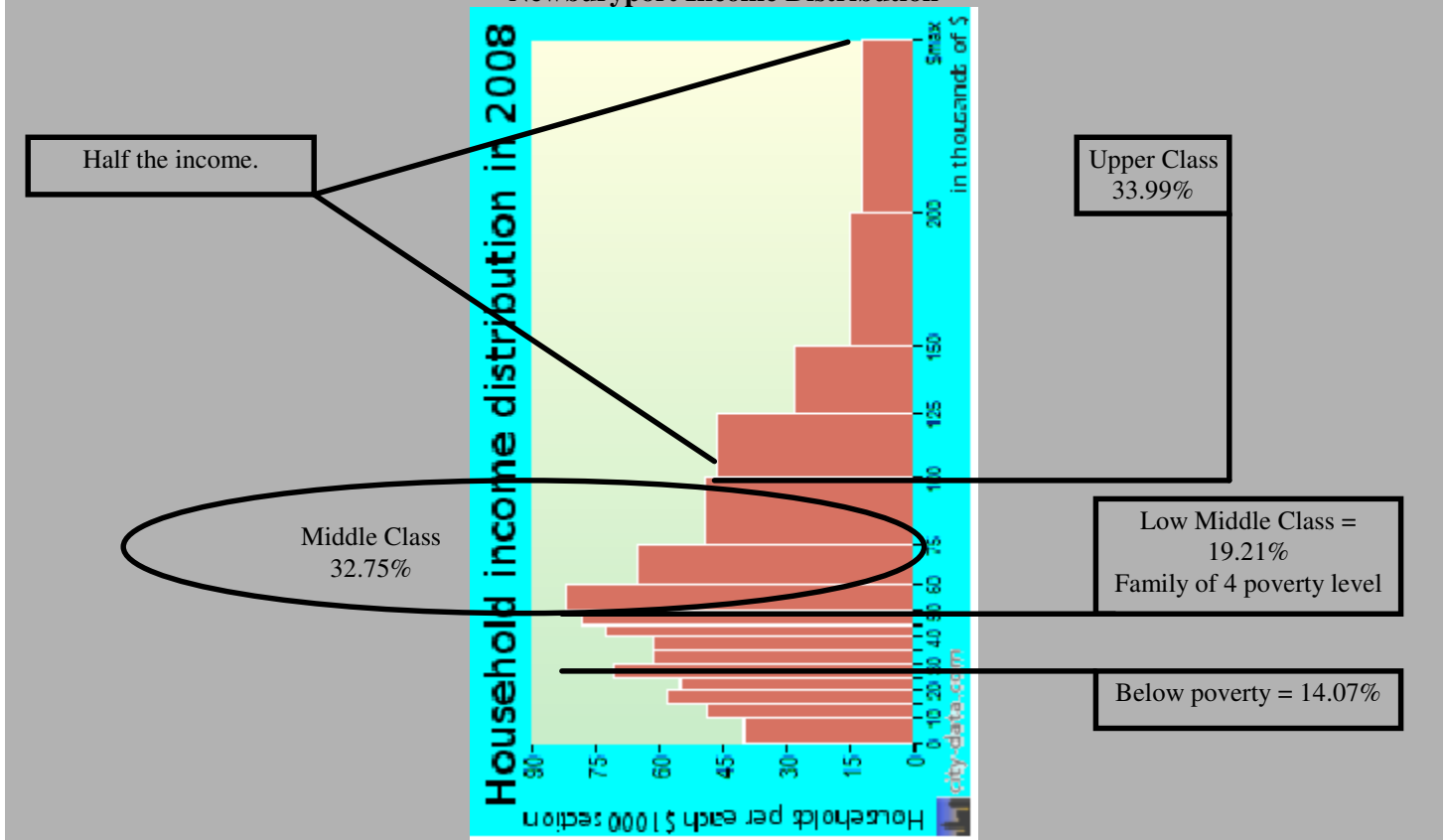


# US Income Disparity (AKA Income Inequality)

## Newburyport

The cost of living in Newburyport, in particular housing and rental costs, may drive out some of the long-time locals, elderly and low income residents which would reduce cultural diversity, lower cultural heritage as well as increase income disparity. As with the rest of the country a smaller percentage of the population has the majority of the income/wealth or in Newburyport about half. And this gap is not healthy for society.

### Newburyport Income Distribution



- United Nations findings: “Some American cities are as unequal as African and Latin American cities. For example, New York was found to be the 9th most unequal in the world while Atlanta, New Orleans, Washington, and Miami had similar inequality levels to those of Nairobi, Kenya, Abidjan and Ivory Coast.
- Boston Globe 12/18/09: “Boston has the eighth worst income inequality among US cities”
- Income gap is the widest in 70 years. Boston Globe 2/21/10: “With striking consistency, the severity of social decay...reflects a key difference among them, not the number of poor or depth of poverty, but the size of the gap between richest and poorest.”
- Share of income of the top 1% has increased while for the poor it has decreased 40%.
- 1979 top executives earned 27 times the average worker’s salary. In 2008, 275 times.
- Economic incentive structure of “trickle down” has caused a “flood up” of resources from the poor to the rich.
- Despite the US being the land of equal opportunity, the US ranks at the low end of social mobility.
- Once nations are industrialized, more equal societies almost always do better in terms of health, well-being and social cohesion
- Large income inequalities within societies destroy the social fabric and quality of life for everyone:
- Health is related to income differences *within* rich societies, not *between* them
- Health and social problems are worse in more unequal countries
- Child well-being is better in more equal rich countries
- The prevalence of mental illness is higher in more unequal rich countries
- Drug use is more common in more unequal countries
- Life expectancy is longer in more equal rich countries
- Infant mortality rates are higher in more unequal countries
- More adults are obese in more unequal rich countries
- Educational scores are higher in more equal rich countries
- Teenage birth rates are higher in more unequal rich countries

- Homicide rates are higher in more unequal rich countries
- Children experience more conflict in more unequal societies
- Rates of imprisonment are higher in more unequal societies
- Social mobility is higher in more equal rich countries
- More equal countries rank better on recycling
- United For a Fair Economy “In 1989, the United States had 66 billionaires and 31.5 million people living below the official poverty line. A decade later, the United States has 268 billionaires and 34.5 million people living below the poverty line-about \$13,000 for a three-person family.”
- The Equality Trust (12/7/09) “It looks as if the American Dream is far more likely to remain a dream for Americans than it is for people living in Scandinavian countries. While income differences have widened in Britain and the USA, social mobility has slowed.”

*The Gini Coefficient measures income inequality.*

