

Wisconsin

Income Inequality Grew in Wisconsin Over the Past Two Decades

Wisconsin's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **6.0** 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 **23rd** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **9.9** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between Wisconsin's richest and poorest families is **40th** largest in the nation.

Wisconsin's Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.3** 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 **26th** largest in the nation.

The gap between Wisconsin's richest families and families in the middle is **43rd** largest in the nation.

Gains for Rich Families Outpace Gains for Poor Families

Between the late 1980s and the 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 **\$6,583**, from \$46,706 to \$53,288. This is an increase of \$387 per year.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$31,600**, from \$88,840 to \$120,440. This is an increase of \$1,859 per year.

