

Pulling apart – Economic equality declines

Collaborating with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute, both in Washington, D.C., the Equality State Policy Center has publicized data that shows middle and lower income earners in Wyoming did not share equally in the state's economic growth since the late 1980s.

Families with average incomes in the top fifth of the Wyoming's economic strata saw their incomes grow by 24.3% since the late 1980s. That was more than three times the income gain realized by Wyoming families in the middle fifth, who saw their income go up by just 7.9% during the same period. The incomes of families in the bottom fifth in Wyoming stagnated. The average income of the top fifth is now 5.9 times larger than the incomes of those in the bottom fifth.

The developments in Wyoming mirror the nation. The gaps between the incomes of the richest families and poor and middle-income families are growing across the country. Titled "Pulling Apart," the CBPP study found that these gaps have widened in 37 states since the late 1980s and did not narrow in any state. This stratification threatens our economy and political system. Click [here](#) to see the ESPC's news release and click [here](#) to read an op-ed written by the ESPC's Dan Neal. You can see the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities national report [here](#).