

Income inequality is on the rise

Even as incomes of the bottom 99% improve with a strengthening economy, the gap between the top 1% and everyone else continues to grow.

[EPI is out with a new report, “The new gilded age,”](#) which shows that income inequality is not just a problem in big cities and coastal states. The report breaks down what it takes to be in the top 1 percent in every state, county and metropolitan area—and shows that income inequality is a problem throughout the country.

[Click here to share this map on Facebook, which shows the level of inequality in each state.](#)

From 2009–2015, the incomes of the top 1% grew faster than the incomes of the bottom 99% in 43 states and the District of Columbia. And in nine states the top 1% captured at least half of all income growth.

Nationally, in 2015, families in the top 1% made 26 times as much as the bottom 99%

[Click here to view the state-by-state interactive feature and see how the average income of the bottom 99 percent in your state compares with the average top 1 percent income. These data are also broken down by county and metropolitan area.](#)

Since the 1970s, income inequality has risen in every state. But this trend can be reversed if we begin making different policy choices, such as raising the minimum wage, strengthening collective bargaining, and providing paid sick leave.

Black women make 66% on the dollar relative to white men

August 7 marked Black Women’s Equal Pay Day, a day that symbolizes how long into 2018 an African American woman would have to work in order to be paid the same wages her white male counterpart was paid last year. On average, in 2017, black women workers were paid only 66 cents on the dollar relative to non-Hispanic white men, even after controlling for education, years of experience, and geographic location. In a new blog post, EPI’s Valerie Wilson and Madison Matthews write that black women earn less than white men at every level of education and even when they work in the same occupation.

<https://www.epi.org/blog/separate-is-still-unequal-how-patterns-of-occupational-segregation-impact-pay-for-black-women/>.

<https://www.epi.org/blog/black-women-have-to-work-7-months-into-2017-to-be-paid-the-same-as-white-men-in-2016/>

Myth #1: If black women worked harder, they’d get the pay they deserve.

The truth: Black women work more hours than white women. They have increased work hours 18.4 percent since 1979, yet the wage gap relative to white men has grow

Myth #2: Black women can educate themselves out of the pay gap.

The truth: Two-thirds of black women in the workforce have some postsecondary education, [29.4 percent](#) have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Black women are paid less than white men at every level of education.

Myth #3: The wage gap is the result of black women choosing careers that pay less.

The truth: In almost every occupation—both female-dominated and male-dominated—black women earn less than white men.

<https://www.facebook.com/EconomicPolicy/photos/a.10151281228111668.483825.100882346667/10156496446746668/?type=3&theater>

For every \$1 then make an Indiana, women make \$.74: Indiana is ranked 46th out of 50
<https://www.aauw.org/files/2018/04/Equal-Pay-by-State-Shareable-Indiana.jpg>

Eliminating the gender and inequality wage gap could raise women's wages by 69%
See Figure Q <https://www.epi.org/publication/what-is-the-gender-pay-gap-and-is-it-real/>

The SEW-CTF newsletter is edited by task force Chair John Harris Loflin (john.loflin@seindy.org). The task force meets the 3rd Wed. of the month at 6:30 on the 2nd floor at 901 Shelby St.