



## Press Release

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### **In Honor of African American History Month New Mexico Voices for Children Releases Report on Condition of African American Children in New Mexico:**

Albuquerque – In recognition of African American History Month, New Mexico Voices for Children released today a report titled “The Condition of African American Children in New Mexico”. Over 10,000 New Mexican children, or 2% of the children in the state, are African American, according to the 2000 census.

#### ***33% of African American Children in New Mexico Living in Poverty***

One-third of the children living in poverty in New Mexico are African American. Only Native Americans have a higher percentage of children living in poverty (at 42%).

#### ***Family Poverty Despite Work***

The greatest percentage of parents (of infants) working are African American (61%) – greater than the percentage of Hispanic, Native American or White parents. African American mothers work longer hours for less pay than all other mothers in New Mexico. High levels of poverty persist among African-American families despite work.

“As an African American mother, I find it very disturbing that African American women continue to experience wage discrimination – which impoverishes the entire family”, said Felicia Griffin, New Mexico Voices for Children’s Development Director.

#### ***Health Care and Well-Being***

Infant mortality in New Mexico is highest among African American babies: 14 per 1,000 males, and 12 per 1,000 female live births.

Lack of health insurance is the single most important factor that explains the lower health status of African Americans and Hispanics, as compared to Anglos. “This underscores how critically important it is for not only African American children – but all children in the state – to have health insurance. Adequate funding of Medicaid is essential to improve child health outcomes,” said the report’s author Sara Beth Koplik, Ph.D., Kids Count Project Manager of New Mexico Voices for Children.

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