



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2000 Census undercount short-changed NM by millions in child, health care Special KIDS COUNT report: 2010 Census accuracy imperative

ALBUQUERQUE— The state's population was undercounted in the 2000 Census by nearly 36,000 individuals, which meant New Mexico received \$110 million less in federal funds than it should have, according to a special KIDS COUNT report released today by New Mexico Voices for Children.

"An undercount by the U.S. Census Bureau has long-term financial impacts for the state because it means under-funding programs like Medicaid for the next decade," said Lisa Adams-Shafer, KIDS COUNT Program Director.

The report is based on a study conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, a consulting firm, which looked at eight federal programs. The special KIDS COUNT report looks specifically at the two that low-income working families depend on the most - Medicaid and the Child Care and Development Block Grants, which provide childcare assistance. The other programs studied were Foster Care, Rehabilitation Services, Basic Support, Adoption Assistance, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants, Social Services Block Grants, and Vocational Education Block Grants.

"Also problematic for New Mexico is the fact that minorities were undercounted at higher rates than whites in the 2000 Census," said Adams-Shafer. "New Mexico is likely to be disproportionately affected by this because of our large Hispanic and Native-American populations. This must be corrected so that the 2010 Census is accurate."

The report is attached separately as a pdf, and is available online at: www.nmvoices.org

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NM 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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