Montana

Income Inequality in Montana

Montana’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 5.7 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 5.2 in the late 1980s.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 8.9 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Montana’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 2.2 times as large as the middle 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 2.0 in the late 1980s.

Income Grew for All Families in Montana

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

- The average income of the poorest fifth of families increased by $1,827, from $14,613 to $16,439. This is an increase of $107 per year.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $5,013, from $37,253 to $42,266. This is an increase of $295 per year.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $18,083, from $76,362 to $94,444. This is an increase of $1,064 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