

Massachusetts

Income Inequality Grew in Massachusetts Over the Past Two Decades

Massachusetts's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **8.2** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **5.8** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **3rd** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **15.1** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between Massachusetts's richest and poorest families is **4th** largest in the nation.

Massachusetts's Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

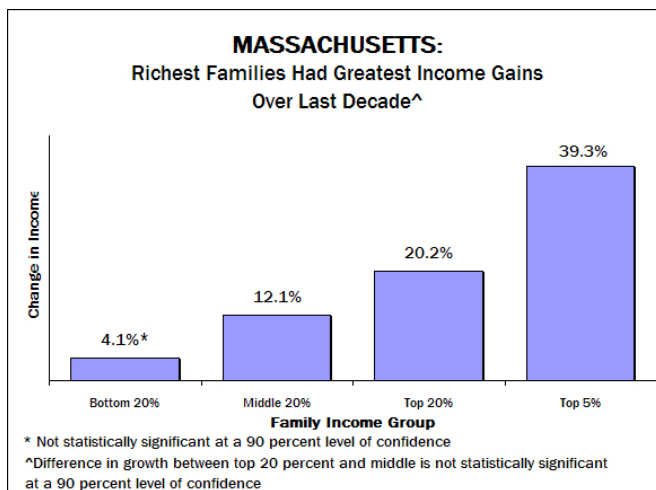
- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.6** times as large as the *middle* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **2.1** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **14th** largest in the nation.

The gap between Massachusetts's richest families and families in the middle is **20th** 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 did not change significantly.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$7,097**, from \$58,686 to \$65,783.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$28,369**, from \$140,622 to \$168,991.
- The average income of the *richest* 5% of families increased by **\$87,638**, from \$222,802 to \$310,440.



Late 1980s to mid-2000s

- The average income of the *poorest* fifth of families did not change significantly.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$9,186**, from \$56,597 to \$65,783.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$51,962**, from \$117,029 to \$168,991.
- The average income of the *richest* 5% of families increased by **\$146,658**, from \$163,783 to \$310,440.

