



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Report: Five New Mexicans Die Each Week Due to Lack of Health Coverage Nationwide, homicides account for half as many deaths as lack of health insurance in 2006

ALBUQUERQUE—A new report from Families USA estimates that five working-age New Mexicans die each week because they lack health insurance. Part of the reason for this, the report states, is that "[u]ninsured adults are more likely to be diagnosed with a disease in an advanced stage," because they lack access to preventative care and early detection.

The report, "Dying for Coverage in New Mexico," also states that more than 27 percent of New Mexicans aged 25 to 64 lacked health insurance in 2006. Nationwide, twice as many people died from lack of health care than from homicide in 2006.

"This report further underscores the importance of health care for all, not just for those who are lucky enough to have an employer who can afford it," said New Mexico Voices for Children Policy Director Bill Jordan. "We hear a lot of talk about heart disease and cancer, but we don't hear much about the fact that being uninsured is the third leading cause of death for those in the 55- to 64-year age range," he added.

Families USA is a Washington, D.C.-based group advocating for quality, affordable health care for all Americans. Their report is attached separately as a pdf and can be accessed here: <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/dying-for-coverage/new-mexico.pdf>

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New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.
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