
New Hampshire	5.67	12	2.48	48	5.45	16	6.24	2	5.70	14	4.30	45	4.97	22
New Jersey	5.36	19	3.96	40	4.87	27	5.61	12	6.41	4	5.55	11	5.29	14
New Mexico	2.93	48	4.39	35	4.52	36	3.90	46	2.83	50	4.51	39	3.85	50
New York	5.01	25	3.74	42	4.02	43	4.67	35	5.76	13	4.57	38	4.63	32
North Carolina	4.35	35	5.00	25	4.74	29	5.17	24	5.38	21	5.28	14	4.99	20
North Dakota	8.65	1	8.40	2	5.14	19	5.75	7	5.61	17	5.20	17	6.46	2
Ohio	4.73	28	4.50	33	3.55	48	4.45	40	4.76	27	4.46	40	4.41	41
Oklahoma	6.21	8	6.26	8	4.92	26	4.91	30	4.35	38	4.84	29	5.25	15
Oregon	3.99	42	4.73	30	4.96	25	4.56	36	4.73	29	4.42	41	4.57	35
Pennsylvania	4.74	27	3.34	43	4.64	32	4.84	32	5.55	18	4.63	37	4.62	33
Rhode Island	3.95	43	2.78	46	3.90	46	4.25	42	5.18	25	3.96	50	4.00	48
South Carolina	3.82	44	5.09	24	4.53	34	5.15	26	4.03	42	4.77	32	4.56	36
South Dakota	6.47	5	6.68	6	5.70	10	6.12	3	5.40	20	5.84	5	6.03	5
Tennessee	4.30	38	5.13	23	5.12	20	4.97	28	3.79	45	5.29	13	4.77	29
Texas	6.82	4	7.94	3	5.11	21	5.23	21	4.65	32	5.70	8	5.91	7
Utah	7.20	2	9.07	1	7.78	1	6.94	1	6.88	1	6.40	1	7.38	1
Vermont	4.73	29	2.23	49	5.61	14	4.45	39	5.77	12	4.76	34	4.59	34
Virginia	5.52	16	4.76	29	5.56	15	5.67	10	6.81	2	5.14	19	5.58	12
Washington	5.49	18	5.70	16	5.86	8	5.44	15	4.72	31	4.67	36	5.31	13
West Virginia	2.71	49	3.05	45	4.23	41	3.80	48	4.62	33	4.82	30	3.87	49
Wisconsin	4.56	32	4.39	34	4.86	28	5.23	20	5.69	15	5.54	12	5.05	18
Wyoming	6.91	3	5.72	15	5.89	7	6.01	4	5.97	9	5.71	7	6.03	6



Construction

The index itself is hierarchical in nature, built from six major indexes (weighted equally at 16.67%) with each consisting of five sub-indexes (weighted equally at 20%)—economics, demographics, family self-sufficiency, family structure, family culture, and family health. Each sub-index consists of one or more variables out of the 57 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—such as the American Community Survey published by the Census Bureau—to pure administrative data—such as the income data published by the Internal Revenue Service—to hybrid survey/administrative data—such as the data from the 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 getting worse, albeit more slowly than in the other states. For example, Utah has the highest percent of population under 18 and the top score in this sub-index, but it is lower in 2014 (30.7%) 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 insure 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. 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 any change in one variable only impacts 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 that documents these relationships. Additionally, the FPI online database will be updated with these dynamic relationships.

A large, stylized yellow sunburst graphic with multiple rays emanating from the bottom right corner, extending across the lower half of the page.



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.⁵ Put simply, the bigger the private sector, the greater per household personal income. When examining the lower 48 states, on average, a 1 percentage point decrease in the size of the private sector yields a decrease in per household income of approximately \$3,308.⁶

Of course, correlation does not equal causation. Fortunately, 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. Yet, there is one area where the two states diverge significantly—public policy.

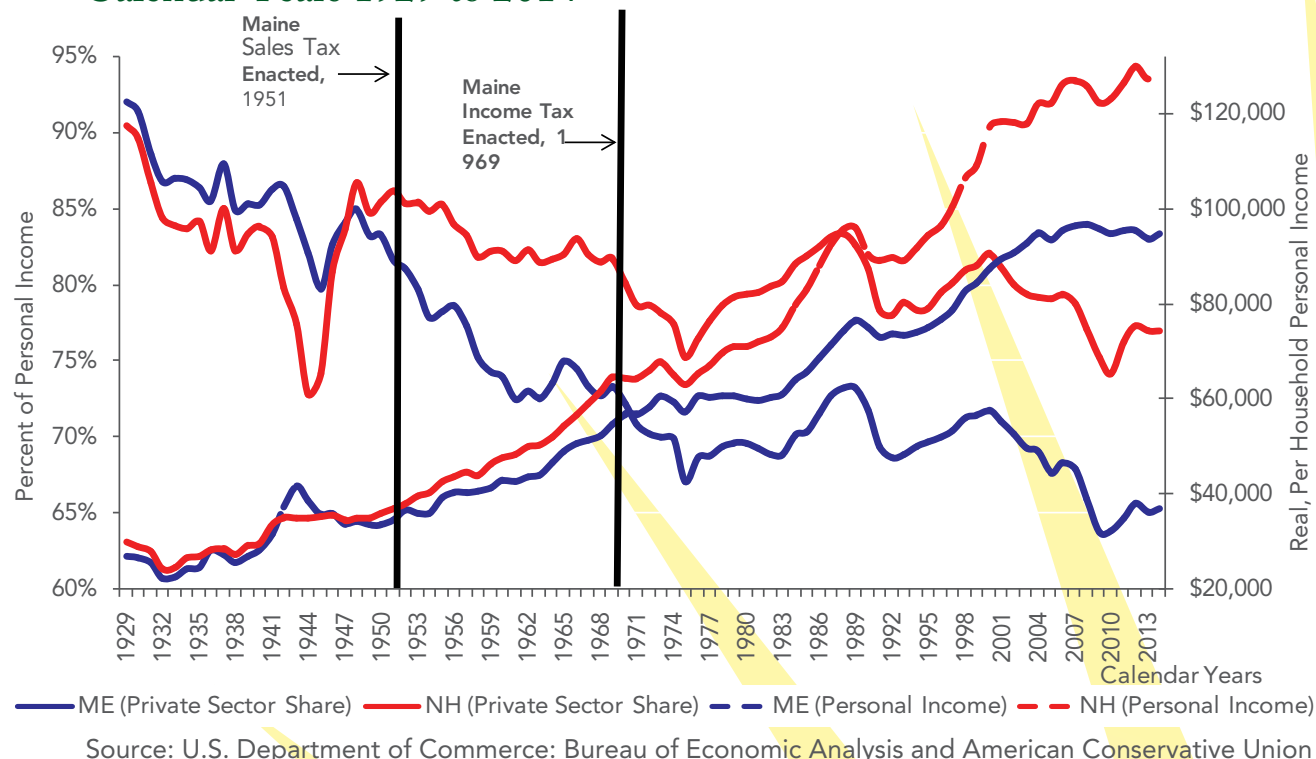
5 As such, the public sector crowds out the private sector. For example, see: Moody, J. Scott, "Expanding Medicaid Will Hurt North Carolina's Families, Lower Income, and Reduce Jobs," Federalism In Action, No. 5, March 23, 2015. <http://www.federalisminaction.com/study-no-5>

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

As shown in [Chart 8](#), 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 8

New Hampshire's Larger Private Sector Leads to Higher Income vs. Maine Calendar Years 1929 to 2014



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 2014, Maine's private sector shrank by 29.1 percent to 65.3 percent from 92 percent and now has only the 42nd 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 77 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 17.9 percent larger than Maine's—77 percent and 65.3 percent respectively. Consequently, New Hampshire's per household income in 2014 is 38 percent higher than Maine's—\$130,498 and \$94,597, 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 2014 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 is generally higher in urban areas than in rural areas, especially housing. Therefore, states that have high nominal household personal income are also very likely to be high cost of living areas and vice-versa.⁷

Of course, income must be earned and, for the vast majority of people, that comes through having a job. Yet, jobs don't just appear out of thin air. Jobs 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. As economist Tim Kane succinctly 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."⁸

7 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/>

8 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

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 a more permanent job. Economists refer to this as underemployment and it is captured in the “U6” measure which is the broadest measure of un/underemployment.



As shown in **Chart 2** and **Table 2** (in appendix):

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN ECONOMICS ARE:		
1	North Dakota	8.65
2	Utah	7.20
3	Wyoming	6.91
4	Texas	6.82
5	South Dakota	6.47
6	Nebraska	6.46
7	Colorado	6.45
8	Oklahoma	6.21
9	Minnesota	5.93
10	Kansas	5.93

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Michigan	4.07
42	Oregon	3.99
43	Rhode Island	3.95
44	South Carolina	3.82
45	Kentucky	3.75
46	Maine	3.50
47	Alabama	3.39
48	New Mexico	2.93
49	West Virginia	2.71
50	Mississippi	2.48

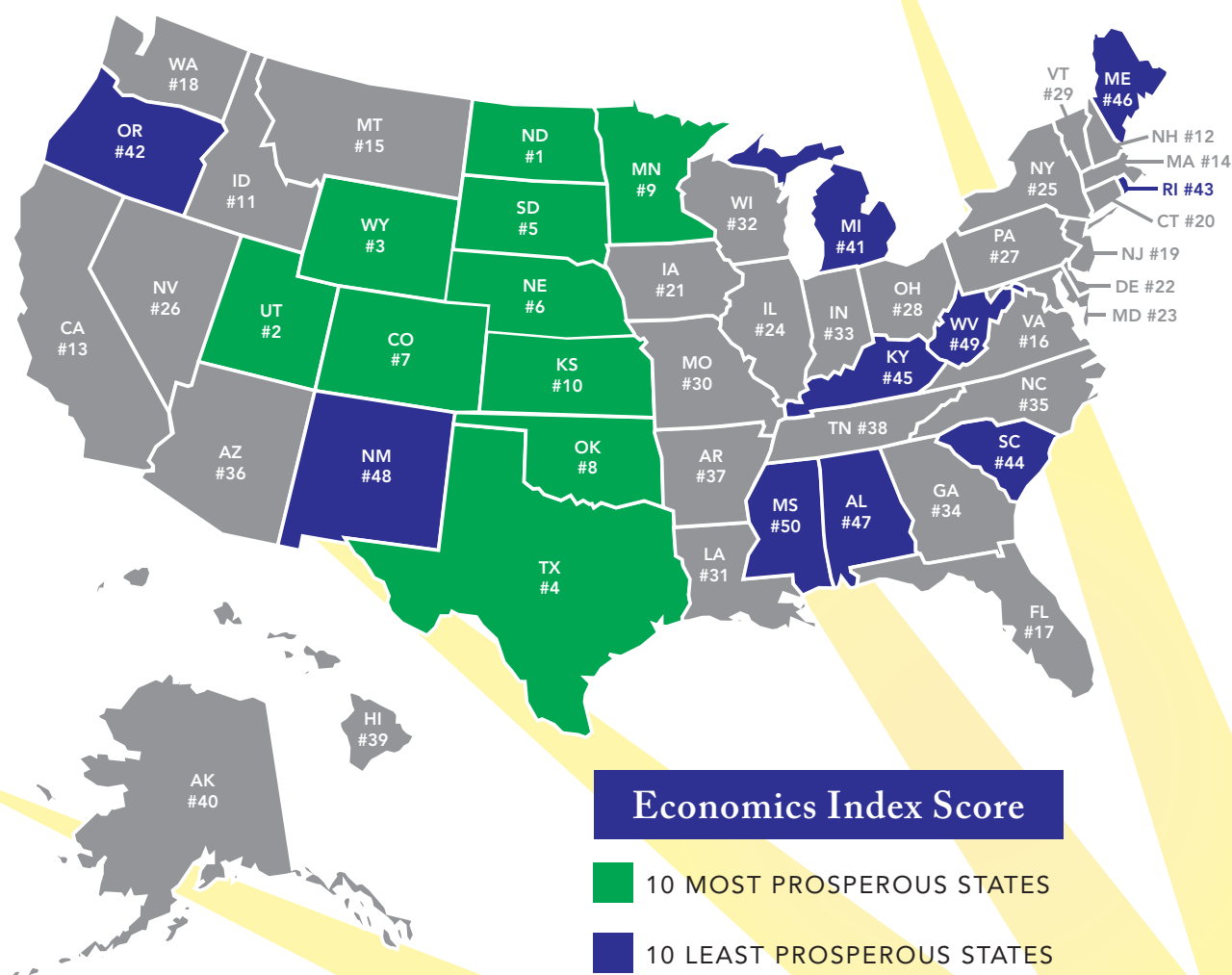
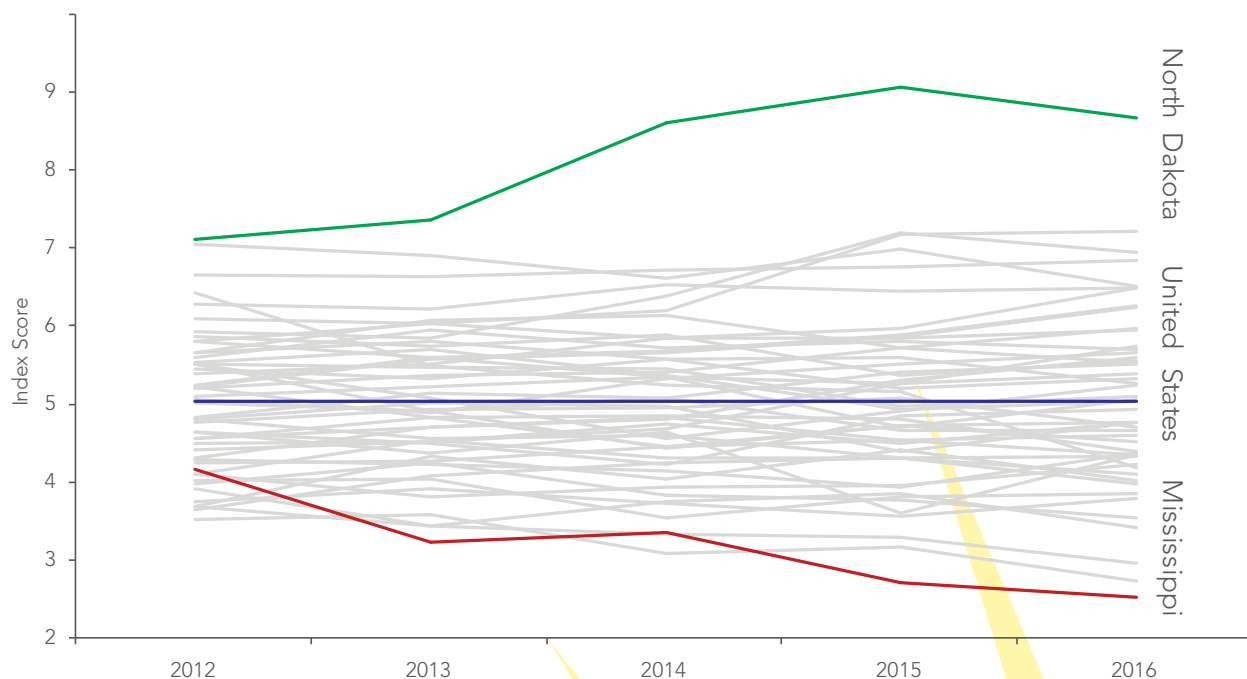


CHART 2

Economics Index Score 2012 to 2016



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

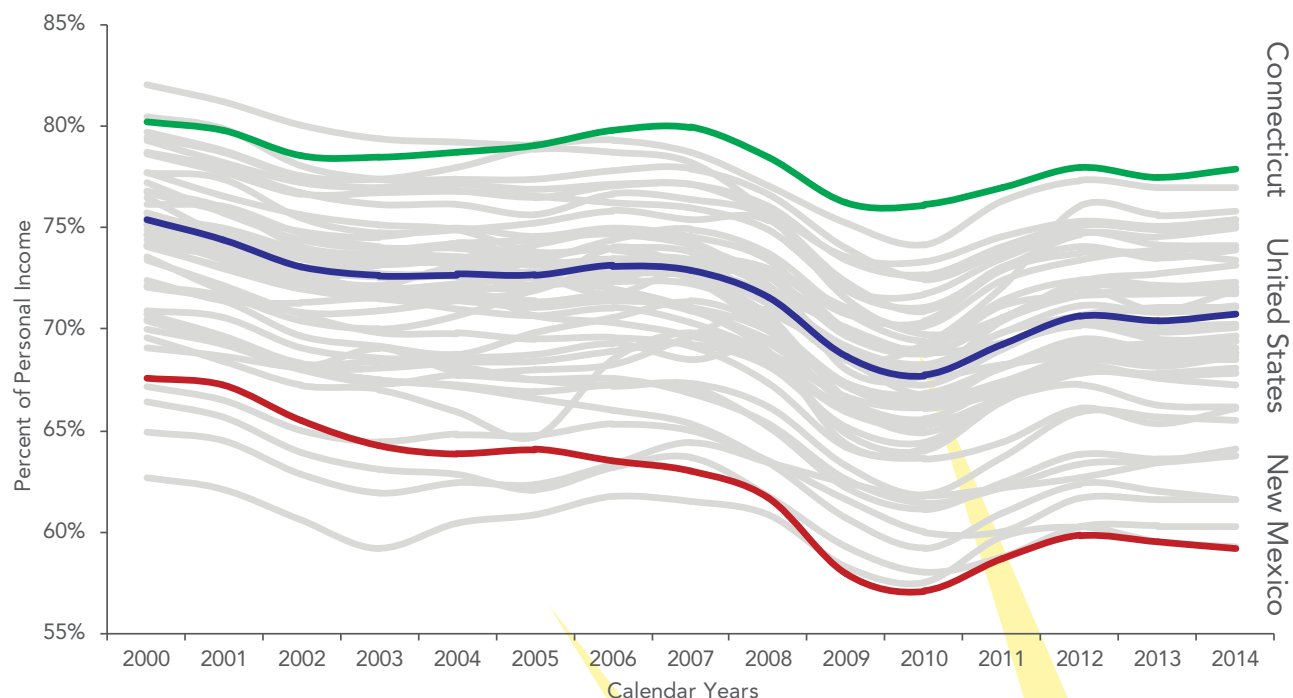
Private Sector Share of Personal Income

As shown in **Chart 9**, the private sector share of personal income (hereafter “private sector”) fell nationally by 6.2 percent to 70.7 percent in 2014 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 in the coming years.⁹

⁹ 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>

CHART 9

Private Sector Share of Personal Income Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



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 2014, Connecticut had the largest private sector at 77.9 percent while New Mexico had the smallest private sector at 59.2 percent—that is a difference of 32 percent.

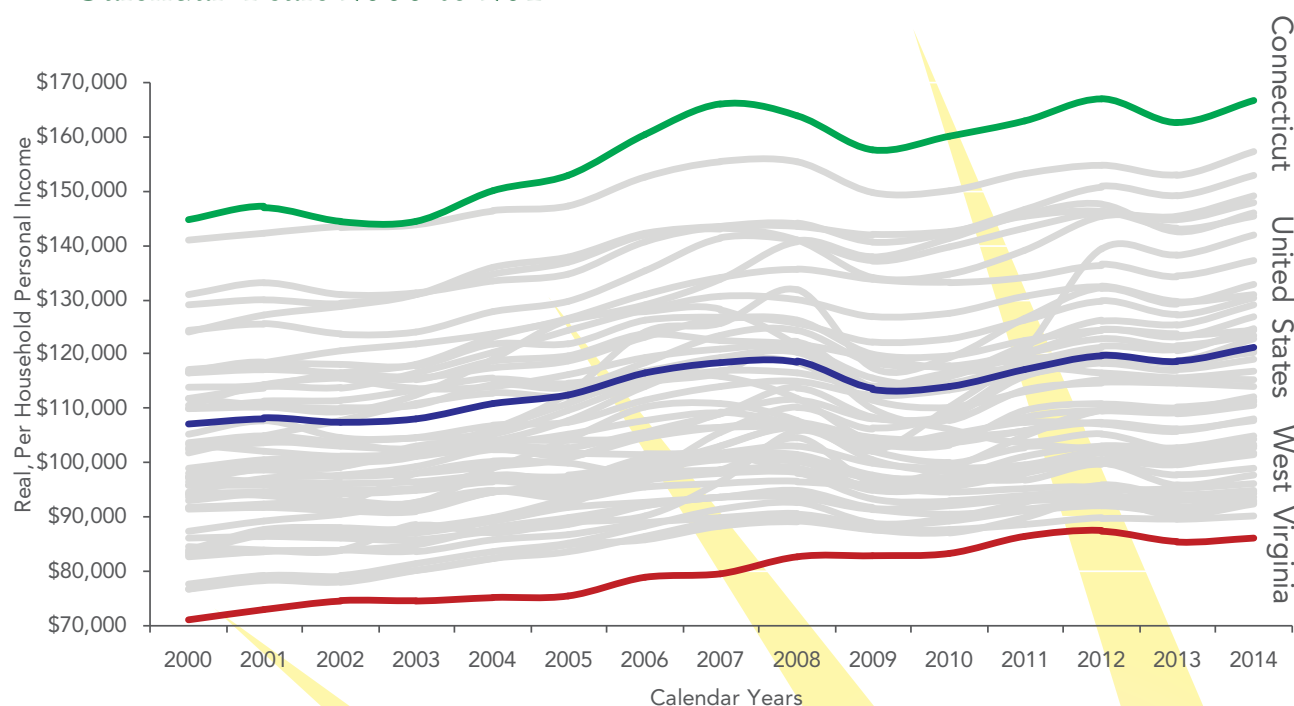
Overall, for the private sector sub-index, North Dakota had the highest score (8.78) followed by Connecticut (8.05), New Hampshire (8.00), Texas (7.57), and New Jersey (7.35). On the other hand, West Virginia had the lowest sub-index score (0.56) followed by New Mexico (0.66), Mississippi (1.15), Hawaii (1.42), and Kentucky (1.74).

Real, Per Household Personal Income

As shown in **Chart 10**, real, per household personal income increased nationally by 13.1 percent to \$121,138 in 2014 from \$107,103 in 2000. Not surprisingly given the correlation found between the private sector and personal income, Connecticut, in 2014, had the highest level of personal income at \$166,790 while West Virginia had the lowest level of personal income at \$86,271—that is a difference of 93 percent.¹⁰

CHART 10

Real, Per Household Personal Income (2014 Dollars) Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



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

Overall, for the personal income sub-index, five states scored a perfect 10—California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and North Dakota. On the other hand, West Virginia had the lowest personal income sub-index score (0.54) followed by Mississippi (1.03), New Mexico (1.10), Alabama (1.37), and Maine (1.39).

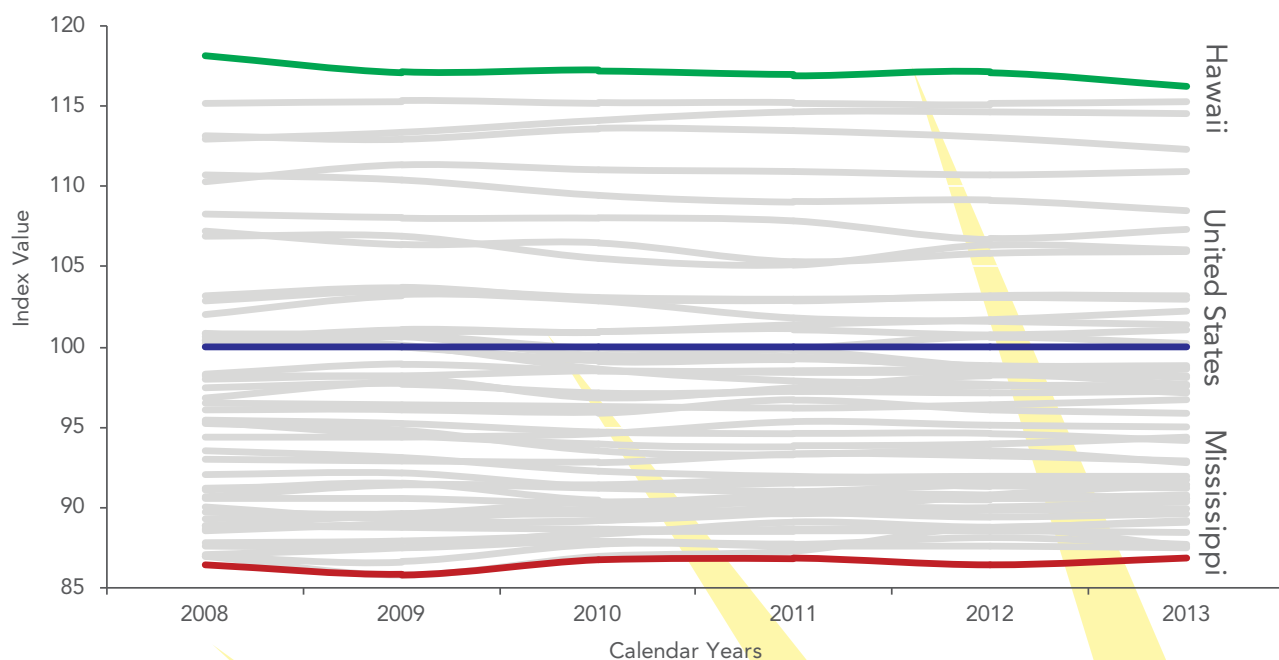
¹⁰ Regional Data, U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis <http://www.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1#reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1>

Cost of Living

As shown in **Chart 11**, there is a large variance in cost of living among the 50 states. In 2014, Hawaii had the highest cost of living with an index value of 116.2 while Mississippi had the lowest level of cost of living with an index value of 86.8—that is a difference of 34 percent.¹¹

CHART 11

Cost of Living Calendar Years 2008 to 2013



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

Overall, for the cost of living sub-index, South Dakota had the top score (7.85) followed by Alabama (7.49), Arkansas (7.4), Mississippi (7.33), and West Virginia (7.18). On the other hand, New York had the lowest score of (0.43) followed by Hawaii (0.61), New Jersey (0.74), California (1.50), and Maryland (1.51).

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

¹¹ 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>

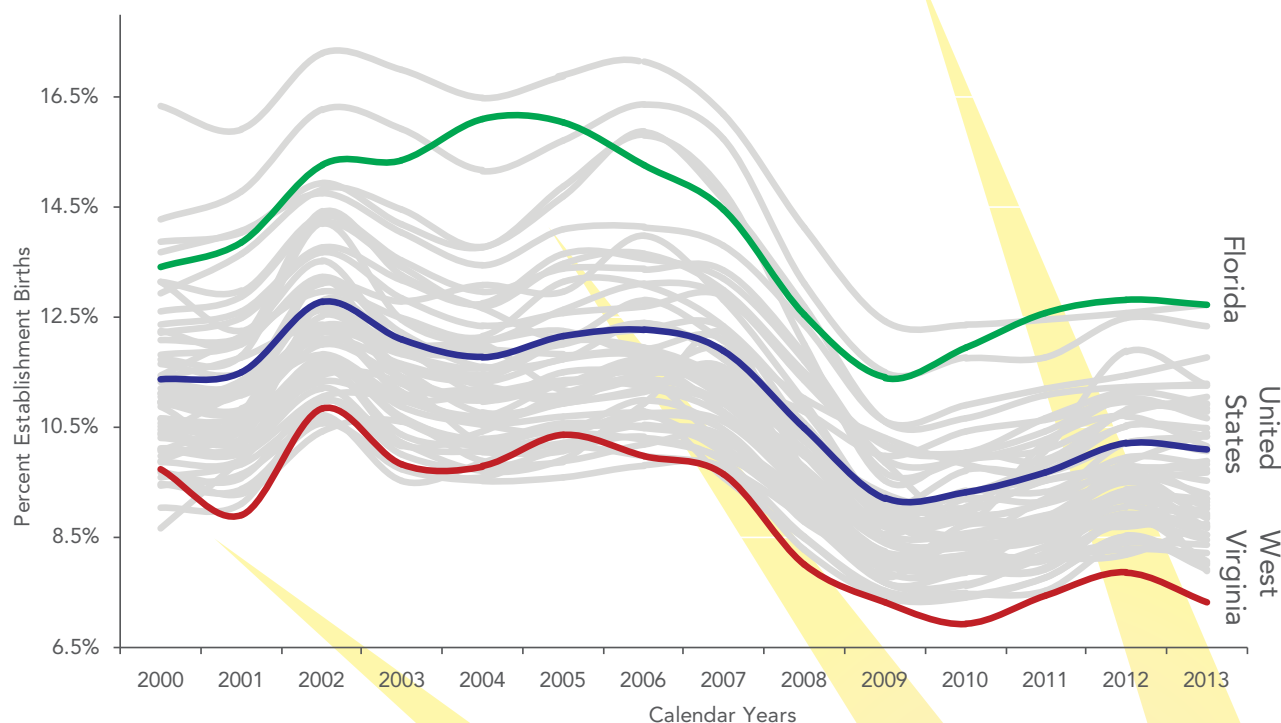
Entrepreneurship

Charts 12 and 13 show the variance in the various measures of entrepreneurship (establishment and job births) nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2014.¹²

As shown in **Chart 12**, establishment births (as a percent of total establishments) decreased nationally by 11 percent to 10.1 percent in 2013 from 11.4 percent in 2000. In 2013, Florida had the greatest level of establishment births at 12.7 percent, while West Virginia had the lowest level of establishment births at 7.3 percent—that is a difference of 74 percent.

CHART 12

Establishment Births as a Percent of Total Establishments Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



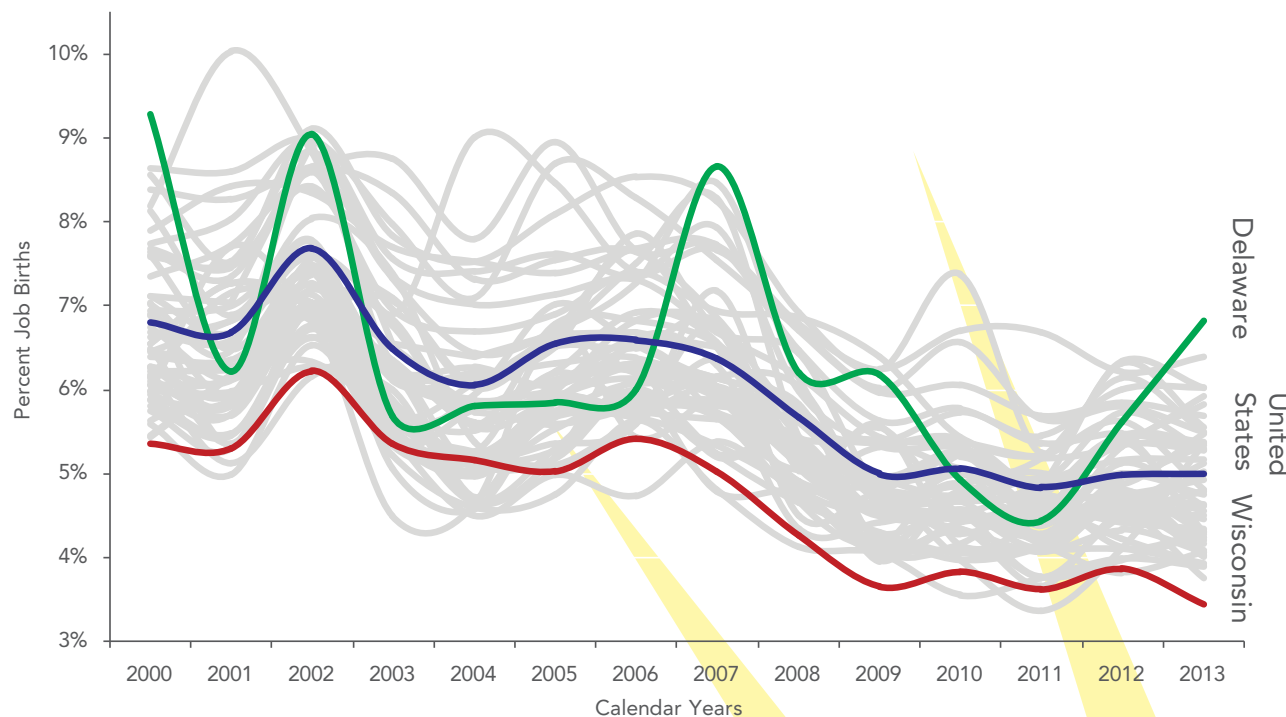
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

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

As shown in **Chart 13**, job births (as a percent of total jobs) decreased nationally by 28.6 percent to 4.5 percent in 2013 from 6.3 percent in 2000. In 2013, Delaware had the greatest levels of job births at 6.3 percent, while Wisconsin had the lowest levels of job births at 2.9 percent—that is a difference of 115 percent.

CHART 13

Job Births as a Percent of Total Jobs Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



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

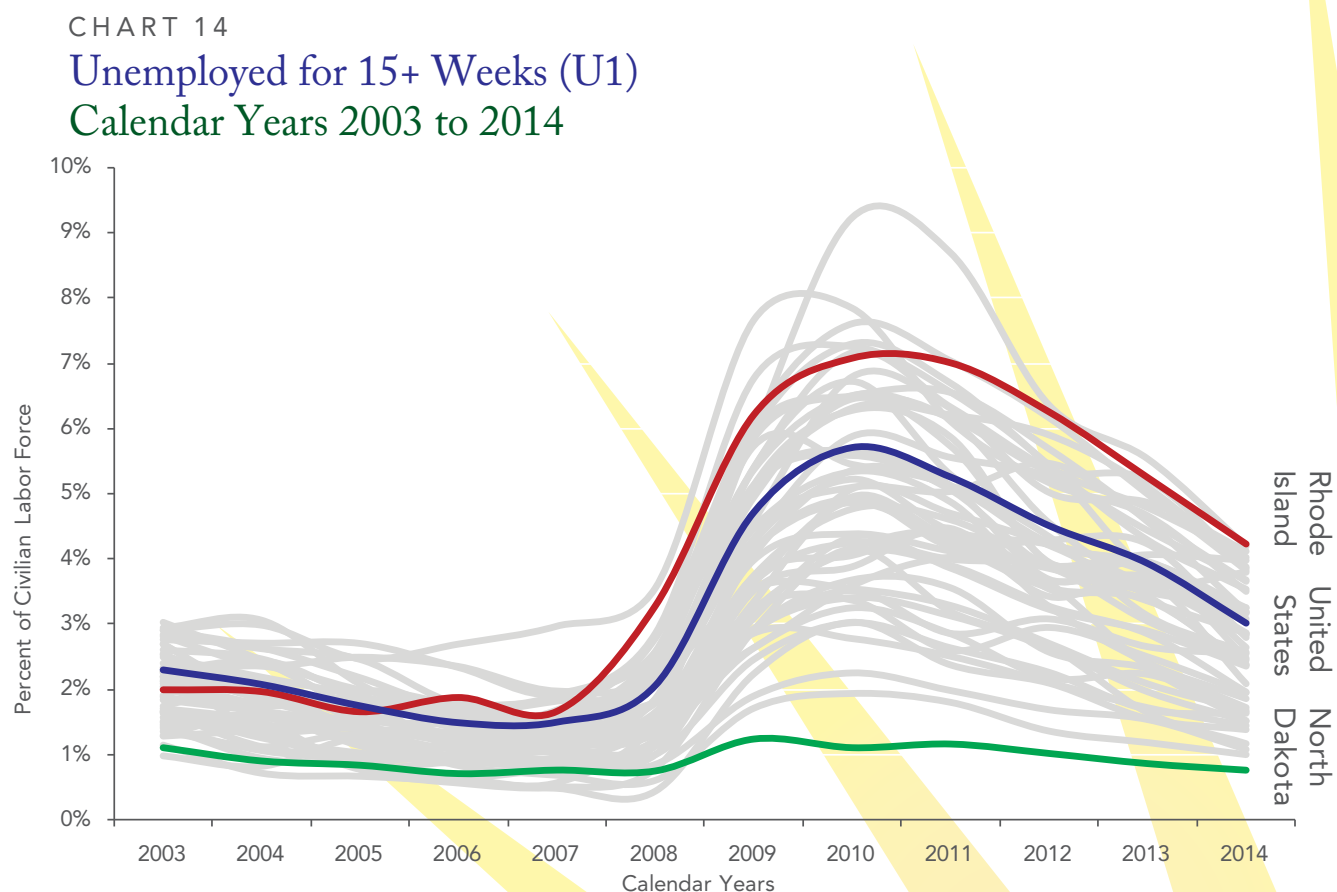
Overall, for the entrepreneurship sub-index, Florida had the top score (9.79) followed by Utah (9.30), Nevada (9.16), North Dakota (8.54), and Montana (8.48). On the other hand, Wisconsin had the lowest score (1.51) followed by Mississippi (1.56), Iowa (2.03), Indiana (2.23), and West Virginia (2.25).

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

Unemployment

Charts 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 show the variance in the various unemployment rates nationally and in the 50 states from 2003 (the first year of available data) to 2014.¹³

As shown in **Chart 14**, the U1 unemployment rate measures the number of people unemployed for 15 weeks or longer as a percent of the civilian labor force. U1 increased nationally by 31.1 percent to 3 percent in 2014 from 2.3 percent in 2003. In 2014, Rhode Island had the highest U1 unemployment rate at 4.2 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 0.8 percent—that is a difference of 474 percent.



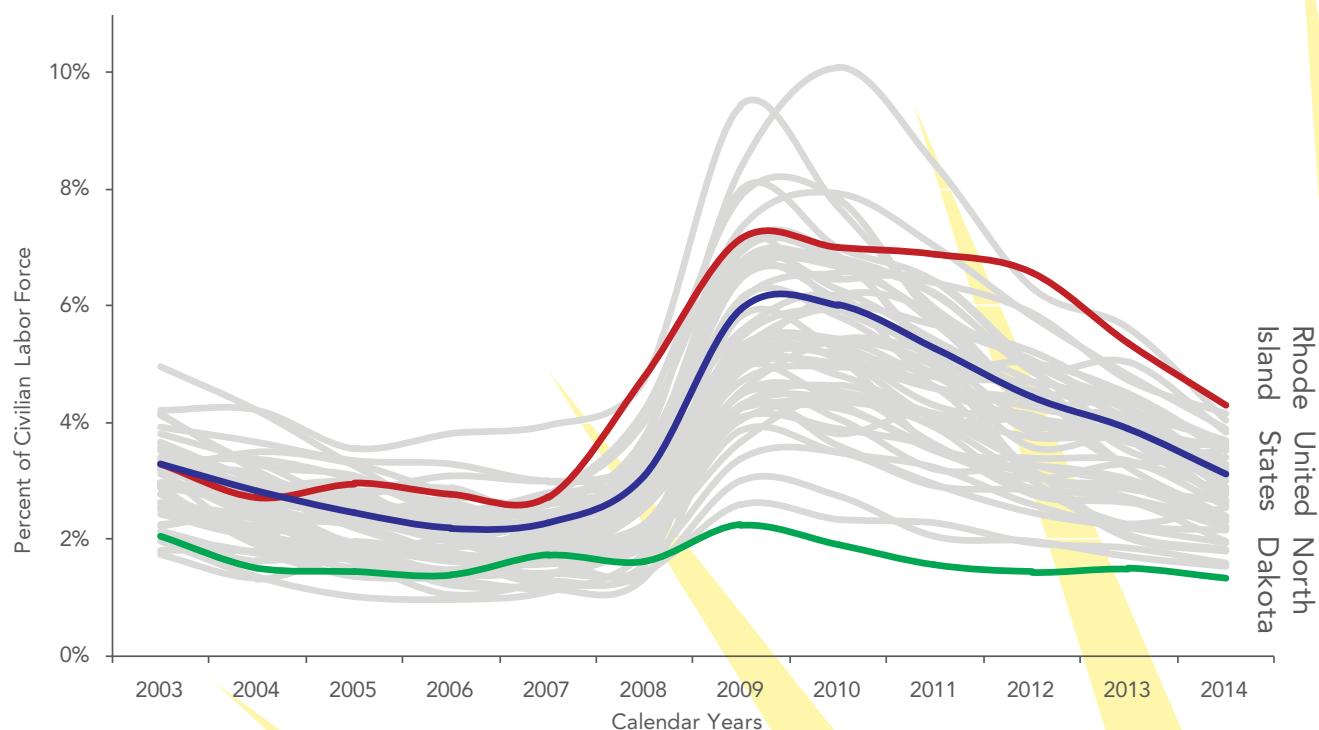
Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

13 "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 15**, 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 5.3 percent to 3.1 percent in 2014 from 3.3 percent in 2003. In 2014, Rhode Island had the highest U2 unemployment rate at 4.3 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 1.4 percent—that is a difference of 218 percent.

CHART 15

Job Losers (U2) Calendar Years 2003 to 2014

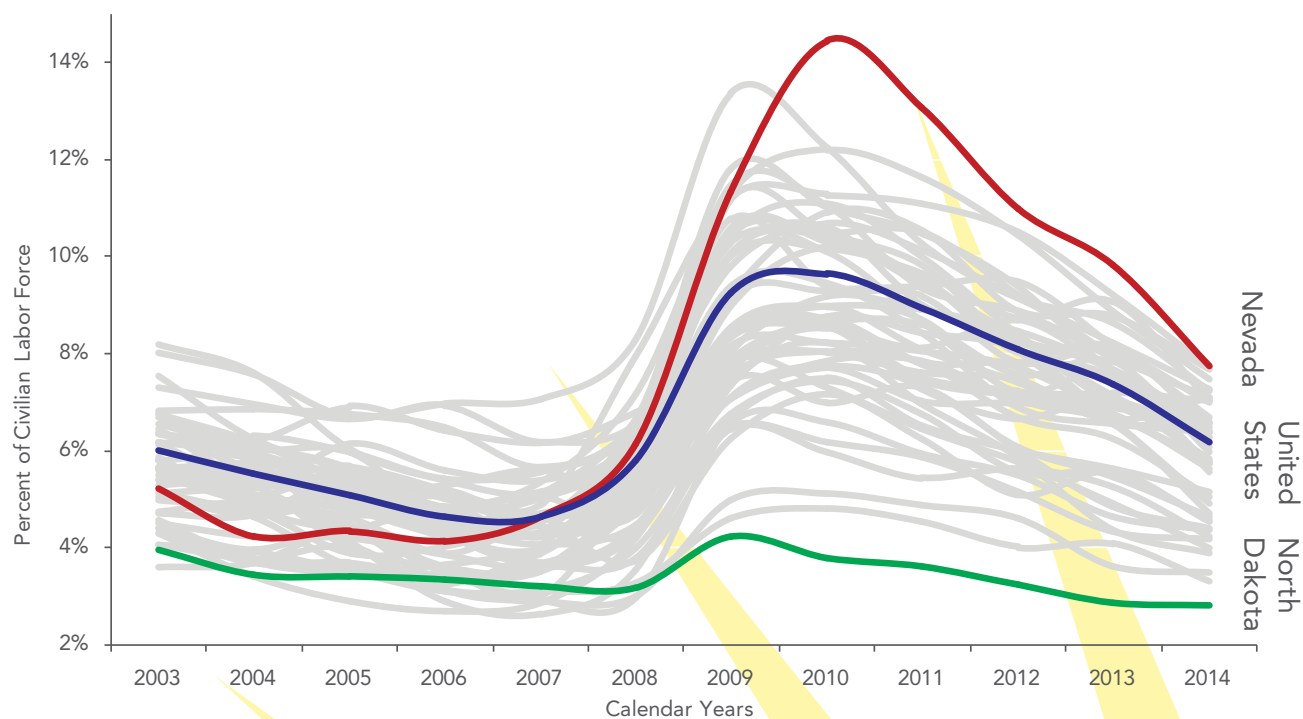


Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 16**, 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 increased nationally by 2.9 percent to 6.2 percent in 2014 from 6 percent in 2003. In 2014, Nevada had the highest U3 unemployment rate at 7.7 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 2.8 percent—that is a difference of 174 percent.

CHART 16

Unemployed (U3) Calendar Years 2003 to 2014

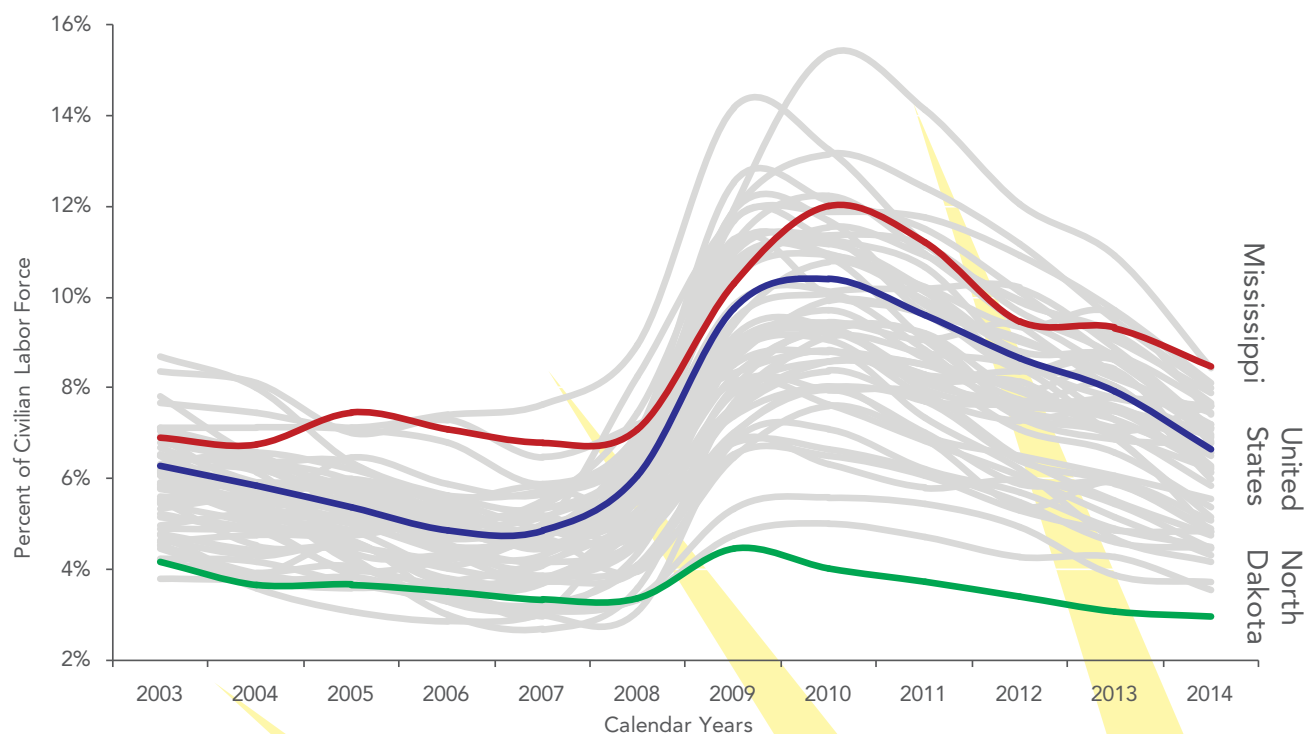


Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 17**, 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 increased nationally by 5.4 percent to 6.6 percent in 2014 from 6.3 percent in 2003. In 2014, Mississippi had the highest U4 unemployment rate at 8.5 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 3 percent—that is a difference of 185 percent.

CHART 17

Unemployed and Discouraged Workers (U4) Calendar Years 2003 to 2014

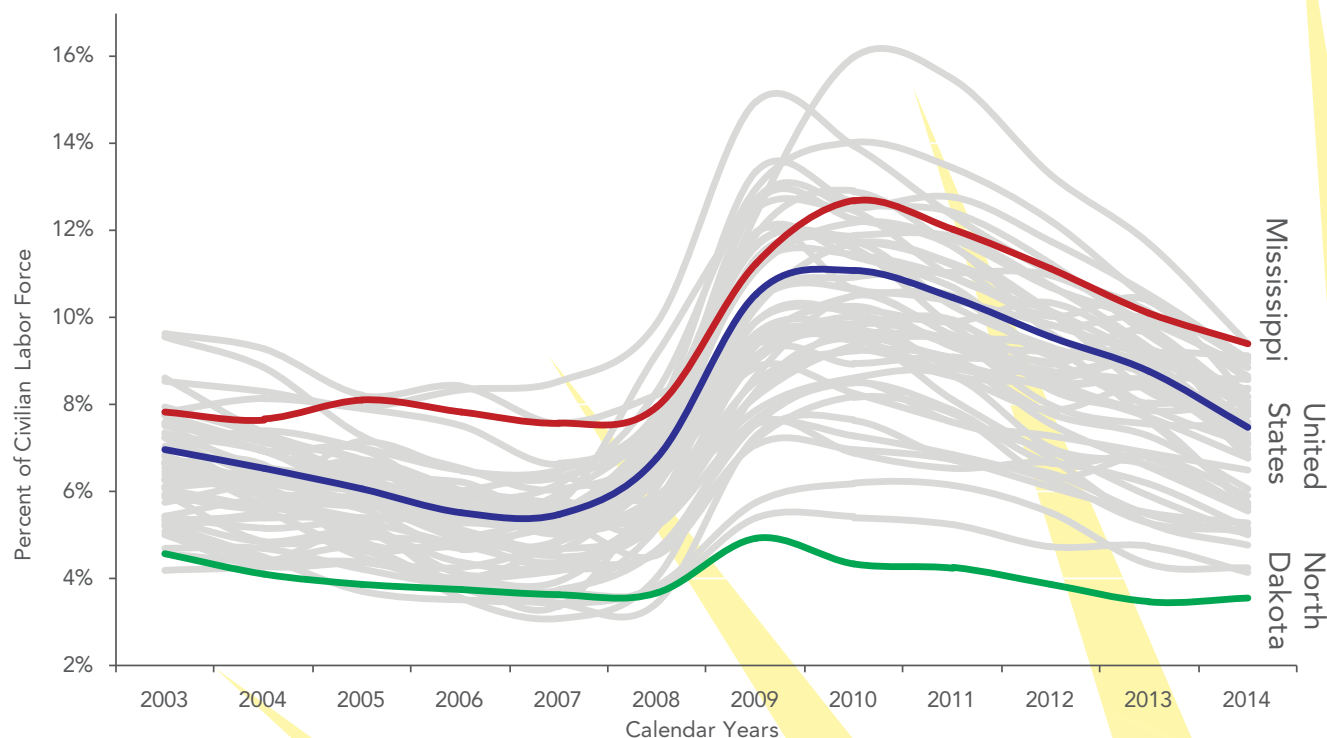


Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 18**, 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 increased nationally by 7.4 percent to 7.5 percent in 2014 from 7 percent in 2003. In 2014, Mississippi had the highest U5 unemployment rate at 9.4 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 3.5 percent—that is a difference of 166 percent.

CHART 18

Unemployed and All Marginally Attached Workers (U5) Calendar Years 2003 to 2014

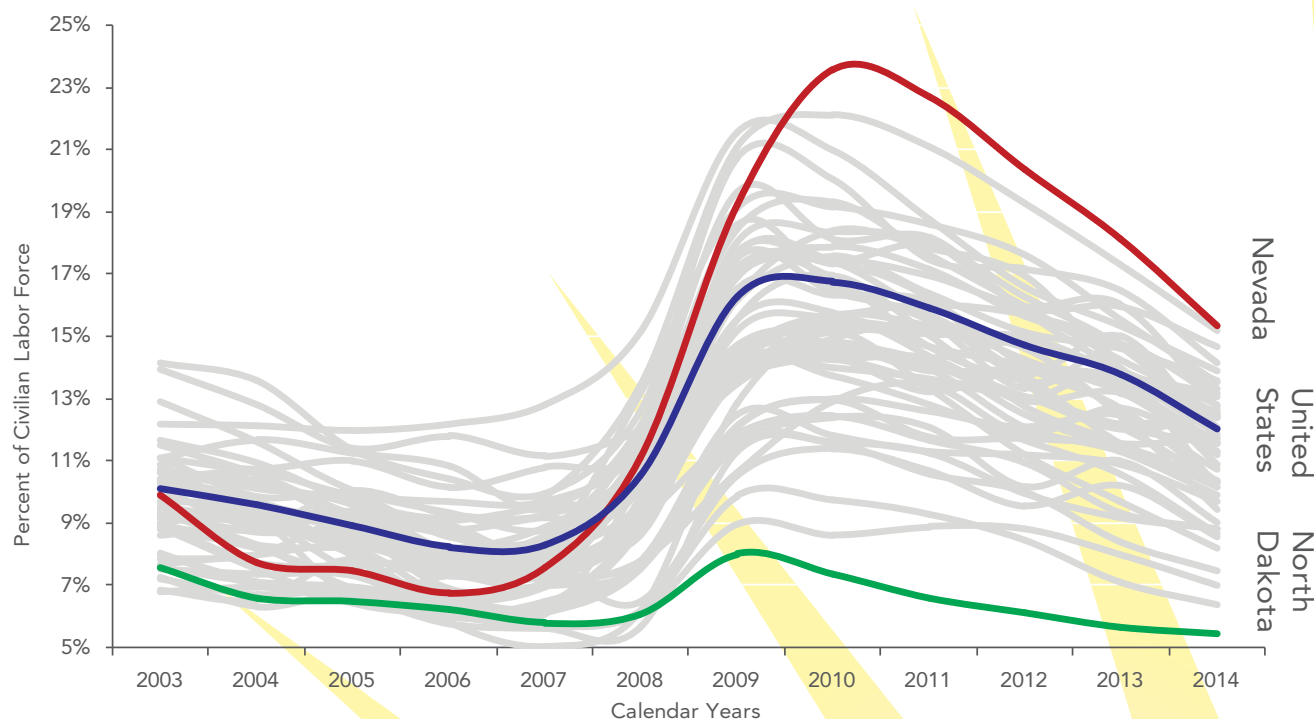


Source: U.S. Department of Labor and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 19**, 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 plus all marginally attached workers. U1 increased nationally by 18.8 percent to 12 percent in 2014 from 10.1 percent in 2003. In 2014, Nevada had the highest U6 unemployment rate at 15.4 percent, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 5.4 percent—that is a difference of 182 percent.

CHART 19

Unemployed, All Marginally Attached Workers, and Involuntary Part-Time (U6) Calendar Years 2003 to 2014



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

Overall, for the unemployment sub-index, North Dakota had the top score (9.80) followed by Utah (9.75), South Dakota (9.38), Nebraska (9.33), and Minnesota (8.68). On the other hand, Rhode Island had the lowest score (1.32) followed by Mississippi (1.35), Nevada (1.90), New Mexico (1.96), and California (2.02).

Note: U3 was weighted 50% of sub-index while U1, U2, U4, U5, and U6 were weighted equally 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 economic depression by moving 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."*¹⁴⁻¹⁵

As such, 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.

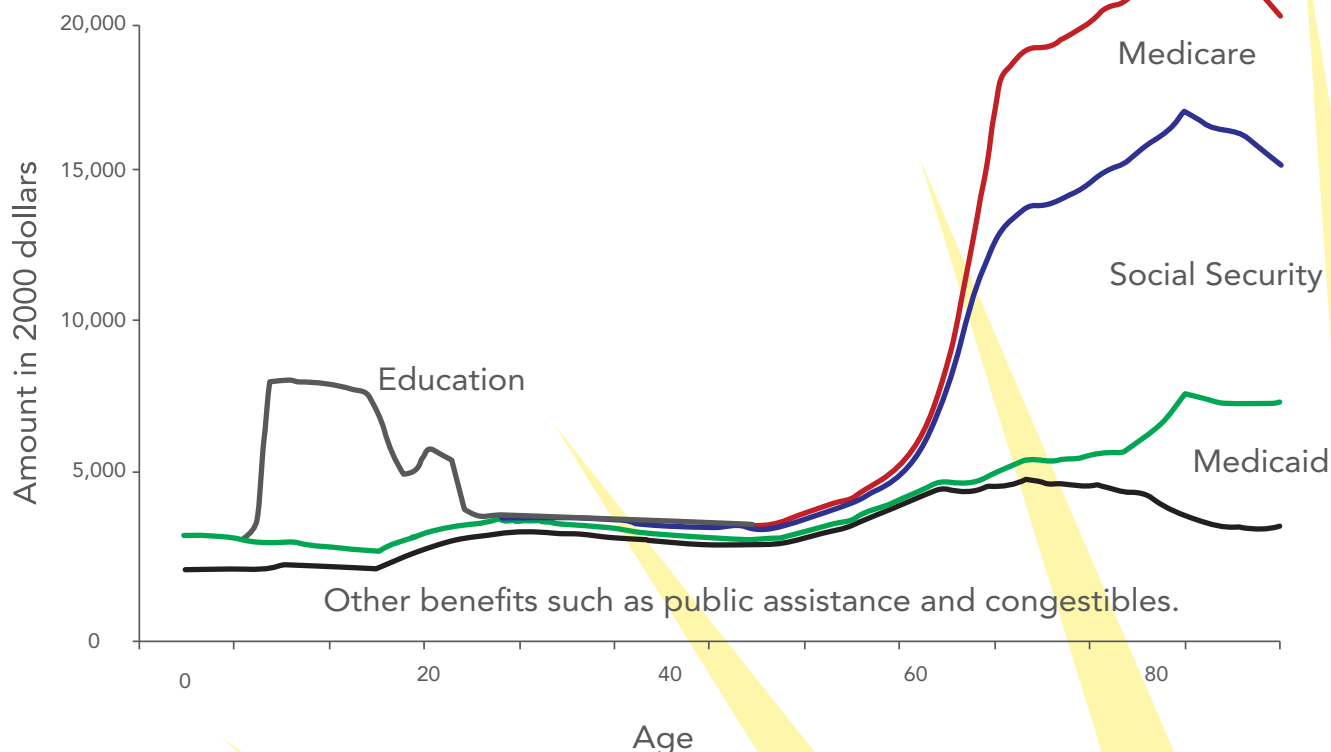
14 Mauldin, John, "Mind the [Expectations] Gap: Demographic Trends and GDP," Outside the Box, August 7, 2013. <http://www.mauldineconomics.com/outsidethebox/mind-the-expectations-gap-demographic-trends-and-gdp>

15 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>

Additionally, Demographic Winter will also have a negative fiscal impact on federal, state, and local governments. First, people over the age of 65 impose significantly more costs to government than younger age cohorts. **Chart 20** 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.¹⁶

CHART 20

Benefits by Program and Age



Source: See footnote 16

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 those associated with long term care.¹⁷

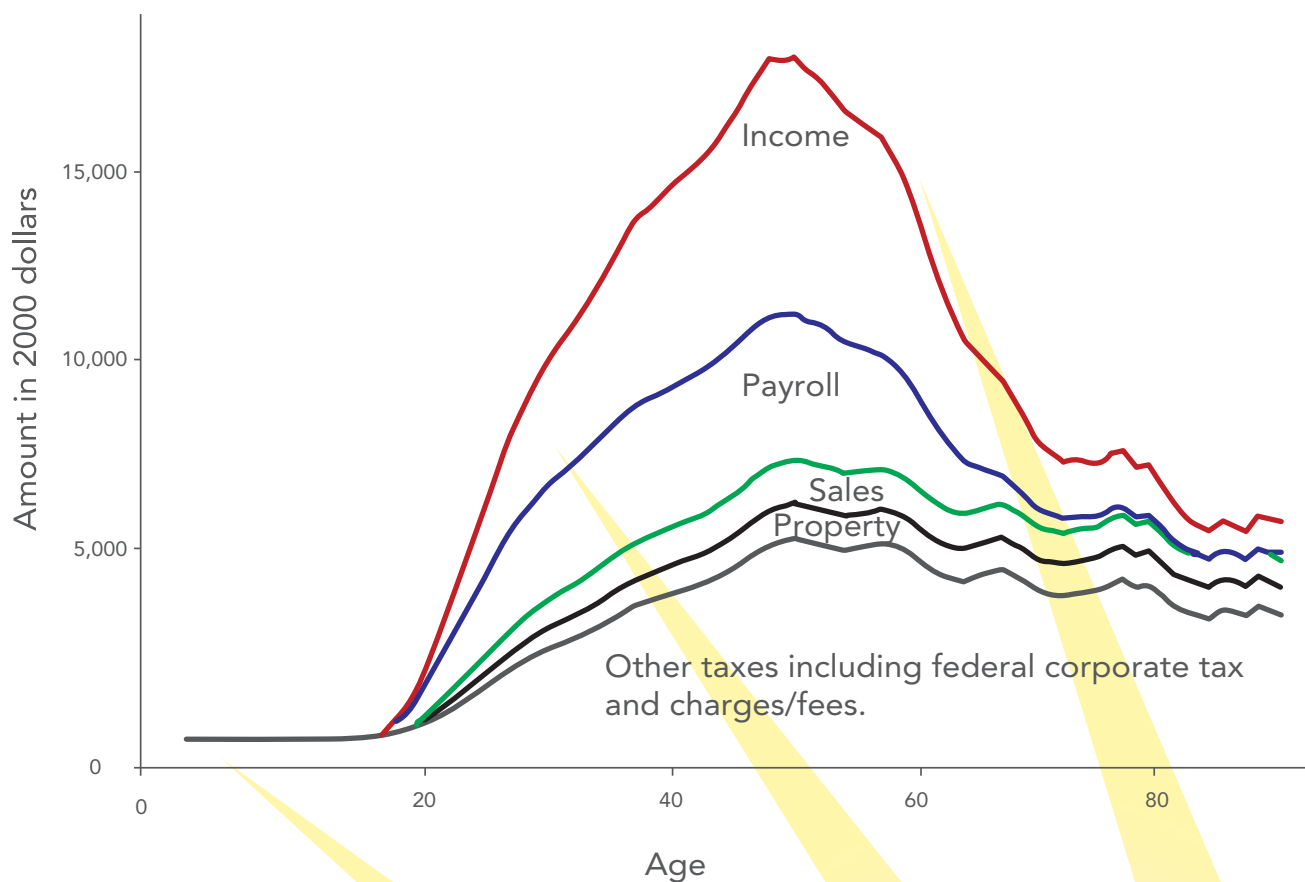
16 Edwards, Ryan and Lee, Ronald, "The Fiscal Impact of Population Aging in the US: Assessing the Uncertainties," Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging, UC Berkeley, 2002. <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/9480n177>

17 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.

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 21**.¹⁸ The primary culprits for this drop are the payroll and income tax, which naturally decline 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 21

Taxes by Program and Age



Source: See footnote 16

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 to fixing it. To answer this question, let's examine the steep drop in the fertility rate (the number of children a woman gives birth to over her lifetime).

18 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>

Unfortunately, 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.¹⁹

Legalization of abortion and advent of “the pill” and other forms of contraception: A baby that is never born directly lowers the fertility rate.²⁰

The decline in religiosity: Religious families have a higher fertility rate than non-religious families.²¹⁻²² 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.²³

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.”²⁴ In 2014, there were 1,436,496 cases of chlamydia and another 348,179 cases of gonorrhea (see section on STDs) which causes pelvic inflammatory disease that can then lead to infertility.



19 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>

20 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>

21 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/>

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

23 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>

24 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>

The increase in the average age of women having their first child: The CDC recently found:

“...[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.”²⁵



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. For example, Illinois has long seen its residents moving to states such as Texas and Florida.²⁶ 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.

25 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>

26 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

As shown in **Chart 3** and **Table 3** (in appendix):

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN DEMOGRAPHICS ARE:		
1	Utah	9.07
2	North Dakota	8.40
3	Texas	7.94
4	Idaho	7.11
5	Alaska	6.88
6	South Dakota	6.68
7	Nebraska	6.67
8	Oklahoma	6.26
9	Colorado	6.17
10	Georgia	6.03

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Florida	3.90
42	New York	3.74
43	Pennsylvania	3.34
44	Massachusetts	3.18
45	West Virginia	3.05
46	Rhode Island	2.78
47	Connecticut	2.77
48	New Hampshire	2.48
49	Vermont	2.23
50	Maine	2.14

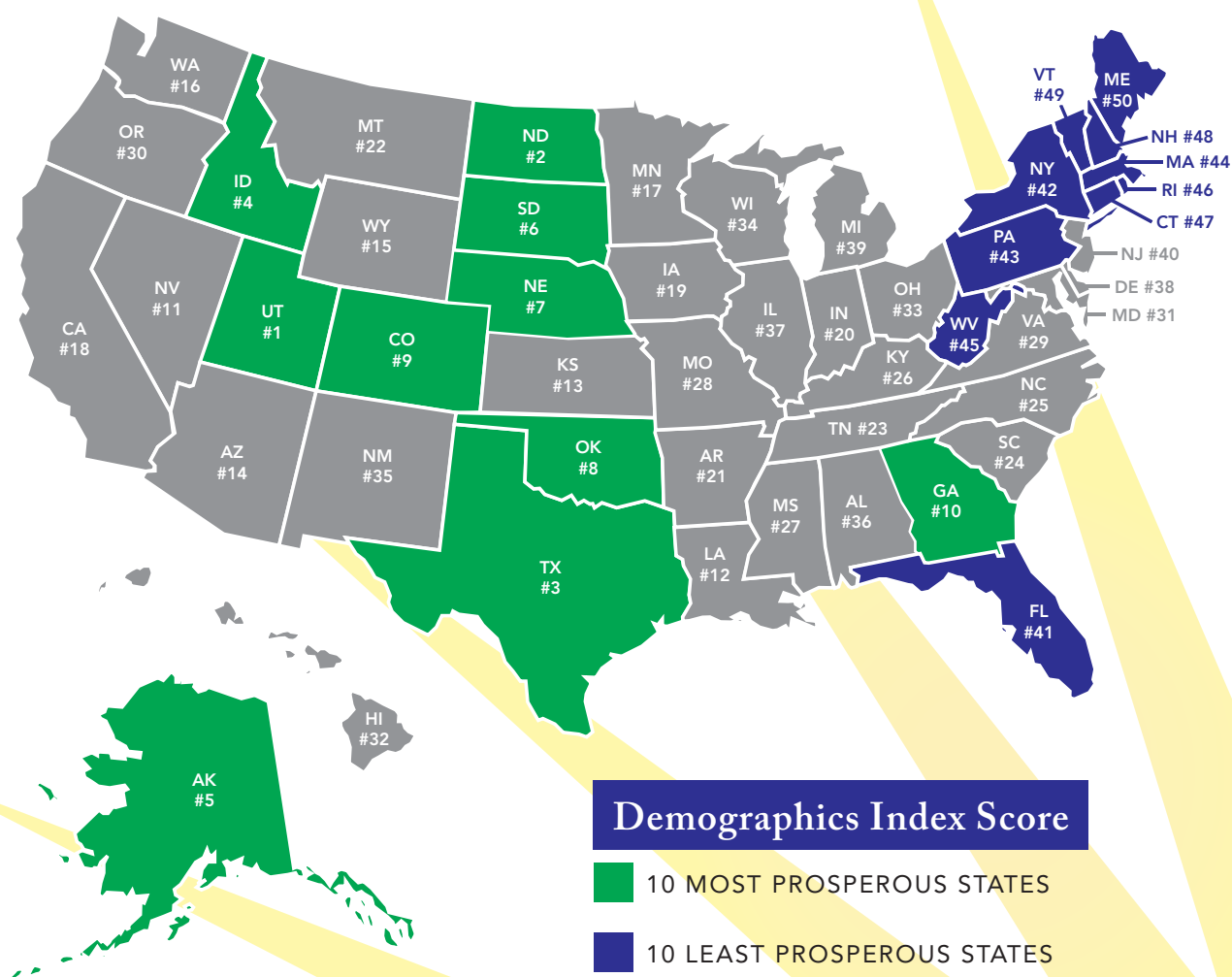
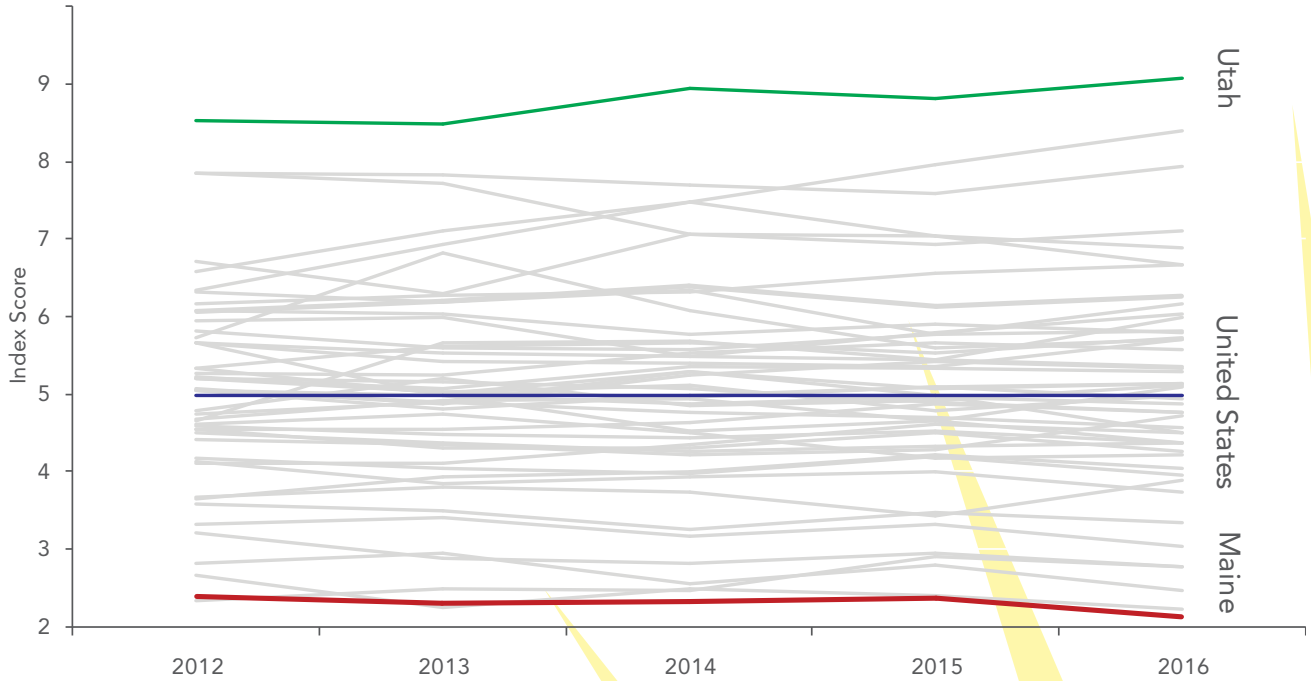


CHART 3
Demographics Index Score
2012 to 2016



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

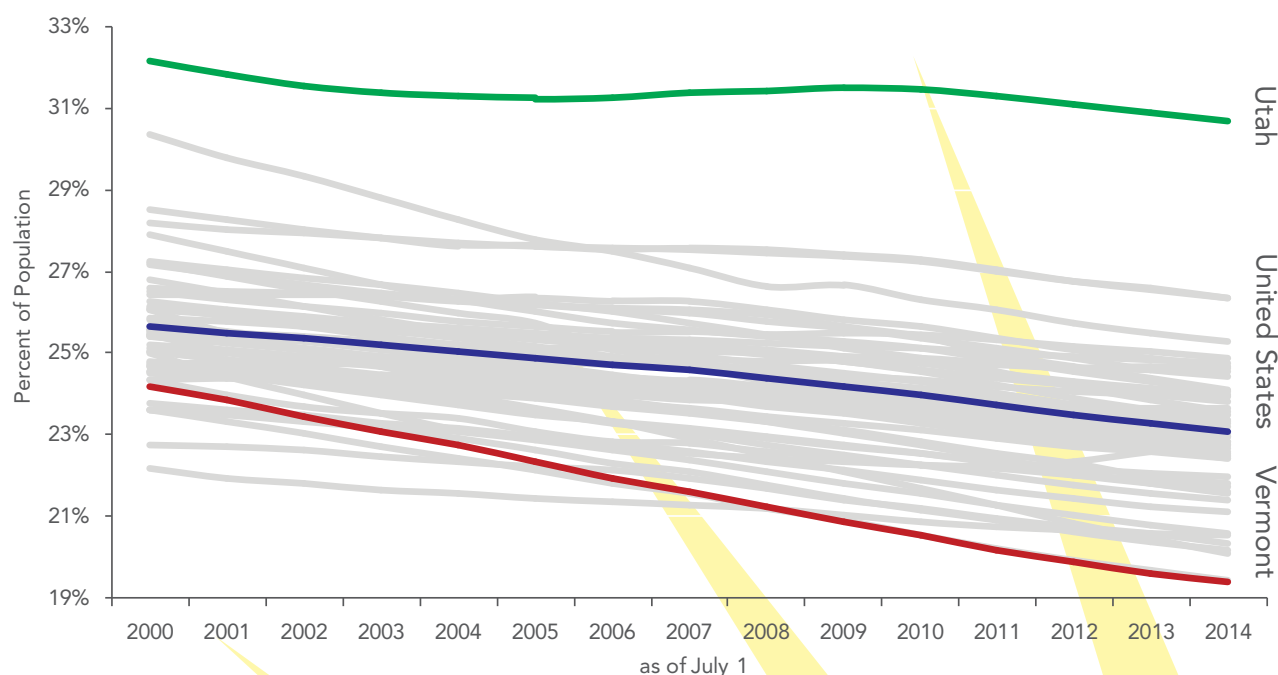
Percent of Population Under Age 18

As shown in **Chart 22**, the percent of the population under the age of 18 decreased nationally by 10 percent to 23.1 percent in 2014 from 25.7 percent in 2000. In 2014, Utah had the greatest under-18 population at 30.7 percent while Vermont had the lowest under-18 population at 19.4 percent—that is a difference of 58 percent.²⁷

CHART 22

Under Age 18

July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2014



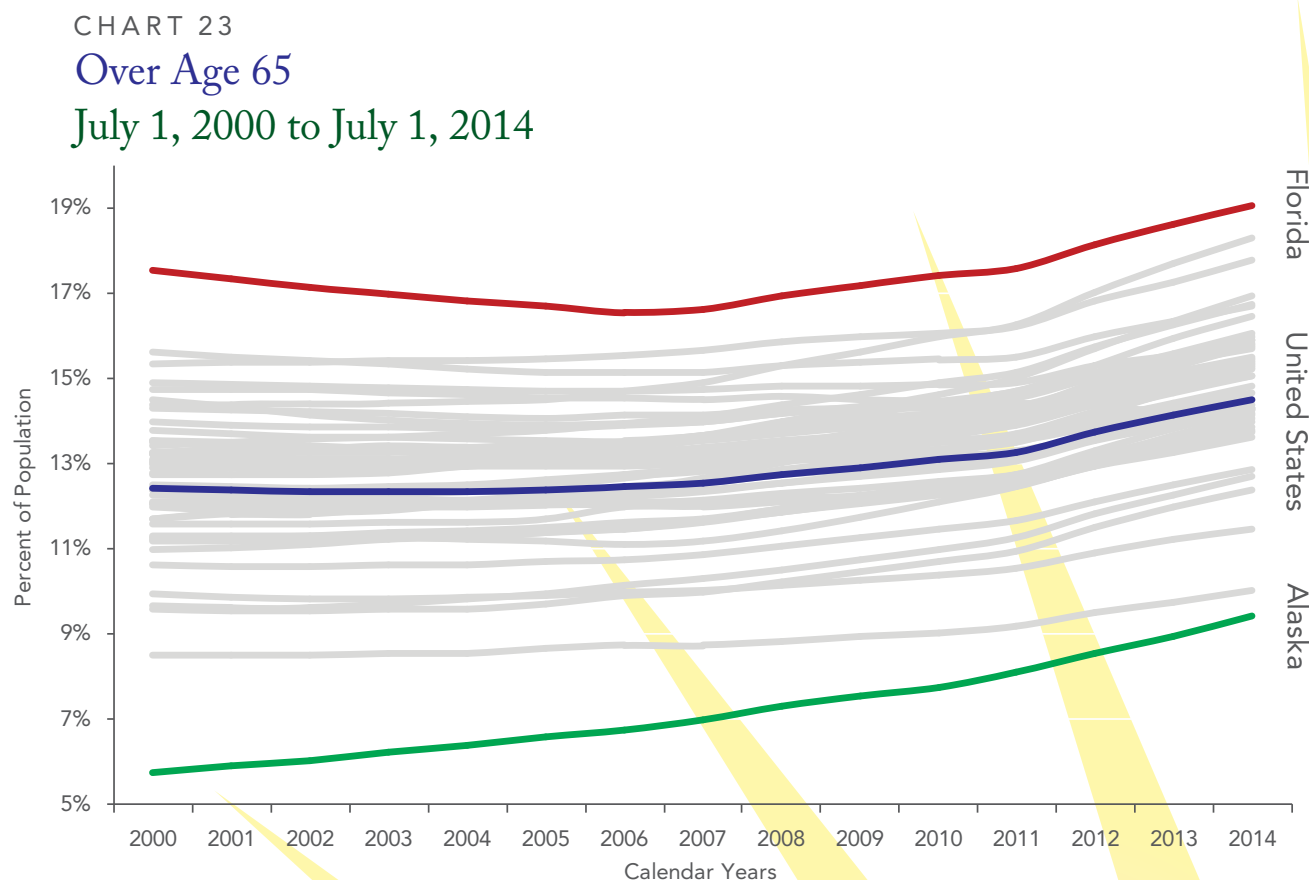
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the under-18 sub-index, Utah had the top score (10.00) followed by Texas (8.71), Idaho (8.63), South Dakota (7.60), and Nebraska (7.60). On the other hand, Vermont had the lowest score (0.55) followed by Maine (0.70), New Hampshire (0.76), Rhode Island (1.64), and Florida (2.07).

²⁷ Population Estimates, U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/asrh/2014/index.html>

Percent of Population Over Age 65

As shown in **Chart 23**, the percent of the population over the age of 65 increased nationally by 16.7 percent to 14.5 percent in 2014 from 12.4 percent in 2000. In 2014, Florida had the highest over-65 population at 19.1 percent while Alaska had the lowest over-65 population at 9.4 percent—that is a difference of 102 percent.²⁸



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

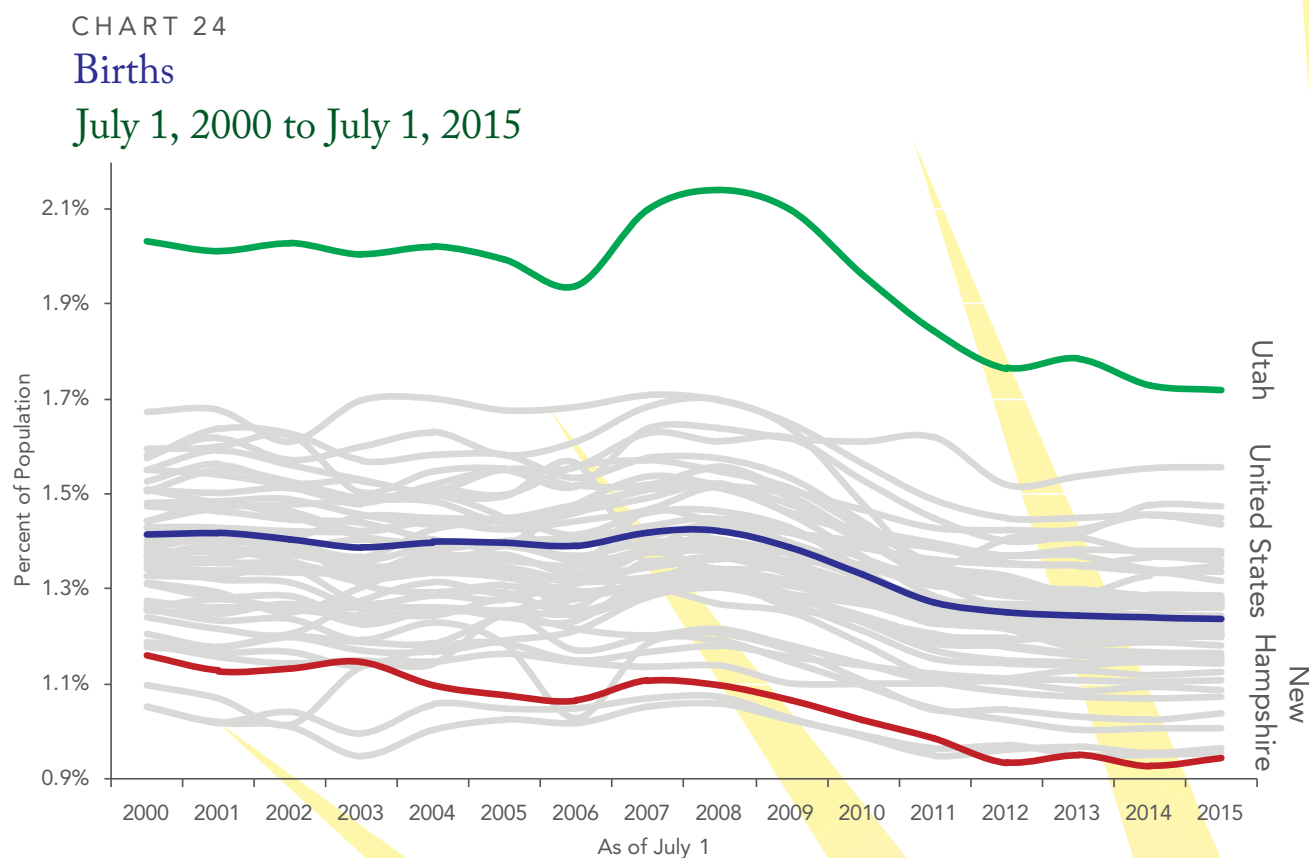
Overall, for the over-65 sub-index, Utah had the top score (9.66) followed by Alaska (9.24), Texas (8.27), North Dakota (6.98), and Georgia (6.91). On the other hand, Florida had the lowest score (1.13) followed by Maine (1.33), West Virginia (2.23), Vermont (2.53), and Montana (3.07).

28 Population Estimates, U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/asrh/2014/index.html>

Net Natural Population Change

Charts 24 and 25 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 2015.²⁹

As shown in **Chart 24**, the birth rate (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 12.4 percent to 1.24 percent in 2015 from 1.41 percent in 2000. In 2015, Utah had the highest birth rate at 1.72 percent while New Hampshire had the lowest birth rate at 0.94 percent—that is a difference of 82 percent.



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

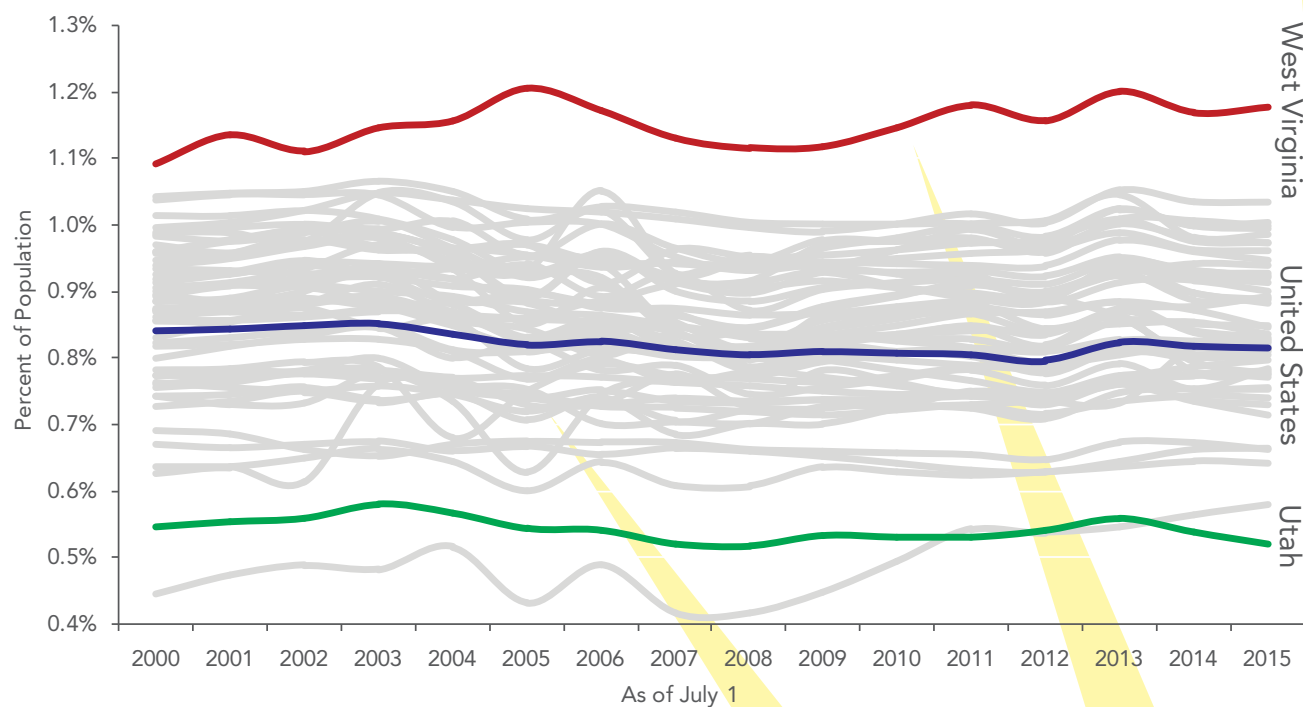
29 Population Estimates, U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/totals/2015/index.html>

As shown in **Chart 25**, the death rate (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 3 percent to 0.82 percent in 2015 from 0.84 percent in 2000. In 2015, West Virginia had the highest death rate at 1.2 percent while Utah had the lowest death rate at 0.5 percent—that is a difference of 126 percent.

CHART 25

Deaths

July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2015

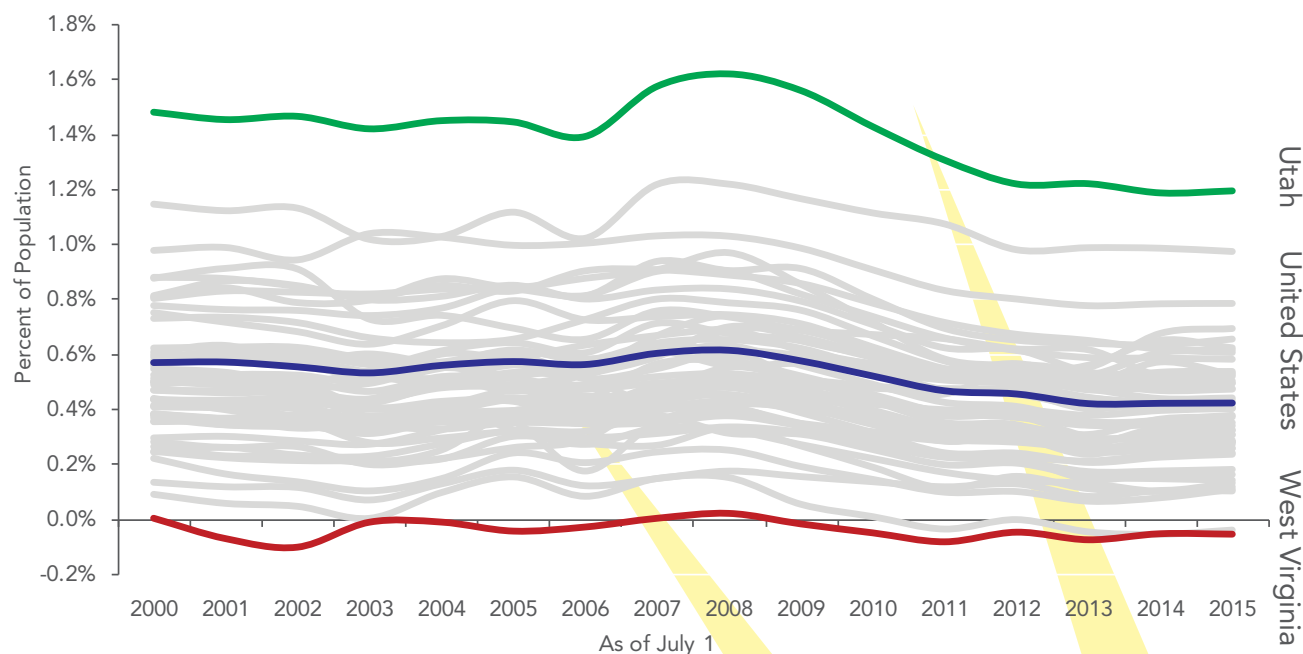


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 26**, there is a large variance in the net natural population growth rate (birth rate minus death rate) among the 50 states. In 2015, Utah had the highest net natural growth rate at 1.2 percent while West Virginia had the lowest net natural growth rate at -0.05 percent. Only one other state, Maine (-0.03 percent), had a negative net natural growth rate.

CHART 26

Net Natural Population Growth Rate (Birth Rate Minus Death Rate) July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2015



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 (9.67) followed by Alaska (8.78), North Dakota (8.47), Texas (7.92), and South Dakota (7.32). On the other hand, Maine had the lowest score (1.91) followed by West Virginia (2.03), New Hampshire (2.61), Pennsylvania (2.89), and Vermont (2.90).

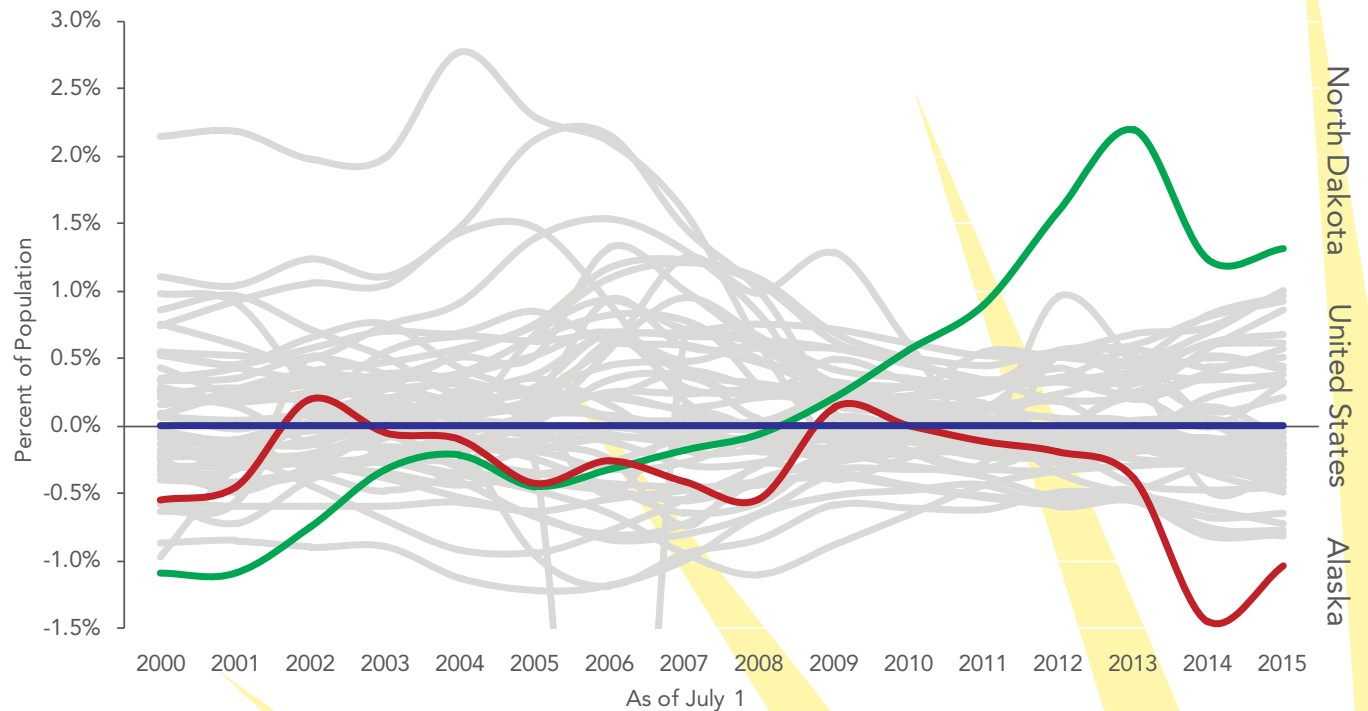
Note: The birth rate, death rate, and net natural population growth rate were weighted equally in the net natural population change sub-index.

Net Domestic Migration

As shown in **Chart 27**, there is a large variance in domestic migration among the 50 states.³⁰ In 2015, North Dakota had the highest net in-migration at 1.21 percent while Alaska had the highest level of net out-migration at -1.38 percent.

CHART 27

Domestic Migration July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2015



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

Overall, for the net domestic migration sub-index, Nevada and North Dakota share the top score (10.00) followed by Colorado (9.58), Florida (9.55), South Carolina (9.46), and Oregon (9.15). On the other hand, Alaska had the lowest score (0.00) followed by Illinois (1.56), New York (1.56), Connecticut (1.64), and New Mexico (1.88).

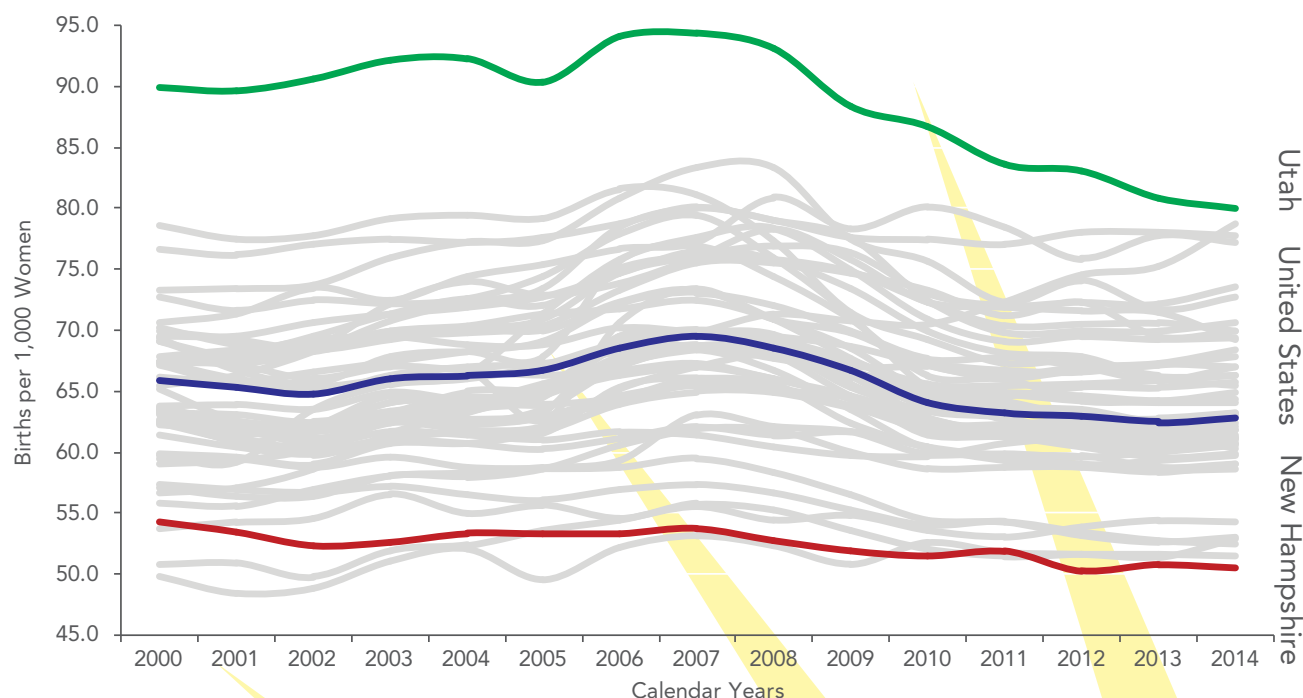
30 Population Estimates, U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/totals/2015/index.html>

Fertility Rate

As shown in **Chart 28**, the fertility rate (per 100 women between the ages of 15 and 44) declined nationally by 4.6 percent to 62.9 in 2014 from 65.9 in 2000. In 2014, Utah had the highest fertility rate at 80 while New Hampshire had the lowest fertility rate at 50.5—that is a difference of 58 percent.³¹

CHART 28

Fertility 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 fertility sub-index, North Dakota had the top score (10.00) followed by South Dakota (9.62), Utah (9.30), Alaska (8.99), and Nebraska (8.35). On the other hand, New Hampshire had the lowest score (0.73) followed by Rhode Island (1.15), Massachusetts (1.26), Connecticut (1.42), and Vermont (1.79).

31 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12.pdf



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!³²

32 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 declining marriage rates are 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. The drop has been so severe and prolonged that there is a growing worry of it plunging America into an economic depression.³³

33 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>

Less tangibly than finances, but no less important, is that marriage also increases happiness. A recent study by economist Shawn Grover and John Helliwell found that:

“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.”³⁴

Fortunately, past trends are not indicative of future results. Americans still remain optimistic about their prospects for marriage. A recent survey of 15,738 adults concluded that:

“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.”³⁵



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.³⁶

34 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.

35 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>

36 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>

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

“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.”³⁷



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.³⁸

37 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>

38 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, a recent study by David Ribar concluded:



“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 . . . the 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.”³⁹

Measured more directly, families in poverty can be directly attributed to the breakdown of the family.⁴⁰ This can be seen directly 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 is only 8.2 percent while for single parents the poverty rate jumps to 35.9 percent.

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

39 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>

40 Wilcox, W. Bradford, “The Evolution of Divorce,” National Affairs, Fall 2009. <http://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-evolution-of-divorce>

First, the percent of taxpayers filing as married increases significantly with income. In 2013, for all taxpayers, the married taxpayers represented 36.8 percent of all taxpayers, but for taxpayers earning over \$100,000, their share jumps 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 jumps to 2.78.⁴¹

The good news is that research suggests that the negative economic ramifications of family fragmentation can be reversed. Lerman and Wilcox find that

“[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.”⁴²



41 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>

42 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 4** and **Table 4** (in appendix):

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN FAMILY STRUCTURE ARE:		
1	Utah	7.78
2	Idaho	7.08
3	Iowa	6.88
4	Nebraska	5.95
5	Montana	5.94
6	Colorado	5.91
7	Wyoming	5.89
8	Washington	5.86
9	Kansas	5.75
10	South Dakota	5.70

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	West Virginia	4.23
42	Mississippi	4.10
43	New York	4.02
44	Delaware	4.00
45	Florida	3.91
46	Rhode Island	3.90
47	Louisiana	3.88
48	Ohio	3.55
49	Arizona	3.53
50	Nevada	3.49

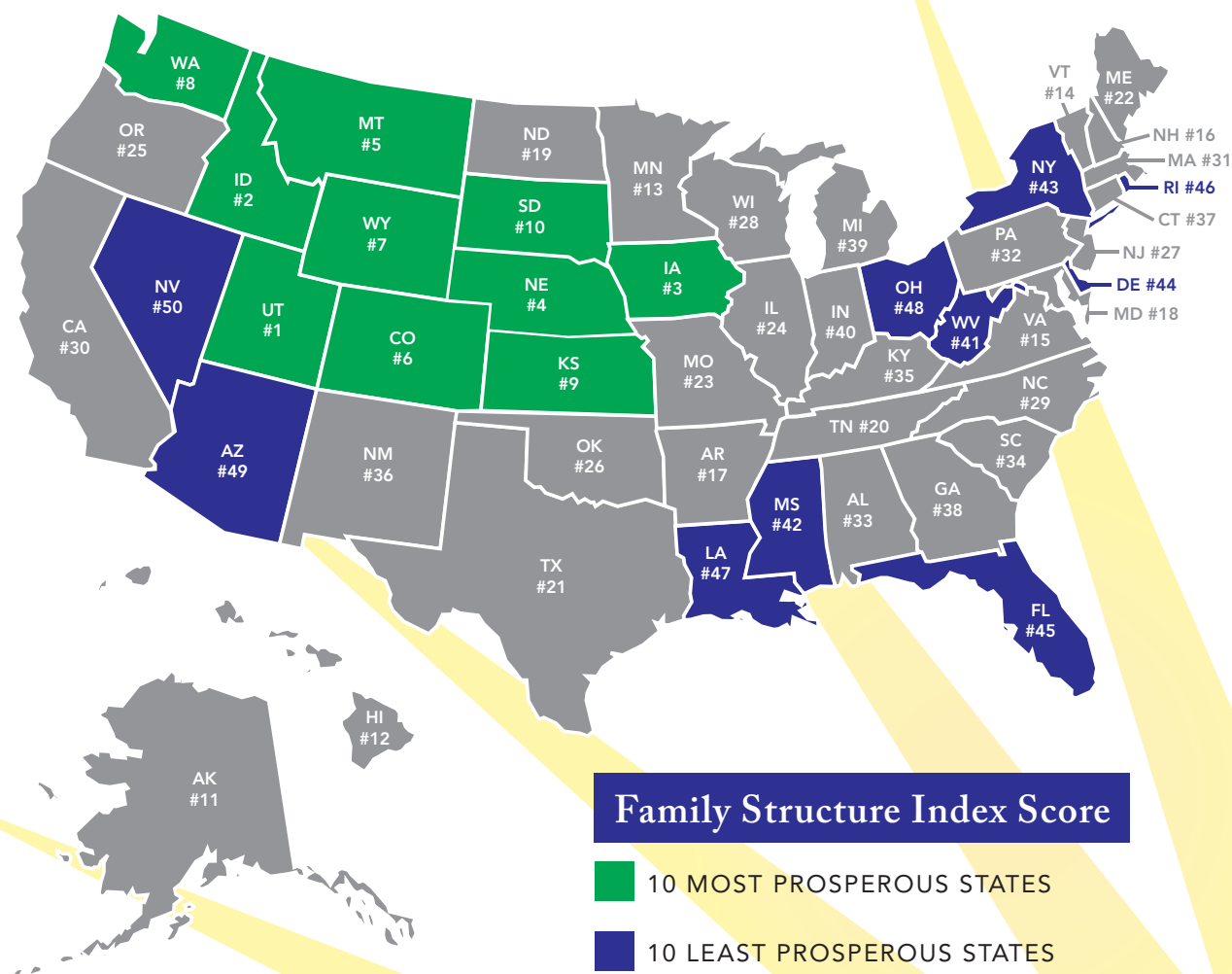
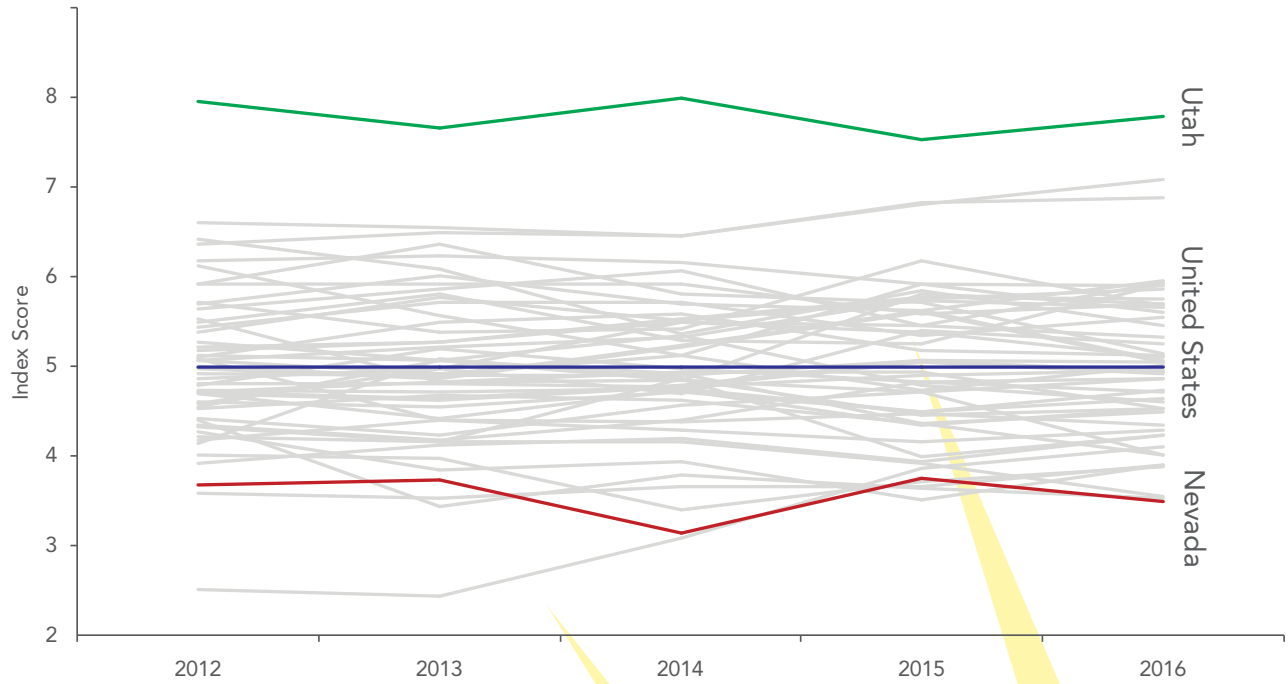


CHART 4

Family Structure Index Score 2012 to 2016



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

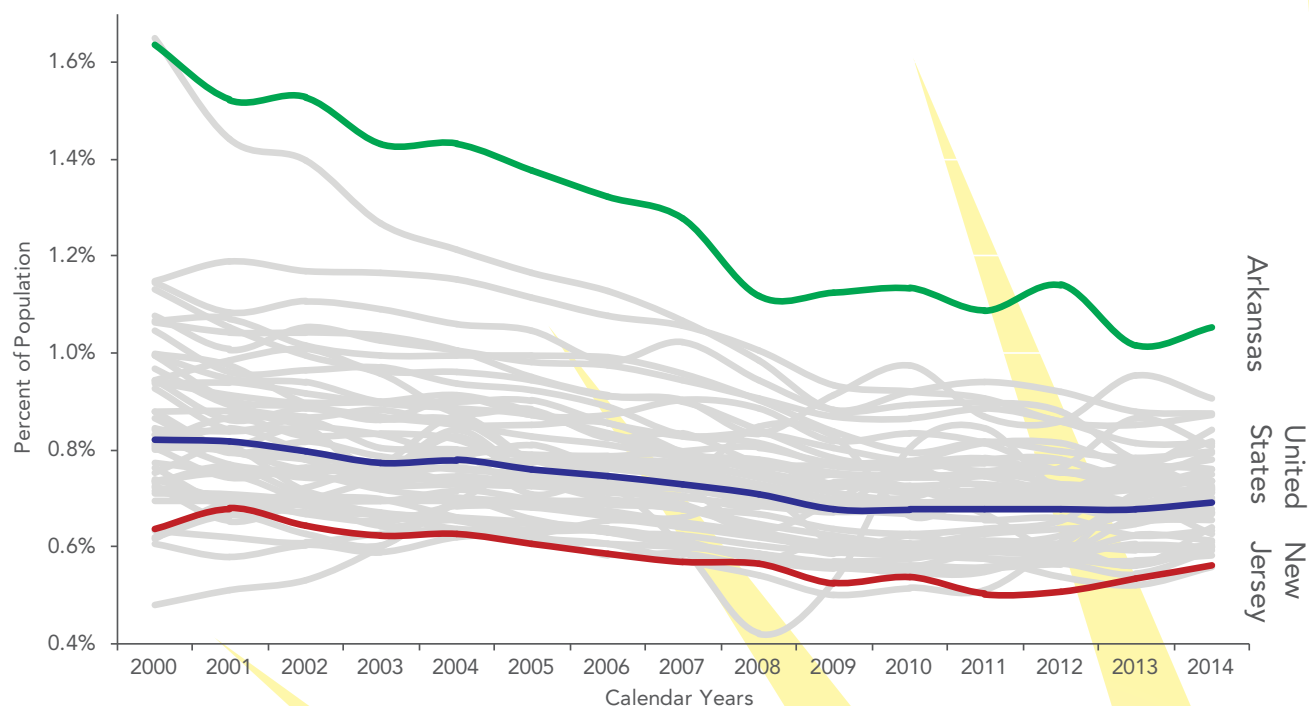
Marriage Rate

As shown in **Chart 29**, the marriage rate (as a percent of the population) declined nationally by 15.9 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—that is a difference of 124 percent.⁴³

CHART 29

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 (9.38), Tennessee (8.75), Idaho (8.62), and New Mexico (8.48). On the other hand, Connecticut had the lowest score (0.67) followed by New Jersey (1.36), Massachusetts (1.61), Arizona (1.86), and Ohio (1.93).

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.

43 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>

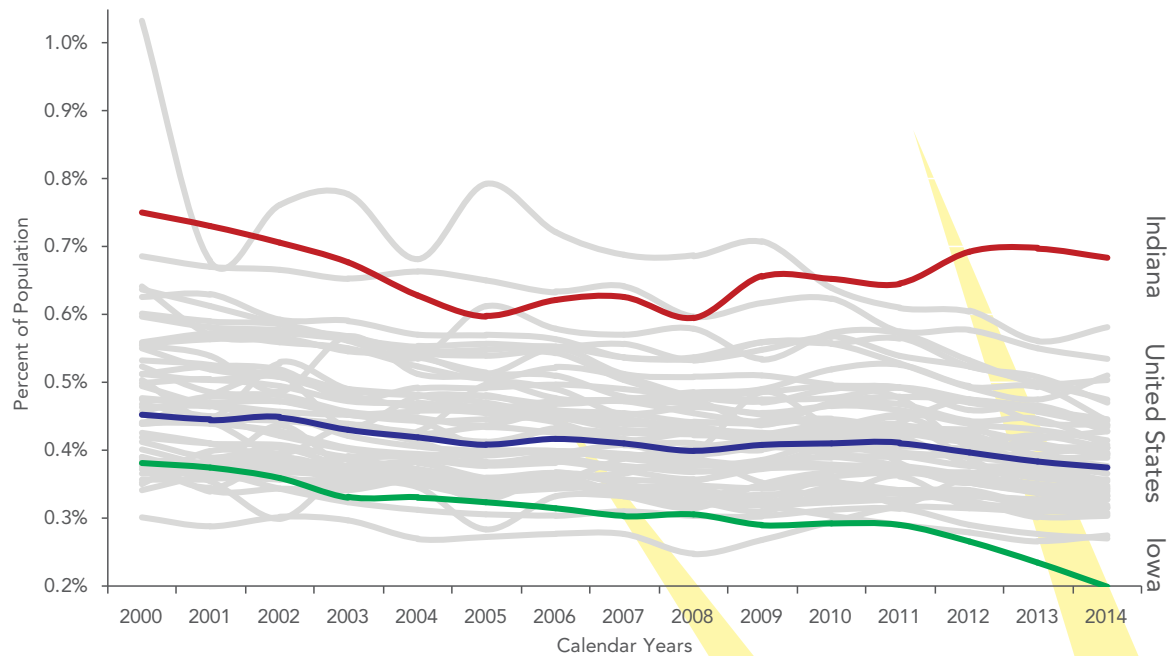
Divorce Rate

As shown in **Chart 30**, the divorce rate (as a percent of the population) declined nationally by 19.2 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—that is a difference of 196 percent.⁴⁴

CHART 30

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 (8.75) followed by Illinois (6.83), Louisiana (6.64), Texas (6.21), and Georgia (6.16). On the other hand, Indiana had the lowest score (0.18) followed by Nevada (2.11), Arkansas (3.01), Wyoming (3.16), and Oklahoma (3.38).

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.⁴⁵

44 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>

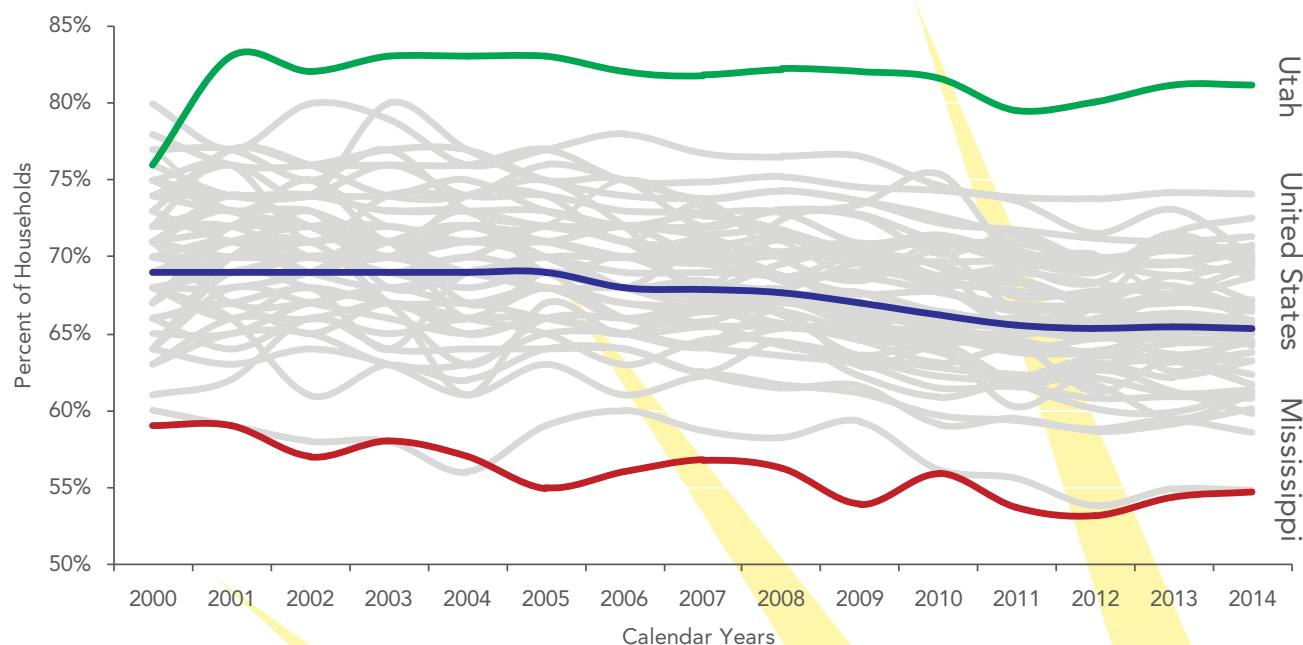
45 Glass, Jennifer and LevChak, Philip, "Red States, Blue States, and Divorce: Understanding Regional Variations in Divorce Rates," National Center for Family and Marriage Research, Bowling Green State University. <https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/original-data/county-level-marriage-divorce-data-2000.html>

Percent of Children in Married Couple Households

As shown in **Chart 31**, the percent of children in married couple households (as a percent of households) declined nationally by 5.2 percent to 65.4 percent in 2014 from 69 percent in 2000. In 2014, Utah had the highest level at 81.2 percent, while Mississippi had the lowest level at 54.7 percent—that is a difference of 48 percent.⁴⁶

CHART 31

Children in Married-Couple Households Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



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 (10.00) followed by Idaho (7.94), Virginia (7.04), Minnesota (6.87), and Nebraska (6.85). On the other hand, Louisiana had the lowest score (1.12) followed by Mississippi (1.18), Delaware (1.67), South Carolina (2.54), and Rhode Island (2.64).

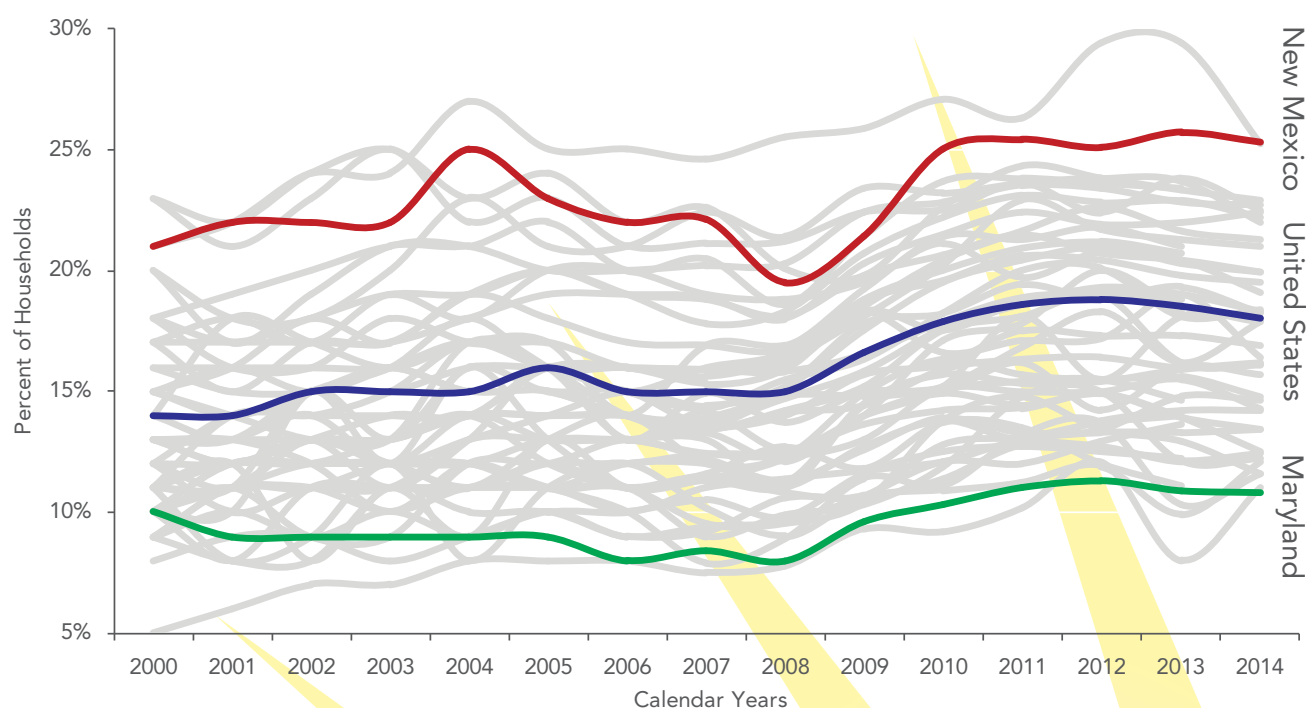
46 U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau. The data was extracted from the Kids Count Data Center published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. <http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/105-child-population-by-household-type?loc=1&loct=2#detail>
[ed/2/2-52/false/36,868,867,133,38/4290,4291,4292/427,428](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/10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

Percent of Families with Related Children Below Poverty

As shown in **Chart 32**, the percent of families with related children below poverty (as a percent of all families) increased nationally by 28.6 percent to 18 percent in 2014 from 14 percent in 2000. In 2014, New Mexico had the highest poverty rate at 25.3 percent while Maryland had the lowest poverty rate at 10.8 percent—that is a difference of 134 percent.⁴⁷

CHART 32

Families with Related Children Below Poverty Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



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, Utah had the top score (8.68) followed by Colorado (8.24), Maryland (7.96), Hawaii (7.58), and Wyoming (7.38). On the other hand, New Mexico had the lowest score (0.88) followed by Mississippi (1.36), Alabama (1.45), Louisiana (2.07), and Tennessee (2.18).

⁴⁷ 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>

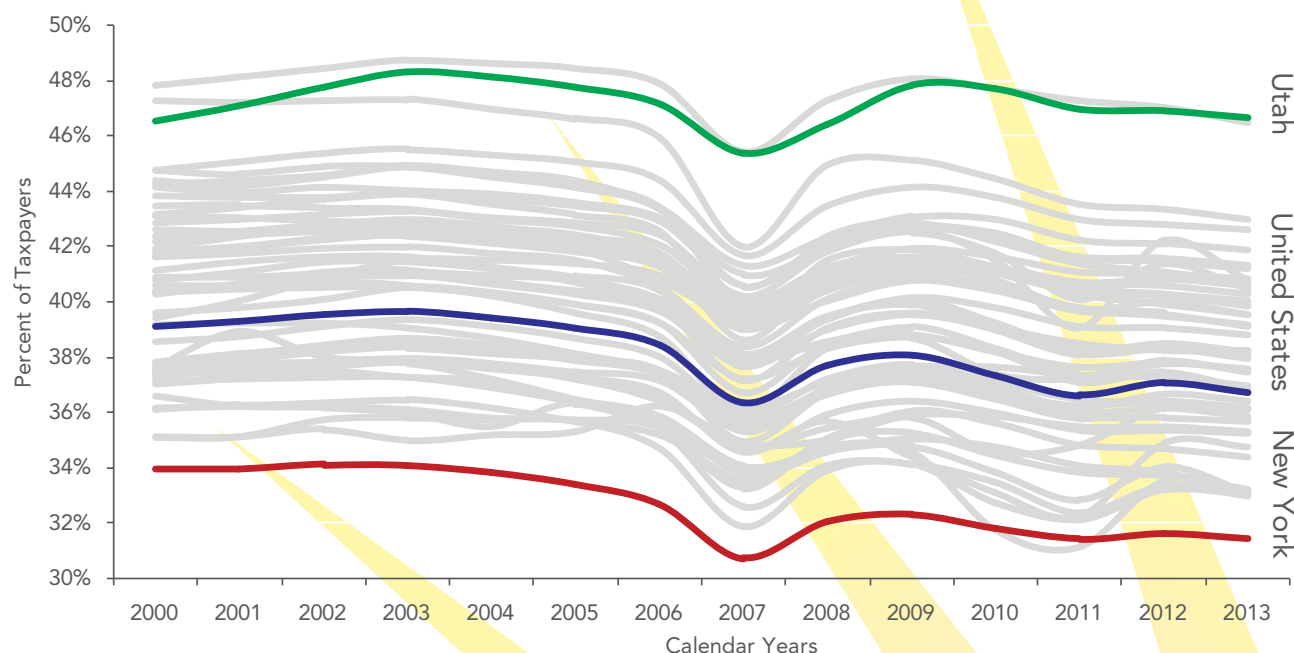
State of Households

Charts 31, 32, 33, and 34 show the variance in the multiple measures of the state of household subindex—such as percent of married households and average household size—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2013.⁴⁸

As shown in **Chart 33**, the percent of married taxpayers (as a percent of all taxpayers) declined nationally by 6 percent to 36.8 percent in 2013 from 39.1 percent in 2000. In 2013, Utah had the highest percentage of married taxpayers at 46.7 percent while New York had the lowest percentage at 31.4 percent—that is a difference of 48 percent.

CHART 33

Married Taxpayers as a Percent of All Taxpayers Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



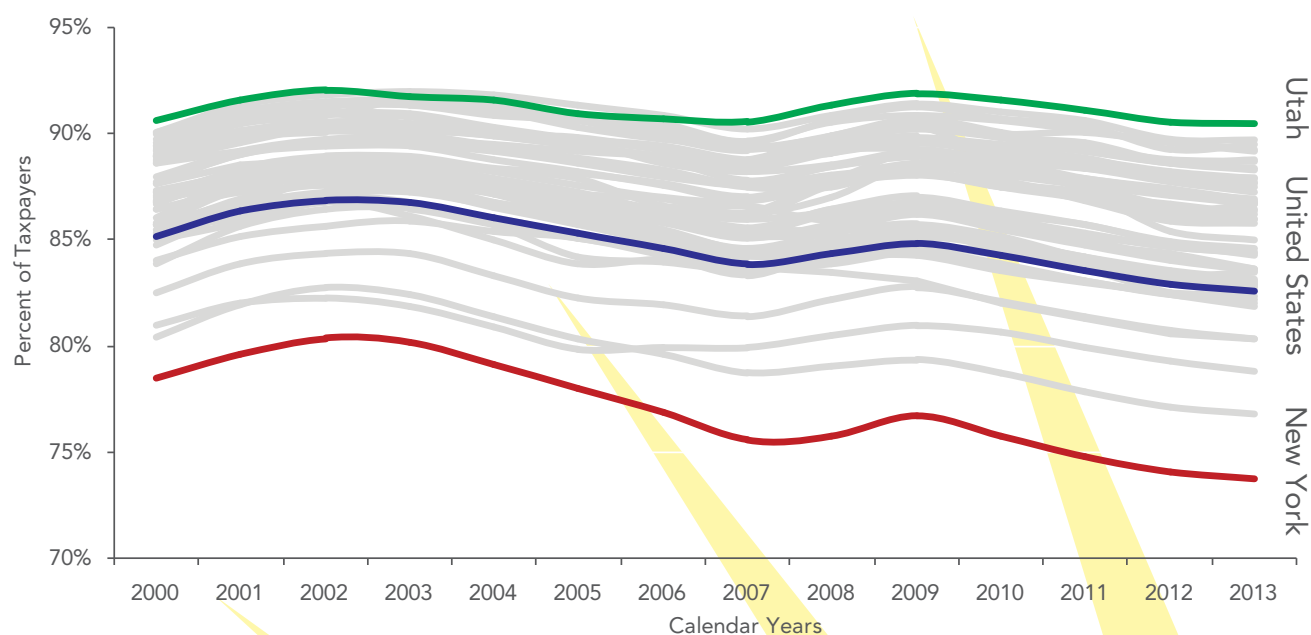
Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

48 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 34**, the percent of married taxpayers earning over \$100,000 (as a percent of all taxpayers earning over \$100,000) declined nationally by 3 percent to 82.6 percent in 2013 from 85.2 percent in 2000. In 2013, Utah had the highest percentage of married taxpayers earning over \$100,000 at 90.5 percent while New York had the lowest percentage at 73.7 percent—that is a difference of 23 percent.

CHART 34

Married Taxpayers Earning over \$100,00 as a Percent of All
Taxpayers Earning over \$100,000
Calendar Years 2000 to 2013

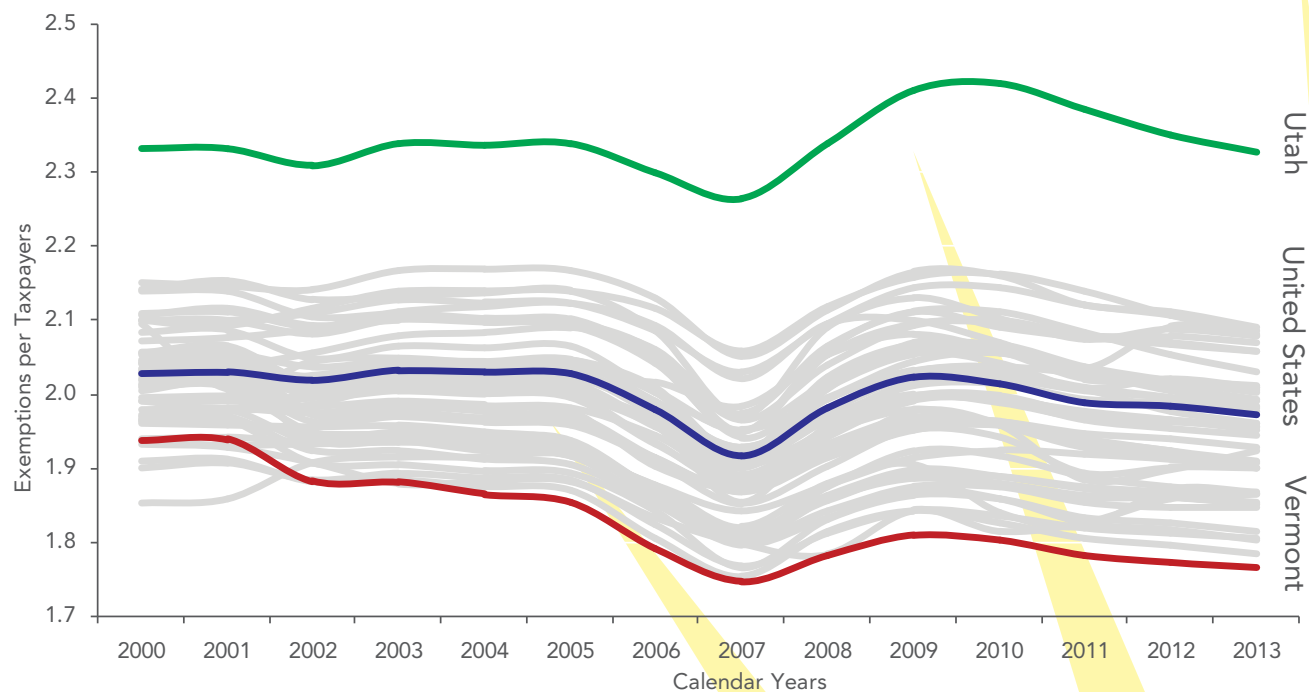


Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 35**, the number of exemptions per taxpayer declined nationally by 2.7 percent to 1.97 in 2013 from 2.03 percent in 2000. In 2013, Utah had the highest number of exemptions per taxpayer at 2.33 while Vermont had the lowest number at 1.77—that is a difference of 32 percent.

CHART 35

Exemptions per Taxpayer Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

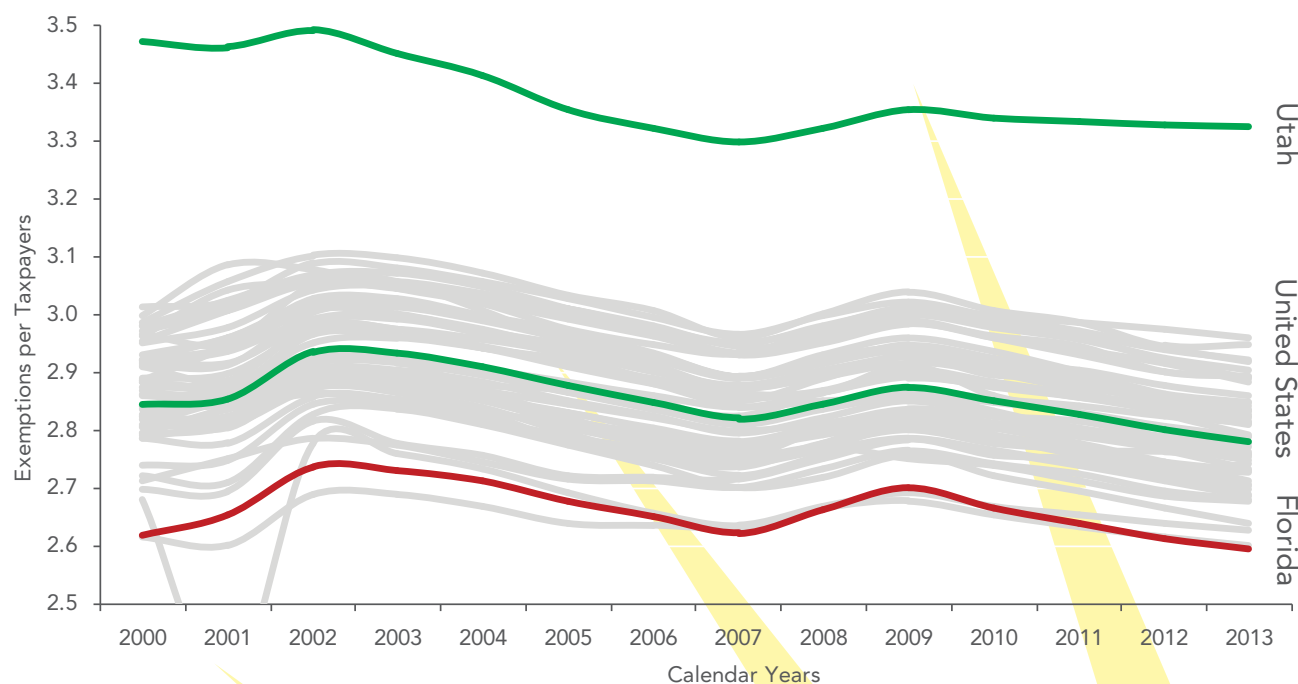
As shown in **Chart 36**, the number of exemptions per taxpayer earning over \$100,000 declined nationally by 2.3 percent to 2.78 in 2013 from 2.85 percent in 2000. In 2013, Utah had the highest number of exemptions per taxpayers earning over \$100,000 at 3.32 while Florida had the lowest number at 2.59—that is a difference of 28 percent.

CHART 36

Exemptions per Taxpayer Earning over \$100,000

Calendar Years 2000 to 2013

July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2014



Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the state of households sub-index, Utah had the top score (9.44) followed by Idaho (8.92), Arkansas (6.98), Kansas (6.95), and Nebraska (6.93). On the other hand, New York had the lowest score (1.66) followed by Rhode Island (2.02), Florida (2.37), Maryland (2.84), and Nevada (2.91).

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



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.⁴⁹ 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.

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.⁵⁰

Second, a recent study estimated that more than 5 million children have had at least one parent in prison at some point in their life.⁵¹ These children have to deal with a number of additional challenges including:

49 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/pes_assets/2010/collateralcosts1pdf.pdf

50 Ibid.

51 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>



- “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.⁵²

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 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.⁵³ 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.⁵⁴ 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.

52 “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>

53 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>

54 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/>

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.⁵⁵ 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 those seeking high-paying work, and marriage.⁵⁶

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 parents due to 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).⁵⁷

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

55 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>

56 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://busn.uco.edu/mhepner/research/cato%20paper.pdf> The authors also provide an excel spreadsheet to calculate your own MTRs by changing various program parameters. It can be found here: http://www.econ.canterbury.ac.nz/personal_pages/bob_reed/Papers/Instructions_Welfare_Spreadsheet.html

57 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://ftp.repec.org/opt/ReDIF/RePEc/msl/workng/WinklerWelfareRulesPaperJune2015.pdf>



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

“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.”⁵⁸

Economist Robert Reed found:

“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.”⁵⁹

Finally, high tax burdens hurt state economies via the out-migration of private firms. 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.”⁶⁰

58 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>

59 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>

60 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>

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. Prominent Harvard economist Martin Feldstein states:

“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.”⁶¹



Economists Stephen Brown, Kathy Hayes and Lori Taylor found that 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.”⁶²

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.”⁶³

61 Feldstein, Martin, “How Big Should Government Be?” National Tax Journal, Vol. 50, No. 2 (June 1997), pp. 197-213. <http://www.ntanet.org/tax-resources/ntj-full-text-articles.html>

62 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>

63 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

Charitable giving 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.⁶⁴

As discussed in the section on religion, people who are the most religious enjoy healthier lives, report less depression, and enjoy overall higher 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.”⁶⁵

Thus, charitable giving is a win-win for both the receiver and giver.⁶⁶

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.

64 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>

65 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>

66 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>

As shown in **Chart 5** and **Table 5** (in appendix):

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY ARE:		
1	Utah	6.94
2	New Hampshire	6.24
3	South Dakota	6.12
4	Wyoming	6.01
5	Nebraska	5.80
6	Kansas	5.77
7	North Dakota	5.75
8	Massachusetts	5.73
9	Montana	5.69
10	Virginia	5.67

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Hawaii	4.29
42	Rhode Island	4.25
43	Arkansas	4.10
44	Kentucky	3.96
45	Louisiana	3.95
46	New Mexico	3.90
47	Mississippi	3.83
48	West Virginia	3.80
49	Delaware	3.56
50	Alaska	2.87

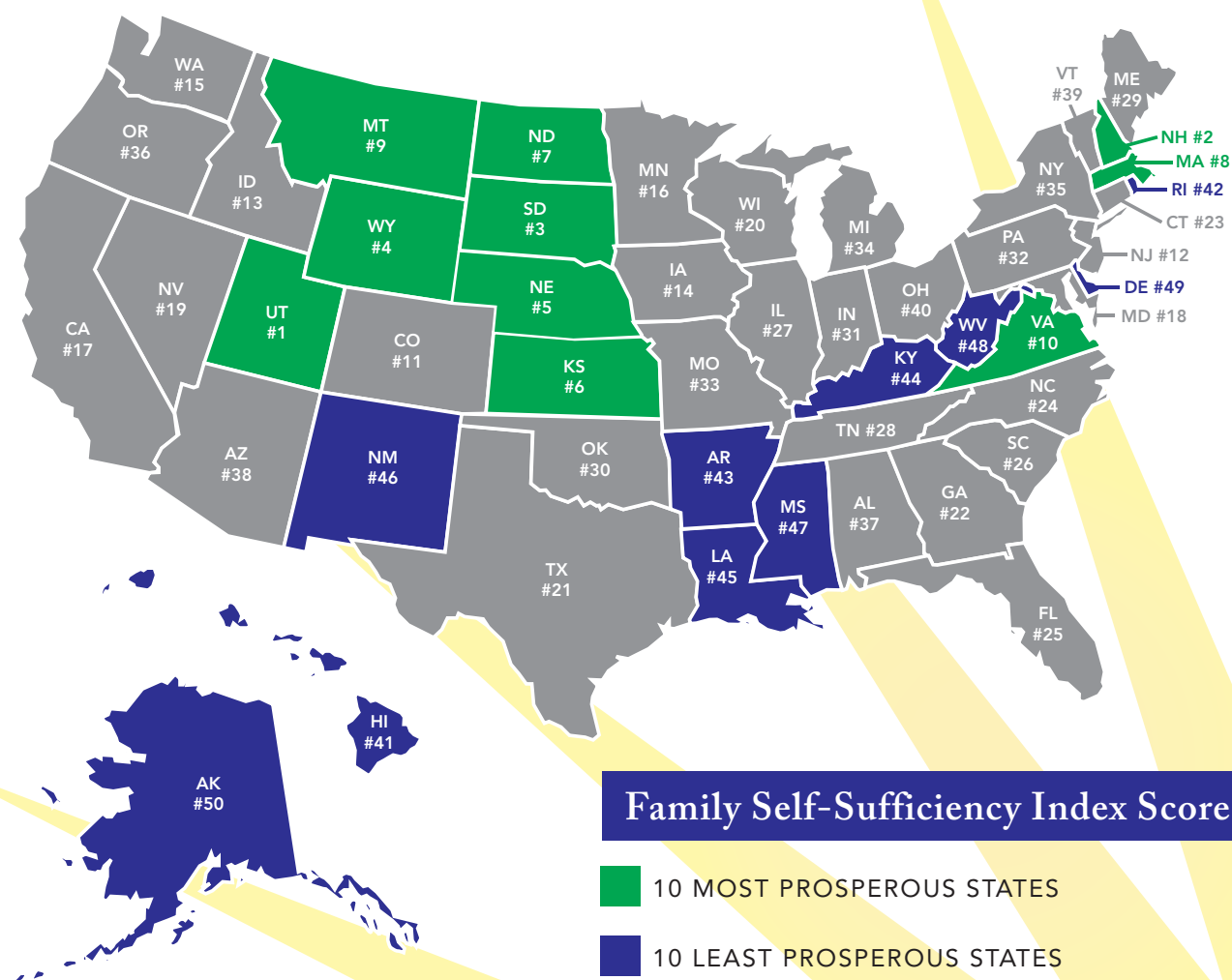
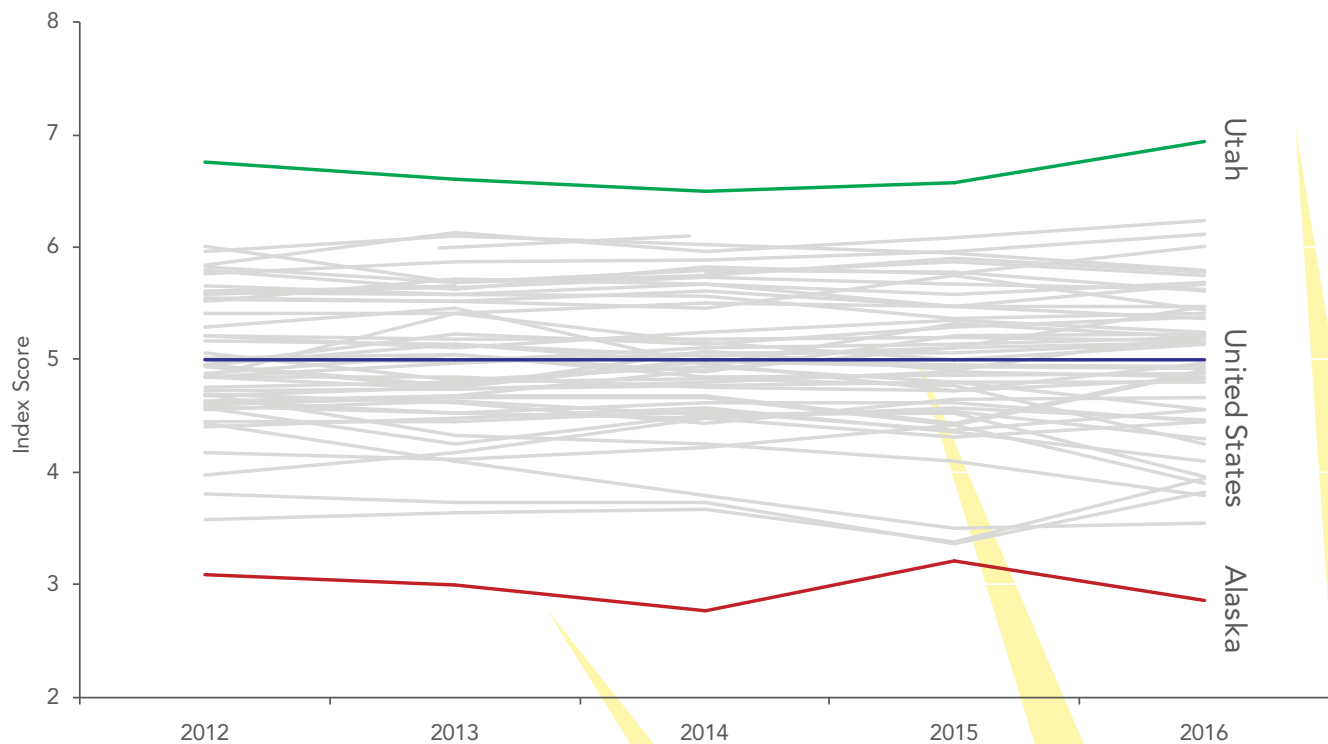


CHART 5
Family Self-Sufficiency Index Score
2012 to 2016



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

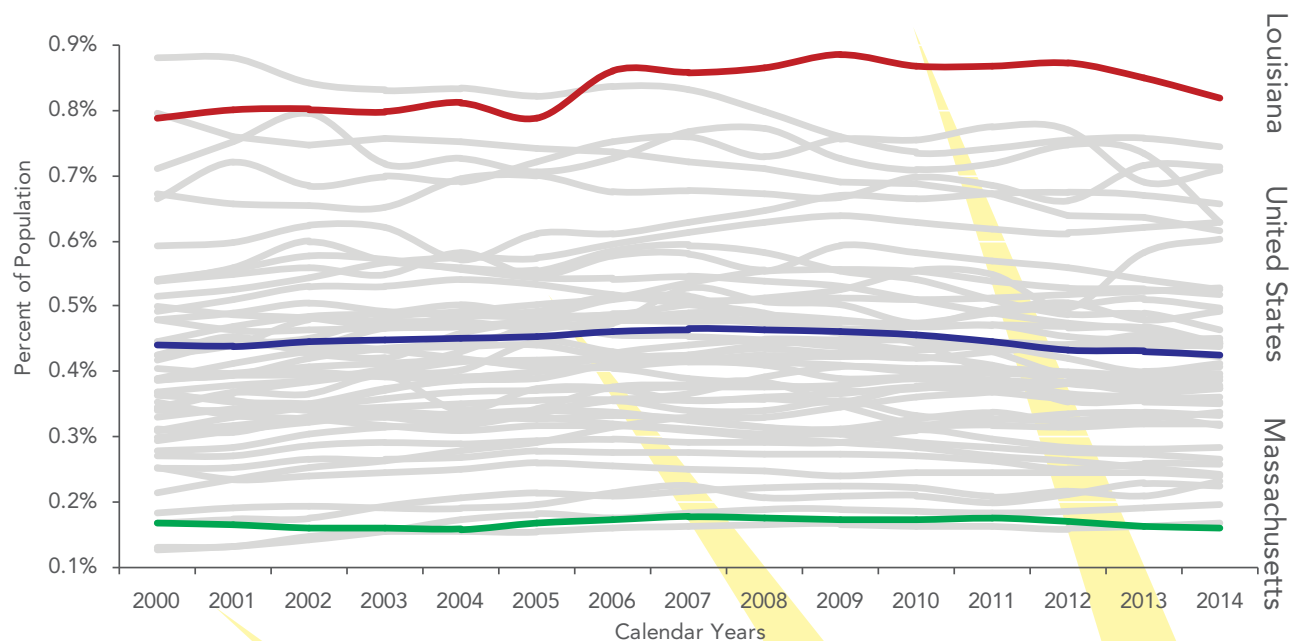
State Prisoners

As shown in **Chart 37**, state prisoners (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 3.5 percent to 0.42 percent in 2014 from 0.44 percent in 2000. In 2014, Louisiana had the highest percentage of state prisoners at 0.82 percent while Massachusetts had the lowest at 0.16 percent—that is a difference of 416 percent.⁶⁷

CHART 37

Prisoners

Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



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 (8.03) followed by New Jersey (7.51), Maine (7.35), Minnesota (6.99), and New York (6.94). On the other hand, Louisiana had the lowest score (0.96) followed by Delaware (1.42), Oklahoma (1.70), Alaska (2.15), and Alabama (2.45).

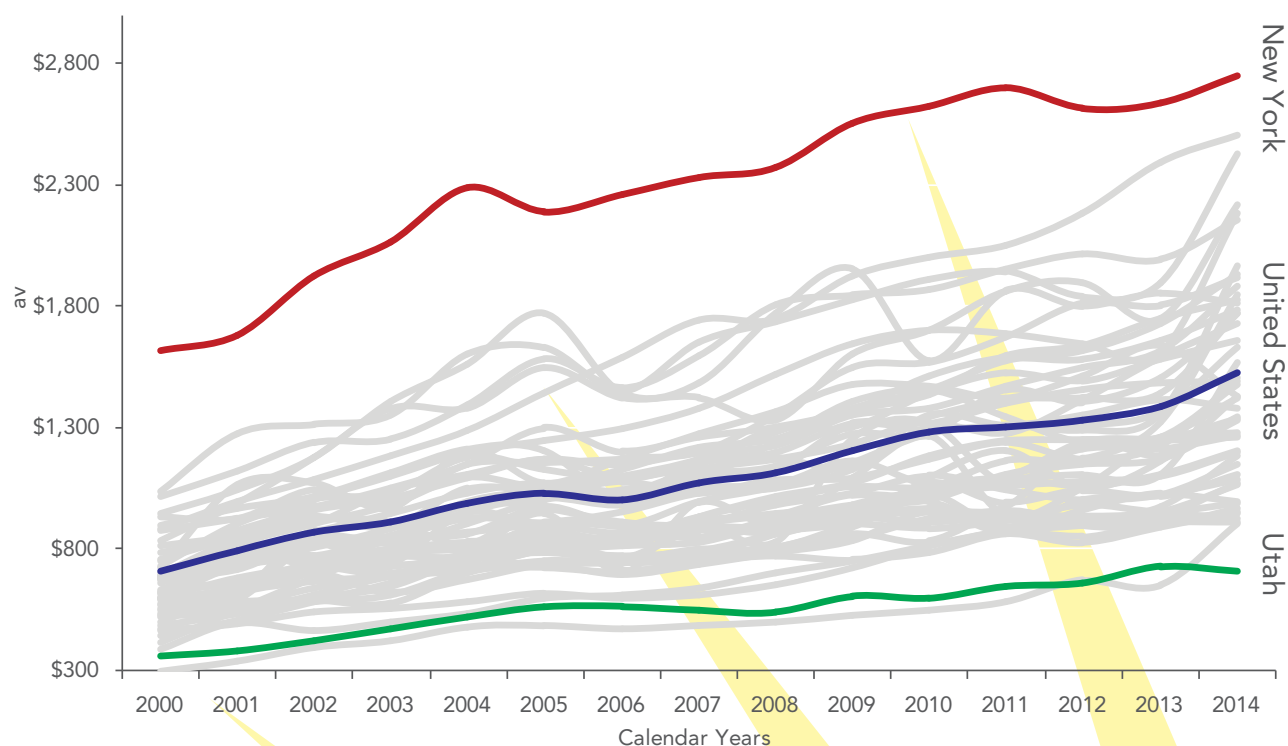
67 U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nps>

Per Capita Medicaid Spending

As shown in **Chart 38**, Medicaid spending (per person) increased nationally by 116.2 percent to \$1,531 in 2014 from \$708 in 2000. In 2014, New York had the highest level of Medicaid spending at \$2,750 while Utah had the lowest at \$716—that is a difference of 284 percent.⁶⁸

CHART 38

Medicaid Spending per Person Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



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

Overall, for the Medicaid spending sub-index, Utah had the top score (7.50) followed by South Dakota (7.25), Wyoming (7.23), Virginia (7.03), and Idaho (6.96). On the other hand, New York had the lowest score (1.41) followed by Vermont (1.72), Rhode Island (1.92), Alaska (2.52), and New Mexico (2.65).

⁶⁸ 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>

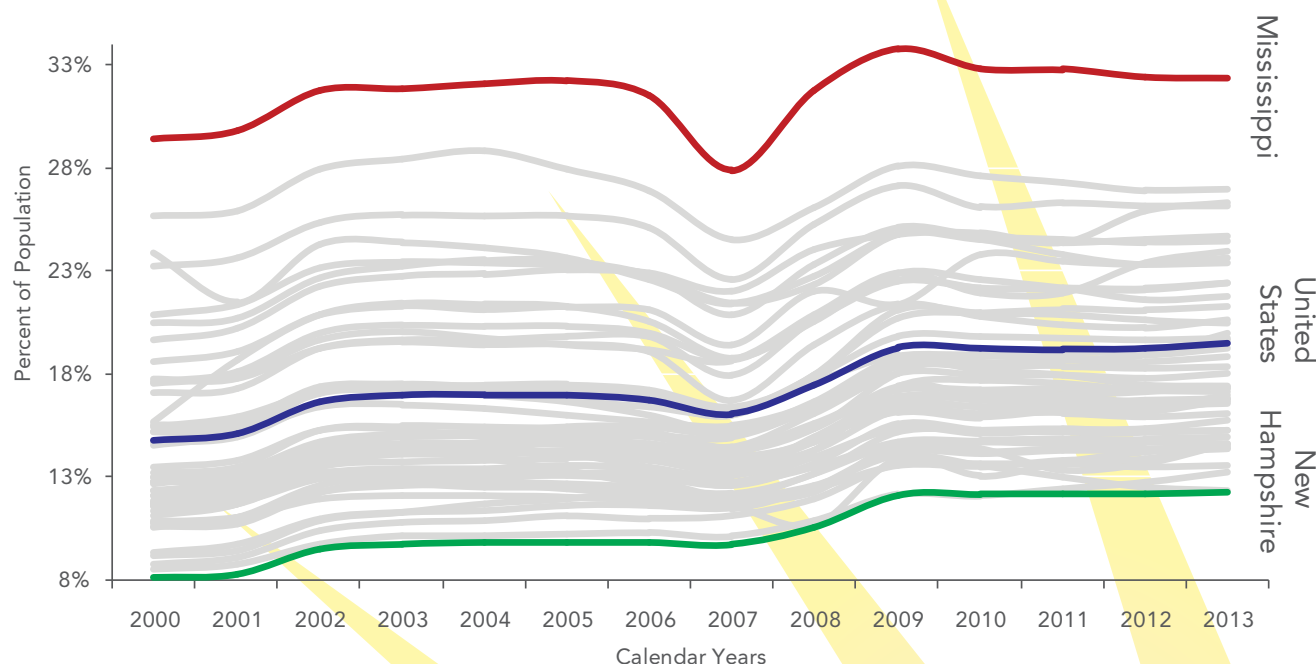
Welfare

Charts 39, 40, 41 and 42 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 2013 for EITC and 2002 to 2014 for SNAP.

As shown in **Chart 39**, the EITC rate (as a percent of taxpayers) increased nationally by 31.5 percent to 19.5 percent in 2013 from 14.8 percent in 2000. In 2013, Mississippi had the highest EITC rate at 32.4 percent while New Hampshire had the lowest at 12.3 percent—that is a difference of 164 percent.⁶⁹

CHART 39

EITC as a Percent of Population Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

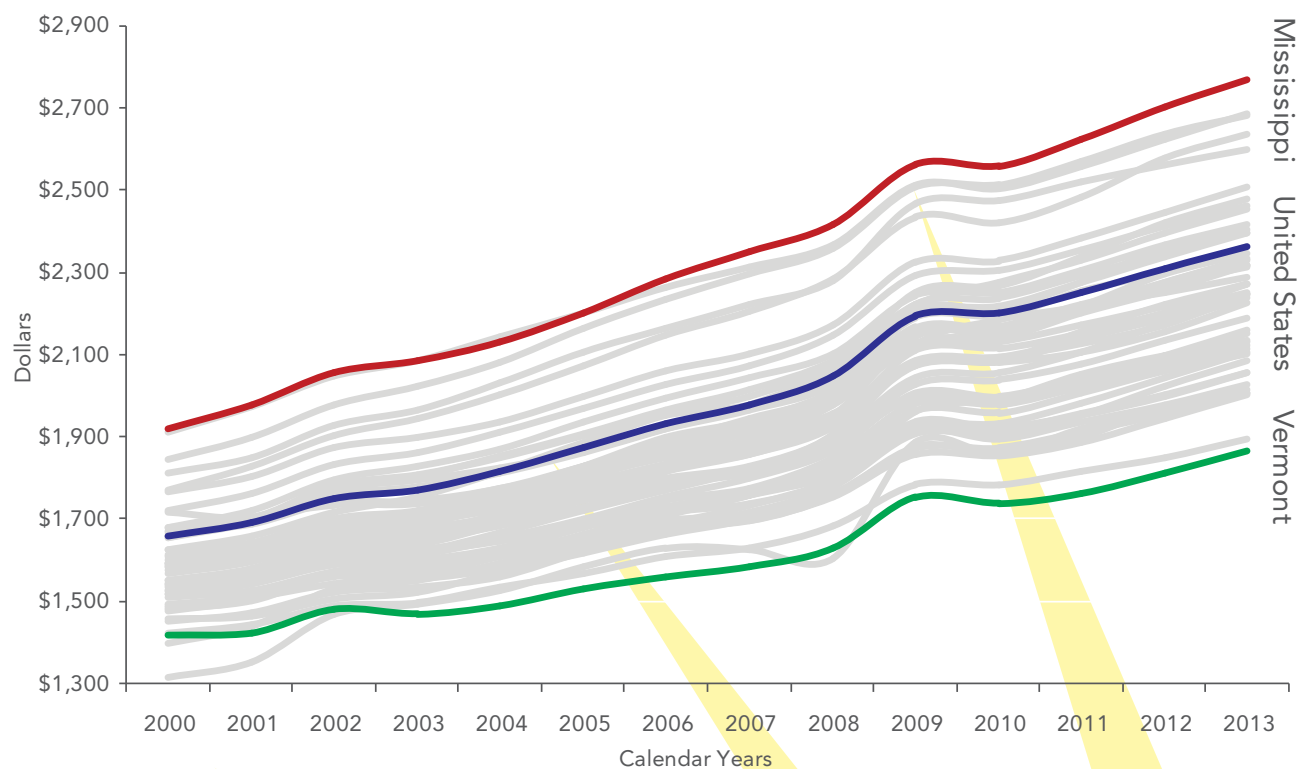
69 Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income, SOI Tax Stats – Historic Table 2. <https://www.irs.gov/uac/SOI-Tax-Stats-Historic-Table-2>

As shown in **Chart 40**, the amount of EITC spending (per EITC recipient) increased nationally by 42.4 percent to \$2,362 in 2013 from \$1,659 in 2000. In 2013, Mississippi had the highest spending on EITC at \$2,770 while Vermont had the lowest at \$1,867—that is a difference of 48 percent.

CHART 40

EITC per Recipient

Calendar Years 2000 to 2013

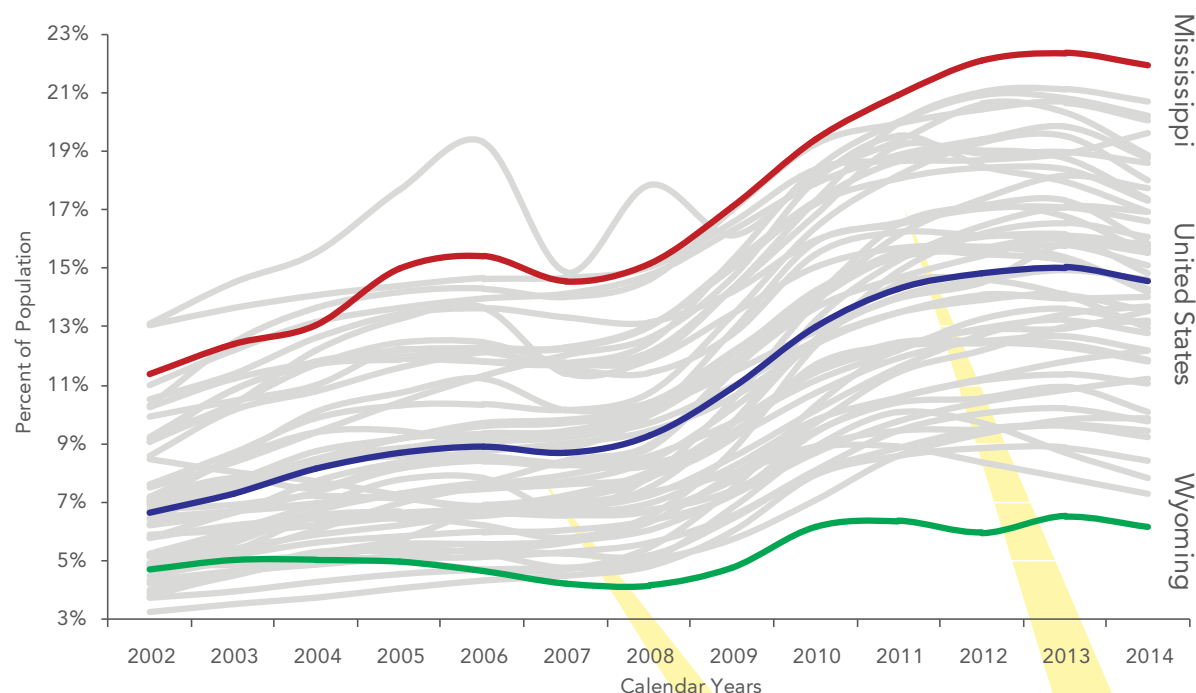


Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 41**, the SNAP rate (as a percent of population) increased nationally by 120.1 percent to 14.6 percent in 2014 from 6.6 percent in 2002. In 2014, Mississippi had the highest SNAP rate at 21.9 percent while Wyoming had the lowest at 6.1 percent—that is a difference of 257 percent.⁷⁰

CHART 41

SNAP as a Percent of Population Calendar Years 2002 to 2014



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

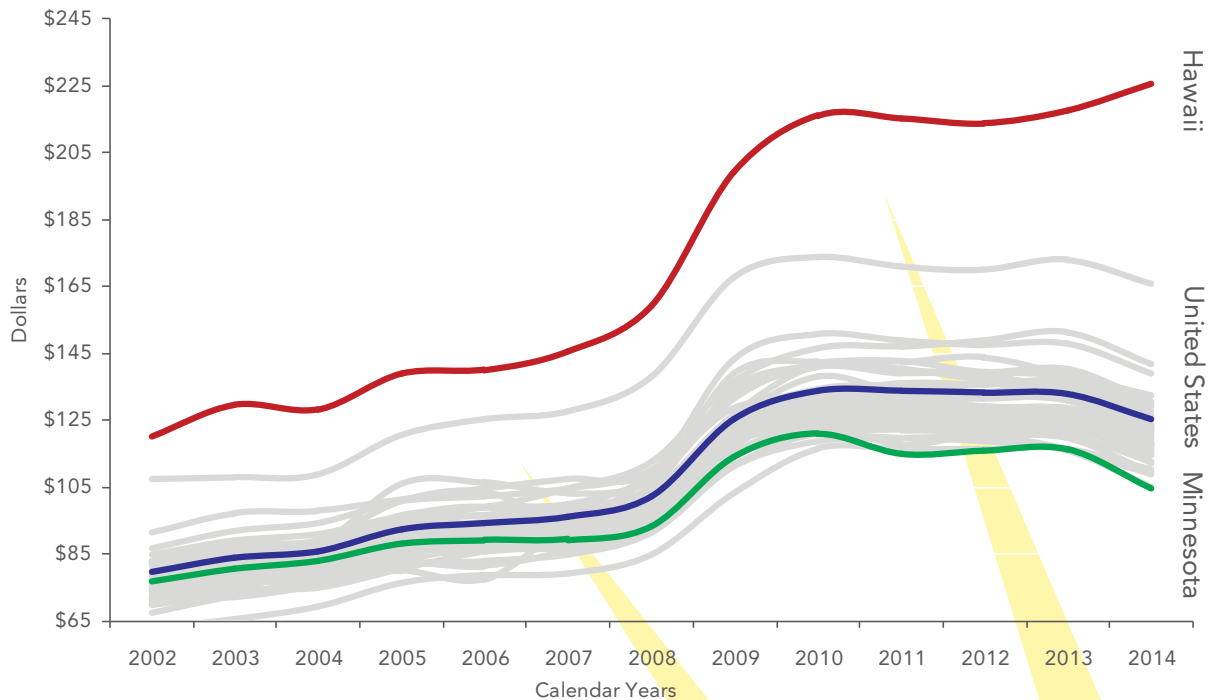
70 U.S. Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Service <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

As shown in **Chart 42**, the amount of SNAP spending (per person) increased nationally by 57.5 percent to \$125.24 in 2014 from \$79.50 in 2002. In 2014, Hawaii had the highest SNAP spending at \$225.38 while Minnesota had the lowest at \$104.64—that is a difference of 115 percent.

CHART 42

SNAP per Capita

Calendar Years 2002 to 2014



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

Overall, for the welfare sub-index, North Dakota had the top score (7.76) followed by New Hampshire (7.54), Wyoming (7.24), Minnesota (6.48), and Utah (6.38). On the other hand, Mississippi had the lowest score (1.97) followed by Georgia (2.90), Louisiana (3.10), Alabama (3.12), and Tennessee (3.17).

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

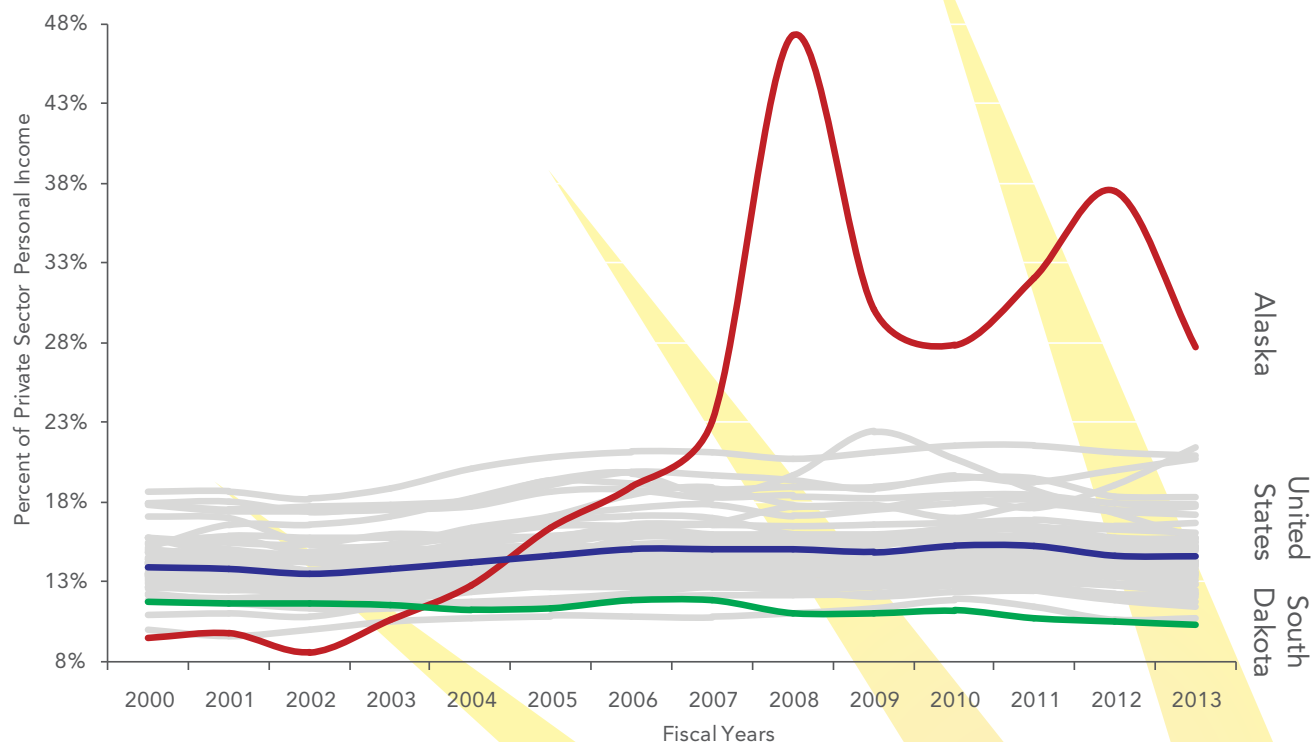
Government Burden

Charts 43 and 44 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 2013.⁷¹

As shown in **Chart 43**, the state and local tax burden (as a percent of private sector personal income) increased nationally by 4.5 percent to 14.6 percent in 2013 from 13.9 percent in 2000. In 2014, Alaska had the highest tax burden at 27.7 percent while South Dakota had the lowest at 10.3 percent—that is a difference of 168 percent.

CHART 43

State and Local Tax Burden as a
Percent of Private Sector Personal Income
Fiscal Years 2000 to 2013

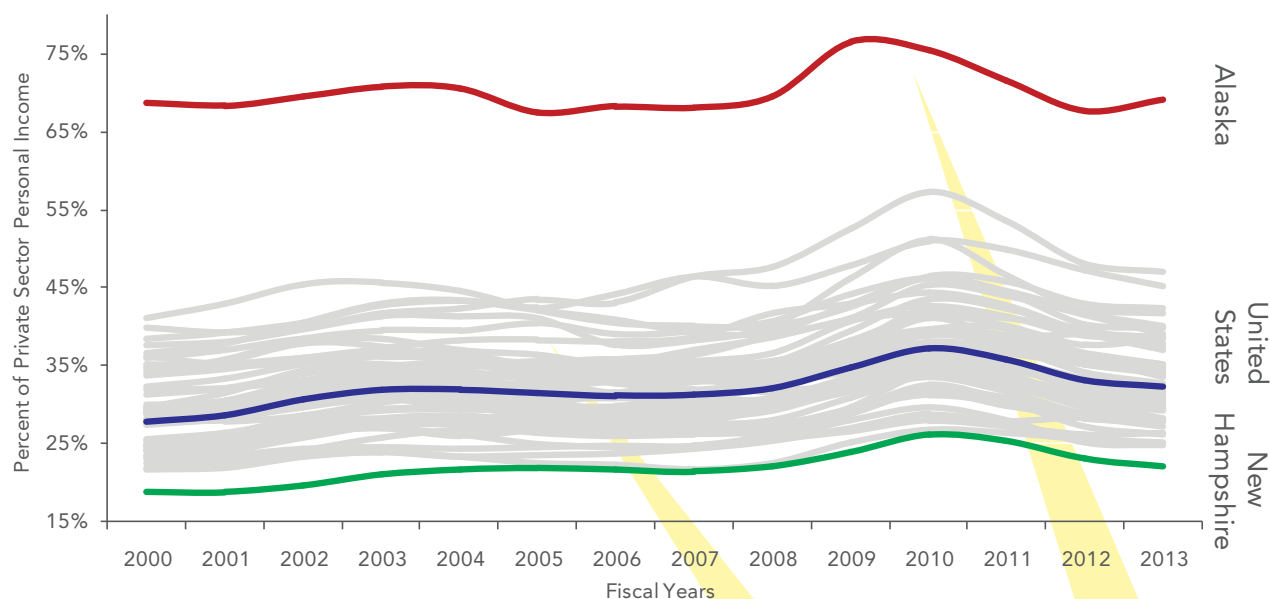


71 U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau. <http://www.census.gov/govs/index.html>

As shown in **Chart 44**, state and local tax expenditures (as a percent of private sector personal income) increased nationally by 15.8 percent to 32.3 percent in 2013 from 27.9 percent in 2000. In 2014, Alaska had the highest expenditures at 69.2 percent while New Hampshire had the lowest at 22.1 percent—that is a difference of 168 percent.

CHART 44

State and Local Tax Expenditures as a Percent of Private Sector Personal Income Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



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

Overall, for the government burden sub-index, South Dakota had the top score (6.54) followed by New Hampshire (6.46), Florida (6.32), Texas (6.13), and Oklahoma (6.08). On the other hand, Alaska had the lowest score (0.92) followed by New York (3.35), West Virginia (3.68), Hawaii (3.69), and Vermont (3.89).

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.

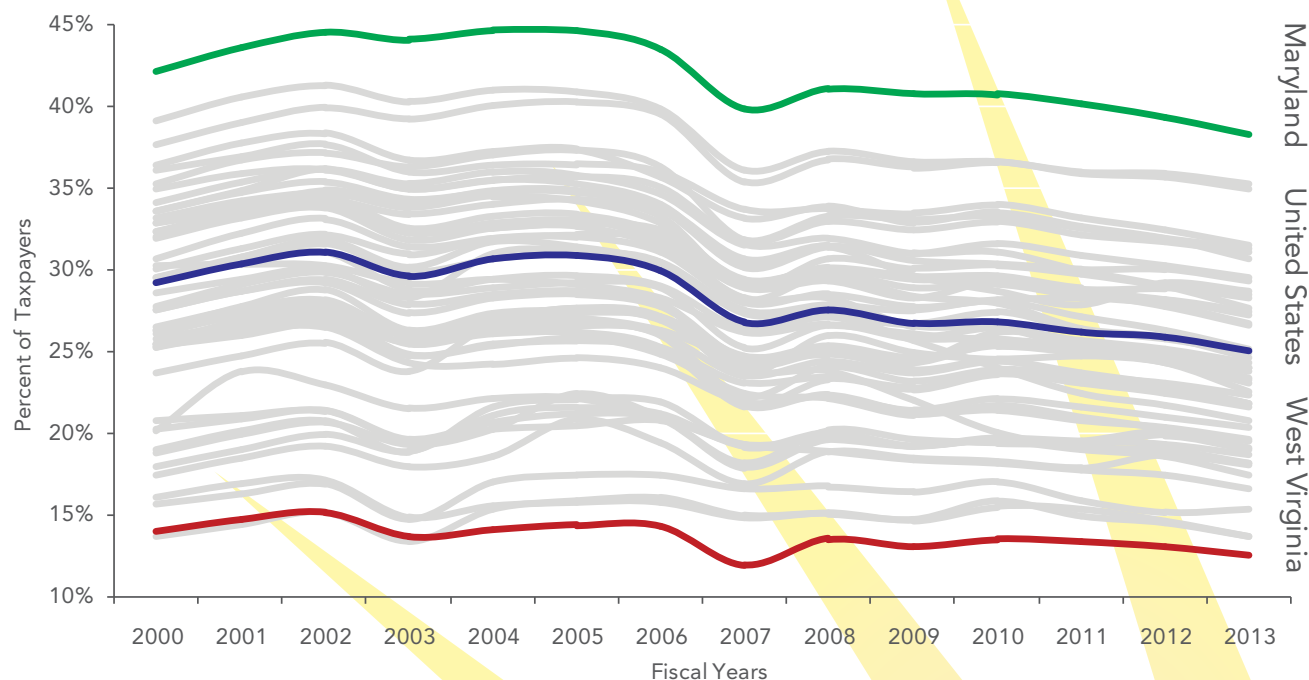
Charity

Charts 45, 46, 47, and 48 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 2013.⁷²

As shown in **Chart 45**, the charity rate (as a percent of all taxpayers) declined nationally by 14.1 percent to 25.1 percent in 2013 from 29.2 percent in 2000. In 2013, Maryland had the highest charity rate at 38.3 percent while West Virginia had the lowest at 12.6 percent—that is a difference of 205 percent.

CHART 45

Charitable Taxpayers as a Percent of All Taxpayers Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



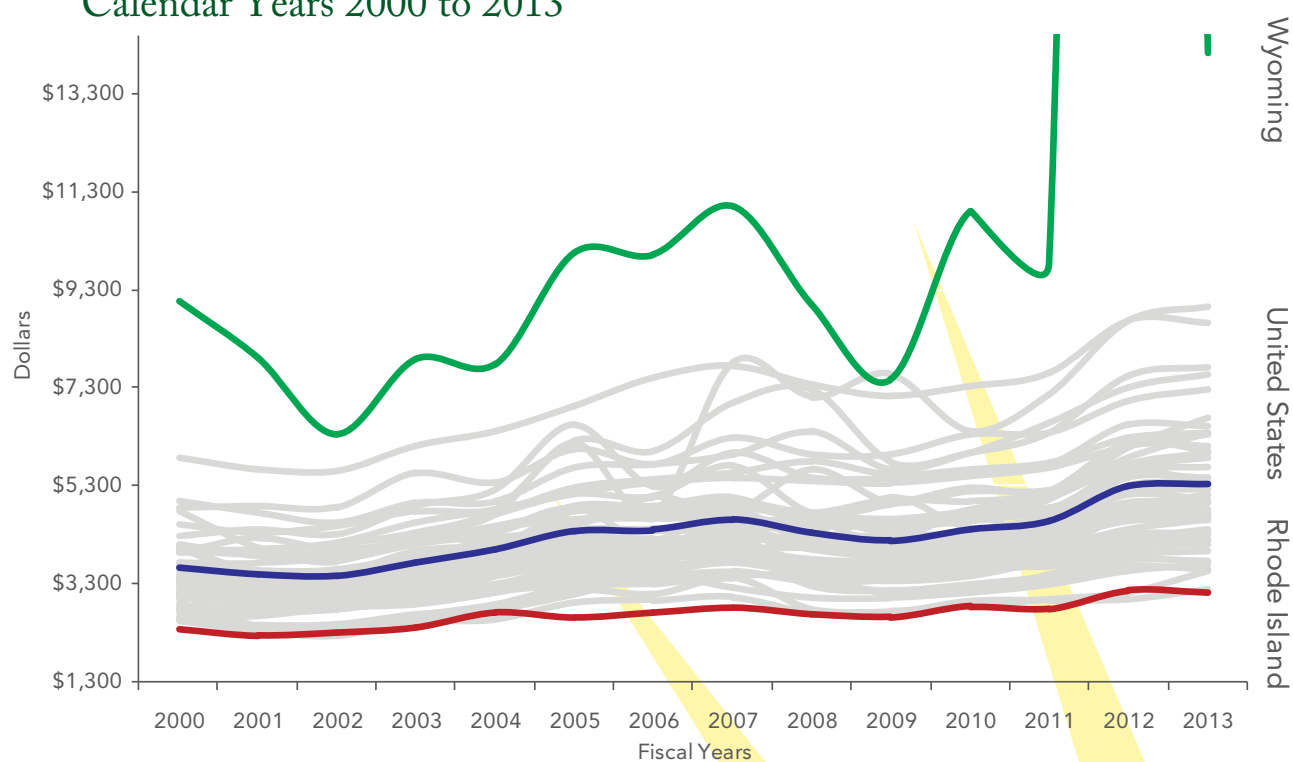
Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

72 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**, charitable contributions (per taxpayer) increased nationally by 47.3 percent to \$5,330 in 2013 from \$3,618 in 2000. In 2013, Wyoming had the highest charity giving at \$14,144 while Rhode Island had the lowest at \$3,104—that is a difference of 356 percent.

CHART 44

Charitable Contributions per Taxpayer Calendar Years 2000 to 2013

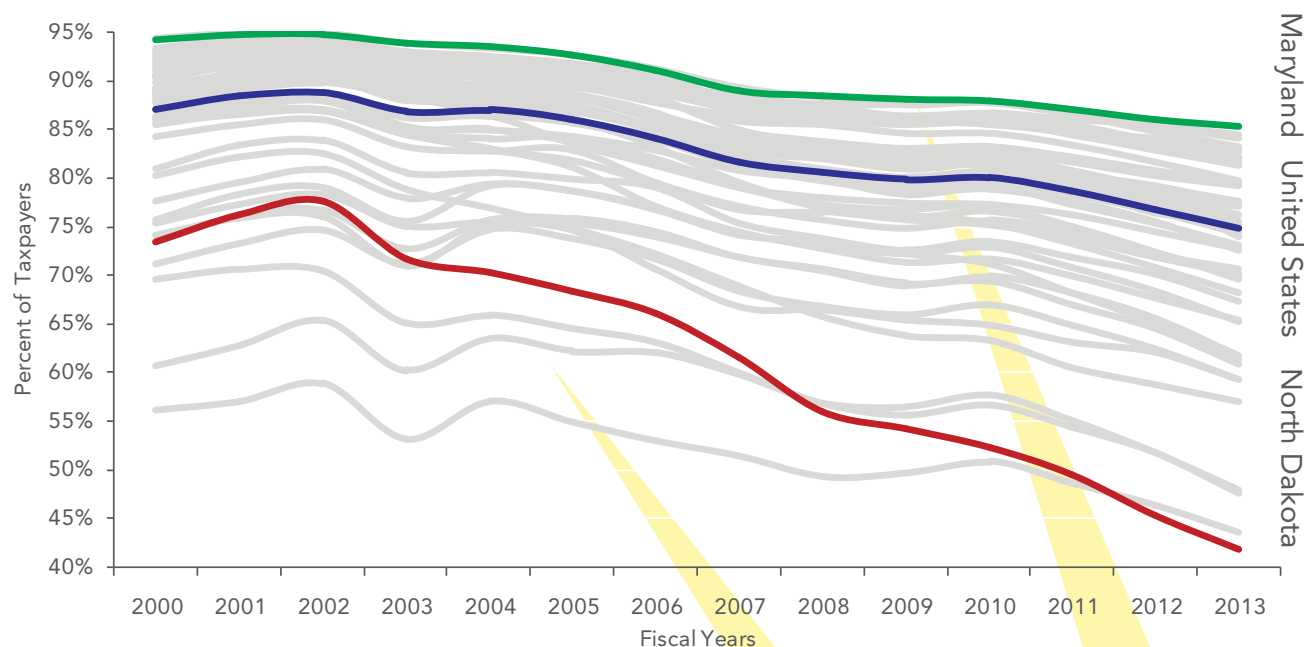


Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 47**, the charity rate for taxpayers earning more than \$100,000 (as a percent of all taxpayers earning more than \$100,000) declined nationally by 14 percent to 74.8 percent in 2013 from 87 percent in 2000. In 2013, Maryland had the highest charity rate at 85.2 percent while North Dakota had the lowest at 41.8 percent—that is a difference of 104 percent.

CHART 47

Charitable Taxpayers as a Percent of All Taxpayers Earning over \$100,000 Calendar Years 2000 to 2013

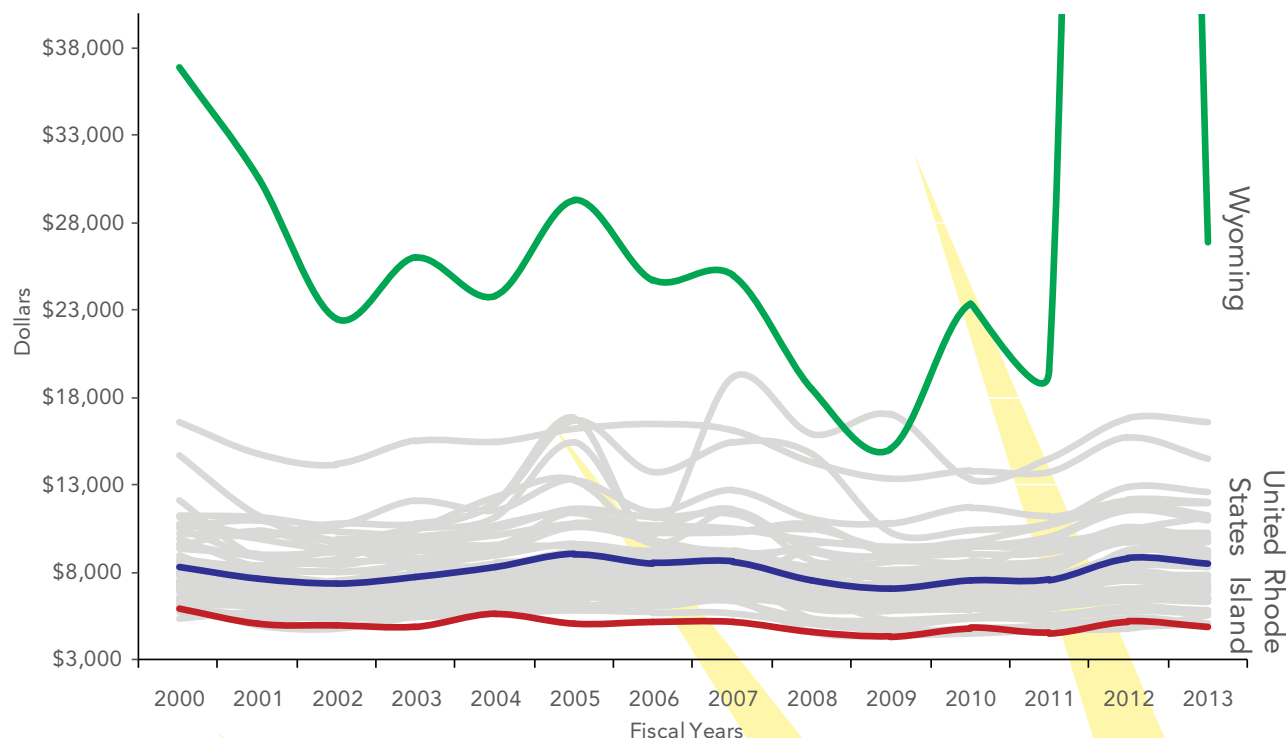


Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 48**, charitable contributions for taxpayers earning more than \$100,000 (per taxpayer earning more than \$100,000) increased nationally by 1.7 percent to \$8,467 in 2013 from \$8,324 in 2000. In 2013, Wyoming had the highest charity giving at \$26,927 while Rhode Island had the lowest at \$4,848—that is a difference of 455 percent.

CHART 48

Charitable Contributions per Taxpayer Earning Over \$100,000 Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



Source: Internal Revenue Service and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the charity sub-index, Utah had the top score (8.58) followed by New York (7.12), Connecticut (6.74), Georgia (6.61), and Oklahoma (6.51). On the other hand, West Virginia had the lowest score (2.13) followed by Alaska (2.95), Maine (3.31), Hawaii (3.70), and New Mexico (3.84).

Note: The charity rate (all taxpayers and taxpayers earning over \$100,000) and charitable contributions (all taxpayers and taxpayers earning over \$100,000) were all weighted equally in the charity sub-index.

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 CULTURE



It is well established that there is a symbiotic relationship between families and the environment in which they live. Crime rates, educational opportunities, unwed births, and religiosity 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.

Both violent and property crime 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) are another \$156 billion.⁷³

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, they 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.⁷⁴

73 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

74 Ibid.

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 solved. 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.⁷⁵



While many would guess that divorce is the biggest driver of single-parenthood, the reality is that unwed births, on the margin, is the primary creator of 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.⁷⁶

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 religion ranging from the very micro (individual) to the macro (societal).

For individuals, Gallup performed an in-depth statistical analysis of over 550,000 interviews to determine the influence of religion on Americans' lives. The analysis found that religious Americans have less depression and worry,⁷⁷ lead healthier lives,⁷⁸ and enjoy overall higher well-being.⁷⁹

For society, a series of studies from the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion found that religion can

75 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>

76 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>

77 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>

78 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>

79 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>

lead to lower crime rates,⁸⁰ reduced drug use,⁸¹ and greater academic performance.⁸² Additionally, religion and, relatedly, marriage are the only proven bulwarks against Demographic Winter.⁸³

Yet, for all of these benefits, why is religiosity on the decline. A recent study sheds light on this question by examining a key demographic where religion is most in decline—working class whites. They state:



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.”⁸⁴

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 large 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 was only \$488. Earnings jump with higher levels of educational attainment: associate’s degree (\$792), bachelor’s degree (\$1,101), and doctoral degree (\$1,591).⁸⁵

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.⁸⁶

80 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

81 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

82 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

83 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>

84 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>

85 “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

86 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 6** and **Table 6** (in appendix):

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN FAMILY CULTURE ARE:		
1	Utah	6.88
2	Virginia	6.81
3	Minnesota	6.42
4	New Jersey	6.41
5	Colorado	6.09
6	Nebraska	6.01
7	Iowa	6.00
8	Massachusetts	5.99
9	Wyoming	5.97
10	Connecticut	5.94

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Georgia	4.30
42	South Carolina	4.03
43	Arkansas	3.99
44	Arizona	3.87
45	Tennessee	3.79
46	Alaska	3.57
47	Louisiana	3.29
48	Florida	3.03
49	Nevada	2.94
50	New Mexico	2.83

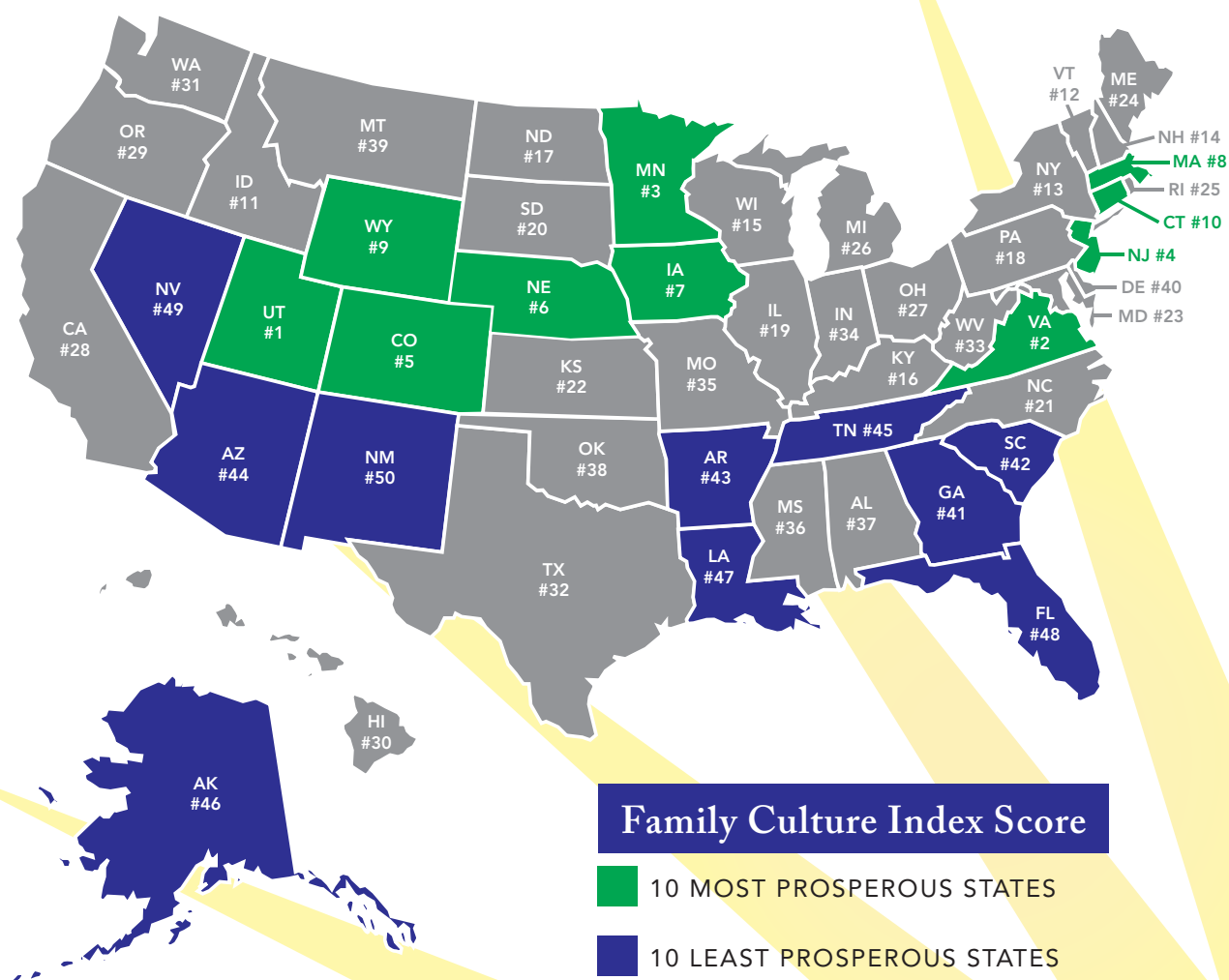
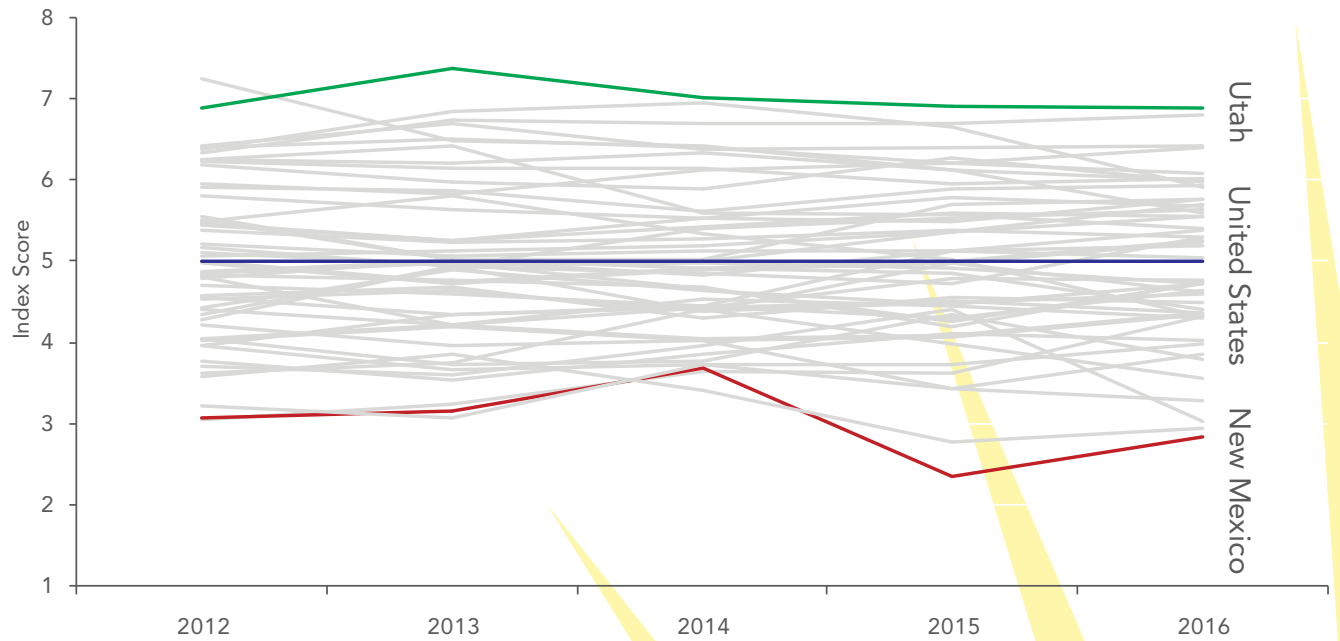


CHART 6
Family Culture Index Score
2012 to 2016



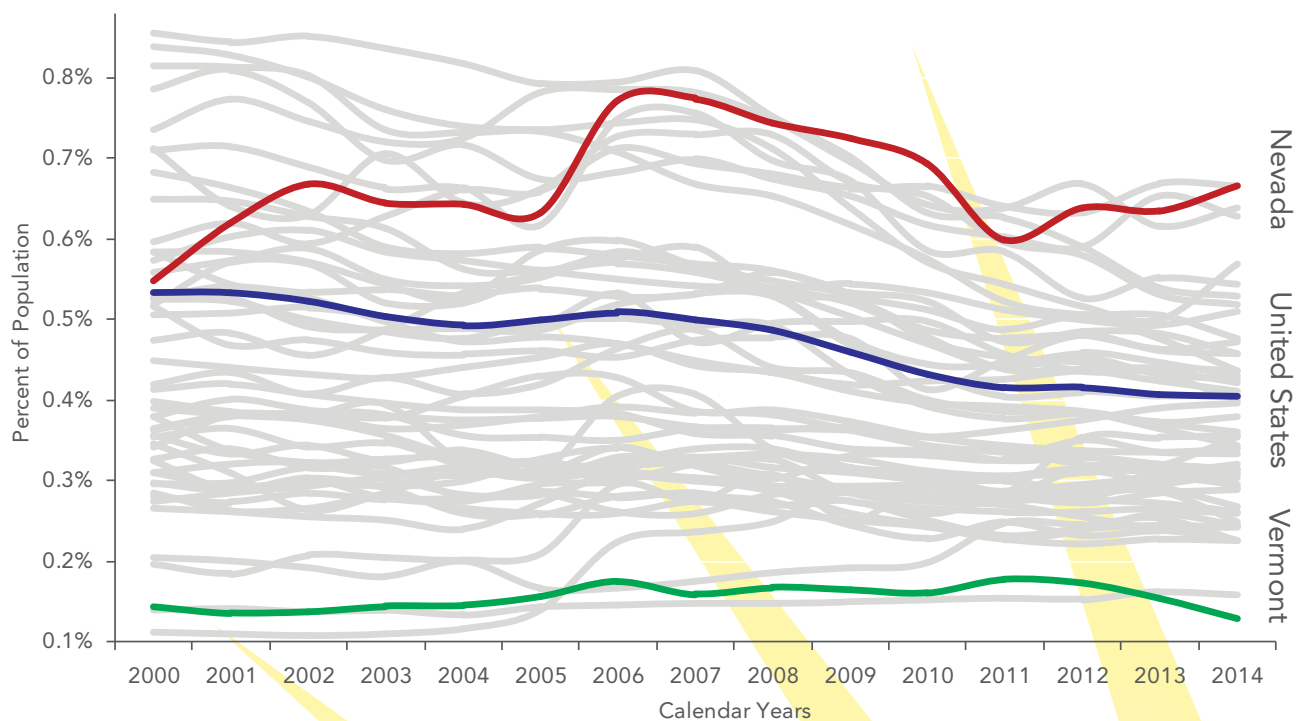
Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

Violent Crime Rate

As shown in **Chart 49**, the violent crime rate (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 25.7 percent to 0.37 percent in 2014 from 0.5 percent in 2000. In 2014, Nevada had the highest violent crime rate at 0.64 percent while Vermont had the lowest rate at 0.1 percent—that is a difference of 541 percent.⁸⁷

CHART 49

Violent Crime Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the violent crime sub-index, Vermont had the top score (9.33) followed by Maine (7.68), Virginia (7.25), Kentucky (7.25), and Rhode Island (7.21). On the other hand, Alaska had the lowest score (0.80) followed by Nevada (0.96), Tennessee (1.19), New Mexico (1.27), and Florida (2.13).

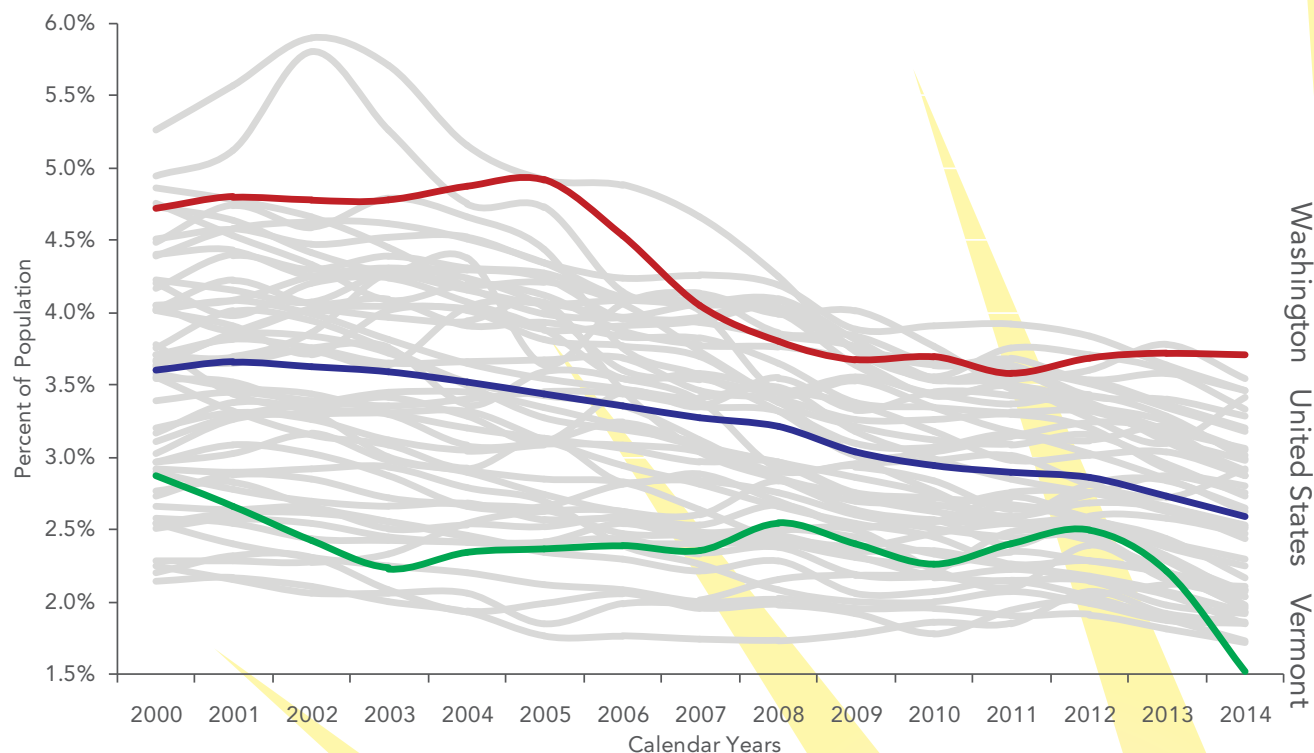
87 Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the U.S. <https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/crimestats>

Property Crime Rate

As shown in **Chart 50**, the property crime rate (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 28.1 percent to 2.59 percent in 2014 from 3.6 percent in 2000. In 2014, Washington had the highest property crime rate at 3.71 percent while Vermont had the lowest rate at 1.52 percent—that is a difference of 143 percent.⁸⁸

CHART 50

Property Crime Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the property crime sub-index, Vermont had the top score (9.47) followed by New Jersey (8.05), New York (7.94), Massachusetts (7.82), and Virginia (7.40). On the other hand, Washington had the lowest score (0.59) followed by New Mexico (1.05), Louisiana (1.63), Florida (1.74), and South Carolina (1.85).

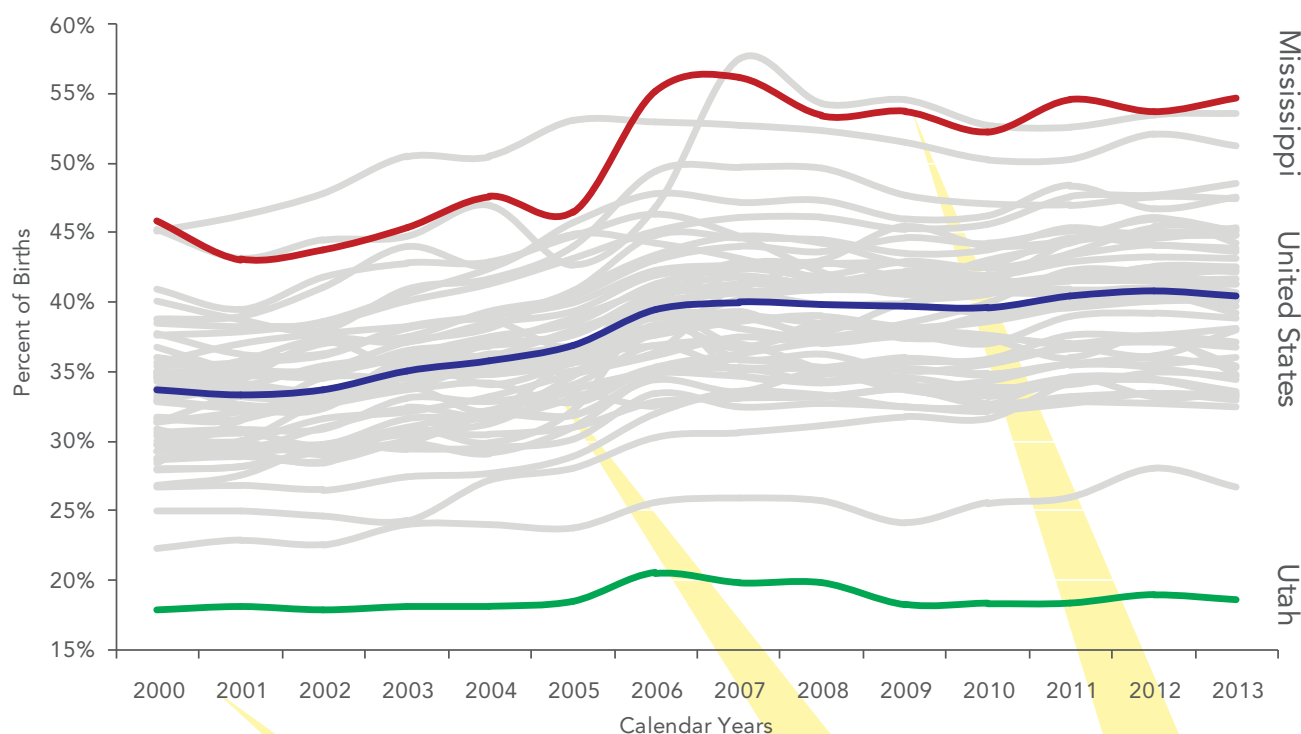
88 Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the U.S. <https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/crimestats>

Unwed Birth Rate

As shown in **Chart 51**, the unwed birth rate (as a percent of births) increased nationally by 20.1 percent to 40.5 percent in 2013 from 33.7 percent in 2000. In 2013, Mississippi had the highest unwed birth rate at 54.8 percent while Utah had the lowest rate at 18.6 percent—that is a difference of 194 percent.⁸⁹

CHART 51

Unwed Births Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



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

Overall, for the unwed birth rate sub-index, Utah had the top score (10.00) followed by Colorado (9.69), Washington (7.69), Alaska (7.52), and Idaho (7.40). On the other hand, Mississippi had the lowest score (1.09) followed by Louisiana (1.81), Florida (2.06), New Mexico (2.23), and Nevada (2.46).

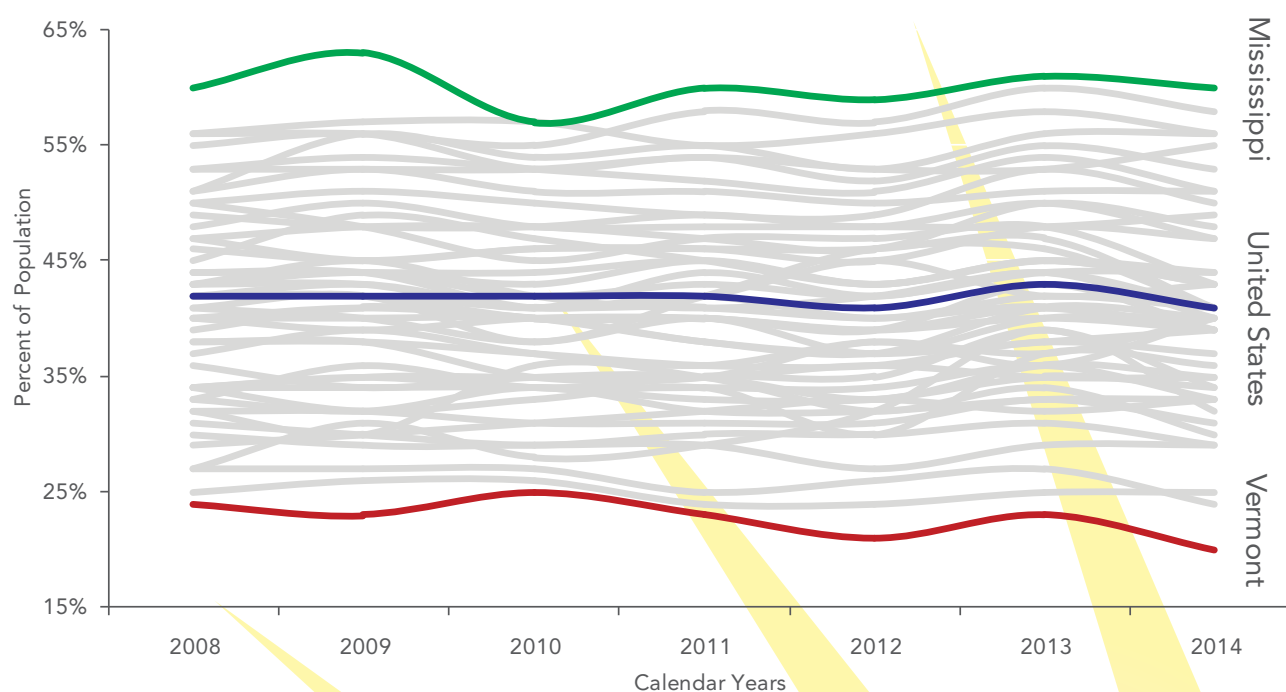
⁸⁹ U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau. The data was extracted from the Kids Count Data Center published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7-births-to-unmarried-women?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36,868,867,133,38/any/257,258>

Religious Attendance

As shown in **Chart 52**, the religious attendance rate (as a percent of population) declined nationally by 2.4 percent to 41 percent in 2014 from 42 percent in 2008. In 2014, Mississippi had the highest religious attendance rate at 60 percent while Vermont had the lowest rate at 20 percent—that is a difference of 200 percent.⁹⁰

CHART 52

Church Attendance Calendar Years 2008 to 2014



Source: Gallup Analytics and American Conservative Union Foundation

Overall, for the religious attendance sub-index, Mississippi had the top score (8.95) followed by Utah (8.44), Arkansas (8.33), Louisiana (8.28), and Alabama (8.04). On the other hand, Vermont had the lowest score (0.33) followed by Maine (1.25), New Hampshire (2.19), Alaska (2.35), and Hawaii (2.38).

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

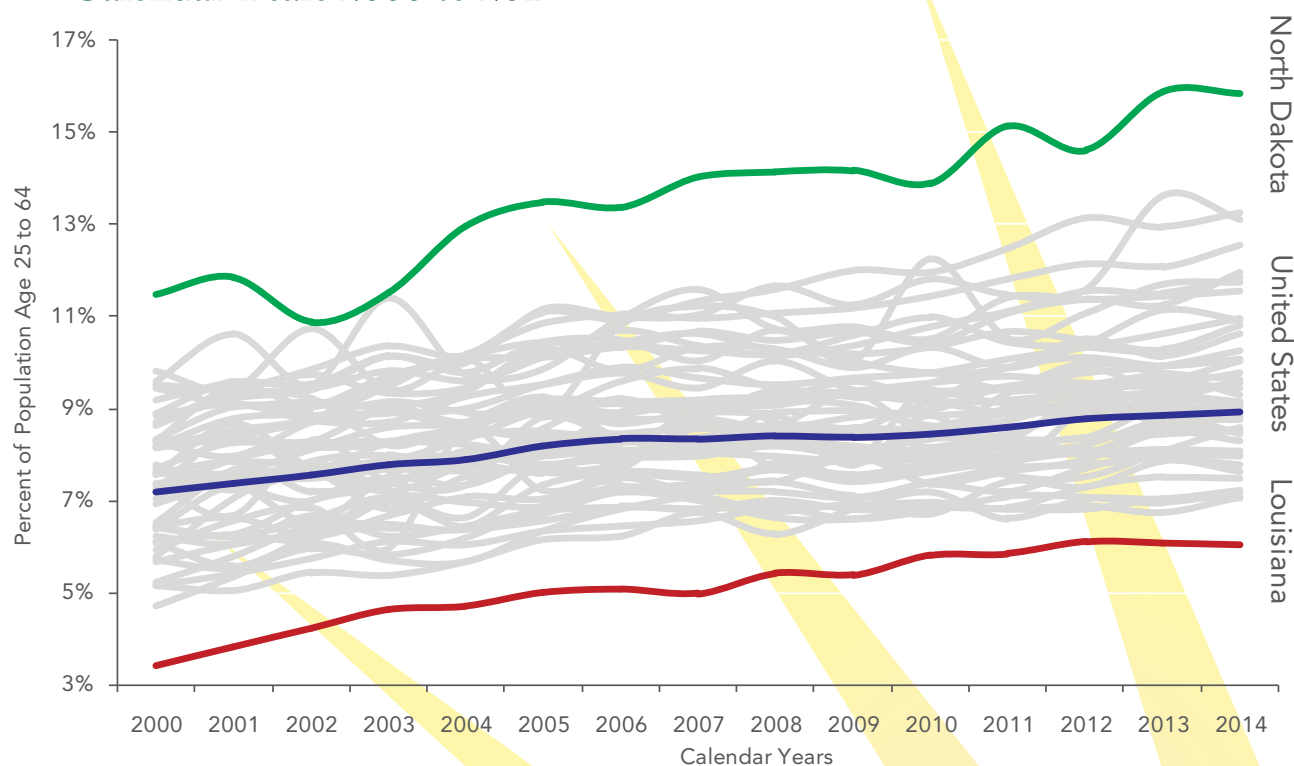
Educational Attainment

Charts 53, 54, and 55 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 2014.⁹¹

As shown in **Chart 53**, the associate's degree rate (as a percent of population between ages 25 to 64) increased nationally by 24 percent to 8.9 percent in 2014 from 7.2 percent in 2000. In 2014, North Dakota had the highest associate's degree rate at 15.9 percent while Louisiana had the lowest rate at 6 percent—that is a difference of 163 percent.

CHART 53

Associate's Degree Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



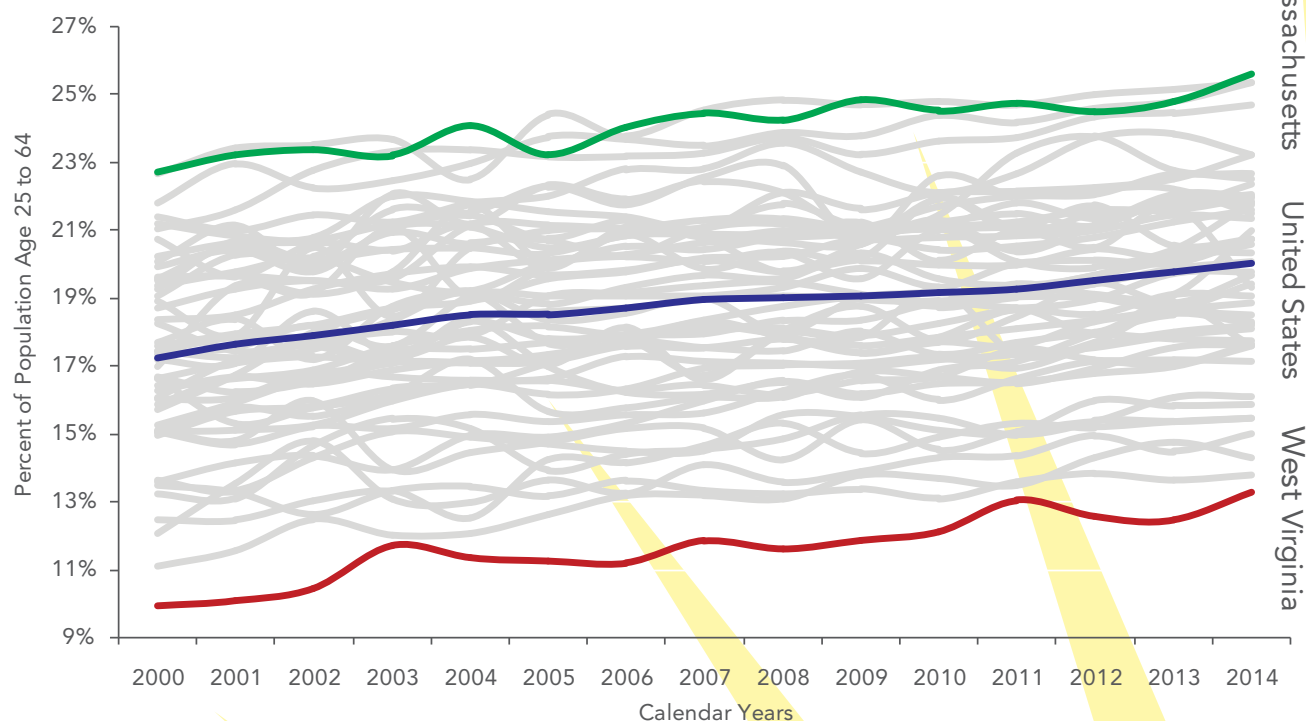
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

⁹¹ 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 54**, the bachelor's degree rate (as a percent of population between ages 25 to 64) increased nationally by 16.1 percent to 20 percent in 2014 from 17.2 percent in 2000. In 2014, Massachusetts had the highest bachelor's degree rate at 25.6 percent while West Virginia had the lowest rate at 13.3 percent—that is a difference of 93 percent.

CHART 54

Bachelor's Degree Calendar Years 2000 to 2014

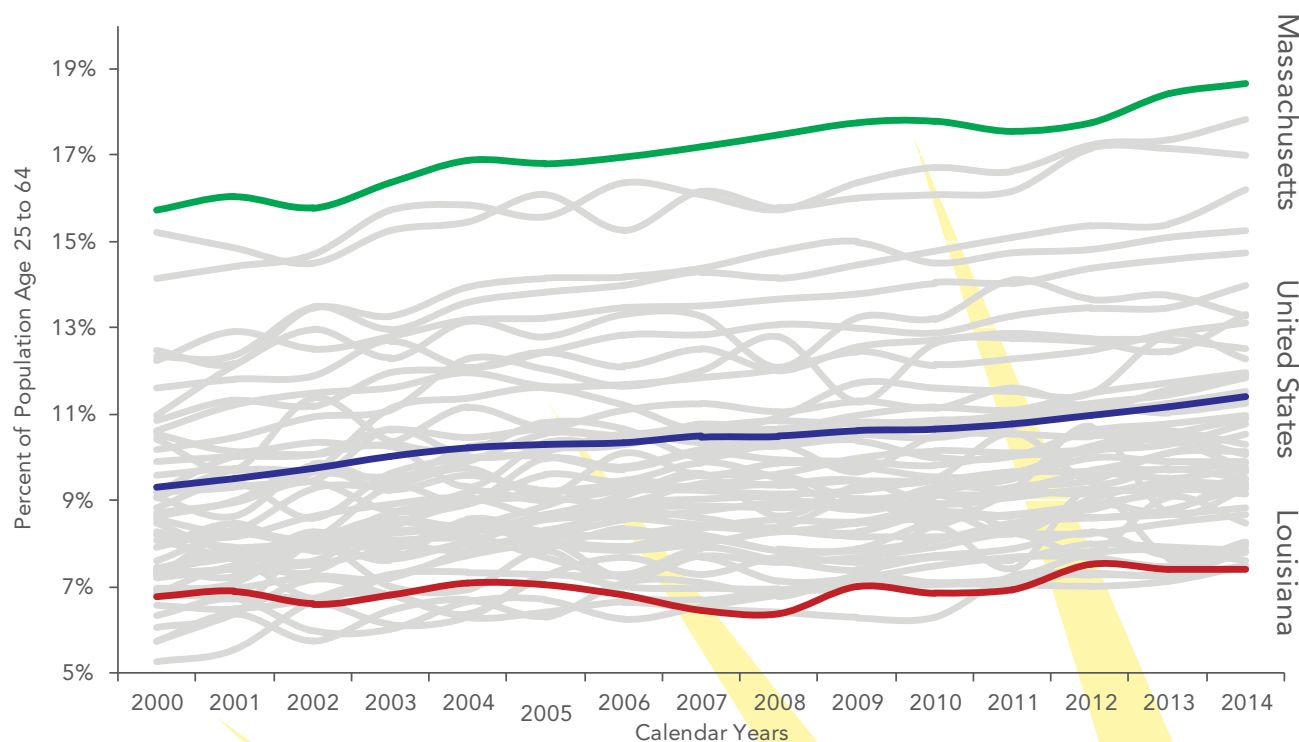


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 55**, the graduate degree rate (as a percent of population between ages 25 to 64) increased nationally by 22.6 percent to 11.4 percent in 2014 from 9.3 percent in 2000. In 2014, Massachusetts had the highest graduate degree rate at 18.7 percent while Louisiana had the lowest rate at 7.4 percent—that is a difference of 151 percent.

CHART 55

Graduate Degree Calendar Years 2000 to 2014



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 (7.74) followed by Massachusetts (7.19), Colorado (7.16), New York (6.97), and New Hampshire (6.88). On the other hand, Louisiana had the lowest score (1.97) followed by West Virginia (2.48), Arkansas (2.56), Nevada (2.77), and Oklahoma (2.88).

Note: The associate's degree, bachelor's degree, and graduate degree 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 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.⁹² 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.⁹³ Most of the economic

92 "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>

93 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](http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(11)00538-1/pdf)

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 developed. One study that performed a thorough review of existing literature estimates that economic costs of obesity exceed \$215 billion per year.⁹⁴ However, a more recent study suggests that direct medical costs alone are \$190 billion per year.⁹⁵ Clearly, obesity costs the economy dearly and is climbing rapidly.

Illicit drug use is increasing in America and imposes a large economic burden on society. 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).⁹⁶

Unlike other health problems, besides excessive alcohol consumption, the most expensive part of illicit drug use is the cost of crime, prosecution, and incarceration. 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 our young people (between the ages of 15 and 24) who account for half of all new infections.⁹⁷

There have been an estimated 110 million infections—impacting approximately one out of every 3 Americans.⁹⁸



94 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>

95 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.

96 "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>

97 "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>

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

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.⁹⁹

STDs account for 50 percent of all preventable infertility. This preventable infertility is driven by chlamydia and gonorrhea which cause pelvic inflammatory disease that can lead to infertility.¹⁰⁰

More troubling is the rise in drug-resistant gonorrhea whose threat level according to the CDC has reached “urgent”—the highest threat level possible. CDC forecasts that:



*“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.”¹⁰¹*

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.¹⁰²

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.¹⁰³

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.

99 Ibid.

100 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>

101 “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>

102 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).

103 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>

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.¹⁰⁴ 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 these women could have had two or more children by now.

Second, abortion has been linked to a substantial rise in STDs. One study found that 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.¹⁰⁵ 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.

Infant mortality is a fraction of abortions and 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.¹⁰⁶

There are already signs that the earlier reductions in infant mortality may be reversing. For example, between 2000 and 2013, Maine's infant mortality rate increased by 42.7 percent. At nearly the same time, between 2002 and 2013, illicit drug use rose 26.8 percent. Is Maine the proverbial "canary in the coal mine?"

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.¹⁰⁷⁻¹⁰⁸

104 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>

105 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>

106 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>

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

108 "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 shown in **Chart 7** and **Table 7** (in appendix):

THE TOP 10 PROSPERING STATES IN FAMILY HEALTH ARE:		
1	Utah	6.40
2	Idaho	6.03
3	Nebraska	5.93
4	Kansas	5.92
5	South Dakota	5.84
6	Minnesota	5.82
7	Wyoming	5.71
8	Texas	5.70
9	Iowa	5.69
10	Hawaii	5.61

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOTTOM 10 STATES ARE:		
41	Oregon	4.42
42	Michigan	4.41
43	Colorado	4.37
44	New Hampshire	4.30
45	Louisiana	4.30
46	Maryland	4.27
47	Alaska	4.21
48	Nevada	4.17
49	Delaware	4.08
50	Rhode Island	3.96

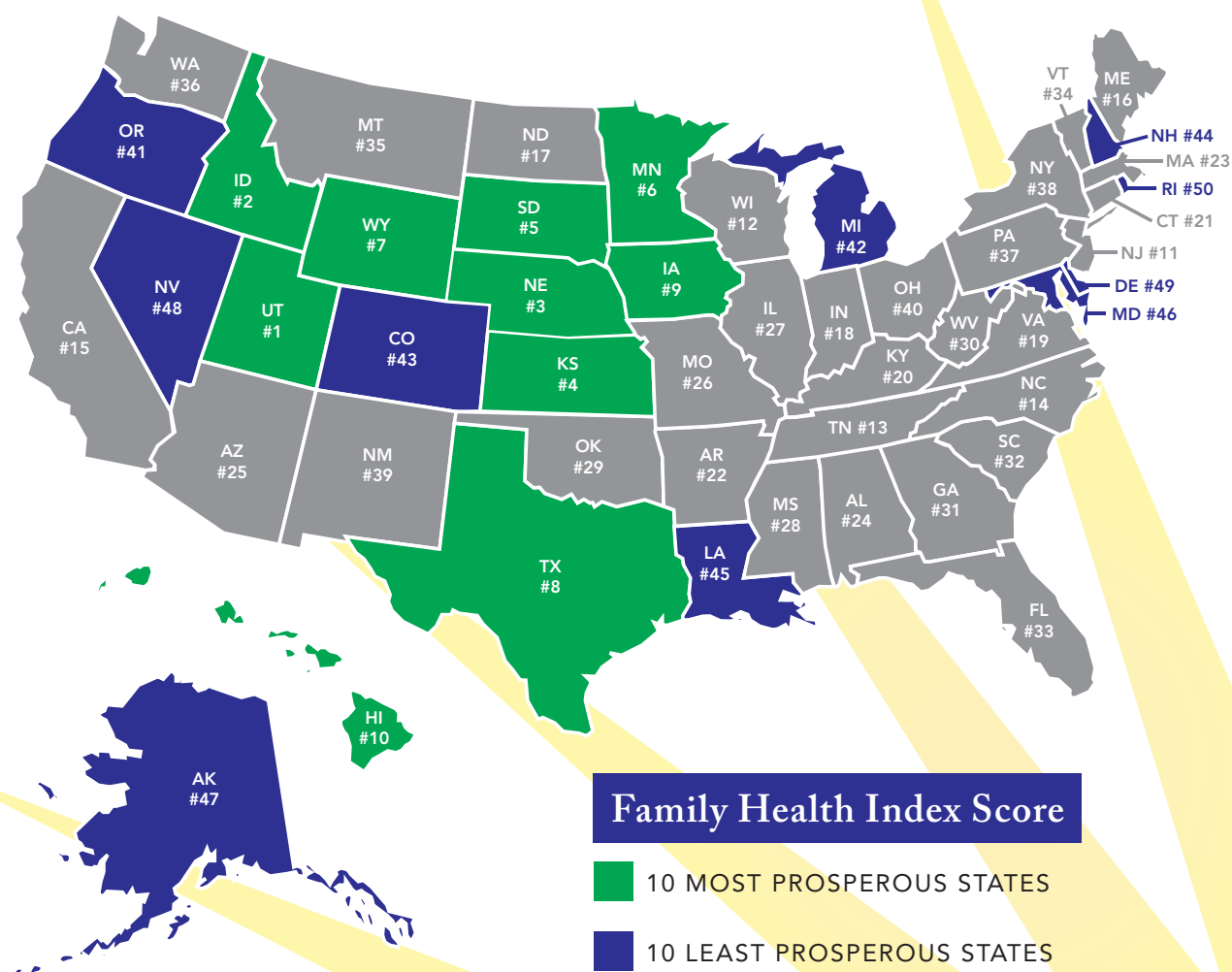
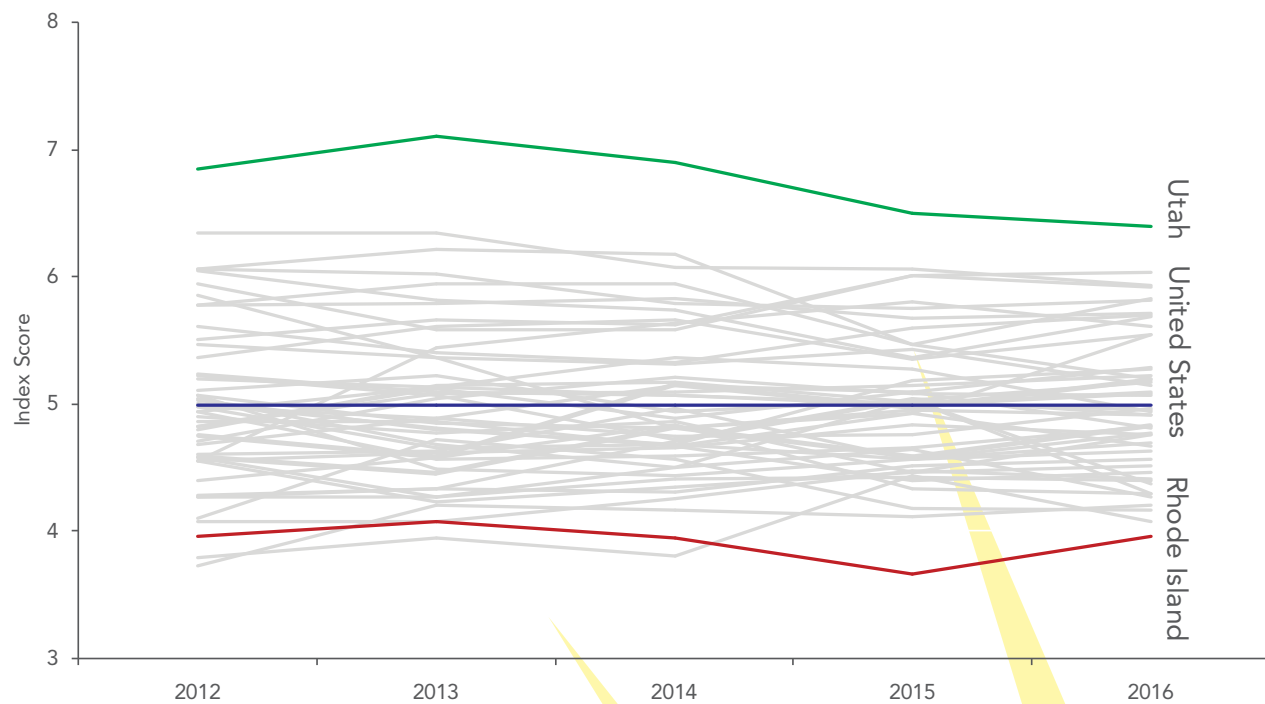


CHART 7
Family Health Index Score
2012 to 2016



Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

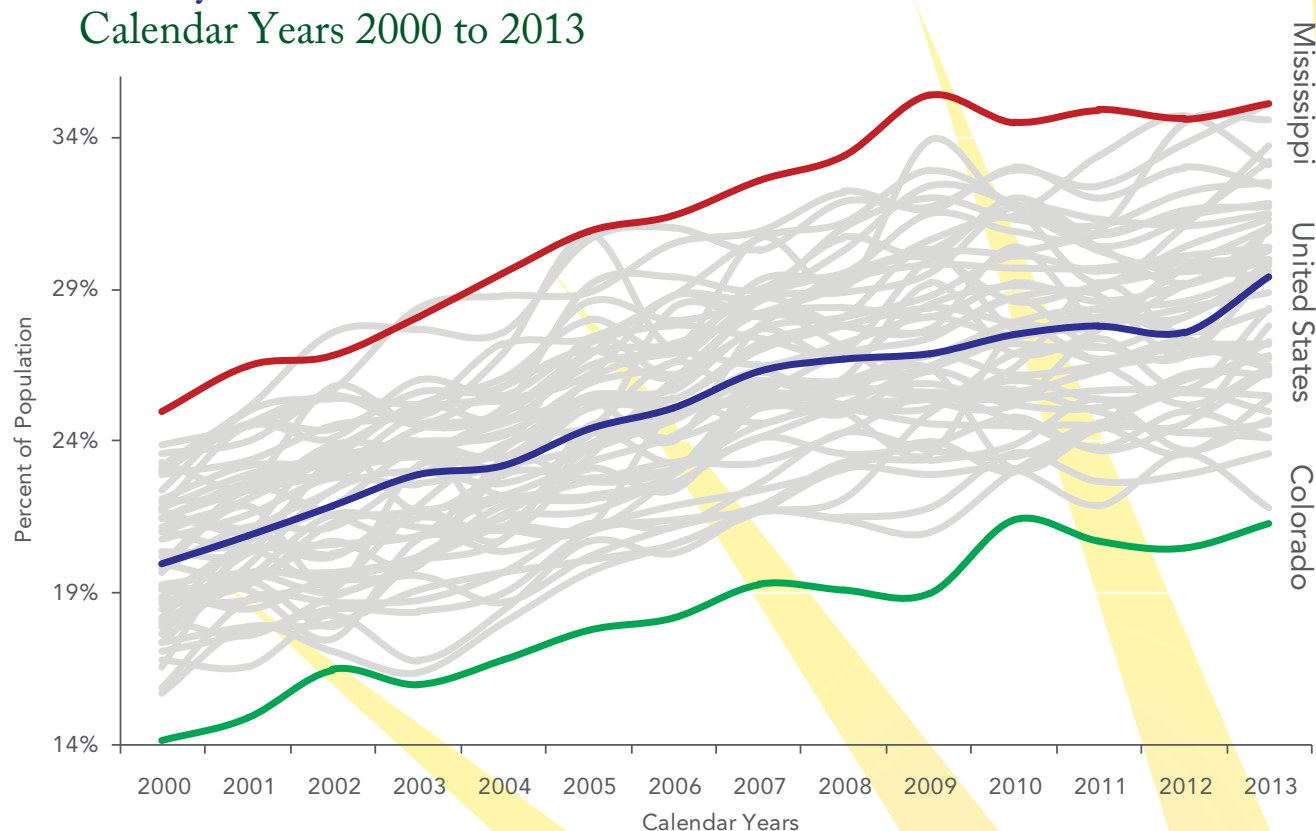
Tobacco Use, Alcohol Use, and Obesity Rate

Charts 56, 57 and 58 show the variance in common health measures—including obesity rate and tobacco and alcohol use—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2013 for obesity rate and 2002 to 2013 for tobacco and alcohol use.¹⁰⁹

As shown in **Chart 56**, the obesity rate (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 47 percent to 29.4 percent in 2013 from 20 percent in 2000. In 2013, Mississippi had the highest obesity rate at 35.1 percent while Colorado had the lowest rate at 21.3 percent—that is a difference of 65 percent.

CHART 56

Obesity Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



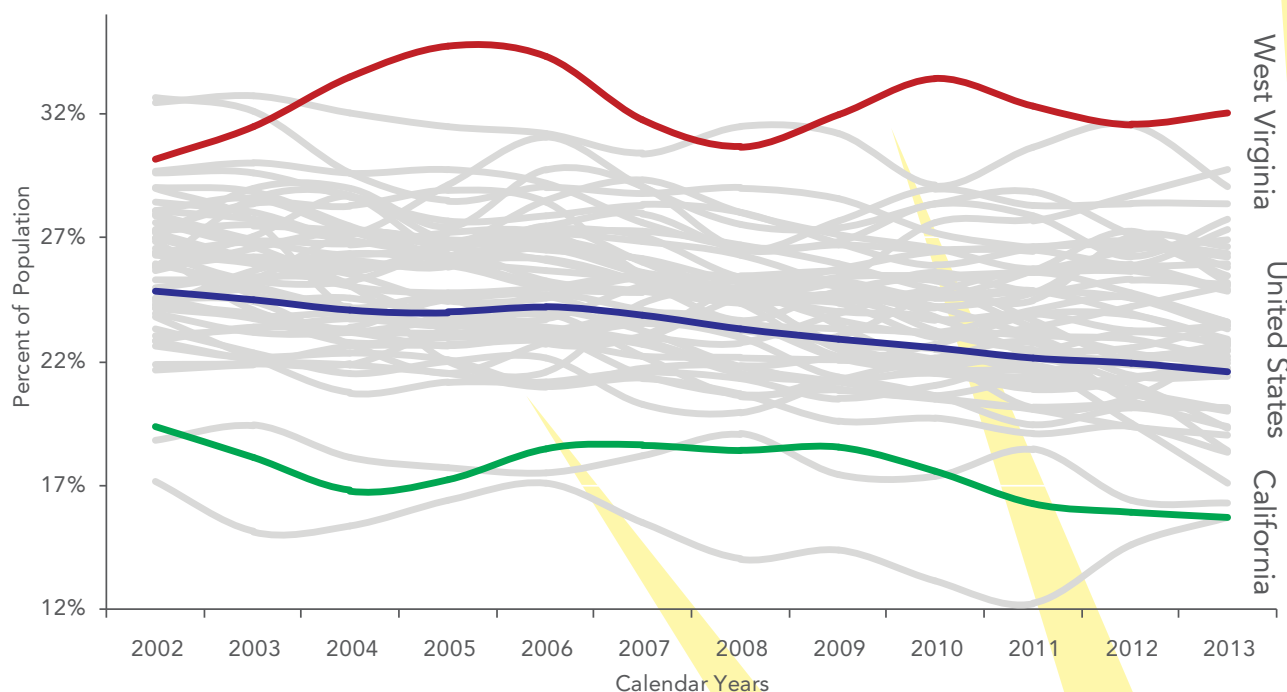
Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

¹⁰⁹U.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 in **Chart 57**, the tobacco use rate (as a percent of population) decreased nationally by 13.3 percent to 21.5 percent in 2013 from 24.9 percent in 2002. In 2013, West Virginia had the highest tobacco use rate at 32 percent while California had the lowest rate at 15.7 percent—that is a difference of 105 percent.

CHART 57

Tobacco Use Calendar Years 2002 to 2013



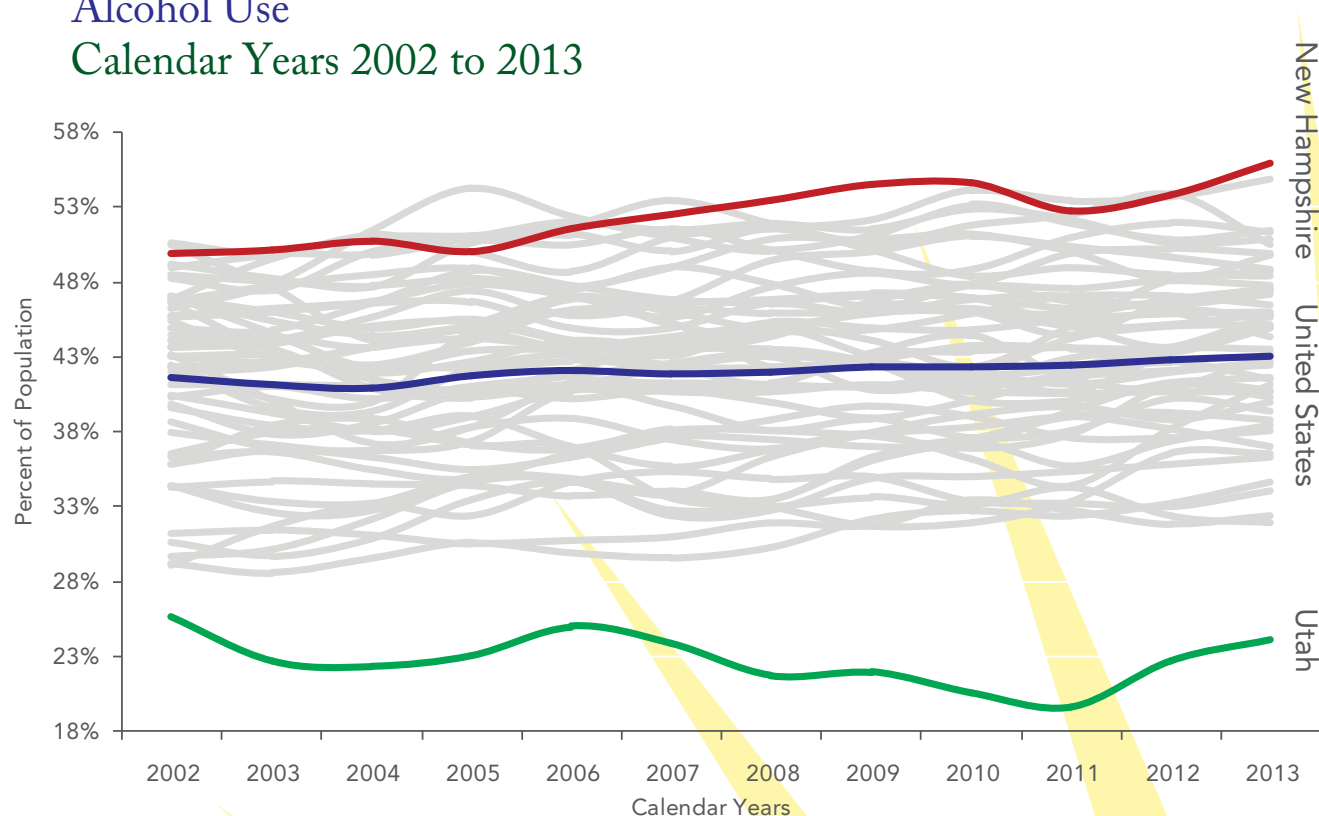
Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 58**, the alcohol use rate (as a percent of population) increased nationally by 3.3 percent to 43 percent in 2013 from 41.6 percent in 2002. In 2013, New Hampshire had the highest alcohol use rate at 55.9 percent while Utah had the lowest rate at 24.1 percent—that is a difference of 132 percent.

CHART 58

Alcohol Use

Calendar Years 2002 to 2013



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

Overall, for the obesity-tobacco-alcohol sub-index, Utah had the top score (8.71) followed by California (7.98), Hawaii (7.87), Arizona (6.57), and New Jersey (6.46). On the other hand, Mississippi had the lowest score (2.68) followed by West Virginia (3.05), Kentucky (3.23), Indiana (3.43), and Oklahoma (3.51).

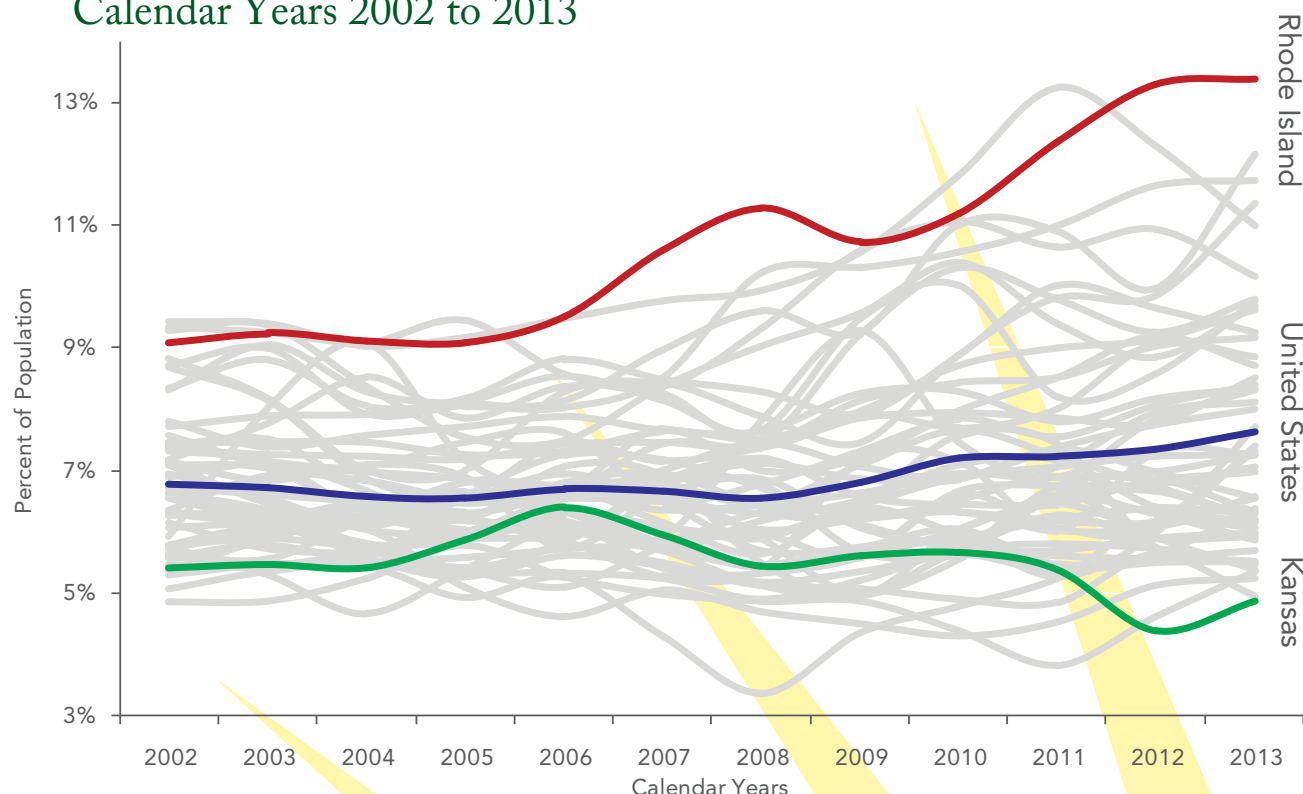
Note: The obesity rate, tobacco use rate, and alcohol use rate were all weighted equally in the obesity-tobacco-alcohol sub-index.

Illicit Drug Use

As shown in **Chart 59**, the illicit drug use rate (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 12.7 percent to 7.6 percent in 2013 from 6.8 in 2002. In 2013, Rhode Island had the highest illicit drug use rate at 13.4 percent while Kansas had the lowest rate at 4.9 percent—that is a difference of 175 percent.¹¹⁰

CHART 59

Illicit Drug Use Calendar Years 2002 to 2013



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

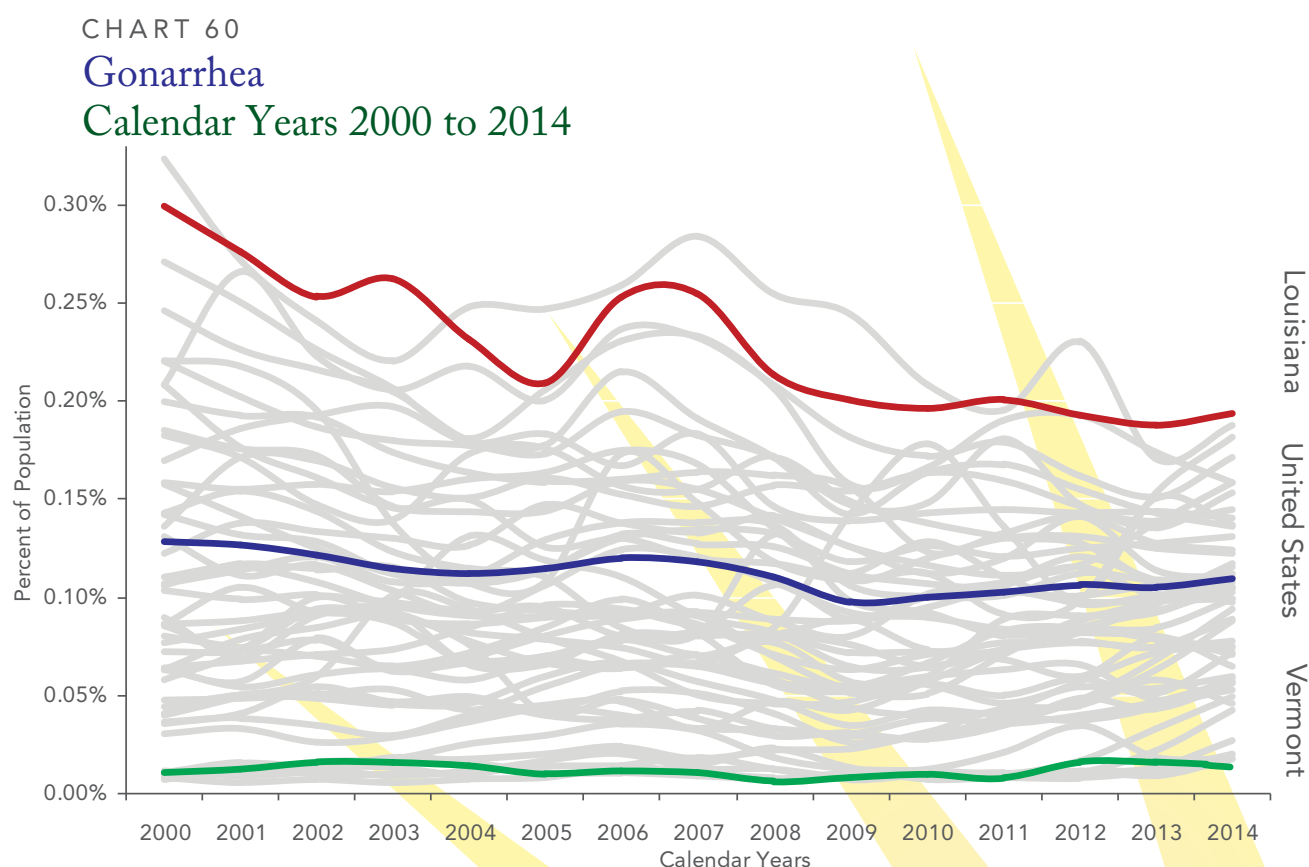
Overall, for the illicit drug use rate sub-index, Kansas had the top score (7.55) followed by West Virginia (7.30), South Dakota (7.20), Idaho (7.14), and Nebraska (6.69). On the other hand, Rhode Island had the lowest score (0.52) followed by Colorado (1.28), Washington (1.47), Oregon (1.95), and Vermont (2.70).

¹¹⁰U.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>).

Sexually Transmitted Disease

Charts 60, 61, 62 and 63 show the variance in sexually transmitted diseases—including gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and HIV diagnoses—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2014 for gonorrhea and chlamydia, from 2003 to 2014 for syphilis, and from 2008 to 2014 for HIV diagnoses.¹¹¹

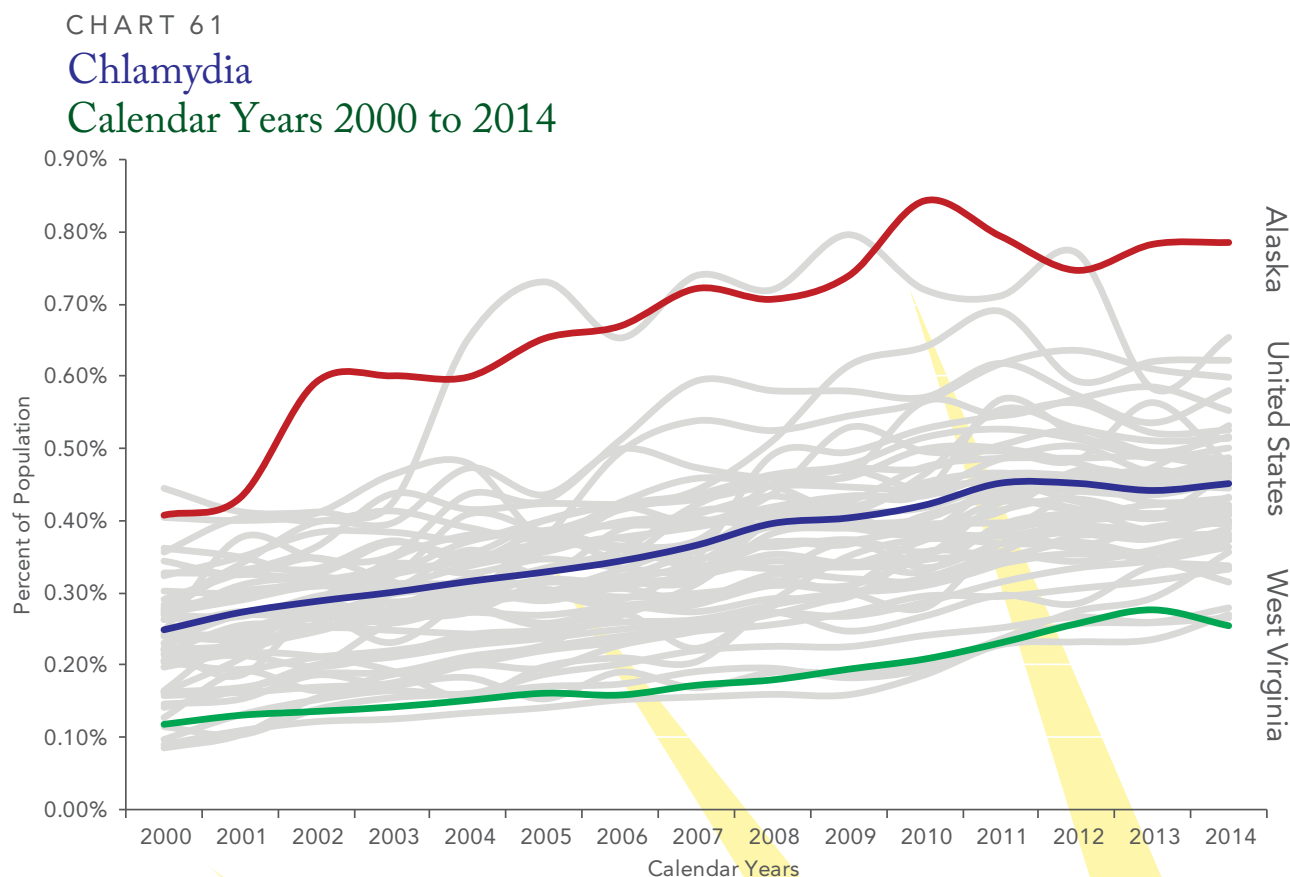
As shown in **Chart 60**, the gonorrhea rate (as a percent of the population) decreased nationally by 14.5 percent to 0.11 percent in 2014 from 0.13 percent in 2000. In 2014, Louisiana had the highest gonorrhea rate at 0.19 percent while Vermont had the lowest rate at 0.01 percent—that is a difference of 1,344 percent.



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

111 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 61**, the chlamydia rate (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 80.2 percent to 0.45 percent in 2014 from 0.25 percent in 2000. In 2014, Alaska had the highest chlamydia rate at 0.79 percent while West Virginia had the lowest rate at 0.26 percent—that is a difference of 208 percent.



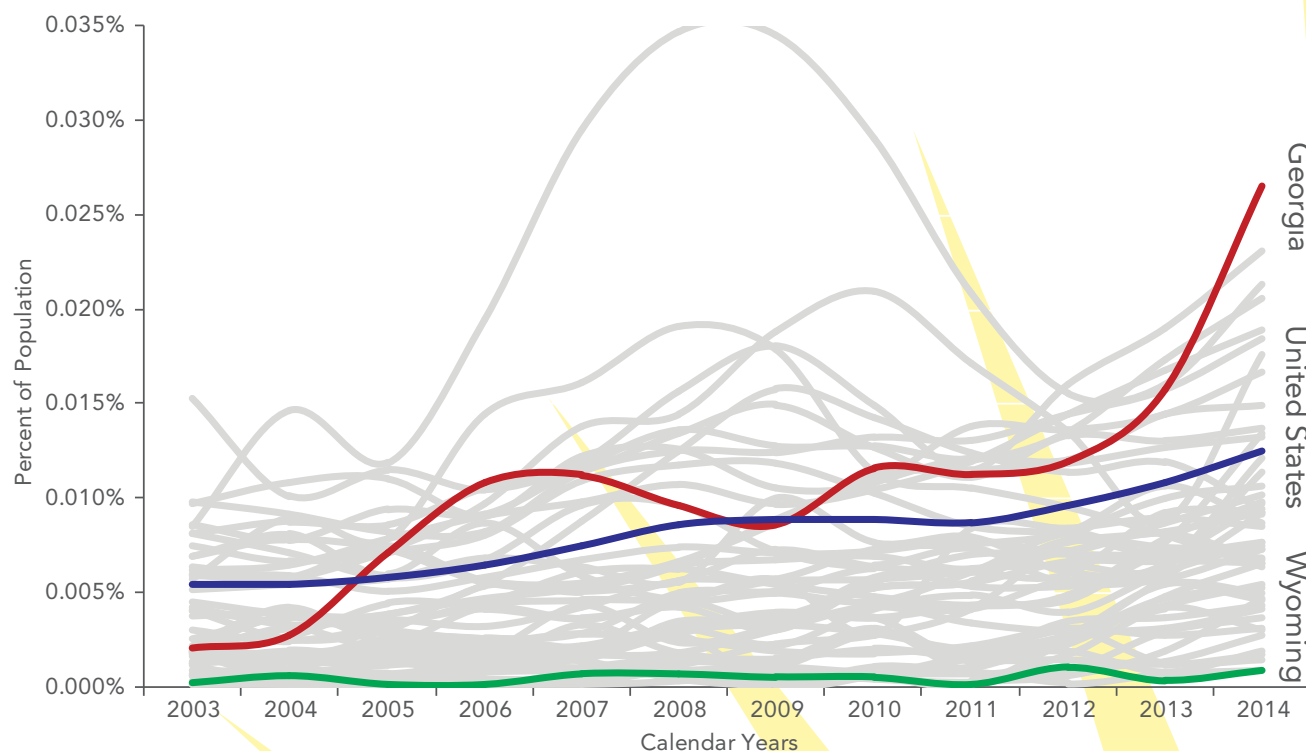
Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 62**, the syphilis rate (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 128.8 percent to 0.0125 percent in 2014 from 0.0054 percent in 2003. In 2014, Nevada had the highest syphilis rate at 0.0265 percent while Wyoming had the lowest rate at 0.0009 percent—that is a difference of 2,995 percent.

CHART 62

Syphilis

Calendar Years 2003 to 2014

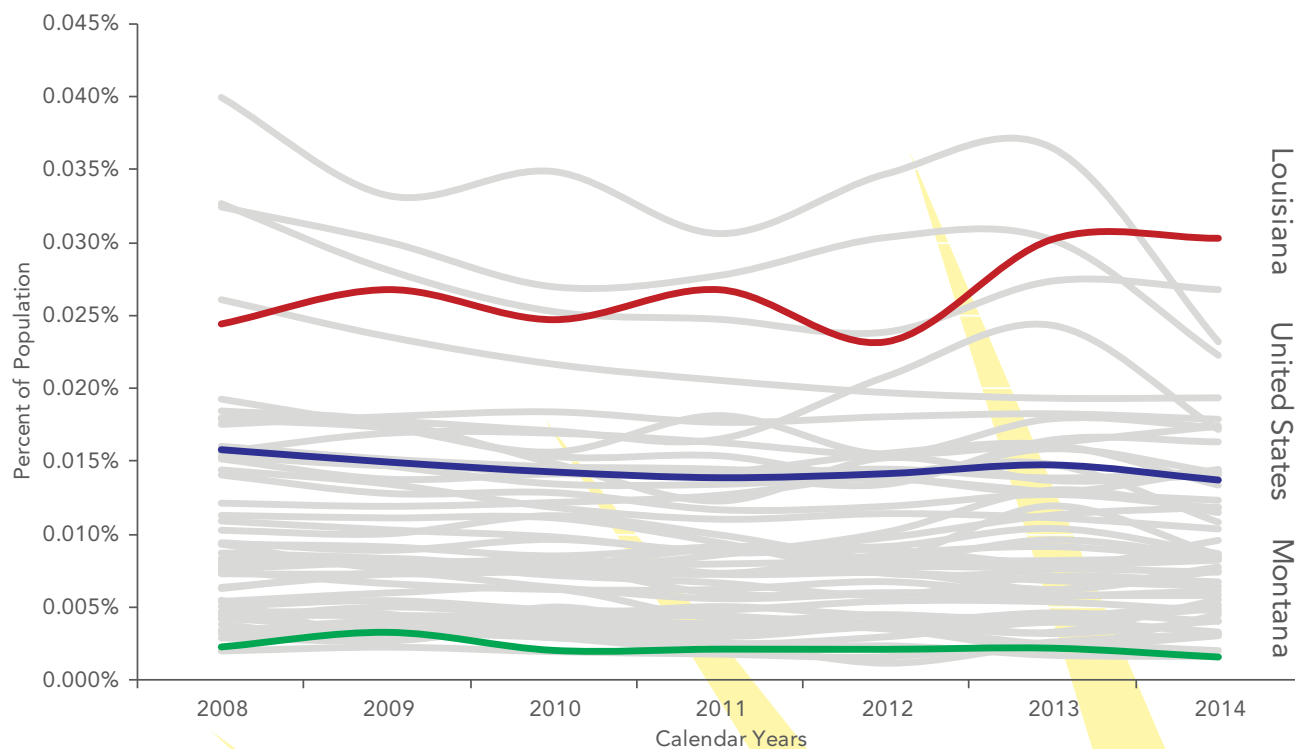


Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Conservative Union Foundation

As shown in **Chart 63**, the HIV diagnoses rate (as a percent of the population) decreased nationally by 13.6 percent to 0.0137 percent in 2014 from 0.0158 percent in 2008. In 2014, Louisiana had the highest HIV diagnoses rate at 0.0303 percent while Montana had the lowest rate at 0.0016 percent—that is a difference of 1,837 percent.

CHART 63

HIV Diagnoses Calendar Years 2008 to 2014



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, Wyoming had the top score (6.91) followed by Maine (6.68), New Hampshire (6.66), Idaho (6.61), and West Virginia (6.43). On the other hand, Louisiana had the lowest score (2.07) followed by Mississippi (2.94), Georgia (3.22), South Carolina (3.32), and Alaska (3.50).

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

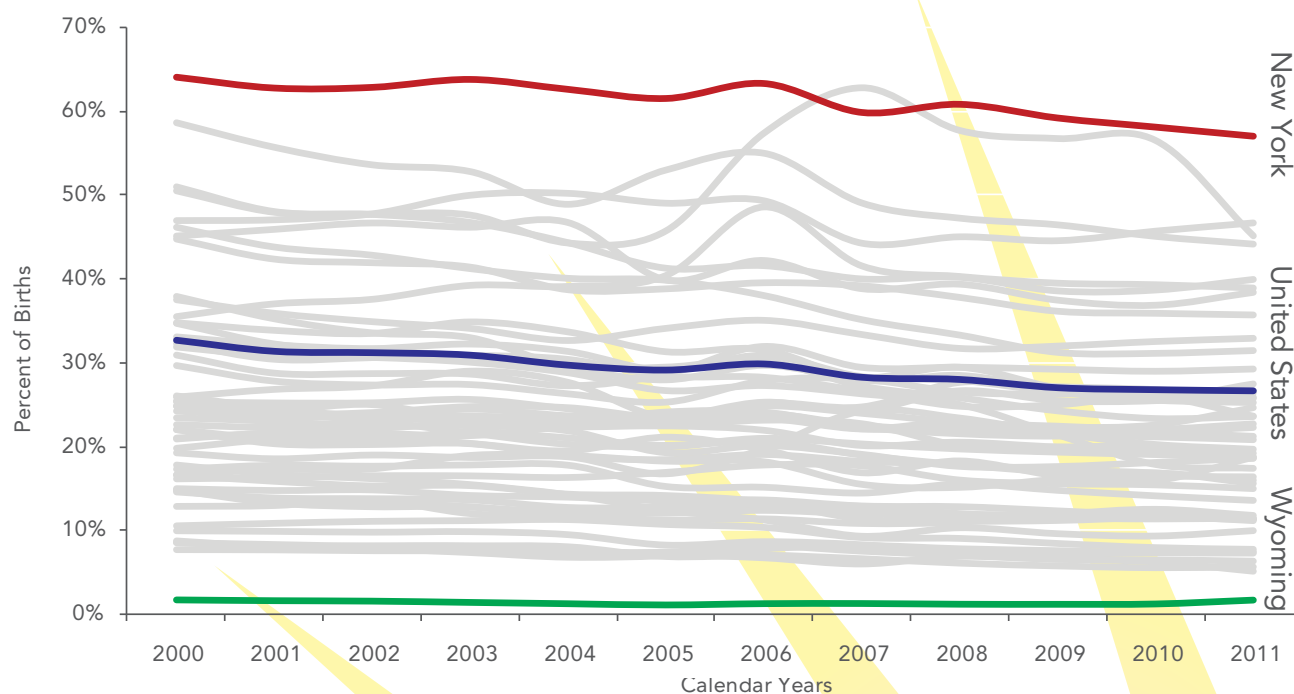
Charts 64 and 65 show the variance in infant survival—including abortion and infant mortality—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2012 for abortions and 2000 to 2013 for infant mortality.¹¹²¹¹³

As shown in **Chart 64**, the abortion rate (as a percent of births) decreased nationally by 21.7 percent to 25.6 percent in 2012 from 32.7 percent in 2000. In 2012, New York had the highest abortion rate at 56.9 percent while Wyoming had the lowest rate at 1.6 percent—that is a difference of 3,442 percent.

CHART 64

Abortions

Calendar Years 2000 to 2011



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

112 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).

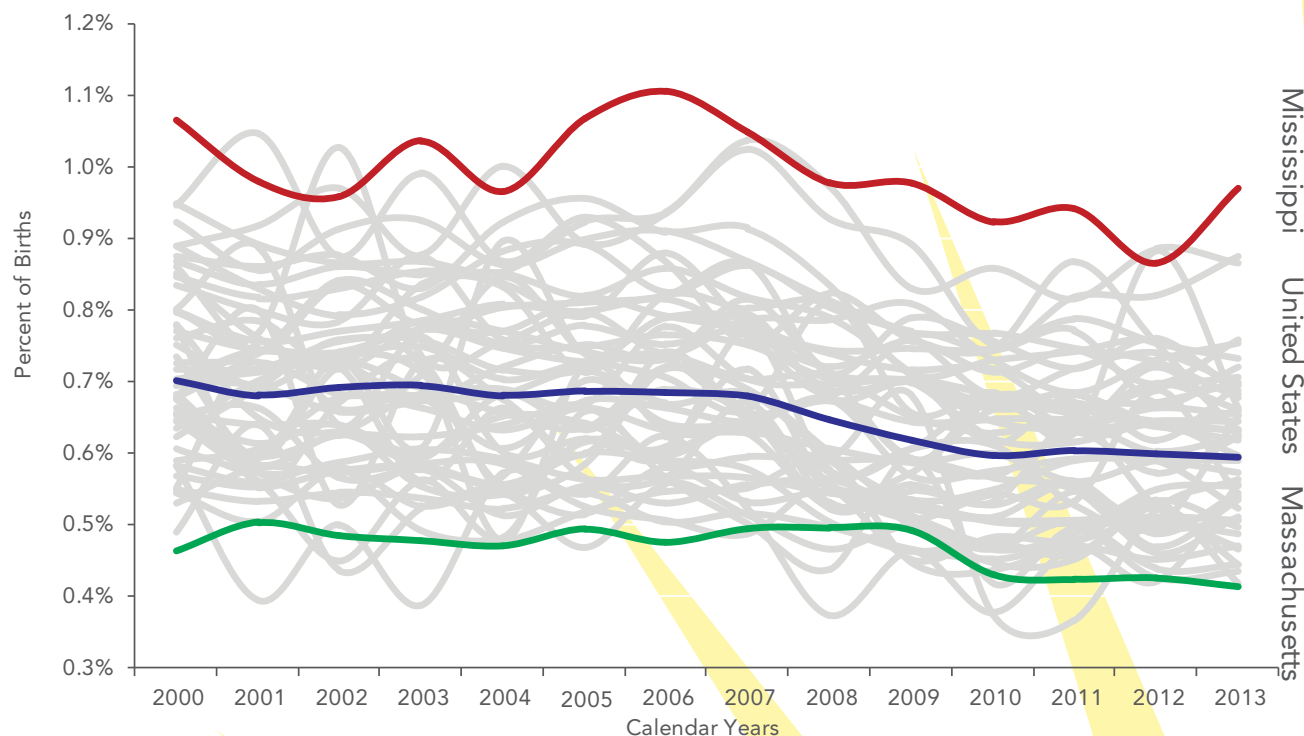
113 Infant mortality data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. The data was extracted from the Kids Count Data Center published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6051-infant-mortality?loc=1&loc=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36,8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

As shown in **Chart 65**, the infant mortality rate (as a percent of births) decreased nationally by 15.2 percent to 0.59 percent in 2013 from 0.7 percent in 2000. In 2013, Mississippi had the highest infant mortality rate at 0.96 percent while Massachusetts had the lowest rate at 0.41 percent—that is a difference of 137 percent.

CHART 65

Infant Mortality

Calendar Years 2000 to 2013



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 (6.89) followed by Utah (6.77), Maine (6.72), Wyoming (6.64), and Kentucky (6.64). On the other hand, New York had the lowest score (1.45) followed by Maryland (1.79), Delaware (2.39), Florida (2.82), and Connecticut (3.26).

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

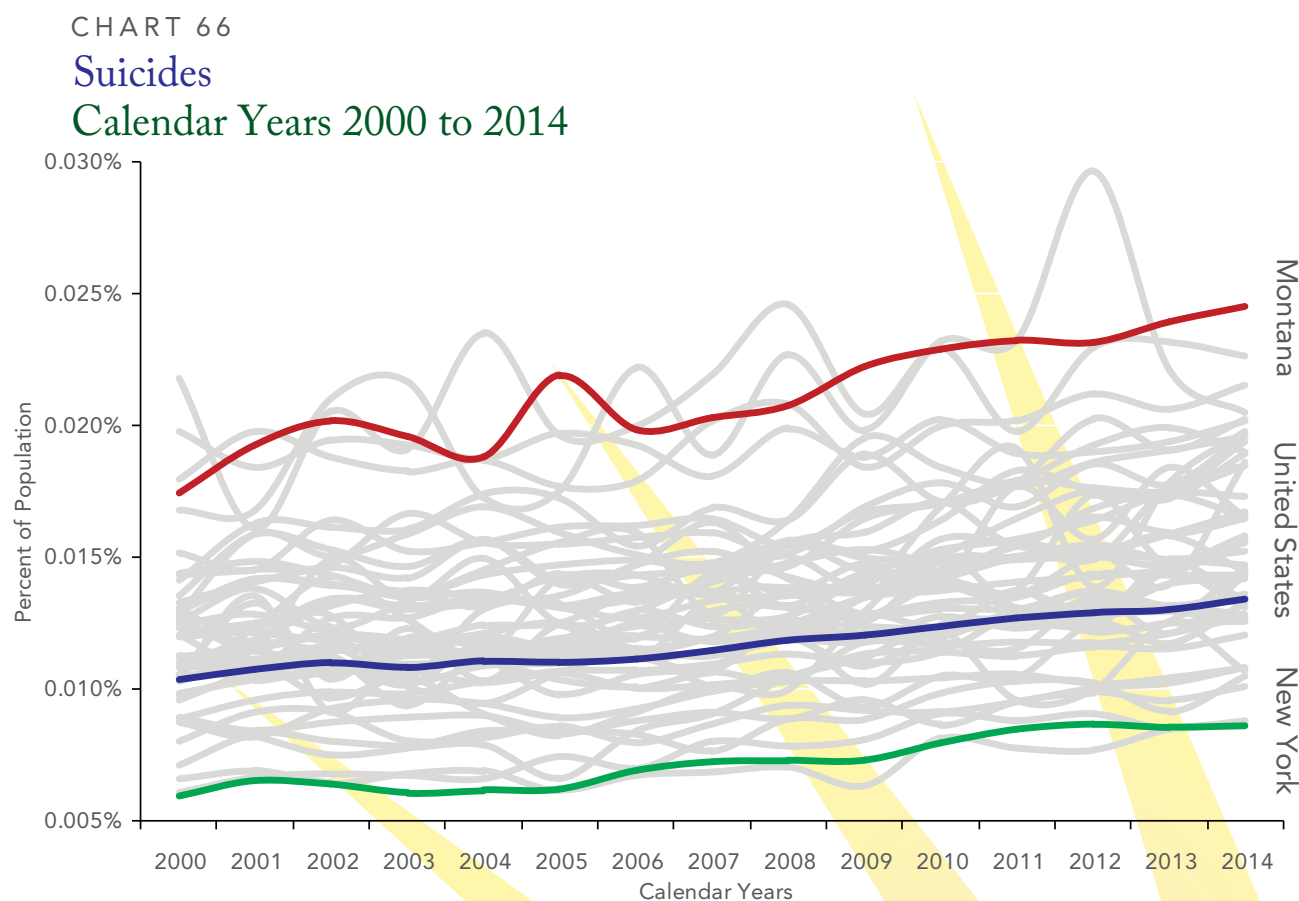
The time-series abortion data from the Guttmacher Institute was provided sporadically from 2000 to 2011. Missing years (2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2009) were linearly interpolated.

The time-series was extended to 2012 by using new CDC data. Growth rates between the 2011 and 2012 CDC data were applied to the Guttmacher Institute data. However, 4 states do not report abortion data to the CDC—California, Maryland, New Hampshire, and Wyoming—so their 2012 data is based on a 5-year linear extrapolation.

Self-Mortality

Charts 66 and 67 show the variance in self-mortality—including suicide and drug-induced deaths—nationally and in the 50 states from 2000 to 2014.¹¹⁴

As shown in **Chart 66**, the suicide rate (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 28.9 percent to 0.0134 percent in 2014 from 0.0104 percent in 2000. In 2014, Montana had the highest suicide rate at 0.0245 percent while New York had the lowest rate at 0.0086 percent—that is a difference of 185 percent.



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

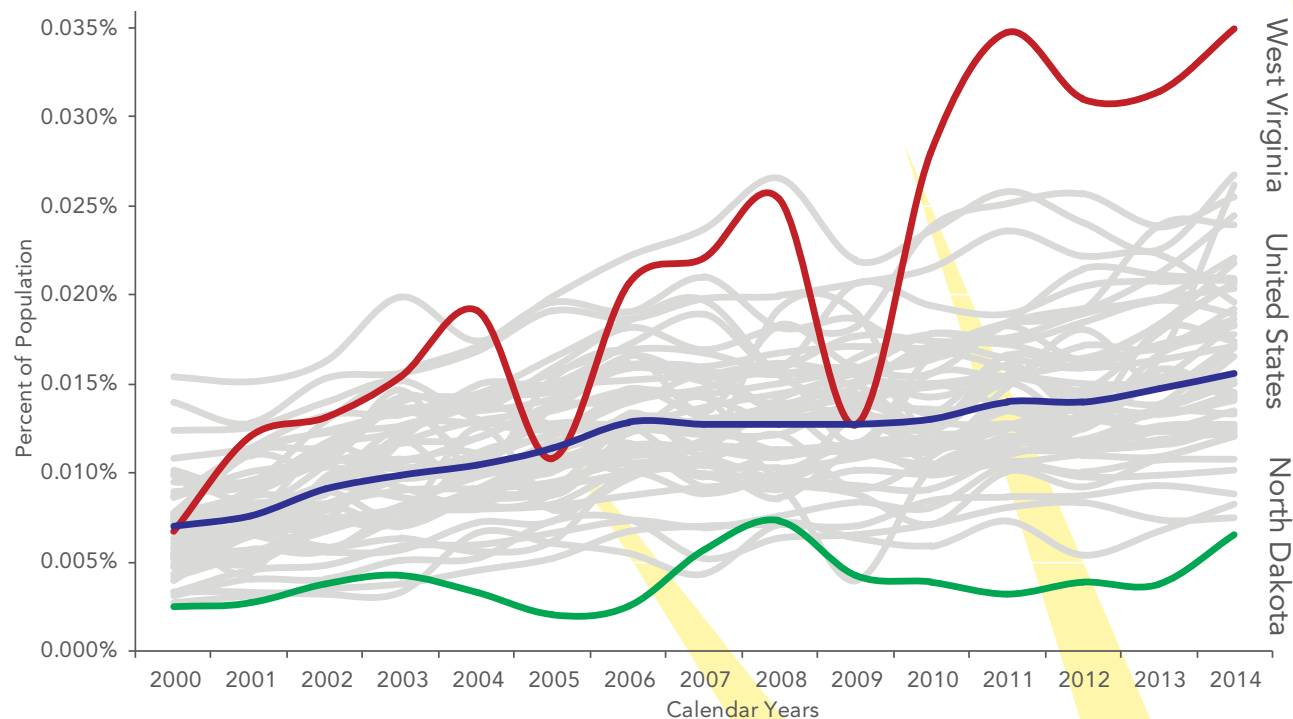
114 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2013 on CDC Wonder Online Database. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/>

As shown in **Chart 67**, the drug-induced death rate (as a percent of the population) increased nationally by 123.5 percent to 0.0156 percent in 2014 from 0.007 percent in 2000. In 2014, West Virginia had the highest drug-induced death rate at 0.0349 percent while North Dakota had the lowest rate at 0.0065 percent—that is a difference of 439 percent.

CHART 67

Drug Overdose

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 self-mortality sub-index, New York had the top score (6.92) followed by California (6.74), Texas (6.73), New Jersey (6.66), and Iowa (6.59). On the other hand, West Virginia had the lowest score (1.64) followed by New Hampshire (2.41), New Mexico (2.58), Montana (3.30), and Alaska (3.37).

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



ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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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.

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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 books. He has testified before the House Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. Congress as well as various state legislatures. His work has appeared in Forbes, CNN Money, State Tax Notes, Portland Press Herald, New Hampshire's Union Leader, Hartford Courant, The Oklahoman, and Albuquerque Journal.

Scott is the former CEO and Chief Economist of the 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 fourteenth year of publication.

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

TABLE 2 | 2015 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	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	3.81	43	4.33	36	4.78	29	4.38	43	4.51	33	4.76	33	4.43	42
Alaska	5.14	22	7.05	5	5.81	8	3.22	50	3.99	44	4.11	49	4.89	25
Arizona	4.51	33	5.54	15	3.65	49	4.57	38	3.44	47	5.02	24	4.45	40
Arkansas	3.56	46	5.09	21	5.46	16	4.36	44	3.72	45	5.08	19	4.55	35
California	5.48	15	5.45	16	4.83	27	5.29	19	4.20	41	5.15	16	5.07	17
Colorado	5.93	7	5.78	12	5.25	21	5.67	11	6.21	6	5.04	21	5.65	11
Connecticut	5.16	21	2.96	46	4.36	38	5.33	18	5.88	11	4.99	26	4.78	28
Delaware	4.87	26	4.17	40	4.72	32	3.51	47	3.63	46	4.45	44	4.22	45
Florida	5.70	11	3.44	44	3.66	48	5.11	23	4.42	37	4.84	32	4.53	36
Georgia	4.78	28	5.79	10	4.47	35	5.14	22	4.45	36	5.09	18	4.95	22
Hawaii	3.92	41	5.00	24	6.17	4	4.54	39	4.91	28	5.80	5	5.06	18
Idaho	5.24	19	6.95	6	6.81	3	5.10	24	6.65	3	6.02	4	6.13	3
Illinois	4.68	31	4.50	35	4.74	30	5.01	26	5.35	21	4.96	28	4.87	26
Indiana	4.69	30	5.35	20	3.94	43	4.86	30	4.50	34	5.03	23	4.73	31
Iowa	5.57	13	5.43	18	6.82	2	5.48	13	6.13	9	5.37	12	5.80	8
Kansas	5.83	9	5.92	9	5.77	9	5.90	5	5.39	19	6.02	3	5.80	7
Kentucky	3.53	47	5.09	22	4.94	25	4.53	40	5.54	17	5.00	25	4.77	29
Louisiana	4.63	32	5.78	11	3.72	47	3.38	48	3.44	48	4.33	47	4.22	46
Maine	3.73	45	2.39	50	5.62	14	4.94	27	5.00	26	4.98	27	4.44	41
Maryland	4.95	24	4.70	30	5.39	18	5.47	14	4.74	31	4.65	35	4.98	21
Massachusetts	5.56	14	3.47	43	4.18	40	5.75	9	5.54	16	4.93	29	4.90	24
Michigan	4.27	40	4.23	38	4.17	41	4.80	31	5.12	24	4.43	45	4.50	38
Minnesota	5.69	12	5.66	13	5.73	11	5.37	16	6.39	4	5.76	6	5.77	9
Mississippi	2.68	50	4.96	25	3.86	45	3.37	49	4.86	29	5.05	20	4.13	47
Missouri	5.04	23	4.87	28	5.06	23	4.73	34	4.57	32	5.27	14	4.92	23
Montana	5.27	18	5.07	23	5.45	17	5.58	12	5.03	25	4.57	38	5.16	15
Nebraska	6.41	6	6.56	7	5.62	13	5.94	4	5.97	10	6.07	2	6.09	5
Nevada	4.81	27	5.45	17	3.74	46	5.35	17	2.78	49	4.18	48	4.39	44
New Hampshire	5.77	10	2.80	48	5.84	7	6.08	2	5.36	20	5.03	22	5.15	16
New Jersey	5.23	20	4.21	39	4.72	31	5.78	7	6.20	7	4.92	30	5.18	14
New Mexico	3.27	48	4.66	31	4.45	36	4.43	42	2.36	50	4.47	42	3.94	50
New York	4.90	25	4.01	41	4.36	37	4.66	36	5.50	18	4.52	40	4.66	32
North Carolina	3.91	42	4.79	29	4.50	33	5.20	21	5.14	22	5.18	15	4.79	27
North Dakota	9.03	1	7.96	2	5.71	12	5.87	6	6.13	8	5.47	10	6.70	2
Ohio	4.48	35	4.61	33	3.93	44	4.62	37	4.78	30	4.40	46	4.47	39
Oklahoma	5.84	8	6.14	8	5.06	24	4.43	41	4.08	43	4.59	36	5.02	20
Oregon	4.39	36	4.29	37	4.90	26	4.80	32	4.27	40	4.49	41	4.52	37
Pennsylvania	4.36	37	3.47	42	4.49	34	4.89	29	5.59	14	4.56	39	4.56	34
Rhode Island	4.27	39	2.91	47	3.52	50	4.78	33	5.13	23	3.66	50	4.04	48
South Carolina	3.78	44	4.65	32	4.34	39	5.07	25	4.11	42	4.57	37	4.42	43
South Dakota	6.96	4	7.105	4	5.59	15	5.96	3	5.57	15	5.47	9	6.10	4
Tennessee	4.28	38	4.92	26	5.18	22	4.72	35	4.34	38	5.10	17	4.76	30
Texas	6.73	5	7.59	3	5.37	19	4.91	28	4.30	39	5.61	8	5.75	10
Utah	7.15	3	8.80	1	7.53	1	6.56	1	6.92	1	6.51	1	7.25	1
Vermont	4.70	29	2.42	49	5.92	6	4.31	45	5.69	13	4.46	43	4.58	33
Virginia	5.34	17	4.90	27	5.34	20	5.47	15	6.69	2	5.43	11	5.53	12
Washington	5.38	16	5.37	19	5.76	10	5.74	10	4.47	35	4.92	31	5.27	13
West Virginia	3.13	49	3.33	45	4.00	42	4.09	46	4.98	27	4.66	34	4.03	49
Wisconsin	4.50	34	4.54	34	4.83	28	5.22	20	5.78	12	5.35	13	5.04	19
Wyoming	7.17	2	5.60	14	5.92	5	5.76	8	6.27	5	5.68	7	6.07	6

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 3 | 2014 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	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	3.72	45	4.27	37	5.35	17	4.53	39	4.43	35	4.76	30	4.51	37
Alaska	5.22	22	7.06	6	4.85	29	2.77	50	4.41	37	4.18	48	4.75	31
Arizona	4.79	28	5.67	13	3.78	46	4.48	43	4.02	42	5.17	16	4.65	34
Arkansas	4.61	32	4.98	26	5.49	14	4.58	38	3.73	47	5.21	15	4.76	30
California	5.31	21	5.49	17	4.39	40	5.13	20	4.69	29	5.10	19	5.02	17
Colorado	5.81	11	6.34	8	5.30	19	5.74	9	6.40	5	4.50	42	5.68	11
Connecticut	5.55	14	2.83	46	4.92	25	4.95	27	5.61	11	5.07	21	4.82	26
Delaware	4.54	34	4.50	33	4.57	39	3.80	47	3.64	49	3.81	50	4.14	47
Florida	5.38	17	3.75	42	3.66	47	4.91	29	3.97	43	4.65	38	4.39	42
Georgia	4.81	27	5.49	16	4.39	41	5.11	21	4.55	32	5.15	18	4.92	23
Hawaii	3.91	43	5.30	20	5.41	15	4.51	41	4.99	24	5.64	9	4.96	21
Idaho	4.65	31	7.07	5	6.46	2	5.03	24	6.95	2	5.59	11	5.96	5
Illinois	5.32	19	4.31	36	5.11	22	5.15	19	5.20	20	4.81	28	4.99	19
Indiana	4.43	36	5.35	19	4.19	43	4.84	31	4.40	38	4.94	23	4.69	33
Iowa	5.54	15	5.25	22	6.45	3	5.50	14	6.33	7	5.74	7	5.80	8
Kansas	5.81	10	5.77	11	5.53	11	5.75	8	5.28	19	5.62	10	5.63	12
Kentucky	3.71	46	4.99	25	4.94	24	4.52	40	5.41	16	5.07	20	4.77	29
Louisiana	5.06	23	5.57	14	3.40	48	3.67	49	3.73	46	4.84	26	4.38	43
Maine	3.81	44	2.33	50	5.23	20	4.99	25	4.92	26	5.16	17	4.40	41
Maryland	5.42	16	4.77	30	4.69	37	5.61	12	4.85	27	4.50	41	4.97	20
Massachusetts	6.01	8	3.59	43	4.70	36	5.40	16	5.32	18	4.68	35	4.95	22
Michigan	4.21	39	4.00	39	4.29	42	4.78	34	4.44	34	4.42	44	4.36	45
Minnesota	6.10	7	5.54	15	5.51	12	5.56	13	6.39	6	5.79	6	5.82	7
Mississippi	3.33	48	4.87	28	3.08	50	3.73	48	4.93	25	4.72	31	4.11	48
Missouri	4.93	26	4.64	31	4.91	26	4.76	35	4.31	40	5.36	12	4.82	27
Montana	4.77	29	5.29	21	6.07	5	5.67	11	5.35	17	4.69	33	5.31	13
Nebraska	6.50	4	6.33	9	5.69	9	6.02	2	6.15	8	6.08	3	6.13	4
Nevada	4.21	40	5.68	12	3.14	49	5.24	17	3.42	50	4.57	40	4.38	44
New Hampshire	5.69	12	2.56	47	5.36	16	5.96	3	5.00	23	4.71	32	4.88	24
New Jersey	5.31	20	3.99	40	4.84	30	5.79	6	6.12	9	4.81	29	5.14	14
New Mexico	3.31	49	4.53	32	4.86	28	4.22	46	3.70	48	4.86	25	4.25	46
New York	5.33	18	3.94	41	4.63	38	4.43	44	5.54	13	4.31	46	4.70	32
North Carolina	4.11	41	5.11	23	4.72	35	5.18	18	5.13	21	4.69	34	4.82	25
North Dakota	8.59	1	7.49	3	5.80	7	5.76	7	6.42	4	6.18	2	6.70	2
Ohio	4.71	30	4.37	35	4.15	44	4.62	37	4.43	36	4.67	37	4.49	38
Oklahoma	5.63	13	6.40	7	4.79	31	4.68	36	4.03	41	4.82	27	5.06	16
Oregon	4.02	42	4.23	38	4.78	32	4.94	28	4.66	30	4.25	47	4.48	40
Pennsylvania	4.95	25	3.26	44	4.76	33	4.80	33	5.44	15	4.44	43	4.61	35
Rhode Island	4.28	38	2.47	49	3.94	45	4.83	32	4.84	28	3.95	49	4.05	50
South Carolina	3.52	47	4.95	27	4.73	34	5.06	23	3.86	44	4.97	22	4.51	36
South Dakota	6.59	3	7.47	4	5.92	6	5.88	4	5.60	12	5.95	4	6.23	3
Tennessee	4.57	33	4.87	29	5.58	10	4.98	26	3.77	45	4.90	24	4.78	28
Texas	6.68	2	7.69	2	5.49	13	5.07	22	4.46	33	5.32	13	5.79	9
Utah	6.16	6	8.94	1	7.98	1	6.49	1	7.01	1	6.90	1	7.25	1
Vermont	4.41	37	2.50	48	6.15	4	4.48	42	5.03	22	4.35	45	4.49	39
Virginia	5.85	9	5.08	24	5.72	8	5.67	10	6.71	3	5.31	14	5.72	10
Washington	5.04	24	5.42	18	5.32	18	5.46	15	4.65	31	4.67	36	5.09	15
West Virginia	3.05	50	3.17	45	4.86	27	4.26	45	4.39	39	4.60	39	4.05	49
Wisconsin	4.43	35	4.45	34	4.98	23	4.90	30	5.53	14	5.66	8	4.99	18
Wyoming	6.35	5	6.09	10	5.12	21	5.82	5	5.89	10	5.83	5	5.85	6

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 4 | 2013 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	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	3.42	48	4.38	35	5.07	22	4.46	42	4.21	40	4.89	24	4.41	41
Alaska	5.47	17	7.73	3	4.83	30	3.00	50	3.75	43	4.20	47	4.83	27
Arizona	4.67	32	5.63	14	3.44	49	4.17	45	3.96	41	5.15	16	4.50	38
Arkansas	4.35	38	5.04	23	4.98	26	4.48	41	3.66	45	5.05	23	4.59	34
California	4.86	28	5.53	16	4.18	41	5.23	19	4.77	31	5.08	21	4.94	23
Colorado	6.01	7	6.18	10	5.81	10	5.63	9	6.50	5	4.27	44	5.73	8
Connecticut	5.77	11	2.88	47	5.06	23	5.45	16	5.87	11	5.10	20	5.02	20
Delaware	5.06	23	4.74	32	4.24	40	4.10	47	3.25	48	3.95	50	4.22	47
Florida	5.33	19	3.80	42	3.54	48	4.69	35	3.59	46	4.63	35	4.26	44
Georgia	4.80	29	6.00	12	4.41	38	4.99	26	4.22	38	4.89	25	4.88	24
Hawaii	3.77	46	5.00	24	5.38	15	4.25	44	4.97	26	5.45	11	4.80	28
Idaho	4.49	35	6.31	7	6.49	3	5.14	21	6.86	2	5.58	10	5.81	7
Illinois	5.19	21	4.32	37	4.92	27	5.40	18	5.12	19	4.86	27	4.97	21
Indiana	4.23	40	5.08	21	4.13	44	5.05	24	4.65	34	5.22	15	4.73	31
Iowa	5.31	20	4.87	30	6.55	2	5.42	17	6.22	8	5.81	6	5.70	11
Kansas	5.49	16	6.03	11	5.26	17	5.68	6	5.24	18	5.66	8	5.56	12
Kentucky	3.89	45	4.81	31	4.83	31	4.63	37	4.94	27	5.14	17	4.71	32
Louisiana	4.89	26	5.60	15	3.98	45	3.65	49	3.08	50	4.58	37	4.30	43
Maine	4.23	41	2.32	49	4.87	29	4.76	31	4.74	32	4.59	36	4.25	46
Maryland	5.44	18	4.91	28	4.98	25	5.52	13	4.93	29	4.68	32	5.08	17
Massachusetts	6.05	5	3.60	43	5.12	20	5.52	14	5.37	15	4.56	39	5.03	19
Michigan	4.05	43	3.95	40	4.40	39	4.75	33	4.60	35	4.27	45	4.34	42
Minnesota	6.04	6	5.26	18	5.78	11	5.58	11	6.69	4	6.03	4	5.90	6
Mississippi	3.20	50	4.99	26	2.44	50	3.74	48	5.03	21	5.07	22	4.08	50
Missouri	4.90	25	4.55	33	4.90	28	4.85	28	4.67	33	5.13	18	4.83	26
Montana	4.67	31	4.91	29	5.87	9	5.72	5	5.81	13	4.80	29	5.30	13
Nebraska	6.19	4	6.29	8	6.01	7	6.10	3	6.14	9	6.35	2	6.18	4
Nevada	4.47	37	5.66	13	3.73	47	5.11	23	3.85	42	4.73	31	4.59	35
New Hampshire	5.92	9	2.95	46	6.09	6	6.13	2	5.02	23	4.34	43	5.08	18
New Jersey	5.57	14	4.05	39	5.06	24	5.68	7	5.84	12	5.36	13	5.26	14
New Mexico	3.40	49	4.99	25	5.09	21	4.11	46	3.15	49	4.77	30	4.25	45
New York	5.67	13	3.85	41	4.67	34	4.62	38	5.26	17	4.34	42	4.74	30
North Carolina	4.20	42	5.04	22	4.55	36	5.19	20	5.06	20	4.65	33	4.78	29
North Dakota	7.33	1	6.93	5	6.36	4	5.66	8	6.49	6	6.22	3	6.50	2
Ohio	4.48	36	4.11	38	4.17	42	4.53	39	4.34	37	4.86	26	4.42	40
Oklahoma	5.57	15	6.21	9	4.63	35	4.67	36	4.22	39	4.46	41	4.96	22
Oregon	4.30	39	4.35	36	4.80	32	4.82	29	4.98	25	4.08	48	4.55	36
Pennsylvania	4.99	24	3.50	44	4.72	33	4.74	34	5.26	16	4.49	40	4.62	33
Rhode Island	4.50	34	2.50	48	3.84	46	4.81	30	5.01	24	4.08	49	4.12	49
South Carolina	4.01	44	4.93	27	4.41	37	4.96	27	3.55	47	4.63	34	4.42	39
South Dakota	6.86	2	7.11	4	5.91	8	5.87	4	6.43	7	5.95	5	6.36	3
Tennessee	4.53	33	5.20	19	5.49	14	5.13	22	3.74	44	5.13	19	4.87	25
Texas	6.60	3	7.83	2	5.28	16	4.75	32	4.35	36	5.40	12	5.70	10
Utah	6.00	8	8.48	1	7.65	1	6.60	1	7.37	1	7.11	1	7.20	1
Vermont	4.88	27	2.26	50	6.23	5	4.53	40	5.03	22	4.24	46	4.53	37
Virginia	5.71	12	5.17	20	5.71	12	5.58	12	6.73	3	5.36	14	5.71	9
Washington	5.10	22	5.43	17	5.22	18	5.51	15	4.89	30	4.82	28	5.16	15
West Virginia	3.55	47	3.42	45	4.15	43	4.33	43	4.94	28	4.57	38	4.16	48
Wisconsin	4.79	30	4.49	34	5.19	19	5.04	25	5.64	14	5.62	9	5.13	16
Wyoming	5.82	10	6.82	6	5.57	13	5.63	10	5.97	10	5.79	7	5.93	5

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 5 | 2012 FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX

	ECONOMICS	RANK	DEMO-GRAPHICS	RANK	FAMILY STRUCTURE	RANK	FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY	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	3.88	45	4.50	36	4.55	36	4.45	43	4.81	29	4.98	24	4.53	37
Alaska	6.40	4	7.86	3	5.53	12	3.10	50	3.61	46	3.73	50	5.04	20
Arizona	4.53	34	5.33	18	4.40	39	3.97	47	4.22	39	4.80	31	4.54	36
Arkansas	4.62	31	5.23	20	4.58	35	4.40	45	3.97	42	4.71	34	4.58	35
California	5.03	25	5.67	14	4.35	40	4.96	25	4.83	28	4.82	30	4.94	23
Colorado	6.06	6	6.32	7	5.49	13	5.61	9	6.40	4	4.59	38	5.74	8
Connecticut	5.64	12	3.23	46	5.27	16	5.30	17	5.91	12	5.24	14	5.10	15
Delaware	5.49	16	4.63	32	4.42	38	4.44	44	3.05	50	3.79	49	4.30	44
Florida	5.17	23	3.67	41	3.58	49	4.63	38	3.72	45	4.55	41	4.22	47
Georgia	5.20	21	5.95	11	5.09	21	5.00	23	4.41	36	4.69	35	5.06	18
Hawaii	4.08	41	5.34	17	5.72	9	4.58	41	5.10	22	4.56	39	4.90	26
Idaho	4.47	35	6.72	4	6.37	4	5.17	20	6.39	5	5.94	6	5.84	6
Illinois	5.06	24	4.56	34	5.06	23	4.85	28	5.08	23	5.07	18	4.95	22
Indiana	4.21	39	5.20	23	3.92	47	5.02	22	4.53	34	5.12	17	4.67	34
Iowa	5.41	19	5.08	24	6.61	2	5.42	16	6.26	7	6.05	5	5.80	7
Kansas	5.35	20	6.08	9	5.21	17	6.00	2	5.39	19	5.51	11	5.59	12
Kentucky	3.73	46	5.05	26	4.71	31	4.55	42	5.17	21	4.95	25	4.69	33
Louisiana	5.49	18	5.82	12	4.01	46	3.58	49	3.21	48	4.40	42	4.42	41
Maine	3.95	44	2.39	49	4.99	25	4.95	26	4.98	24	4.76	32	4.34	42
Maryland	5.49	17	5.06	25	4.86	27	5.54	13	4.27	38	5.05	20	5.04	19
Massachusetts	5.82	9	3.62	43	5.00	24	5.44	15	4.97	25	4.71	33	4.93	24
Michigan	3.62	49	3.66	42	4.17	44	4.72	33	4.71	31	4.27	44	4.19	48
Minnesota	5.63	13	5.28	19	5.38	15	5.65	8	6.43	3	6.07	3	5.74	9
Mississippi	4.14	40	5.05	27	2.52	50	3.81	48	4.80	30	5.22	15	4.26	46
Missouri	4.73	30	4.55	35	4.93	26	4.85	30	4.57	32	5.20	16	4.81	28
Montana	4.27	37	4.76	29	5.65	11	5.52	14	5.48	16	5.03	21	5.12	14
Nebraska	6.26	5	6.17	8	5.69	10	5.96	3	6.22	9	6.35	2	6.11	4
Nevada	4.62	32	4.66	31	3.67	48	5.21	19	3.59	47	4.11	46	4.31	43
New Hampshire	5.57	14	2.82	47	6.43	3	5.83	4	5.55	14	4.29	43	5.08	17
New Jersey	5.76	11	4.17	38	5.13	19	5.83	5	5.97	11	5.47	12	5.39	13
New Mexico	3.65	48	5.67	15	4.14	45	4.18	46	3.08	49	4.91	27	4.27	45
New York	5.50	15	4.14	39	4.54	37	4.70	35	5.45	18	4.27	45	4.77	29
North Carolina	4.26	38	5.22	21	4.60	34	5.21	18	5.22	20	4.98	23	4.92	25
North Dakota	7.07	1	6.36	6	5.92	7	5.58	11	7.25	1	6.06	4	6.37	2
Ohio	4.39	36	4.11	40	4.21	43	4.59	40	4.56	33	4.86	28	4.45	39
Oklahoma	5.20	22	6.07	10	4.71	32	4.61	39	4.04	41	4.59	37	4.87	27
Oregon	3.66	47	4.42	37	4.81	28	5.06	21	4.85	27	4.08	47	4.48	38
Pennsylvania	4.78	28	3.58	44	4.74	30	4.85	29	5.48	17	5.07	19	4.75	32
Rhode Island	4.08	42	2.34	50	4.28	42	4.76	32	4.88	26	3.97	48	4.05	50
South Carolina	3.98	43	4.69	30	4.70	33	4.85	31	3.78	44	4.61	36	4.44	40
South Dakota	7.01	2	6.59	5	5.91	8	5.76	7	6.26	8	5.78	8	6.22	3
Tennessee	4.78	29	4.80	28	5.10	20	4.96	24	4.05	40	4.83	29	4.75	30
Texas	6.63	3	7.86	2	5.18	18	4.68	36	3.97	43	5.61	10	5.65	11
Utah	5.77	10	8.52	1	7.94	1	6.75	1	6.88	2	6.85	1	7.12	1
Vermont	4.99	26	2.67	48	6.17	5	4.63	37	5.50	15	4.55	40	4.75	31
Virginia	5.84	8	5.21	22	5.43	14	5.59	10	6.33	6	5.86	7	5.71	10
Washington	4.80	27	5.66	16	5.07	22	5.55	12	4.42	35	5.01	22	5.08	16
West Virginia	3.49	50	3.33	45	4.33	41	4.70	34	4.35	37	4.94	26	4.19	49
Wisconsin	4.53	33	4.60	33	4.80	29	4.88	27	5.81	13	5.37	13	5.00	21
Wyoming	5.91	7	5.74	13	6.13	6	5.79	6	6.20	10	5.78	9	5.92	5

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 1 | 2016 FAMILY PROSPERITY ECONOMIC SUB-INDEXES

	PRIVATE SECTOR SHARE OF PERSONAL INCOME	RANK	REAL PER HOUSEHOLD PERSONAL INCOME	RANK	COST-OF- LIVING	RANK	ENTRE- PRENEURSHIP	RANK	UNEMPLOYMENT	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	2.55	45	1.37	47	7.49	2	3.05	41	2.50	43	3.39	47
Alaska	2.67	43	9.22	7	2.91	42	3.97	30	2.04	45	4.16	40
Arizona	4.37	35	2.12	40	5.24	26	7.15	10	2.69	41	4.32	36
Arkansas	3.74	39	2.18	39	7.40	3	3.23	37	5.02	21	4.31	37
California	6.34	14	10.00	1	1.50	47	8.32	6	2.02	46	5.64	13
Colorado	7.25	6	6.67	15	3.52	40	7.61	8	7.23	14	6.45	7
Connecticut	8.05	2	10.00	2	2.41	44	3.07	40	2.96	37	5.30	20
Delaware	4.04	37	5.46	21	4.01	37	7.93	7	4.59	26	5.21	22
Florida	5.07	26	3.67	30	4.57	33	9.79	1	4.40	29	5.50	17
Georgia	4.92	29	2.95	37	6.27	19	5.42	22	2.27	44	4.37	34
Hawaii	1.42	47	7.90	10	0.61	49	3.25	36	7.80	9	4.19	39
Idaho	5.28	24	2.02	42	6.36	16	7.01	11	7.86	8	5.71	11
Illinois	6.82	9	6.12	18	3.90	38	5.73	19	2.53	42	5.02	24
Indiana	5.67	22	3.09	34	6.34	17	2.23	47	5.13	20	4.49	33
Iowa	6.11	15	4.69	26	6.52	14	2.03	48	6.79	15	5.23	21
Kansas	5.93	17	4.84	25	6.40	15	4.94	24	7.52	10	5.93	10
Kentucky	1.74	46	1.64	44	6.81	6	4.55	26	4.00	31	3.75	45
Louisiana	5.55	23	4.44	27	6.53	13	3.29	35	3.31	34	4.63	31
Maine	2.82	42	1.39	46	5.05	27	3.49	33	4.75	23	3.50	46
Maryland	4.20	36	8.98	8	1.51	46	6.21	15	4.40	28	5.06	23
Massachusetts	7.11	8	10.00	3	2.23	45	4.08	27	4.75	24	5.64	14
Michigan	4.93	28	3.44	32	5.88	22	3.29	34	2.82	38	4.07	41
Minnesota	6.74	11	6.29	16	4.86	32	3.09	39	8.68	5	5.93	9
Mississippi	1.15	48	1.03	49	7.33	4	1.56	49	1.35	49	2.48	50
Missouri	4.86	31	3.07	35	6.74	8	4.86	25	3.88	32	4.68	30
Montana	4.54	33	2.04	41	5.42	25	8.48	5	7.33	12	5.56	15
Nebraska	7.14	7	6.24	17	6.61	12	2.99	43	9.33	4	6.46	6
Nevada	5.88	18	2.63	38	4.93	30	9.16	3	1.90	48	4.90	26
New Hampshire	8.00	3	7.25	12	2.78	43	3.02	42	7.33	13	5.67	12
New Jersey	7.35	5	10.00	4	0.74	48	6.01	17	2.70	40	5.36	19
New Mexico	0.66	49	1.10	48	5.55	23	5.38	23	1.96	47	2.93	48
New York	5.11	25	9.76	6	0.43	50	6.69	13	3.05	35	5.01	25
North Carolina	3.54	40	1.88	43	6.27	18	5.45	21	4.61	25	4.35	35
North Dakota	8.78	1	10.00	5	6.11	21	8.54	4	9.80	1	8.65	1
Ohio	4.89	30	3.67	31	6.74	9	2.34	45	6.03	17	4.73	28
Oklahoma	5.83	19	5.30	22	6.71	10	5.80	18	7.42	11	6.21	8
Oregon	3.82	38	3.21	33	4.55	34	5.57	20	2.82	39	3.99	42
Pennsylvania	5.72	21	5.48	20	4.53	35	3.21	38	4.78	22	4.74	27
Rhode Island	4.47	34	6.04	19	4.95	28	2.96	44	1.32	50	3.95	43
South Carolina	2.64	44	1.42	45	6.75	7	4.01	28	4.30	30	3.82	44
South Dakota	6.61	12	4.99	24	7.85	1	3.51	32	9.38	3	6.47	5
Tennessee	4.60	32	2.99	36	6.63	11	3.97	31	3.33	33	4.30	38
Texas	7.57	4	7.57	11	4.95	29	7.28	9	6.73	16	6.82	4
Utah	6.77	10	5.25	23	4.92	31	9.30	2	9.75	2	7.20	2
Vermont	3.02	41	4.35	28	4.39	36	3.98	29	7.91	7	4.73	29
Virginia	4.98	27	6.97	13	3.57	39	6.11	16	5.94	18	5.52	16
Washington	5.81	20	6.88	14	3.48	41	6.84	12	4.45	27	5.49	18
West Virginia	0.56	50	0.54	50	7.18	5	2.25	46	3.01	36	2.71	49
Wisconsin	5.97	16	3.75	29	6.16	20	1.51	50	5.41	19	4.56	32
Wyoming	6.43	13	8.10	9	5.44	24	6.47	14	8.10	6	6.91	3

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 1 | 2016 FAMILY PROSPERITY DEMOGRAPHIC 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	4.94	27	4.50	33	3.18	43	4.88	18	4.40	28	4.38	36
Alaska	7.38	8	9.24	2	8.78	2	0.00	50	8.99	4	6.88	5
Arizona	5.67	19	3.65	41	5.54	17	8.36	7	5.47	18	5.74	14
Arkansas	6.33	13	4.38	36	4.24	35	4.76	20	6.05	16	5.15	21
California	5.15	21	6.77	6	6.33	8	4.24	26	4.27	31	5.35	18
Colorado	5.10	22	6.62	7	6.12	11	9.58	3	3.42	42	6.17	9
Connecticut	2.99	43	4.62	31	3.18	44	1.64	47	1.42	47	2.77	47
Delaware	3.48	39	3.21	45	3.71	41	7.05	12	3.72	40	4.23	38
Florida	2.07	46	1.13	50	3.00	45	9.55	4	3.75	39	3.90	41
Georgia	6.76	9	6.91	5	5.62	15	6.67	15	4.21	32	6.03	10
Hawaii	3.99	37	3.79	39	5.67	14	2.72	44	6.37	13	4.51	32
Idaho	8.63	3	5.23	22	7.00	7	7.20	11	7.48	6	7.11	4
Illinois	4.90	28	6.00	9	4.90	25	1.56	49	3.98	35	4.27	37
Indiana	6.20	15	5.69	16	5.04	23	4.12	28	5.45	19	5.30	20
Iowa	5.83	17	4.56	32	5.33	20	4.46	22	6.55	12	5.35	19
Kansas	7.46	7	5.77	14	5.97	12	3.20	42	6.57	11	5.79	13
Kentucky	5.28	20	5.02	26	4.36	33	4.21	27	5.88	17	4.95	26
Louisiana	6.30	14	6.25	8	5.44	18	4.27	25	6.83	8	5.82	12
Maine	0.70	49	1.33	49	1.91	50	4.45	23	2.32	45	2.14	50
Maryland	4.69	31	5.96	10	4.81	27	3.03	43	4.38	29	4.57	31
Massachusetts	2.13	45	5.02	25	3.91	39	3.57	35	1.26	48	3.18	44
Michigan	3.93	38	4.40	35	3.96	38	3.61	34	4.33	30	4.05	39
Minnesota	5.79	18	5.57	17	6.29	9	4.06	30	6.13	15	5.57	17
Mississippi	6.46	11	5.49	19	4.18	36	3.26	41	5.00	23	4.88	27
Missouri	5.06	23	4.64	30	4.46	29	4.63	21	5.05	21	4.77	28
Montana	4.30	36	3.07	46	4.86	26	7.31	10	6.15	14	5.14	22
Nebraska	7.60	5	5.89	12	7.08	6	4.44	24	8.35	5	6.67	7
Nevada	5.02	25	5.09	23	5.23	21	10.00	1	4.63	26	6.00	11
New Hampshire	0.76	48	3.46	44	2.61	48	4.85	19	0.73	50	2.48	48
New Jersey	4.39	35	5.39	21	4.42	31	1.99	45	3.62	41	3.96	40
New Mexico	5.94	16	4.18	38	5.01	24	1.88	46	4.92	24	4.39	35
New York	3.26	41	5.43	20	5.07	22	1.56	48	3.37	43	3.74	42
North Carolina	5.01	26	4.90	27	4.46	30	6.69	14	3.93	37	5.00	25
North Dakota	6.58	10	6.98	4	8.47	3	10.00	2	10.00	1	8.40	2
Ohio	4.75	30	4.46	34	4.09	37	4.10	29	5.11	20	4.50	33
Oklahoma	7.50	6	5.73	15	5.41	19	5.99	17	6.68	9	6.26	8
Oregon	3.35	40	3.64	42	4.31	34	9.15	6	3.21	44	4.73	30
Pennsylvania	2.98	44	3.54	43	2.89	47	3.53	39	3.76	38	3.34	43
Rhode Island	1.64	47	4.36	37	3.21	42	3.54	36	1.15	49	2.78	46
South Carolina	4.44	34	3.74	40	3.83	40	9.46	5	3.98	36	5.09	24
South Dakota	7.60	4	5.05	24	7.32	5	3.80	32	9.62	2	6.68	6
Tennessee	5.02	24	4.76	28	4.37	32	6.48	16	5.03	22	5.13	23
Texas	8.71	2	8.27	3	7.92	4	7.75	8	7.04	7	7.94	3
Utah	10.00	1	9.66	1	9.67	1	6.71	13	9.30	3	9.07	1
Vermont	0.55	50	2.53	47	2.90	46	3.40	40	1.79	46	2.23	49
Virginia	4.63	32	5.90	11	5.56	16	3.54	37	4.18	33	4.76	29
Washington	4.79	29	5.52	18	5.68	13	7.61	9	4.91	25	5.70	16
West Virginia	3.06	42	2.23	48	2.03	49	3.77	33	4.14	34	3.05	45
Wisconsin	4.47	33	4.66	29	4.52	28	3.87	31	4.42	27	4.39	34
Wyoming	6.45	12	5.78	13	6.16	10	3.53	38	6.67	10	5.72	15

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 1 | 2016 FAMILY PROSPERITY FAMILY STRUCTURE SUB-INDEXES

	MARRIAGE RATE	RANK	DIVORCE RATE	RANK	CHILDREN MARRIED COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS	RANK	FAMILIES WITH RELATED CHILDREN BELOW POVERTY	RANK	STATE OF HOUSEHOLDS	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	7.09	10	4.52	37	3.85	40	1.45	48	6.13	11	4.61	33
Alaska	6.27	12	4.32	40	6.47	10	7.01	10	4.41	36	5.70	11
Arizona	1.86	47	3.55	45	4.21	36	2.89	40	5.16	23	3.53	49
Arkansas	10.00	1	3.01	48	3.79	41	2.86	41	6.98	3	5.33	17
California	4.46	34	4.65	34	5.62	18	4.25	32	4.60	32	4.71	30
Colorado	5.56	17	4.23	41	6.69	7	8.24	2	4.83	28	5.91	6
Connecticut	0.67	50	6.09	8	5.18	22	6.97	12	3.58	42	4.50	37
Delaware	3.59	36	5.03	26	1.67	48	6.05	19	3.68	41	4.00	44
Florida	6.08	15	4.10	42	3.45	42	3.54	39	2.37	48	3.91	45
Georgia	3.29	39	6.16	5	3.36	43	2.72	42	6.15	10	4.34	38
Hawaii	4.47	32	5.68	14	6.27	14	7.58	4	4.38	37	5.67	12
Idaho	8.62	4	3.97	44	7.94	2	5.97	20	8.92	2	7.08	2
Illinois	3.58	37	6.83	2	5.15	23	4.90	26	4.56	34	5.01	24
Indiana	6.19	13	0.18	50	4.34	34	4.50	29	5.93	12	4.23	40
Iowa	4.91	25	8.75	1	6.81	6	7.20	8	6.72	6	6.88	3
Kansas	2.63	43	5.89	10	6.60	8	6.69	16	6.95	4	5.75	9
Kentucky	4.71	27	4.40	38	5.00	26	2.26	45	6.26	9	4.53	35
Louisiana	5.00	24	6.64	3	1.12	50	2.07	47	4.57	33	3.88	47
Maine	7.77	7	4.80	30	4.99	27	3.79	35	3.96	39	5.06	22
Maryland	4.59	30	6.15	6	4.71	31	7.96	3	2.84	47	5.25	18
Massachusetts	1.61	48	5.35	23	6.30	13	6.85	13	3.31	45	4.68	31
Michigan	2.26	45	5.68	15	4.44	33	4.36	30	4.68	29	4.28	39
Minnesota	2.96	41	5.57	19	6.87	4	7.26	7	5.63	13	5.66	13
Mississippi	7.31	8	5.35	22	1.18	49	1.36	49	5.31	21	4.10	42
Missouri	4.75	26	5.30	24	5.01	25	4.69	27	5.46	16	5.04	23
Montana	7.92	6	4.89	29	6.44	11	5.46	22	5.02	25	5.94	5
Nebraska	3.54	38	5.62	17	6.85	5	6.82	14	6.93	5	5.95	4
Nevada	4.47	33	2.11	49	2.90	45	5.05	25	2.91	46	3.49	50
New Hampshire	5.64	16	4.63	36	6.00	16	7.17	9	3.81	40	5.45	16
New Jersey	1.36	49	5.69	13	5.63	17	7.01	11	4.66	30	4.87	27
New Mexico	8.48	5	4.70	33	3.95	39	0.88	50	4.61	31	4.52	36
New York	4.62	29	5.45	21	4.57	32	3.79	38	1.66	50	4.02	43
North Carolina	5.29	20	4.89	28	4.29	35	3.79	37	5.45	17	4.74	29
North Dakota	3.25	40	5.66	16	5.30	21	7.37	6	4.13	38	5.14	19
Ohio	1.93	46	5.15	25	3.30	44	3.87	33	3.51	44	3.55	48
Oklahoma	5.37	18	3.38	46	4.77	30	4.55	28	6.55	7	4.92	26
Oregon	5.10	23	5.01	27	5.39	20	4.34	31	4.96	27	4.96	25
Pennsylvania	2.74	42	5.75	12	4.79	29	5.40	24	4.50	35	4.64	32
Rhode Island	5.29	19	5.77	11	2.64	46	3.79	36	2.02	49	3.90	46
South Carolina	7.12	9	5.47	20	2.54	47	2.49	43	5.01	26	4.53	34
South Dakota	5.28	21	6.10	7	6.13	15	5.52	21	5.50	15	5.70	10
Tennessee	8.75	3	4.34	39	5.02	24	2.18	46	5.33	20	5.12	20
Texas	4.67	28	6.21	4	5.46	19	3.82	34	5.39	19	5.11	21
Utah	5.19	22	5.58	18	10.00	1	8.68	1	9.44	1	7.78	1
Vermont	9.38	2	4.79	31	3.98	38	6.36	18	3.51	43	5.61	14
Virginia	4.54	31	4.70	32	7.04	3	6.37	17	5.12	24	5.56	15
Washington	6.13	14	4.64	35	6.37	12	6.73	15	5.45	18	5.86	8
West Virginia	4.38	35	4.02	43	4.07	37	2.34	44	6.33	8	4.23	41
Wisconsin	2.27	44	6.08	9	4.96	28	5.42	23	5.58	14	4.86	28
Wyoming	7.08	11	3.16	47	6.58	9	7.38	5	5.28	22	5.89	7

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 1 | 2016 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	2.45	46	6.62	11	3.12	47	4.94	32	5.68	12	4.56	37
Alaska	2.15	47	2.52	47	5.80	13	0.92	50	2.95	49	2.87	50
Arizona	2.68	44	5.51	23	4.17	38	5.53	14	4.41	34	4.46	38
Arkansas	2.56	45	3.87	37	3.91	43	4.74	36	5.41	14	4.10	43
California	6.67	9	4.01	36	4.91	25	4.93	33	6.35	6	5.38	17
Colorado	5.98	14	5.45	24	6.26	6	5.61	9	4.83	30	5.63	11
Connecticut	5.14	28	3.63	40	5.50	20	5.00	29	6.74	3	5.20	23
Delaware	1.42	49	3.80	38	4.50	34	4.12	43	3.94	44	3.56	49
Florida	4.18	38	6.46	13	3.58	44	6.32	3	5.23	19	5.15	25
Georgia	4.26	37	6.69	8	2.90	49	5.55	11	6.61	4	5.20	22
Hawaii	5.18	27	4.98	29	3.93	42	3.69	47	3.70	47	4.29	41
Idaho	3.84	40	6.96	5	5.43	21	5.82	6	5.33	16	5.48	13
Illinois	5.39	22	6.14	14	4.39	37	4.67	38	5.13	23	5.14	27
Indiana	4.50	36	5.09	28	4.92	24	5.58	10	4.26	39	4.87	31
Iowa	6.72	8	5.27	25	5.86	12	5.07	28	4.45	32	5.47	14
Kansas	5.56	20	6.73	7	5.77	14	5.54	13	5.25	18	5.77	6
Kentucky	3.95	39	2.86	44	4.16	39	4.47	40	4.34	36	3.96	44
Louisiana	0.96	50	5.77	21	3.10	48	5.49	15	4.42	33	3.95	45
Maine	7.35	3	4.13	35	5.52	19	4.36	41	3.31	48	4.94	29
Maryland	6.10	13	4.41	32	5.27	23	5.21	22	5.84	9	5.37	18
Massachusetts	8.03	1	3.03	43	6.08	10	5.40	19	6.12	8	5.73	8
Michigan	4.80	31	5.25	26	4.48	35	5.18	24	4.32	37	4.80	34
Minnesota	6.99	4	3.36	42	6.48	4	5.26	21	4.94	28	5.41	16
Mississippi	3.25	43	4.61	31	1.97	50	3.93	45	5.36	15	3.83	47
Missouri	3.61	41	5.18	27	4.90	26	5.48	16	4.97	27	4.83	33
Montana	5.67	17	6.64	9	6.23	7	5.21	23	4.70	31	5.69	9
Nebraska	5.58	19	6.79	6	5.95	11	5.54	12	5.12	24	5.80	5
Nevada	4.92	29	6.01	16	4.51	33	5.44	17	5.32	17	5.24	19
New Hampshire	6.66	10	6.63	10	7.54	2	6.46	2	3.89	45	6.24	2
New Jersey	7.51	2	4.78	30	5.71	15	5.16	27	4.88	29	5.61	12
New Mexico	5.63	18	2.65	46	3.40	45	4.00	44	3.84	46	3.90	46
New York	6.94	5	1.41	50	4.53	31	3.35	49	7.12	2	4.67	35
North Carolina	5.95	16	5.78	19	4.11	40	4.90	34	5.08	26	5.17	24
North Dakota	6.62	11	6.01	17	7.76	1	4.13	42	4.21	40	5.75	7
Ohio	4.67	33	3.75	39	4.82	28	4.98	30	4.01	43	4.45	40
Oklahoma	1.70	48	5.73	22	4.52	32	6.08	5	6.51	5	4.91	30
Oregon	5.41	21	2.84	45	4.88	27	4.57	39	5.12	25	4.56	36
Pennsylvania	5.21	25	4.14	34	5.38	22	5.17	25	4.32	38	4.84	32
Rhode Island	5.96	15	1.92	48	4.62	29	4.70	37	4.03	42	4.25	42
South Carolina	5.27	23	6.47	12	3.94	41	4.89	35	5.18	21	5.15	26
South Dakota	4.83	30	7.25	2	6.21	9	6.54	1	5.77	11	6.12	3
Tennessee	4.60	35	5.78	20	3.17	46	5.79	7	5.52	13	4.97	28
Texas	3.34	42	6.05	15	4.48	36	6.13	4	6.14	7	5.23	21
Utah	6.92	6	7.50	1	6.38	5	5.33	20	8.58	1	6.94	1
Vermont	6.22	12	1.72	49	6.23	8	3.89	46	4.18	41	4.45	39
Virginia	4.74	32	7.03	4	5.67	16	5.72	8	5.18	20	5.67	10
Washington	6.85	7	4.21	33	5.58	18	5.42	18	5.13	22	5.44	15
West Virginia	5.21	26	3.43	41	4.56	30	3.68	48	2.13	50	3.80	48
Wisconsin	5.26	24	5.93	18	5.64	17	4.96	31	4.36	35	5.23	20
Wyoming	4.60	34	7.23	3	7.24	3	5.16	26	5.81	10	6.01	4

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 1 | 2016 FAMILY PROSPERITY FAMILY CULTURE SUB-INDEXES

	VIOLENT CRIME	RANK	PROPERTY CRIME	RANK	BIRTHS TO UNWED MOTHERS	RANK	RELIGIOUS ATTENDANCE	RANK	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	RANK	TOTAL	RANK
All States	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--	5.00	--
Alabama	3.25	43	2.78	42	4.14	35	8.04	5	3.60	41	4.36	37
Alaska	0.80	50	3.98	32	7.52	4	2.35	47	3.20	44	3.57	46
Arizona	4.21	38	2.70	43	2.48	45	5.68	18	4.25	35	3.87	44
Arkansas	3.15	44	2.09	45	3.81	39	8.33	3	2.56	48	3.99	43
California	4.54	31	5.24	23	4.99	22	4.16	36	4.83	30	4.75	28
Colorado	5.52	21	4.86	26	9.69	2	3.20	41	7.16	3	6.09	5
Connecticut	7.01	6	7.23	10	4.83	24	3.76	40	6.87	6	5.94	10
Delaware	3.78	40	3.61	37	2.75	44	5.89	15	5.58	17	4.32	40
Florida	2.13	46	1.74	47	2.06	48	4.31	34	4.93	27	3.03	48
Georgia	4.64	30	2.42	44	3.21	42	6.72	10	4.52	32	4.30	41
Hawaii	6.11	14	3.20	41	5.95	16	2.38	46	6.00	14	4.73	30
Idaho	6.84	8	7.28	9	7.40	5	4.60	30	3.45	43	5.91	11
Illinois	5.21	25	7.15	12	4.44	31	4.77	27	6.14	12	5.54	19
Indiana	4.06	39	4.76	27	4.21	33	5.77	17	4.16	37	4.59	34
Iowa	5.77	18	6.45	18	6.48	12	4.87	26	6.42	9	6.00	7
Kansas	5.03	26	4.40	29	7.11	6	4.47	32	5.53	19	5.31	22
Kentucky	7.25	4	6.10	19	4.81	25	6.44	11	3.63	40	5.65	16
Louisiana	2.78	45	1.63	48	1.81	49	8.28	4	1.97	50	3.29	47
Maine	7.68	2	7.31	8	4.71	26	1.25	49	5.28	25	5.24	24
Maryland	4.22	37	5.35	22	5.53	19	5.14	22	6.26	11	5.30	23
Massachusetts	4.91	28	7.82	4	7.07	7	2.98	43	7.19	2	5.99	8
Michigan	4.26	36	7.36	7	3.23	40	4.97	25	5.39	23	5.04	26
Minnesota	6.56	12	5.86	20	6.79	11	5.17	21	7.74	1	6.42	3
Mississippi	5.63	20	3.39	40	1.09	50	8.95	1	3.01	45	4.41	36
Missouri	3.61	41	3.85	33	4.86	23	5.42	19	4.68	31	4.48	35
Montana	4.48	32	5.00	24	4.69	27	3.09	42	4.35	34	4.32	39
Nebraska	5.71	19	4.90	25	6.97	9	6.37	12	6.10	13	6.01	6
Nevada	0.96	49	4.53	28	2.46	46	3.97	37	2.77	47	2.94	49
New Hampshire	6.27	13	7.07	13	6.08	15	2.19	48	6.88	5	5.70	14
New Jersey	6.64	10	8.05	2	6.32	14	4.37	33	6.66	7	6.41	4
New Mexico	1.27	47	1.05	49	2.23	47	5.89	16	3.72	39	2.83	50
New York	4.45	33	7.94	3	5.69	17	3.77	39	6.97	4	5.76	13
North Carolina	5.43	22	4.09	31	4.65	29	7.29	7	5.42	22	5.38	21
North Dakota	5.37	24	5.54	21	6.44	13	5.42	20	5.25	26	5.61	17
Ohio	6.07	15	4.27	30	3.95	37	4.61	28	4.92	28	4.76	27
Oklahoma	4.66	29	3.56	38	4.56	30	6.10	13	2.88	46	4.35	38
Oregon	6.72	9	3.65	36	5.43	20	2.54	45	5.29	24	4.73	29
Pennsylvania	5.88	17	7.16	11	4.66	28	4.61	29	5.44	21	5.55	18
Rhode Island	7.21	5	6.46	17	3.18	43	4.17	35	4.89	29	5.18	25
South Carolina	3.45	42	1.85	46	3.22	41	7.44	6	4.16	36	4.03	42
South Dakota	4.30	35	6.98	14	5.04	21	5.02	24	5.65	16	5.40	20
Tennessee	1.19	48	3.44	39	3.81	38	6.92	9	3.57	42	3.79	45
Texas	4.39	34	3.73	35	4.19	34	7.04	8	3.90	38	4.65	32
Utah	6.60	11	3.81	34	10.00	1	8.44	2	5.55	18	6.88	1
Vermont	9.33	1	9.47	1	4.27	32	0.33	50	5.46	20	5.77	12
Virginia	7.25	3	7.40	5	6.81	10	5.92	14	6.65	8	6.81	2
Washington	6.05	16	0.59	50	7.69	3	2.96	44	6.32	10	4.72	31
West Virginia	5.42	23	6.70	16	3.98	36	4.52	31	2.48	49	4.62	33
Wisconsin	4.98	27	6.83	15	5.66	18	5.12	23	5.85	15	5.69	15
Wyoming	6.97	7	7.39	6	7.02	8	3.97	38	4.50	33	5.97	9

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation

TABLE 1 | 2016 FAMILY PROSPERITY FAMILY HEALTH SUB-INDEXES

	TOBACCO ALCOHOL OBESITY	RANK	ILLICIT DRUG USE	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	4.21	35	5.96	17	4.06	40	5.38	22	5.21	23	4.96	24
Alaska	5.34	21	3.50	44	3.50	46	5.34	24	3.37	46	4.21	47
Arizona	6.57	4	4.40	34	4.23	36	5.42	21	4.18	38	4.96	25
Arkansas	4.00	38	5.91	18	4.39	34	5.99	14	5.08	26	5.07	22
California	7.98	2	3.81	39	3.96	42	3.62	43	6.74	2	5.22	15
Colorado	6.22	6	1.28	49	5.81	13	4.92	30	3.64	44	4.37	43
Connecticut	5.99	10	4.34	35	6.09	11	3.26	46	5.75	16	5.09	21
Delaware	4.24	34	4.66	33	4.40	33	2.39	48	4.70	32	4.08	49
Florida	6.19	7	5.28	25	3.75	44	2.82	47	5.77	15	4.76	33
Georgia	5.66	14	4.71	30	3.22	48	4.33	37	6.14	11	4.81	31
Hawaii	7.87	3	5.01	29	5.48	17	3.53	44	6.17	10	5.61	10
Idaho	5.53	16	7.14	4	6.61	4	6.33	7	4.56	33	6.03	2
Illinois	4.92	26	5.21	26	4.29	35	3.98	39	6.17	9	4.91	27
Indiana	3.43	47	6.13	14	5.34	22	5.98	15	5.02	28	5.18	18
Iowa	4.10	36	5.50	22	6.21	10	6.03	11	6.59	5	5.69	9
Kansas	4.93	24	7.55	1	5.79	14	5.89	16	5.43	21	5.92	4
Kentucky	3.23	48	6.45	11	5.44	20	6.59	5	3.79	42	5.10	20
Louisiana	3.85	41	5.89	20	2.07	50	4.84	31	4.86	30	4.30	44
Maine	4.72	30	3.60	42	6.68	2	6.72	3	4.28	36	5.20	16
Maryland	5.13	22	4.67	32	4.11	39	1.79	49	5.65	17	4.27	46
Massachusetts	5.81	12	3.51	43	5.91	12	3.82	40	6.09	12	5.03	23
Michigan	3.88	40	3.32	45	5.44	19	4.35	36	5.05	27	4.41	42
Minnesota	5.70	13	5.90	19	5.60	16	5.68	20	6.22	8	5.82	6
Mississippi	2.68	50	6.07	15	2.94	49	6.31	8	6.57	6	4.91	28
Missouri	3.80	44	5.03	28	4.83	30	6.59	6	4.46	34	4.94	26
Montana	5.00	23	3.66	41	6.23	9	5.29	25	3.30	47	4.70	35
Nebraska	4.77	27	6.69	5	5.62	15	6.30	9	6.29	7	5.93	3
Nevada	5.52	17	4.08	37	3.54	45	3.65	42	4.04	39	4.17	48
New Hampshire	4.60	31	3.73	40	6.66	3	4.09	38	2.41	49	4.30	45
New Jersey	6.46	5	6.01	16	5.27	23	3.34	45	6.66	4	5.55	11
New Mexico	5.59	15	3.97	38	4.72	32	5.70	18	2.58	48	4.51	39
New York	6.03	9	4.68	31	3.79	43	1.45	50	6.92	1	4.57	38
North Carolina	5.38	20	6.42	12	4.20	37	4.77	32	5.64	19	5.28	14
North Dakota	3.59	45	6.57	7	5.01	27	5.85	17	4.97	29	5.20	17
Ohio	3.84	42	4.22	36	4.85	29	4.70	34	4.70	31	4.46	40
Oklahoma	3.51	46	6.55	8	4.20	38	6.24	10	3.70	43	4.84	29
Oregon	5.47	18	1.95	47	5.41	21	4.99	29	4.27	37	4.42	41
Pennsylvania	3.88	39	5.05	27	5.23	24	4.55	35	4.44	35	4.63	37
Rhode Island	4.74	29	0.52	50	5.16	26	3.73	41	5.64	18	3.96	50
South Carolina	3.83	43	5.45	23	3.32	47	6.03	12	5.22	22	4.77	32
South Dakota	4.44	32	7.20	3	4.78	31	6.89	1	5.87	13	5.84	5
Tennessee	4.77	28	6.52	10	4.98	28	5.02	28	5.13	25	5.29	13
Texas	5.96	11	6.40	13	4.06	41	5.34	23	6.73	3	5.70	8
Utah	8.71	1	6.62	6	6.24	8	6.77	2	3.63	45	6.40	1
Vermont	5.40	19	2.70	46	6.41	6	5.24	26	4.04	40	4.76	34
Virginia	4.92	25	5.29	24	5.18	25	4.71	33	5.62	20	5.14	19
Washington	6.12	8	1.47	48	5.45	18	5.13	27	5.17	24	4.67	36
West Virginia	3.05	49	7.30	2	6.43	5	5.68	19	1.64	50	4.82	30
Wisconsin	4.05	37	5.56	21	6.24	7	6.00	13	5.86	14	5.54	12
Wyoming	4.42	33	6.55	9	6.91	1	6.64	4	4.03	41	5.71	7

Source: American Conservative Union Foundation



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