Distribution of Economic Resources

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U.S. income distribution, 2001

Highest 5%
- Families
  - Highest 20%: $164,104, 21.0%
  - Second 20%: $94,150, 47.7%
  - Third 20%: $62,500, 22.9%
  - Fourth 20%: $41,127, 15.4%
  - Lowest 20%: $24,000, 9.7%

Inequality index of industrialized nations

\[
\text{Inequality index} = \frac{5\text{th percentile}}{\text{median income}} \div \frac{95\text{th percentile}}{\text{median income}}
\]
U.S. wealth distribution, 1996

Highest 1%

Families

Wealth

Highest 20%

Second 20%

Lowest 60%

33%

80%

15%

5%
Is inequality growing or shrinking?

Family income by quintiles, 1980-2001

Share of aggregate income

Year

Is inequality growing or shrinking?

Household income by quintiles, 1970-1997

- Average income
- Year
- $0, $20,000, $40,000, $60,000, $80,000, $100,000, $120,000, $140,000

- Lowest 20%
- Second 20%
- Third 20%
- Fourth 20%
- Highest 20%