

North Carolina

Income Inequality Grew in North Carolina Over the Past Two Decades

North Carolina's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **7.2** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **5.9** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **21st** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **12.0** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between North Carolina's richest and poorest families is **21st** largest in the nation.

North Carolina's Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.6** times as large as the *middle* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **2.1** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **16th** largest in the nation.

The gap between North Carolina's richest families and families in the middle is **16th** 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 **\$1,474**, from \$14,961 to \$16,436. This is an increase of \$87 per year.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$3,979**, from \$41,453 to \$45,432. This is an increase of \$234 per year.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$30,154**, from \$88,104 to \$118,259. This is an increase of \$1,774 per year.
- The average income of the *richest* 5% of families increased by **\$72,229**, from \$125,102 to \$197,331. This is an increase of \$4,249 per year.

