



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**JULY 19, 2018**

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## **Ohio incomes are staggeringly unequal, nation's are even worse**

A new report finds that Ohio's wealthiest 1 percent made on average 18.6 times more than the average income of all other Ohio families in 2015, before taxes and transfers. The national [report](#), by economists Estelle Sommeiller and Mark Price, was published by the Economic Policy Institute. Using Sommeiller and Price's data, Policy Matters Ohio released an Ohio-specific [analysis](#). Nationally, the wealthiest 1 percent earned 26 times the average earner in the bottom 99 percent combined.

The average earner in the top 1 percent of households in Ohio brought in more than \$858,000 in 2015, while the average earner in the bottom 99 percent combined earned just \$46,157.

The report examines the gap between incomes of the top 1 percent and the bottom 99 percent by metropolitan area, county and state. By that measure, Cleveland-Elyria was Ohio's most unequal metro area and Hamilton County its most unequal county in 2015. As a state, Ohio ranked 29<sup>th</sup> most unequal.

"Rising inequality affects virtually every part of the country, not just large urban areas or financial centers," said Policy Matters Ohio's Ben Stein. "It's a persistent problem here in Ohio—in big cities and small towns across the state. Ohio's workers—and the nation's—deserve a fair share of the wealth they help to create."

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*Policy Matters Ohio is a nonprofit, nonpartisan state policy research institute with offices in Cleveland and Columbus.*