



PRESS RELEASE

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For More Information:

Cheryl Gooding, Director of Communications (505) 244-9505x33 or cell: (505) 401-8709
Gerry Bradley, Director of Research (505) 244-9505x23 or cell: (505) 264-0074

See Report: www.epi.org/content.cfm/bp167

Study Shows Fewer New Mexicans Covered by Health Insurance Through Employer Wrong Time to Cut Medicaid Funding Says New Mexico Voices For Children

Albuquerque – New Mexico is part of a disturbing national trend in the declining number of people with employer-provided health insurance, according to a study released today by the Washington D.C.-based Economic Policy Institute (EPI).

New Mexico has one of the lowest rates of employer-provided health insurance in the nation. Among New Mexicans with health insurance, less than half (49.6%) have insurance through an employer.

New Mexico has seen a decline of employer-provided health insurance of 1.4% since 2000 - 27,000 fewer New Mexicans have health insurance through an employer today than was true in 2000.

“This downward trend in employer-provided health insurance is happening at the same time that there is a strong push at the federal level for dramatic cuts to the Medicaid budget and, in New Mexico, steadily declining numbers of people enrolled in Medicaid due to the state’s cost-cutting measures. This is a ‘perfect storm’ health care crisis, said Cheryl Gooding, New Mexico Voices for Children. Gerry Bradley, of New Mexico Voices for Children added that the latest numbers from New Mexico’s Human Services Department show that 19,000 New Mexicans – many of whom are poor children – have been dropped from Medicaid since implementation of the six-month recertification requirement.

“So, in New Mexico, in the past year we’ve seen 19,000 people lose their health insurance through Medicaid, and another 27,000 over the past few years lose their health insurance through their employer. This is clearly not the time for Congress to be proposing cuts to the Medicaid budget that will result in an additional loss of \$100 million dollars, or more, to New Mexico’s Medicaid budget. Kids deserve access to a doctor when they are sick”, concluded Gooding.

There are 46 million Americans – the population of California and Michigan combined - without health insurance, according to the EPI report.

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