Income Inequality Remains a Problem in Louisiana

Louisiana’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 7.3 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 7.9 in the late 1980s.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 11.7 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Louisiana’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 2.7 times as large as the middle 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 2.5 in the late 1980s.

Income Grew for All Families in Louisiana

Between the late 1980s and the mid-2000s:

- The average income of the poorest fifth of families increased by $3,868, from $11,687 to $15,555. This is an increase of $228 per year.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $5,111, from $36,644 to $41,755. This is an increase of $301 per year.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $21,119, from $92,381 to $113,499. This is an increase of $1,242 per year.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute

Pulling Apart: A State By State Analysis of Income Trends
Available at: http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.htm