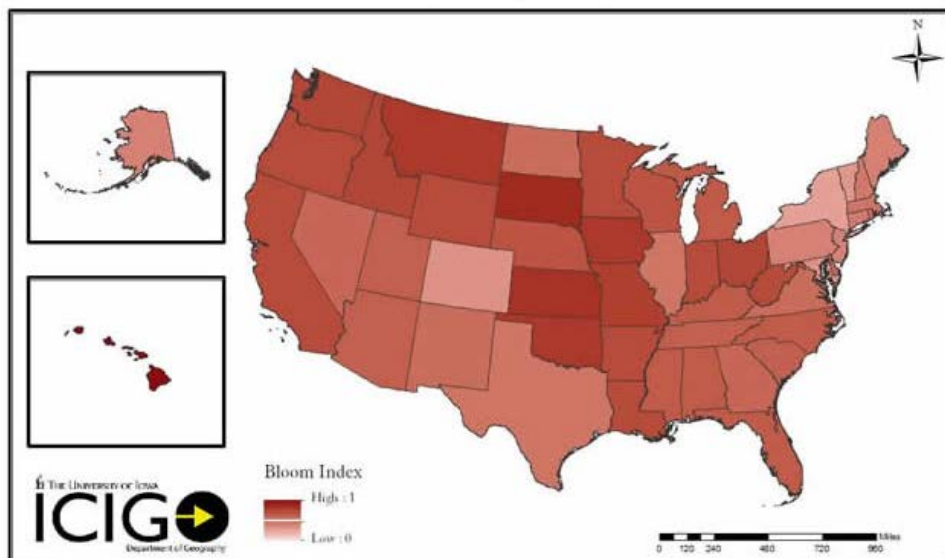


## The Bloom Index (Originally appearing in the *Daily Iowan*)

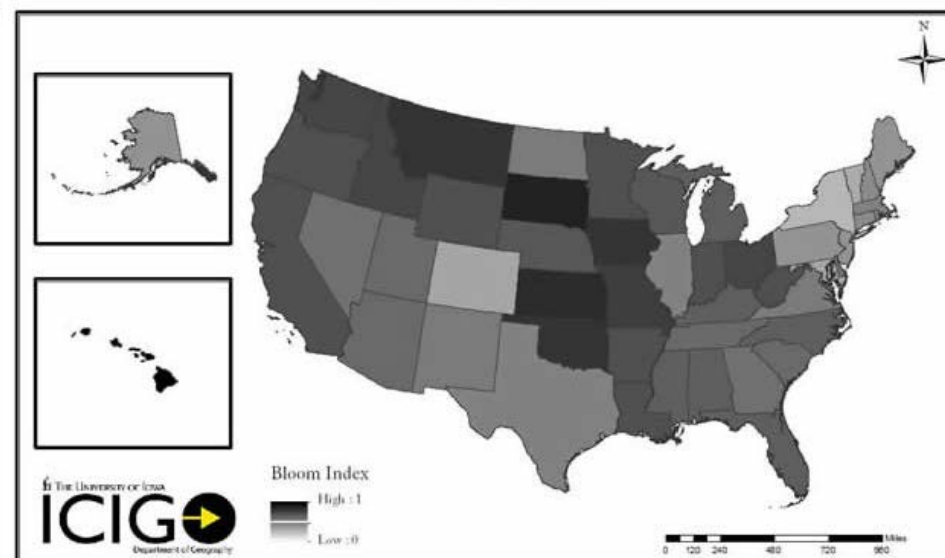
**Methodology:** The Bloom Index contains five different indicators that were chosen to most accurately represent Stephen Bloom's discussion available at a national scale. These indicators were as follows: The percentage of per state population over 65 (data from American Factfinder, 2010); the number of hunting licenses sold as a percent of state population (from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2011); treatment admissions for methamphetamine use per state normalized against total admissions (from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Data Archive, 2009); percentage Christian (from a Pew Center survey, 2008); and percentage of impaired stream lengths (from the Environmental Protection Agency). Each indicator's value is normalized to a 0-1 range based on the lowest and highest value in each category. The indicator values are then summed for each state and averaged to reveal the Bloom Index.

There were some limitations associated with the data that are addressed here. In order to realize an indicator that represented an older population, state population over 65 data from the American Factfinder were chosen. This limited the ability to pull in demographics from a younger group, but still gave a representation of what portions of the country were older than others. Additionally, some of the methodologies for the data gathered had some limitations. For instance, the treatment admissions for methamphetamine use from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Data Archive may have been limited due to a state's laws for treatment, judicial processes, and quantity of care facilities. Furthermore, the Environmental Protection Agency's data on impaired stream lengths had differing definitions per state on what constituted an "impaired stream". Considering these limitations, the Bloom Index still represents many problematic qualities that are not specifically representative of Iowa, but endemic to many areas of the United States.

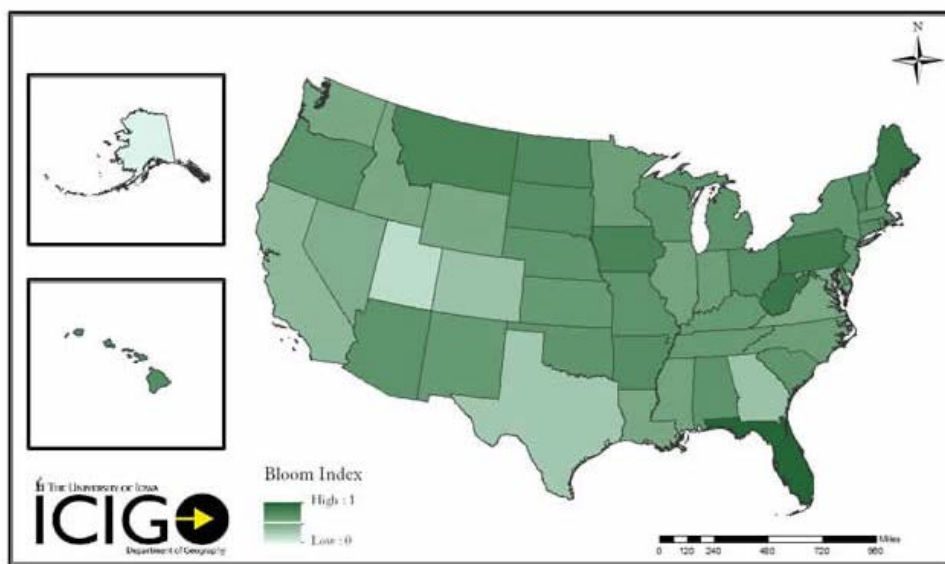
### Bloom Index



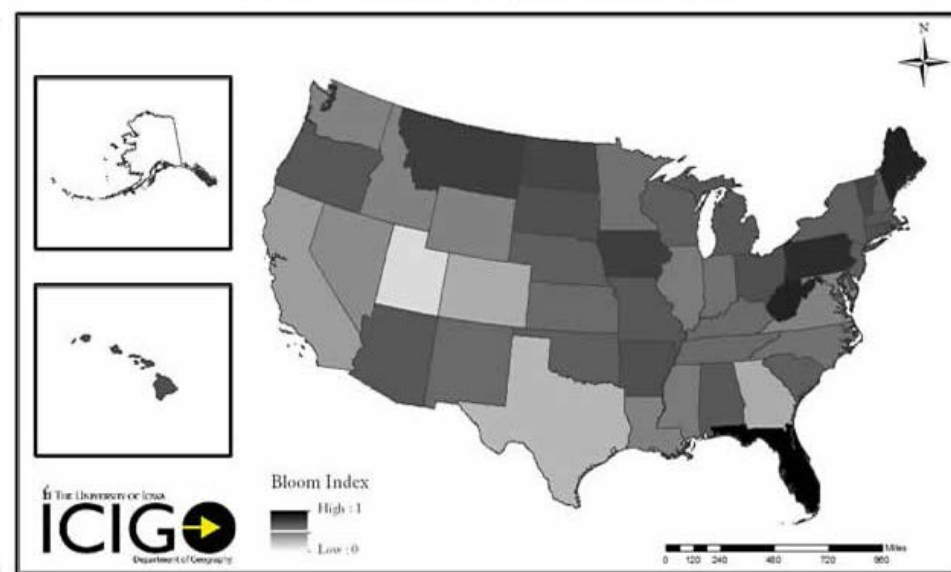
### Bloom Index



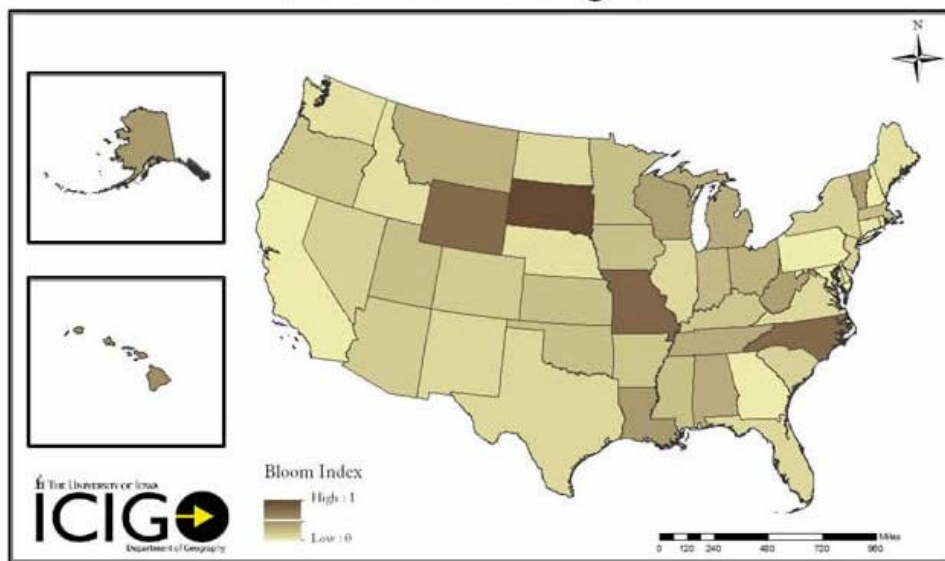
### Bloom Index: 65 and Older



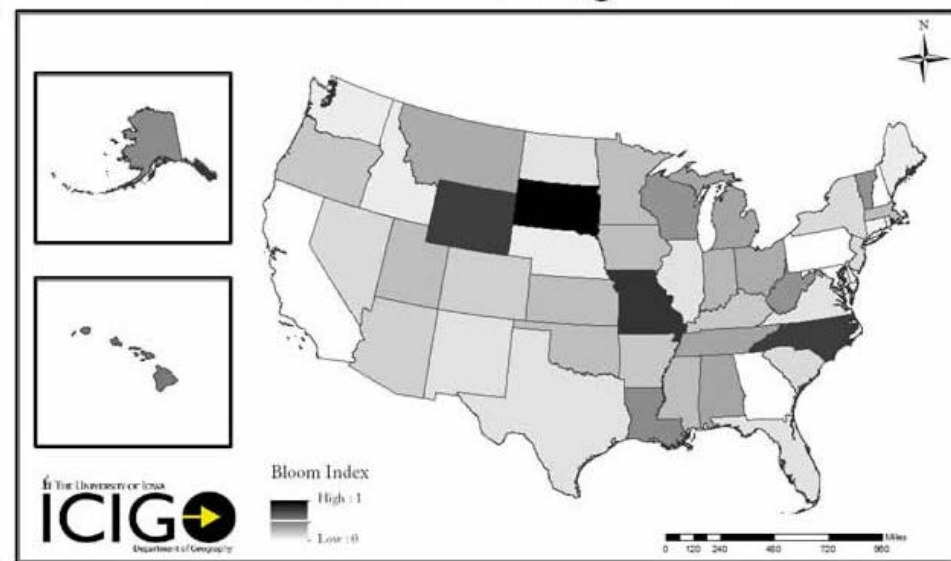
### Bloom Index: 65 and Older



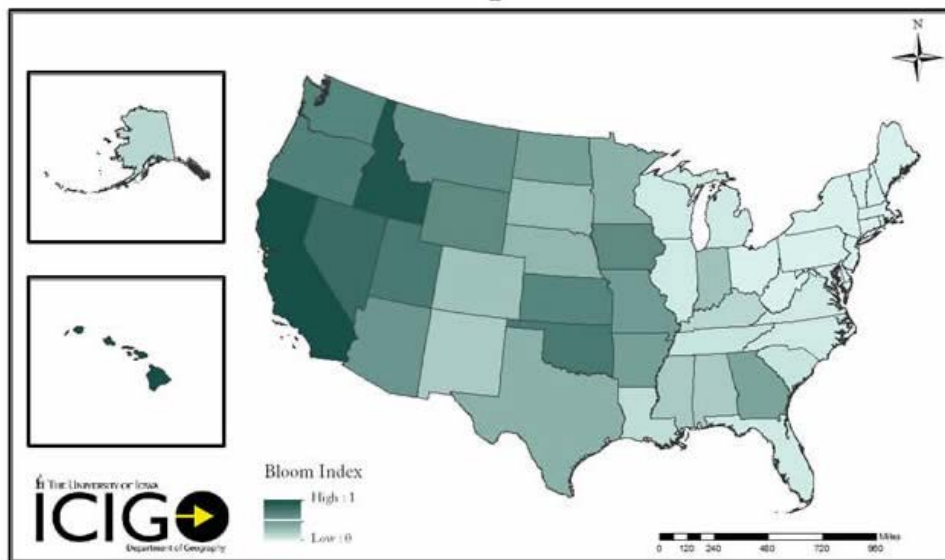
### Bloom Index: Hunting Licenses



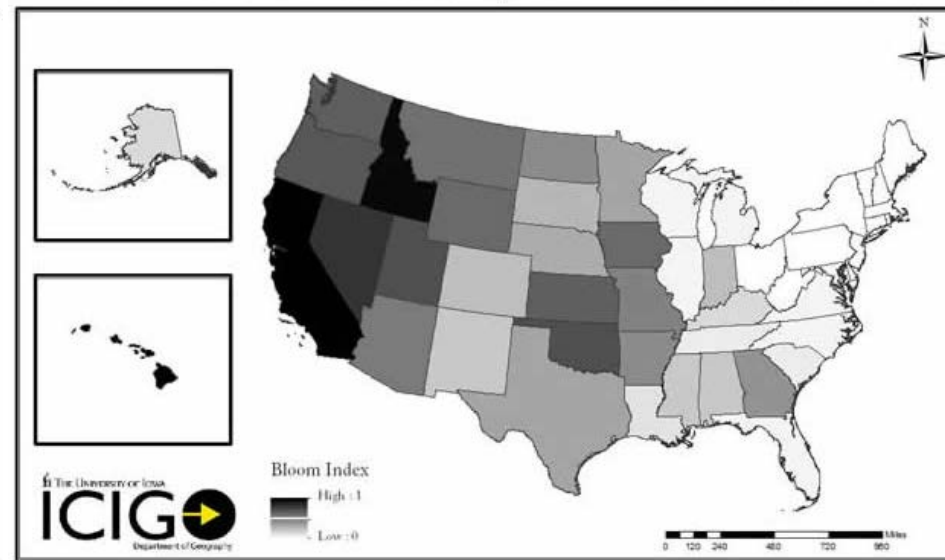
### Bloom Index: Hunting Licenses



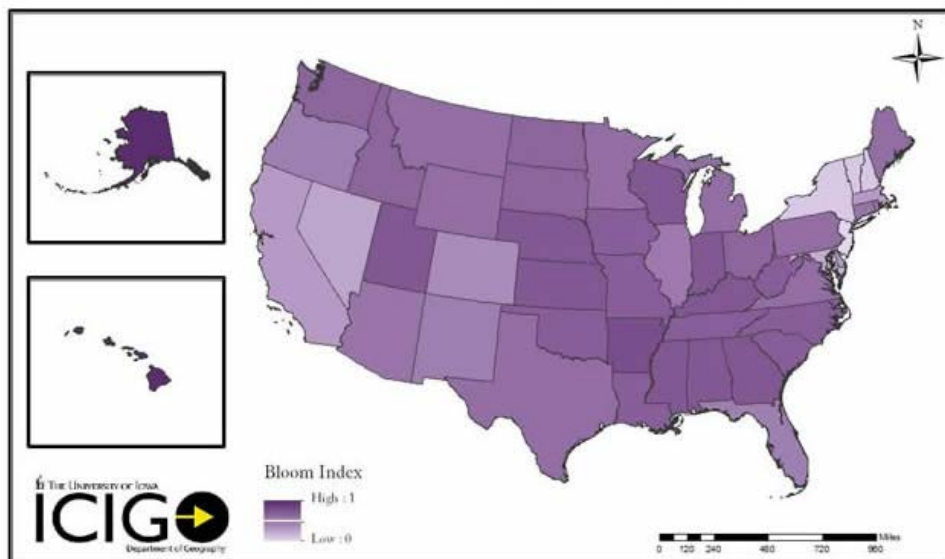
### Bloom Index: Methamphetamine Treatment



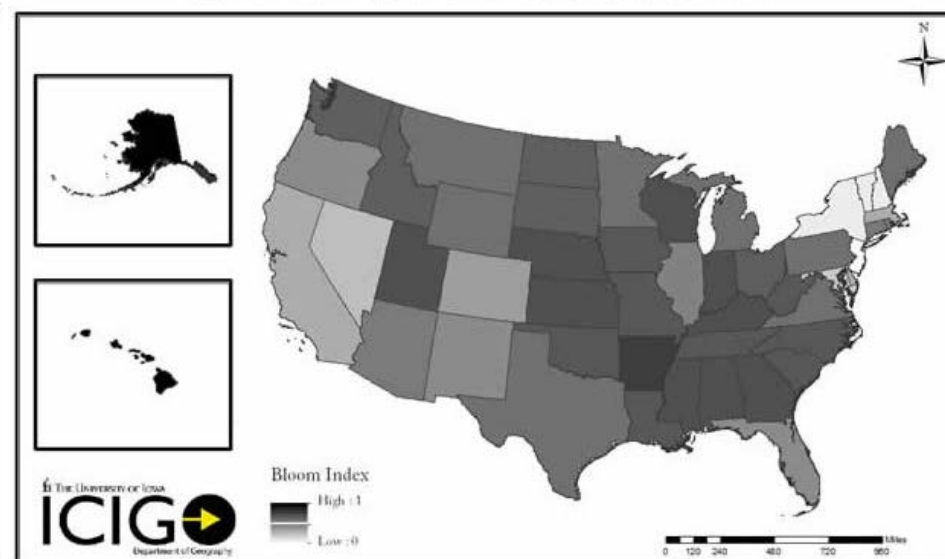
### Bloom Index: Methamphetamine Treatment



### Bloom Index: Percent Christian



### Bloom Index: Percent Christian



# Bloom Index: Impaired Streams

# Bloom Index: Impaired Streams

