

North Dakota

Income Inequality Grew in North Dakota Over the Past Two Decades

North Dakota's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **6.2** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **4.7** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **14th** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **10.4** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between North Dakota's richest and poorest families is **36th** largest in the nation.

North Dakota's Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.4** times as large as the *middle* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **1.9** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **13th** largest in the nation.

The gap between North Dakota's richest families and families in the middle is **34th** largest in the nation.

Gains for Rich Families Outpaced Gains for Poor Families

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

- The average income of the *poorest* fifth of families increased by **\$2,978** from \$16,210 to \$19,188. This is an increase of \$175 per year
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$9,337**, from \$40,733 to \$50,070. This is an increase of \$549 per year.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$42,933**, from \$76,872 to \$119,804. This is an increase of \$2,525 per year.

