Income Inequality Grew in Nebraska Over the Past Two Decades

Nebraska’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes **5.8** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **4.9** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **36th** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **9.1** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Nebraska’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.2** times as large as the middle 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **2.0** in the late 1980s.

Gains for Rich Families Outpaced Gains for Poor Families

Between the late 1980s and the mid-2000s:

- The average income of the poorest fifth of families increased by **$3,155**, from $16,765 to $19,919. This is an increase of $186 per year.

- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by **$10,823**, from $40,810 to $51,633. This is an increase of $637 per year.

- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by **$33,196**, from $82,975 to $116,171. This is an increase of $1,953 per year.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute

Pulling Apart: A State By State Analysis of Income Trends

Available at: http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.htm