Virginia's Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 7.6 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 6.4 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 26th largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 13.2 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Virginia's Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 2.7 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 11th 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 did not change significantly.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families did not change significantly.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $17,120, from $137,139 to $154,259.

Late 1980s to mid-2000s

- The average income of the poorest fifth of families increased by $3,341, from $17,060 to $20,401.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $6,703, from $50,531 to $57,233.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $44,317, from $109,942 to $154,259.

Based on the latest available data (2004-2006)
Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute
Available at: http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.htm