North Dakota

Income Inequality Grew in North Dakota Over the Past Two Decades

North Dakota’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families
- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 6.2 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 4.7 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 14th largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 10.4 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

North Dakota’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle
- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 2.4 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 13th 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 $2,978 from $16,210 to $19,188. This is an increase of $175 per year.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $9,337, from $40,733 to $50,070. This is an increase of $549 per year.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $42,933, from $76,872 to $119,804. This is an increase of $2,525 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