



PRESS RELEASE

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Advocacy Group Releases New Report: Immigrant Kids Count Data shows new immigrants still integrating into American society

ALBUQUERQUE—A report released today by the child advocacy group New Mexico Voices for Children shows that while immigrant families face challenges, they become more integrated and economically stable the longer they are here. The data is drawn primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Communities Survey (ACS).

The **Immigrant Kids Count** report is attached as a pdf document. Hard copies will be available at a joint **press conference** with *Somos Un Pueblo Unido*, a nonprofit advocacy group. The press conference is **today at noon** in the UNM Student Union Building (the Cherry-Silver room on the 3rd floor).

"With all the divisive rhetoric around immigration these days, it's important to take a look at the facts," said Lisa Adams-Shafer, Kids Count Program Director. "And the facts have really not changed that much – people still come to this country for better opportunities, they still learn English, and they still contribute to the economy – just like they have for the past 300 years," she said. "The data also show that English-language usage, educational attainment and economic mobility improve generation over generation – which has also been the norm with every past wave of immigrants to America."

Immigrant parents do face challenges, due mainly to limited language and work skills. Immigrant children also have health insurance at much lower rates than non-immigrant children. Even so, medical spending on immigrant children's health care is significantly lower than for U.S.-born children.

But not all the news is bad. "In New Mexico, a much smaller percentage of immigrant children live in single-parent homes than do non-immigrant children," said Adams-Shafer.

NM Voices' Executive Director Eric Griego stresses the immeasurable contributions immigrants make to our state and country. "We are a country made up of mostly immigrants," he said. "The report confirms that the more we invest in our children, whether native or immigrant, the more successful they will be and the more they will be able to contribute back to society."

The Immigrant Kids Count report is made possible by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and will be available online at www.nmvoices.org.

Interviews will be available in Spanish.

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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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