

Income Inequality in Montana

Montana's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **5.7** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **5.2** in the late 1980s.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **8.9** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between
Montana's
richest and poorest
families is
46th
largest in the nation.

Montana'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.

The gap between
Montana's
richest families and
families in the middle is
46th
largest in the nation.

Income Grew for All Families in Montana

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

- The average income of the *poorest* fifth of families increased by **\$1,827**, from \$14,613 to \$16,439. This is an increase of \$107 per year.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$5,013**, from \$37,253 to \$42,266. This is an increase of \$295 per year.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$18,083**, from \$76,362 to \$94,444. This is an increase of \$1,064 per year.