

# Alabama

## Income Inequality Grew in Alabama Over the Past Two Decades

### Alabama's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **8.5** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **6.3** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **4th** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **13.5** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between Alabama's richest and poorest families is **2nd** largest in the nation.

### Alabama's Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

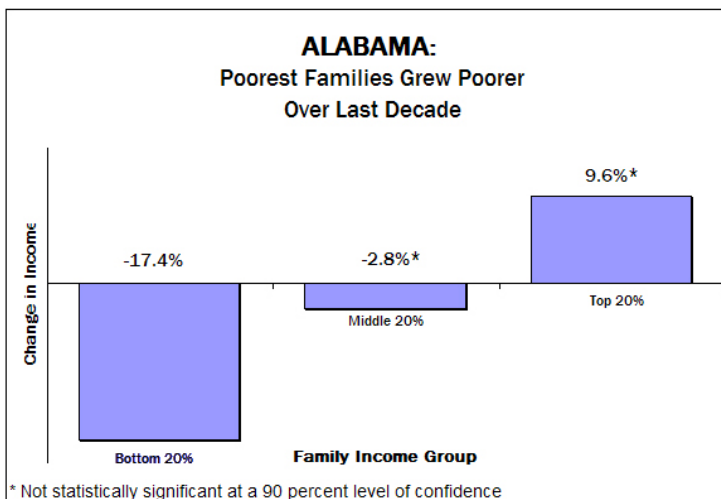
- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.6** times as large as the *middle* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **2.3** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **30th** largest in the nation.

The gap between Alabama's richest families and families in the middle is **18th** 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 **\$2,791**, from \$16,070 to \$13,280.
- 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.



### Late 1980s to mid-2000s

- The average income of the *poorest* fifth of families did not increase significantly.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$8,777**, from \$34,668 to \$43,445.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$33,760**, from \$79,043 to \$112,804.

