Oklahoma

Income Inequality Grew in Oklahoma Over the Past Two Decades

Oklahoma’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 7.3 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 6.4 in the late 1980s.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 12.6 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Oklahoma’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 3.0 times as large as the middle 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 2.3 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 3rd largest in the nation.

Gains for Rich Families Outpaced Gains for Middle-Income Families

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

- The average income of the poorest fifth of families increased by $3,097, from $13,812 to $16,909. This is an increase of $182 per year.

- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $4,257, from $37,600 to $41,857. This is an increase of $250 per year.

- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $35,453, from $88,143 to 123,596. This is an increase of $2,085 per year.

Based on the latest available data (2004-2006)
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