

## Income Inequality Grew in Maine Over the Past Two Decades

### Maine's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **6.3** 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 **34th** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **9.9** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between  
Maine's  
richest and poorest  
families is  
**33rd**  
largest in the nation.

### Maine's Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.3** times as large as the *middle* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **2.1** in the late 1980s.

The gap between  
Maine's  
richest families and  
families in the middle is  
**37th**  
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 increased by **\$1,872**, from \$16,430 to \$18,302. This is an increase of \$110 per year.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$6,927**, from \$42,624 to \$49,551. This is an increase of \$407 per year.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$26,391**, from \$89,329 to \$115,720. This is an increase of \$1,552 per year.

