

# Washington

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

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

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **6.9** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **5.1** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **10th** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **11.2** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between Washington's richest and poorest families is **27th** largest in the nation.

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

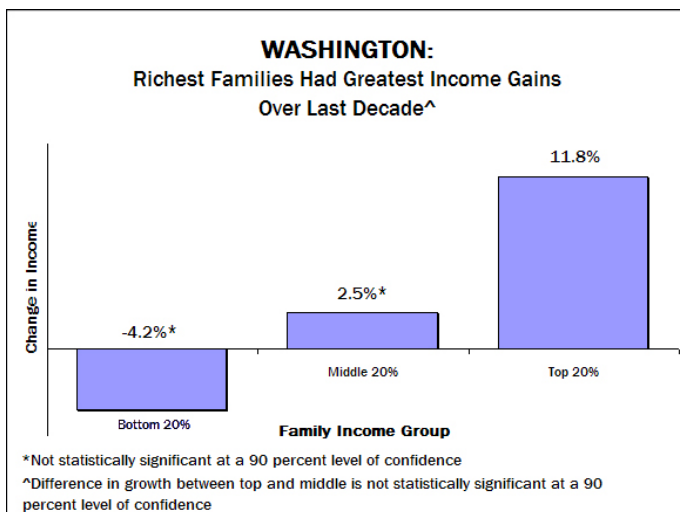
- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.5** times as large as the *middle* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **2.0** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **9th** largest in the nation.

The gap between Washington's richest families and families in the middle is **27th** 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 **\$14,136**, from \$119,954 to \$134,090.



### 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 **\$5,666**, from \$48,117 to \$53,783.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$39,159**, from \$94,930 to \$134,090.

