

Income Inequality Grew in Virginia Over the Past Two Decades

Virginia's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **7.6** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **6.4** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **26th** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **13.2** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between Virginia's richest and poorest families is **11th** largest in the nation.

Virginia's Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

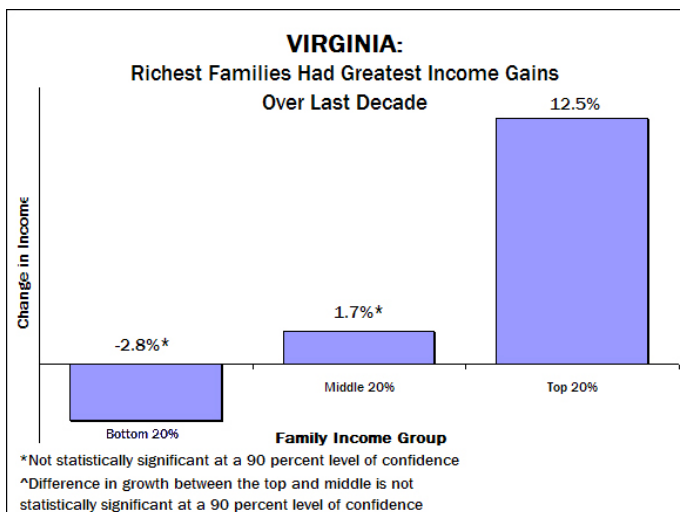
- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.7** times as large as the *middle* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **2.2** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **11th** largest in the nation.

The gap between Virginia's richest families and families in the middle is **10th** 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 did not change significantly.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$17,120**, from \$137,139 to \$154,259.



Late 1980s to mid-2000s

- The average income of the *poorest* fifth of families increased by **\$3,341**, from \$17,060 to \$20,401.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$6,703**, from \$50,531 to \$57,233.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$44,317**, from \$109,942 to \$154,259.

