



## PRESS RELEASE

October 10, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Report: New Mexico has lowest rate of workers with employer-provided insurance**

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico continues to have one of the highest rates of uninsured, with about half of all workers unable to obtain employer-provided insurance. This news comes from “The Erosion of Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance,” a report released yesterday by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), a Washington D.C.-based think tank. The report also shows that employer-sponsored health insurance benefits fewer than half of the state’s children.

Nationally, more than 4 million additional American workers under age 65 were without employer-provided coverage in 2007 than in 2000. As employer-sponsored insurance decreases, public insurance programs such as Medicaid and S-CHIP increase, the report says. This is dramatically illustrated in a graphic from the report, which is attached as a pdf.

“Public programs such as Medicaid and S-CHIP help children and low-income adults, but there’s little out there for middle-income workers who can’t get or afford coverage through work,” said Eric Griego, Executive Director at New Mexico Voices for Children. “As the report makes clear, we need a universal program that will make coverage more affordable for all New Mexicans.”

The report shows distinct discrepancies between population groups, especially along the lines of household income and education. Those with more education and higher incomes are more likely to have some type of coverage than those with less.

Besides education and income, the study highlights differences between native born versus foreign born, races, age groups, and genders. The report shows significant decreases in coverage across all categories; however, the impact on each population is different.

The report available online at: <http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/bp223>

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The Fiscal Policy Project is a program of New Mexico Voices for Children is made possible by grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

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