

**Dr. Wendy P. Warcholik & J. Scott Moody** | Family Prosperity Institute  
[www.familyprosperity.org](http://www.familyprosperity.org)

**“Severe poverty is very difficult for someone to pull themselves out of. I come from a family of 18 brothers and sisters. I was the only one to graduate high school and have two brothers with GEDs and that’s it. With severe poverty...it’s entitlements, welfare, drugs and incarceration. The real issue is the cost of despair and how we fight that despair. It’s going to be religious and community-based entities that help people fight despair--that’s where the solutions will come from—it’s not going to be done in government. What government can do is create the environment for prosperity.”**

**-- Paul LePage, Governor of Maine (at FPI’s Maine Substance Abuse Forum)**



# Family Prosperity Index

## ECONOMICS

Private sector share of personal income

Per household personal income

Cost-of-living

Entrepreneurship

Unemployment

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Percent of population under age 18

Percent of population over age 65

Net natural population change

Net domestic migration

Fertility level

## FAMILY STRUCTURE

Family Poverty

Children in married-couple households

Marriages

Divorces

State of households

## FAMILY CULTURE

Births to unwed mothers

Violent crime

Property crime

Religious attendance

Education

## FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

State prison population

Medicaid spending

Welfare (EITC and SNAP)

Government burden

Charity

## FAMILY HEALTH

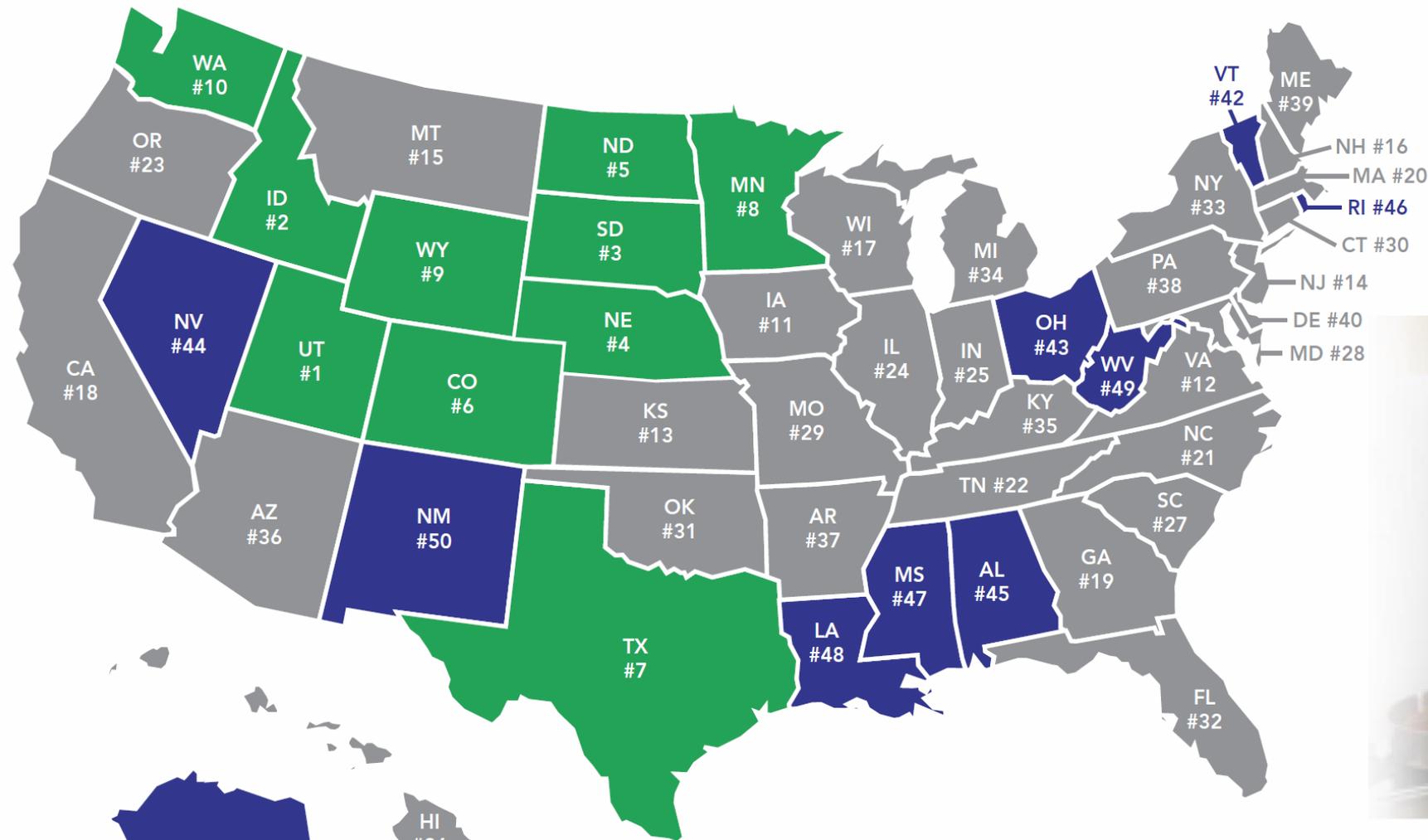
Years of productive life lost

Risk behavior

Sexually transmitted diseases

Infant survival

Self-mortality

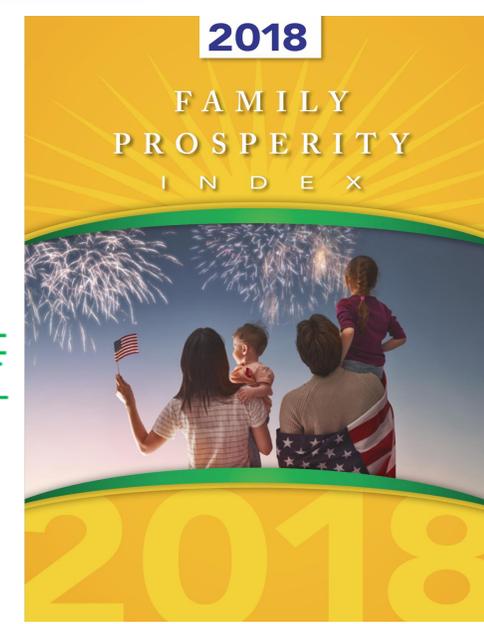
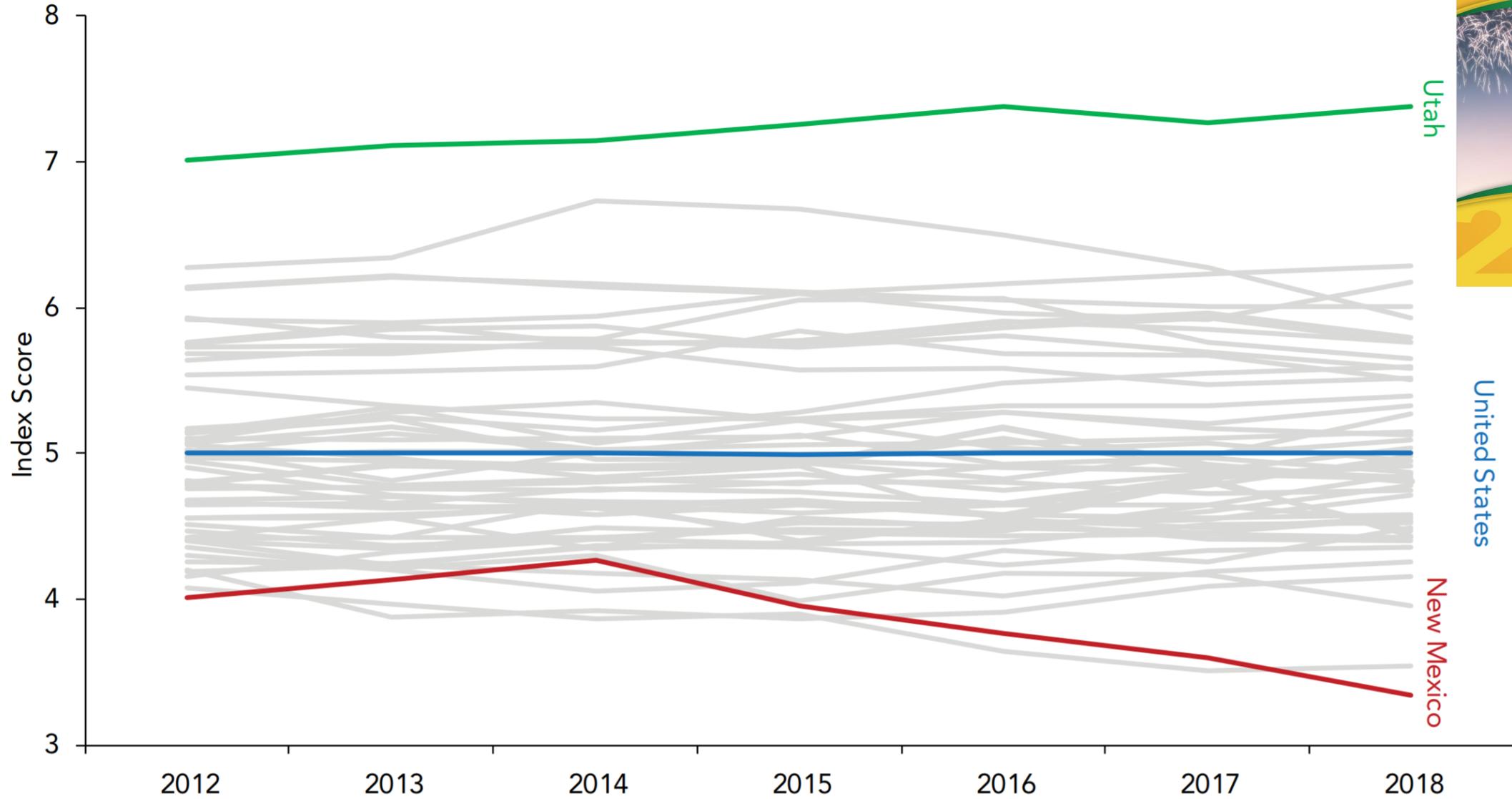


## Overall Total Index Score

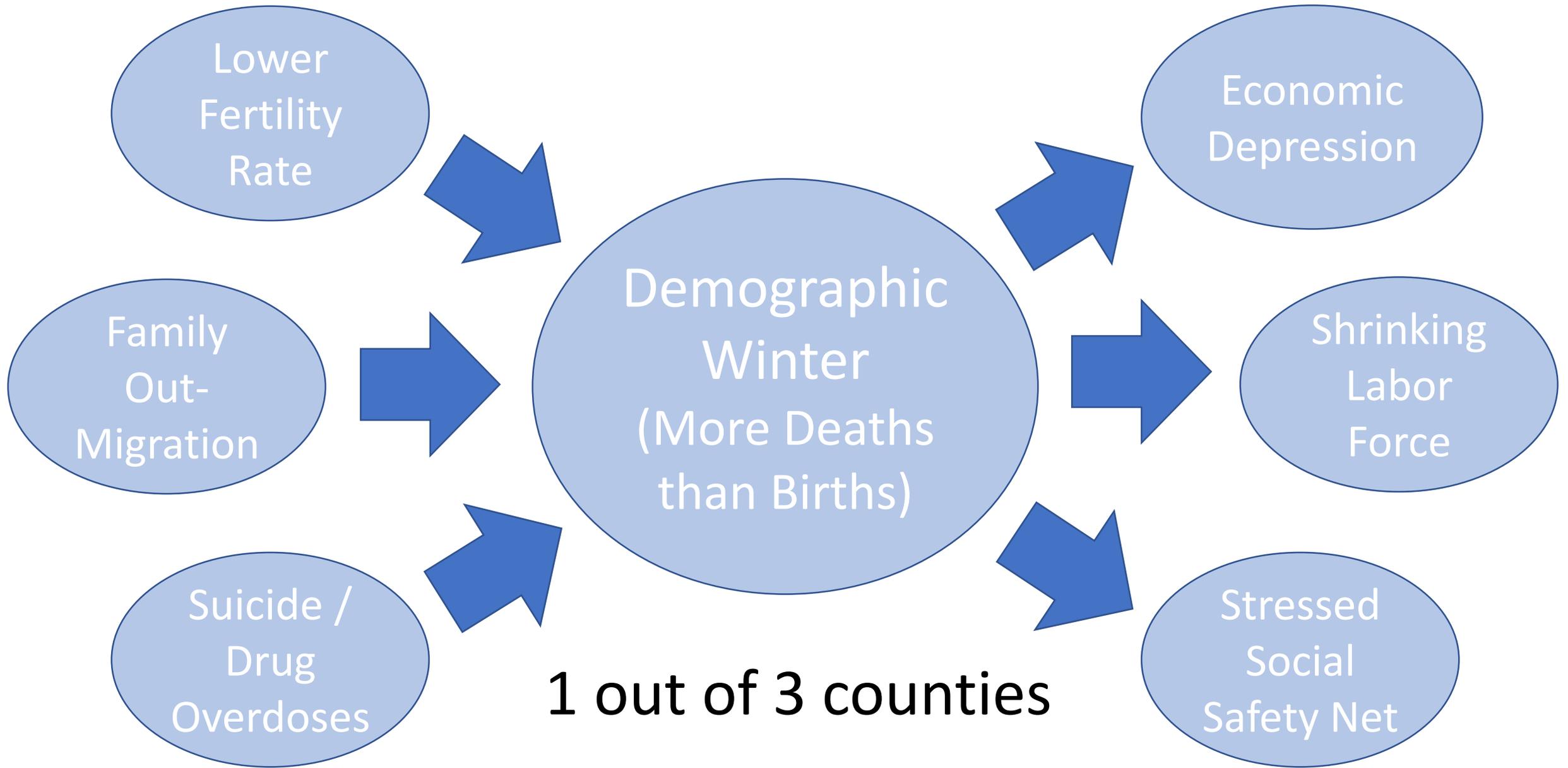
- 10 MOST PROSPEROUS STATES
- 10 LEAST PROSPEROUS STATES

# Total Index Score

## 2012 to 2018



3<sup>rd</sup> Edition



UTAH

FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX



RHODE ISLAND

FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX



WEST VIRGINIA

FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX



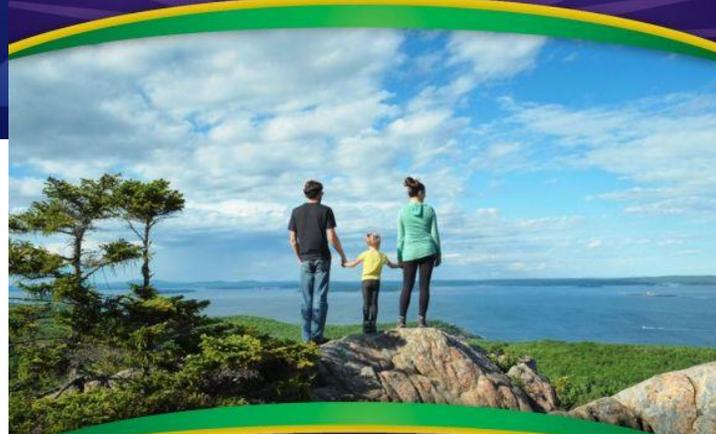
WISCONSIN

FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX



MAINE

FAMILY PROSPERITY INDEX



SEPTEMBER 2016



UNDERSTANDING New Hampshire's Suicide and Drug Use/Overdose Crisis

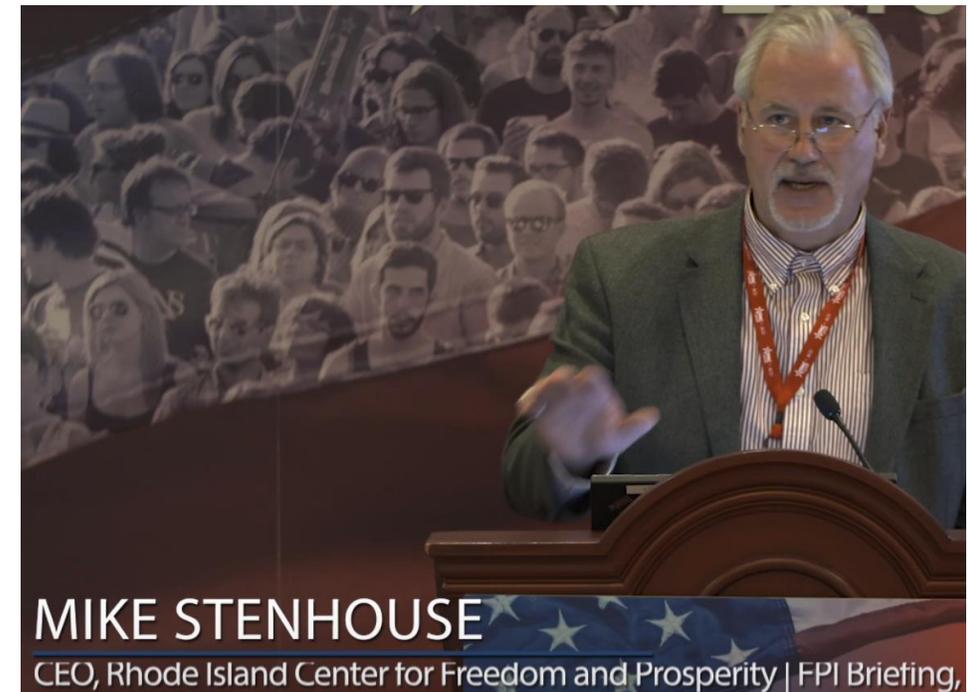


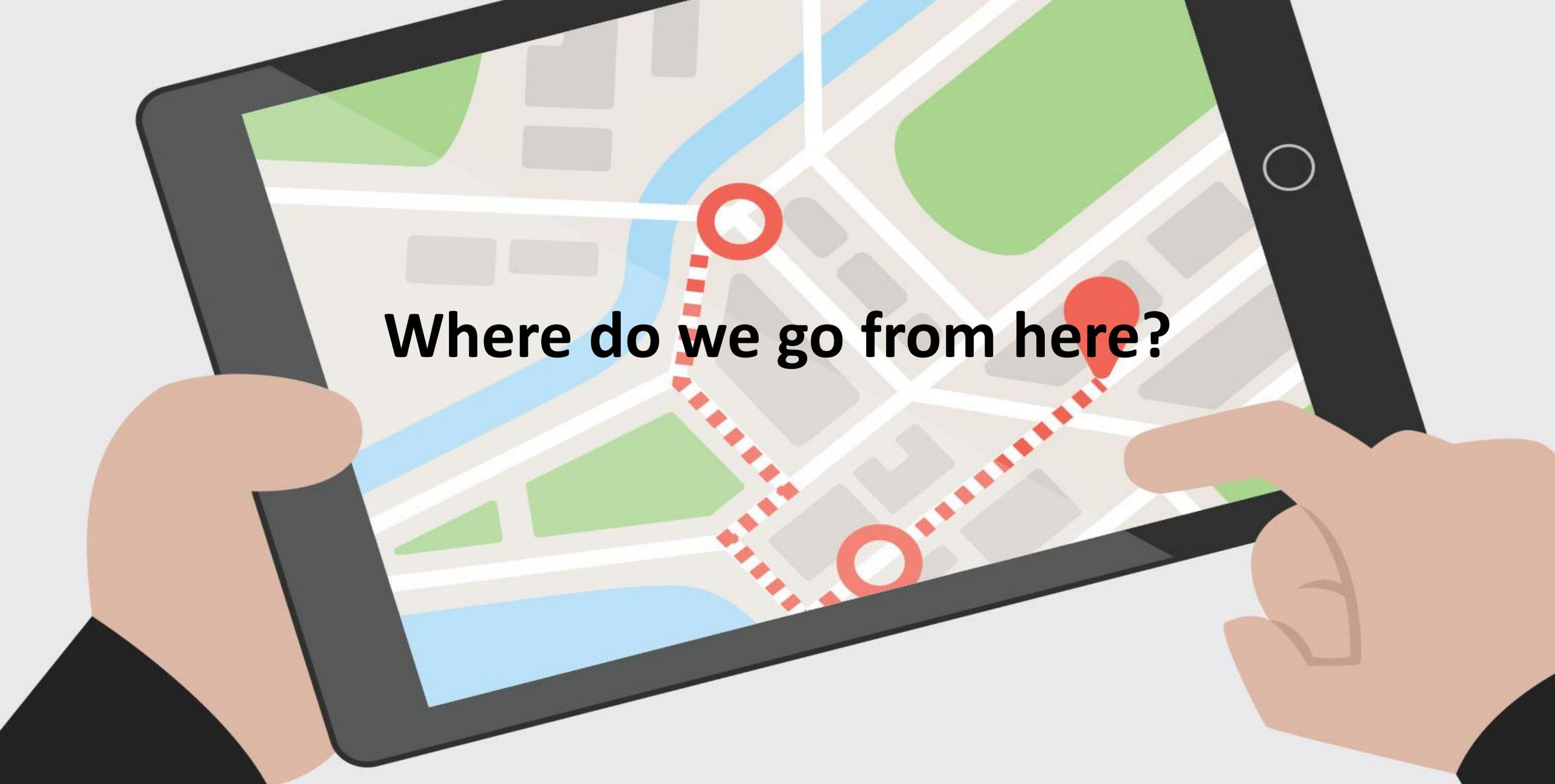
2016

2017

**“In one of the bluest states in the union, it is often difficult for our Center to break through the entrenched political mindset that normally eschews personal self-sufficiency in favor of government dependency. The national FPI research and the Rhode Island specific report we produced late last year has already paid dividends for us. As we had hoped, a public policy approach that focuses on the family, as opposed to a philosophy, is much more readily accepted by our state’s political class. Further, for the first time in our six-year history, we have successfully been able to reach across the political divide and link arms with new friends from the left to advance issues and solutions of mutual agreement to us.”**

**-- Mike Stenhouse, CEO,  
Rhode Island Center for  
Freedom & Prosperity**





**Where do we go from here?**