

West Virginia

Income Inequality Grew in West Virginia Over the Past Two Decades

West Virginia's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **7.5** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **5.9** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **12th** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **11.9** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between West Virginia's richest and poorest families is **16th** largest in the nation.

West Virginia'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 **2.2** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **29th** largest in the nation.

The gap between West Virginia's richest families and families in the middle is **25th** 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 **\$1,466**, from \$12,476 to \$13,941. This is an increase of \$86 per year.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$7,744**, from \$33,232 to \$40,976. This is an increase of \$456 per year.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$30,533**, from \$73,378 to \$103,911. This is an increase of \$1,796 per year.

