Nevada Income Inequality Grew in Nevada Over the Past Two Decades

Nevada’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 4.8 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 15th largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 10.1 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Nevada’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 2.1 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 23rd 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 $7,713, from $42,494 to $50,207. This is an increase of $454 per year.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $35,471, from $88,344 to $123,815. This is an increase of $2,087 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