Illinois’ Richest Grew Richer, Poor Grew Poorer, Over Past Decade

Illinois’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 6.3 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 25th largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 12.7 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Illinois’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle
- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 2.6 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 19th 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 decreased by $1,588, from $19,928 to $18,340.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families did not change significantly.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $12,880, from $125,131 to $138,011.
- The average income of the richest 5% of families increased by $36,730, from $196,934 to $233,664.

Late 1980s to mid-2000s
- The average income of the poorest fifth of families increased by $2,128, from $16,213 to $18,340.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $5,926, from $47,522 to $53,447.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $35,541, from $102,470 to $138,011.
- The average income of the richest 5% of families increased by $84,730, from $148,934 to $233,664.

Based on the latest available data (2004-2006)
Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute
Available at: http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.htm