Pennsylvania

Income Inequality Grew in Pennsylvania Over the Past Two Decades

Pennsylvania’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 6.9 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 5.4 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 16th largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 11.4 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Pennsylvania’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 2.5 times as large as the middle 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 2.2 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 24th largest in the nation.

A Closer Look: Short- and Long-term Trends

Late 1990s to mid-2000s

- The average income of the poorest fifth of families decreased by $1,281, from $20,241 to $18,960.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families did not change significantly.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families did not change significantly.
- The average income of the richest 5% of families increased by $25,674, from $190,541 to $216,216.

![Graph showing income change from 1990s to mid-2000s](image-url)

Late 1980s to mid-2000s

- The average income of the poorest fifth of families increased by $1,438, from $17,522 to $18,960.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $7,391, from $44,374 to $51,764.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $35,522, from $95,446 to $130,968.
- The average income of the richest 5% of families increased by $80,075, from $136,141 to $216,216.

![Graph showing income change from 1980s to mid-2000s](image-url)

Based on the latest available data (2004-2006)
Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute
Available at: http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.htm