Maryland

Income Inequality Grew in Maryland Over the Past Two Decades

Maryland’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 5.4 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 7th largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 12.3 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Maryland’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 1.9 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 4th 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 $6,913, from $55,948 to $62,860. This is an increase of $407 per year.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $50,673, from $108,783 to $159,456. This is an increase of $2,981 per year.

Based on the latest available data (2004-2006)
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