

Louisiana

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.

The gap between Louisiana's richest and poorest families is **18th** largest in the nation.

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.

The gap between Louisiana's richest families and families in the middle is **9th** largest in the nation.

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.