Rhode Island

Income Inequality Grew in Rhode Island Over the Past Two Decades

Rhode Island’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes **7.5** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **5.0** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **2nd** largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **13.0** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Rhode Island’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 **2.0** in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the **8th** largest in the nation.

Large Gains for Rich Families, No 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 **$6,744**, from $49,713 to $56,457. This is an increase of $397 per year.

- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by **$43,438**, from $99,773 to $143,211. This is an increase of $2,555 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