

Pennsylvania

Income Inequality Grew in Pennsylvania Over the Past Two Decades

Pennsylvania's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **6.9** 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 **16th** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **11.4** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between Pennsylvania's richest and poorest families is **25th** largest in the nation.

Pennsylvania's Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

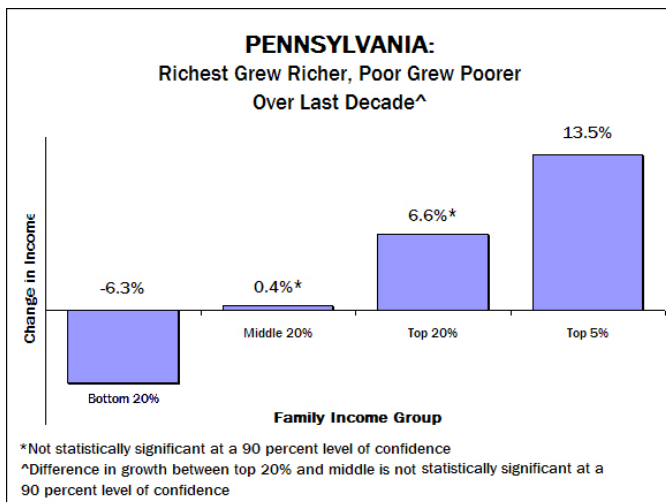
- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **2.5** times as large as the *middle* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **2.2** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **24th** largest in the nation.

The gap between Pennsylvania's richest families and families in the middle is **26th** largest in the nation.

A Closer Look: Short- and Long-term Trends

Late 1990s to mid-2000s

- The average income of the *poorest* fifth of families *decreased* by **\$1,281**, from \$20,241 to \$18,960
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families did not change significantly.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families did not change significantly.
- The average income of the *richest* 5% of families increased by **\$25,674**, from \$190,541 to \$216,216.



Late 1980s to mid-2000s

- The average income of the *poorest* fifth of families increased by **\$1,438**, from \$17,522 to \$18,960.
- The average income of the *middle* fifth of families increased by **\$7,391**, from \$44,374 to \$51,764.
- The average income of the *richest* fifth of families increased by **\$35,522**, from \$95,446 to \$130,968.
- The average income of the *richest* 5% of families increased by **\$80,075**, from \$136,141 to \$216,216.

