



- ✓ Taxes and Transfers?
- ✓ Demographic Changes
- ✓ Changes in Distribution of Market Income
  - Service Sector?
  - Skill Bias?

## Redistributive Effects of Taxes and Transfers Smaller

Year	Pre-Tax	Pre-Tax	Reduction	Post Tax	Reduction
	Pre-	Post	due to	Post	Due to
	Transfer	Transfer	Transfers	Transfer	Taxes
	Income	Income		Income	
1980	.473	.424	.049	.395	.029
1985	.513	.468	.045	.453	.015
1990	.523	.482	.041	.463	.019

Source: Gramlich et al, "Growing Inequality in the 1980s: The Role of Federal Taxes and Cash Transfers, in *Uneven Tides: Rising Inequality in America*, edited by Danziger and Gottschalk, 1993.

### Changes in Tax Policy

- ✓ Cuts in marginal tax rates for highest brackets relative to other brackets.
- ✓ Increases in Social Security taxes
- ✓ Increase in federal excise tax rates, but real receipts constant
- ✓ AFDC and Unemployment Insurance did not keep pace with inflation

#### The Education Premium

Year	Premium
1940	70%
1950	27%
1960	30%
1979	9%
1985	32%

Source: Levy, Frank, The New Dollars and Dreams

# Brainstorming Class Discussion of Levy, Some Graphs and Figures May Be Introduced

#### Explaining the Education Premium

- ✓ Simple model
- ✓ Determinants of wages -- labor supply and demand
- ✓ Human capital investment decision
- ✓ Efficiency, equity and the wage premium
- ✓ Unions, monopsony, job queues and efficiency wages (again)