

# TROUBLING TRENDS: MD Ranked #31 in New Nationwide Family Structure Index

ANNAPOLIS, MD – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2025 – **Maryland has the 31<sup>st</sup> ranked strongest family culture in the country, according to a new national index.** [The Family Structure Index](#) measures which states have the most stable and sustainable families, highlighting the importance of strong families for the future of our state and nation.

The Index analyzes demographic and fertility data to determine which states are best situated to improve the prospects for happy and healthy children and the economic well-being of a state. Utah ranks at the top, and Rhode Island ranks last.

**“Strong families are essential to a strong Maryland,”** said Jeffrey Trimbath, President of the Maryland Family Institute. **“Maryland’s policy makers and religious leaders have a critical role to play in promoting marriage and the family, for the flourishing of every Maryland citizen,”** Trimbath noted.

Developed by Brad Wilcox, Professor of Sociology and Director of the National Marriage Project of the University of Virginia in partnership with Center for Christian Virtue and The Institute for Family Studies, the Index focuses on the share of adult residents of a state who are married, have children, and raise those children together through the child’s high-school years.

The index is specifically made up of three components:

1. The percentage of adults aged 25 to 54 in the state who are married.
2. The average number of lifetime births per woman in the state (the Total Fertility Rate).
3. The percentage of children in the state who are living with their married birth or adoptive parents at ages 15 to 17.

**“Right now, the American dream is out of reach for too many men, women, and children across Maryland,”** said Brad Wilcox. **“The Index reveals that one key to saving the dream in Maryland is to strengthen and stabilize family life across the state.”**

Unsurprisingly, we see a connection between healthy and stable families and the economic well-being of a state. MFI’s [“State of the Maryland Family”](#) report, a 24-county analysis of family trends in Maryland, showed very similar, and more detailed, results. And seven of the top 10 states in the Family Structure Index are also in the top ten in the [American Legislative Exchange Commissions Laffer State Economic Outlook Rankings of 2024](#), analyzing the states with the lowest tax and regulatory policies.

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# MARYLAND



55.4

INDEX SCORE

55.6%

PRIME-AGED  
ADULTS  
MARRIED

1.69

FERTILITY RATE

49.5%

% OF TEENS  
WITH MARRIED  
PARENTS

## FAMILY STRUCTURE INDEX

Learn more at [CCV.org/FamilyIndex](https://www.ccv.org/FamilyIndex)