

South Carolina

Income Inequality Grew in South Carolina Over the Past Decade

South Carolina's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The *richest* 20 percent of families have average incomes **6.7** times as large as the *poorest* 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was **5.6** in the late 1990s.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes **10.8** times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between South Carolina's richest and poorest families is **29th** largest in the nation.

South Carolina'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 **2.2** in the late 1990s.

The gap between South Carolina's richest families and families in the middle is **32nd** largest in the nation.

Incomes of Poorest Families Fell Over the Last Decade

Between the late 1990s and the mid-2000s:

- The average income of the *poorest* fifth of families *decreased* by **\$2,228**, from \$18,160 to \$15,932. This is a *decrease* of \$371 per year.
- 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.

