West Virginia'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 5.9 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 12th largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 11.9 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

West Virginia'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 29th 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 increased by $1,466, from $12,476 to $13,941. This is an increase of $86 per year.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $7,744, from $33,232 to $40,976. This is an increase of $456 per year.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $30,533, from $73,378 to $103,911. This is an increase of $1,796 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