

Kentucky

Income Inequality Grew in Kentucky Over the Past Two Decades

Kentucky's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **7.7** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **5.8** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **6th** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **12.1** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between Kentucky's richest and poorest families is **10th** largest in the nation.

Kentucky'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 **17th** largest in the nation.

The gap between Kentucky's richest families and families in the middle is **13th** 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 did not change significantly.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$5,877**, from \$36,186 to \$42,064. This is an increase of \$346 per year.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$32,329**, from \$78,025 to \$110,353. This is an increase of \$1,902 per year.

